

ACTS

*THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE*



STUDY 12

THE GENTILE MISSION AND THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

Acts 14-16

Missionary Journey

Acts 13 Antioch in Psidia...Gentiles respond, Jews persecute

Acts 14 Rest of journey

Acts 13 Paul and Barnabas commissioned

Acts 13 Missions at Cyprus..confronted fals prophet Elymas Procounsul believed



Iconium



Konya, Iconium view from east

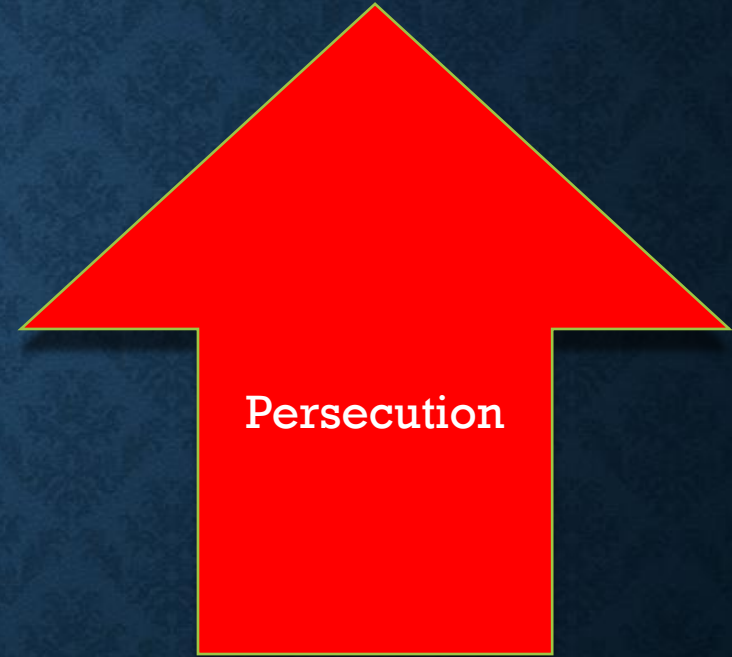
Synagogue where Paul preached



WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO FAITH?

Acts 14:1-4 (ESV) Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE



Indonesia Closing Churches, Yet Faith Still Grows

CBN 2016



In a city in the province of West Java, all of its 29 Christian churches have been forcibly closed even after meeting the requirements needed to operate legally as a church. radical Muslims stormed Surabaya Pentecostal Church

"Indonesia is now 20 percent Christian."



THEIR RESPONSE AND GOD'S RESPONSE

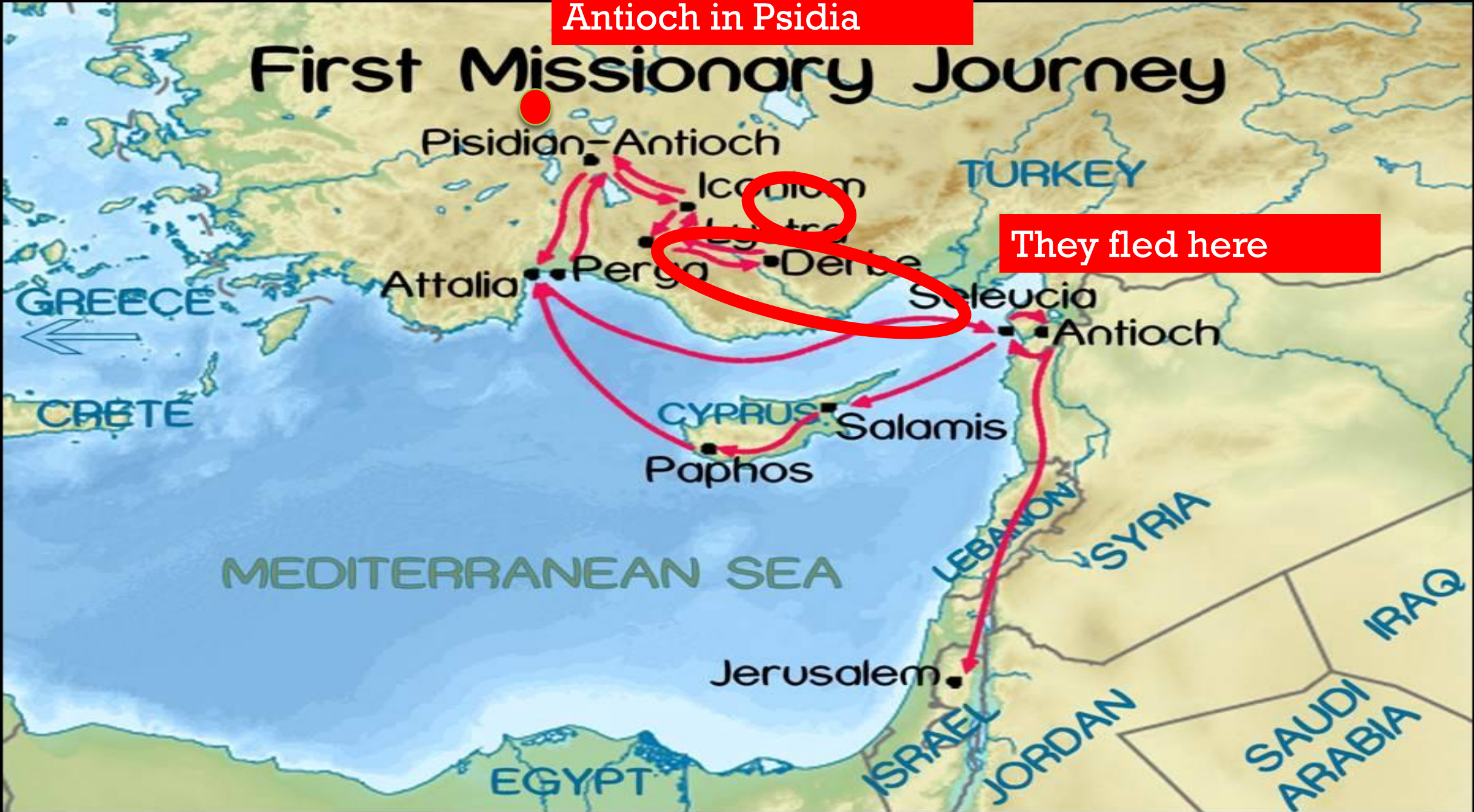
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Wisdom :Fled persecution and continued evangelism

Acts 14: 5 When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, 6 they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Antioch in Psidia

First Missionary Journey



They fled here

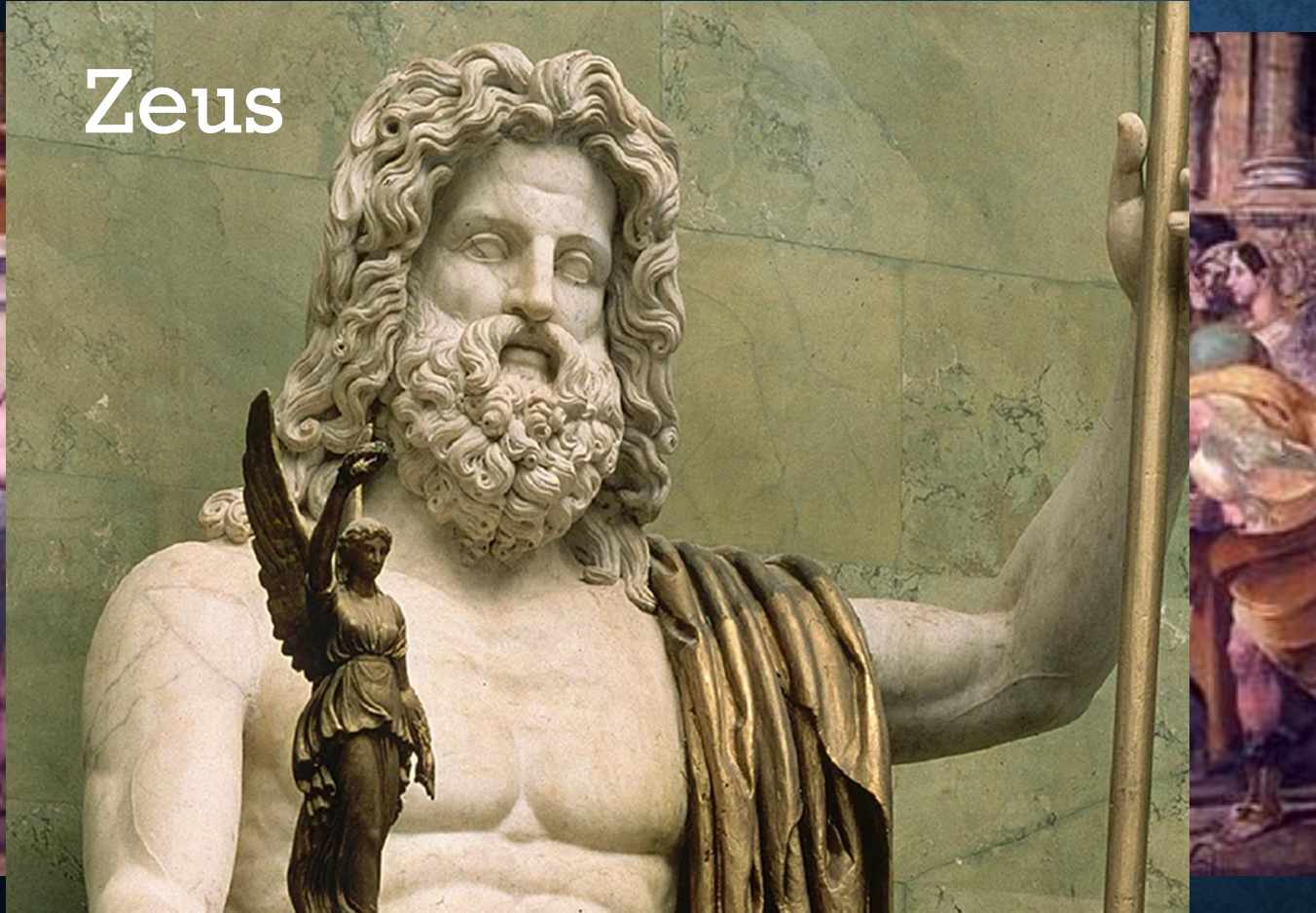
PAUL HEALS CRIPPLED MAN



Acts 14:8-10 (ESV) 8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, 10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

CROWD'S ADULATION

Zeus



Hermes

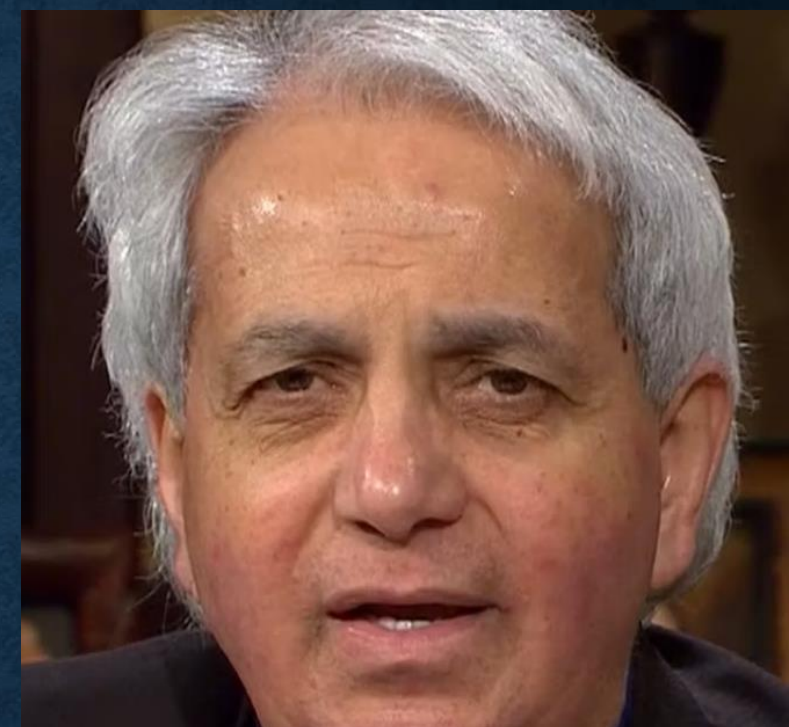


he was the chief speaker.



Acts 14:13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

Acts 14:14-15a (ESV) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you” ..



CELEBRITY CHRISTIANITY

**ONLY INTERESTED IN THE PRACTICAL RESULTS OF
THE GOSPEL BUT NOT THE GOSPEL**



PROBLEM WITH THE CROWD

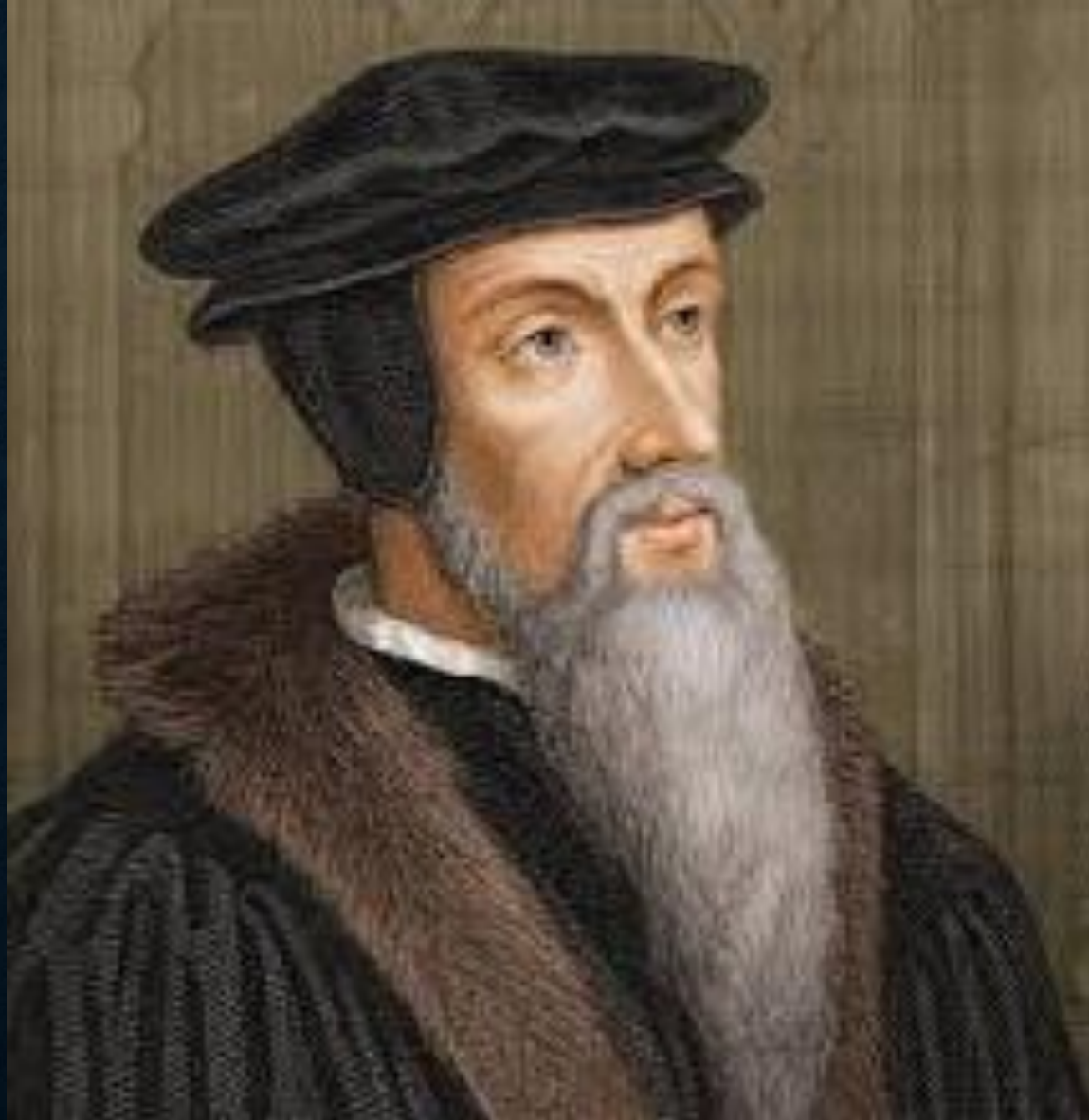
A woman with dark hair, wearing a shimmering gold dress, stands in profile in a field of tall grass. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a soft, golden sunset sky with silhouettes of trees and buildings in the distance.

- Gullibility
- Intellectually lazy
- Act in self interest
- Easily manipulated

DISPEL THE LIES

Acts 14:14-15a (ESV) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you”..

JOHN CALVIN



*“the human
heart is a
perpetual
factory of idols “*



EUGENE PETERSEN

“Why do pastors have such a difficult time being pastors? Because we are awash in idolatry. Where two or three are gathered together and the name of God comes up, a committee is formed for making an idol. We want gods that are not gods so we can ‘be as gods.’”

GOSPEL PRESENTATION TO PAGANS

ACTS 14

Connecting
event
Bridge
Miracle
The gods
coming as
men

TRUTH
Living God



Worthless
LIE
Idols

SIN

that you should turn from
these vain things to a living
God,

GOSPEL FOR PAGANS

Acts 14:15-17 (ESV) Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

GOD

Living

Provided by grace

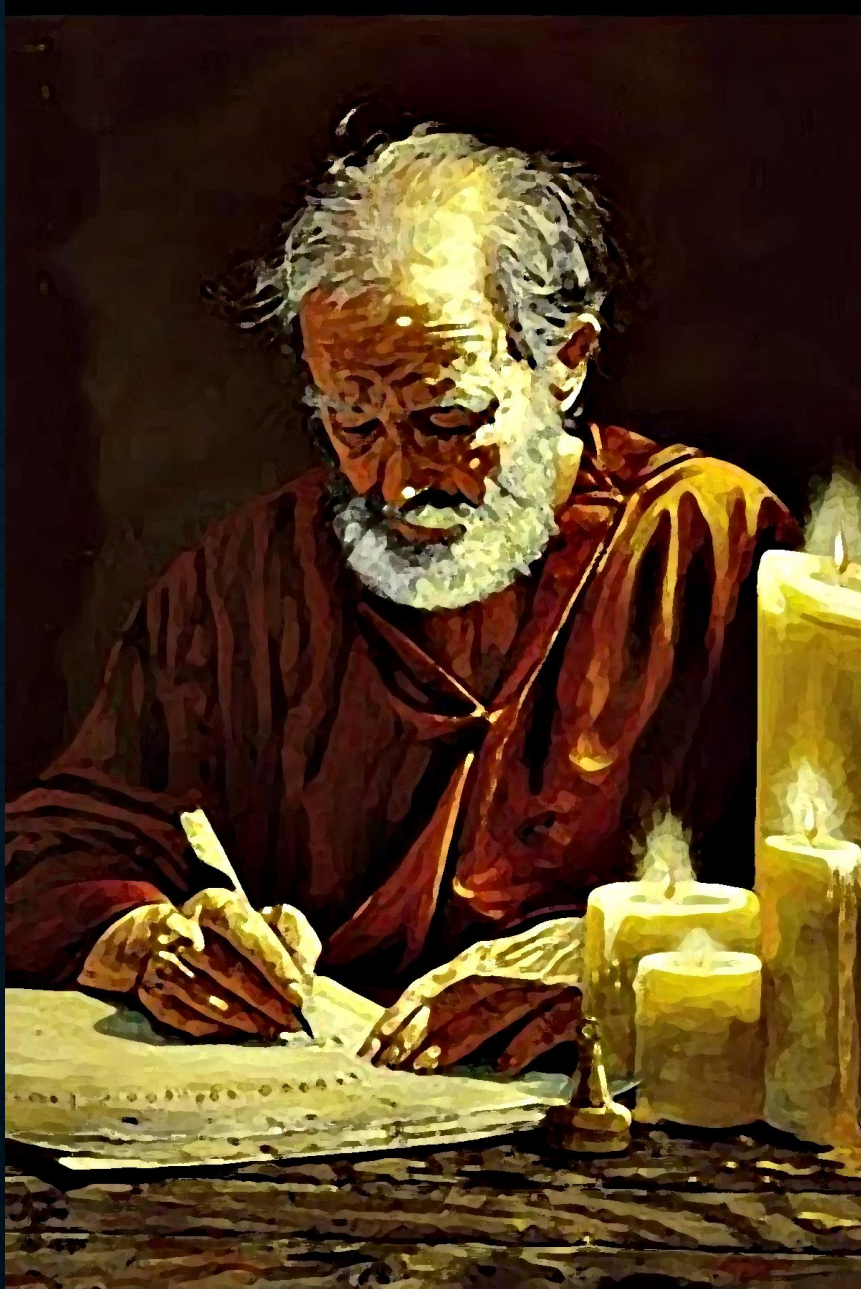
Creator

Seasons
Rain
Food

Provider



Happiness



Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth

GOD

Living

Creator

Provider

IDOLS

Dead

Created

Liars

IDOLATRY



*‘whatever your heart clings
“Whatever you love
to and relies upon, that is
, trust and serve’
your God: trust and faith of
the heart alone make both
God and idol’*

PERSECUTION

Acts 14:19 (ESV) But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

GOSPEL STRATEGY

Acts 14:21-23 (ESV) When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22

strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

PAULS MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

1.AD 48-49 Acts 13-14

2.AD 51-53 Acts 15-18

3.AD 54-57 Acts 19-21

PAVING THE WAY FOR THE MISSION TO THE GENTILES

Acts 15

Acts 15:1 (ESV) But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers,

“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

2 (ESV) And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Acts 15:3-5 (ESV) So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said,

“It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

SIGN OF COVENANT

Genesis 17:13-14 (ESV) So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

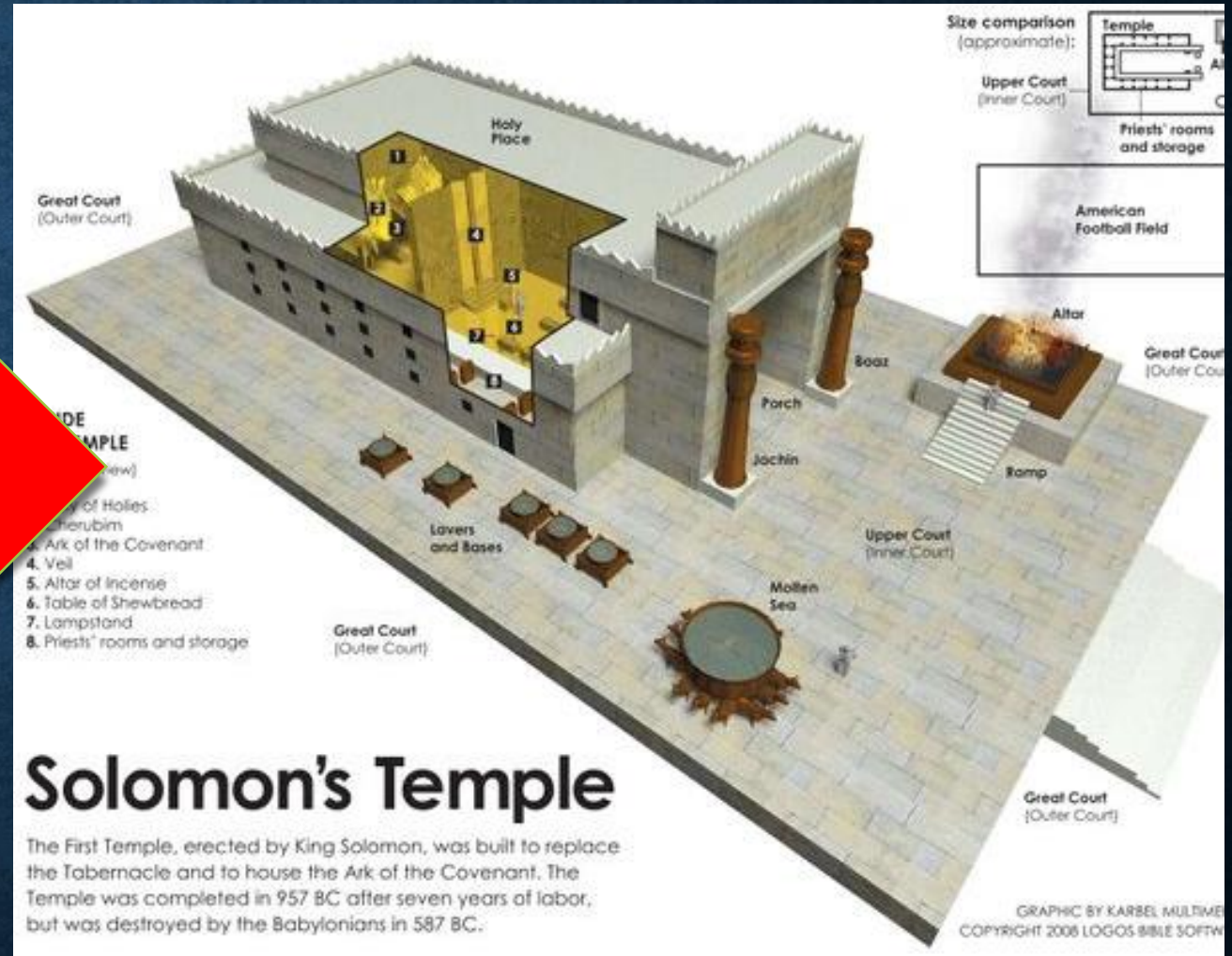
CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

ACTS 10



PETER'S VISION AND UNCLEAN ANIMALS

ACCESS TO GOD



THE SYSTEM

Clean

Unclean

Bodily conditions

Foods



RATIONALE OF THE PURITY LAWS

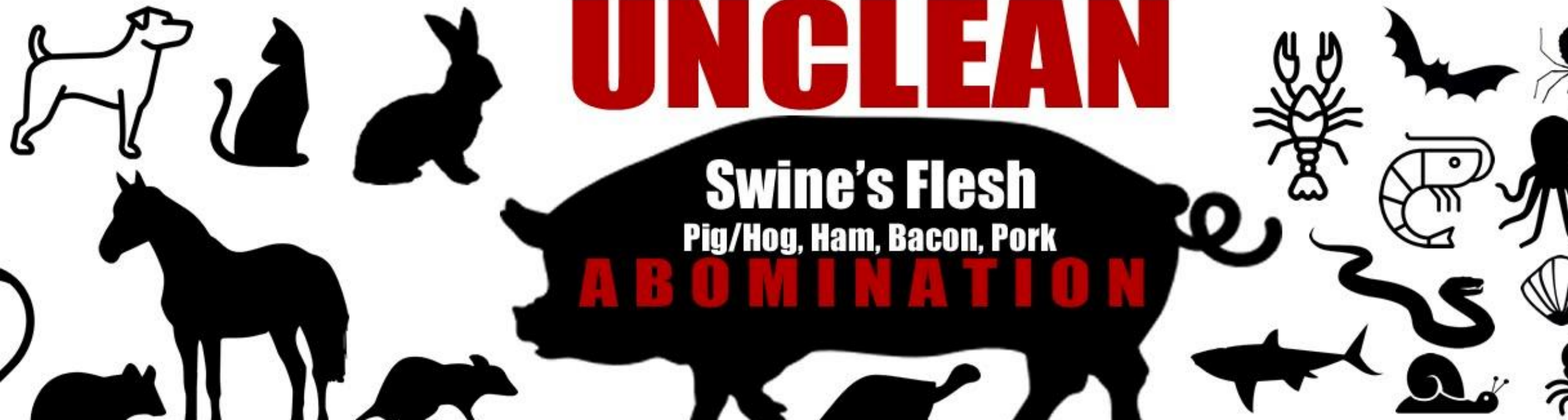
God is holy but
human beings are
constantly
contaminated by sin

Everyone gets
contaminated at
some stage

CLEAN



UNCLEAN



Swine's Flesh

Pig/Hog, Ham, Bacon, Pork

ABOMINATION

THREE CATEGORIES

Holy

Clean

Unclean

Animal

Sacrificed

Eaten

Not Eaten

People

Priest

Israel

Gentiles

Space

Temple

Land

Nations

| | Holy | Clean | Unclean |
|--------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Animal | Sacrificed | Eaten | Not Eaten |
| People | Priest | Israel | Gentiles |
| Space | Temple | Land | Nations |



Levitical Laws

Food laws
Sacrifices

Circumcision



HOW THE CHURCH SOLVES PROBLEMS

Acts 15:6-7 (ESV) The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. 7 And after there had been much debate,

1. PETER TESTIFIED GOD MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN GENTILES AND JEW BY GIVING THE HS TO GENTILES

Acts 15:7-9 (ESV) And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,

2. SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH

Acts 15:9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

3. THE ADDITION OF CIRCUMCISION AND MOSAIC LAW IS A PROVOCATION AND AN ACT OF UNBELIEF

Circumcision

Acts 15:9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

TESTING GOD- NOT TRUSTING HIS WORD

- Satan, who tested Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4:2)
- Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by Beelzebub (Luke 11:15-16)
- Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:9)

They are refusing to believe that the work of the Lord on the cross is sufficient for salvation for Gentiles and challenging God

4. THE ADDITION OF CIRCUMCISION AND MOSAIC LAW PLACES THE SAME UNBEARABLE BURDEN ON GENTILES AS IT DID TO THE JEWS

Acts 15:9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, ~~therefore, why are~~ you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Levitical Laws

Food laws
Sacrifices

Circumcision

Jewish
culture

Shadow of the reality that was to come

Spiritually unclean... constantly sin
and cannot walk into God's
presence
Drives into your heart you are
continually unclean and you need a
substitute..

Culturally separate
Distinct from other pagans to
prevent syncretism
Difficult to mix with others

**WHEN REALITY COMES WE NEED
NO LONGER TO LOOK AT THE
SHADOWS**

Circumcision
SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

Levitical Laws

Food laws
Sacrifices

Jewish
culture





Levitical Laws

Food laws
Sacrifices

Circumcision

Burden

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

5. TESTIMONY OF PAUL AND BARNABAS MINISTRY TO GENTILES

Acts 15:12 (ESV) And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

6. JAMES CONCLUSION GOD'S INTENT IS TO MAKE GENTILES HIS PEOPLE JUST LIKE ISRAEL

Acts 15:13-14 (ESV) After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name.

Greek - Laos ..word used for Israel in the OT
Gentiles are part of True Israel

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

AMOS 9:11-12

Acts 15:15-18 (ESV) And with this the words of the prophets agree. **Resurrection and exaltation of Christ, the seed of David,** is I will return, and I will

rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;

I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

AMOS 9:11-12

17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and **all the Gentiles who are called by my name,**
says the Lord, who makes these things known
from of old.'

Through the Davidic Christ Gentiles
will be included in his new
community.

STRUCTURE OF DEBATE

1. Peter testified God made no distinction between Gentiles and Jew by giving the HS to Gentiles
2. Salvation is by grace through faith alone for all
3. The addition of circumcision and adherence to the Mosaic law as the prerequisite for salvation is a provocation to God and an act of unbelief
4. The addition of circumcision and adherence to the Mosaic law as the prerequisite for salvation places the same unbearable burden on the Gentiles as it did to the Jews
5. Paul and Barnabas experience from Gentile ministry
6. James concludes from Scripture that God intends to make the Gentiles His people just like the Jews

THE LETTER

Paul and Barnabas-their leaders
Credibility in faith

Acts 15:25-27 (ESV) it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

Judas and Silas represented
Jerusalem as witnesses for support

THE CONCLUSION-HUMILITY

Acts 15:28-29 (ESV) For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: 29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

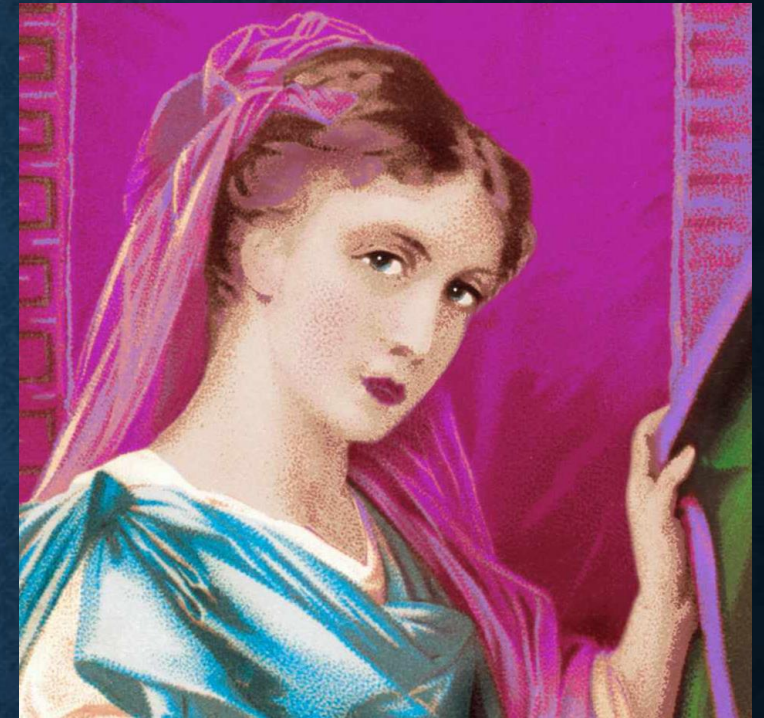
Acts 15:30-32 (ESV) So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. 31 And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. 32 And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.



SLAVE GIRL



JAILOR – CIVIL SERVANT



**LYDIA
RICH BUSSINESS WOMAN**

DISTORTION OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus



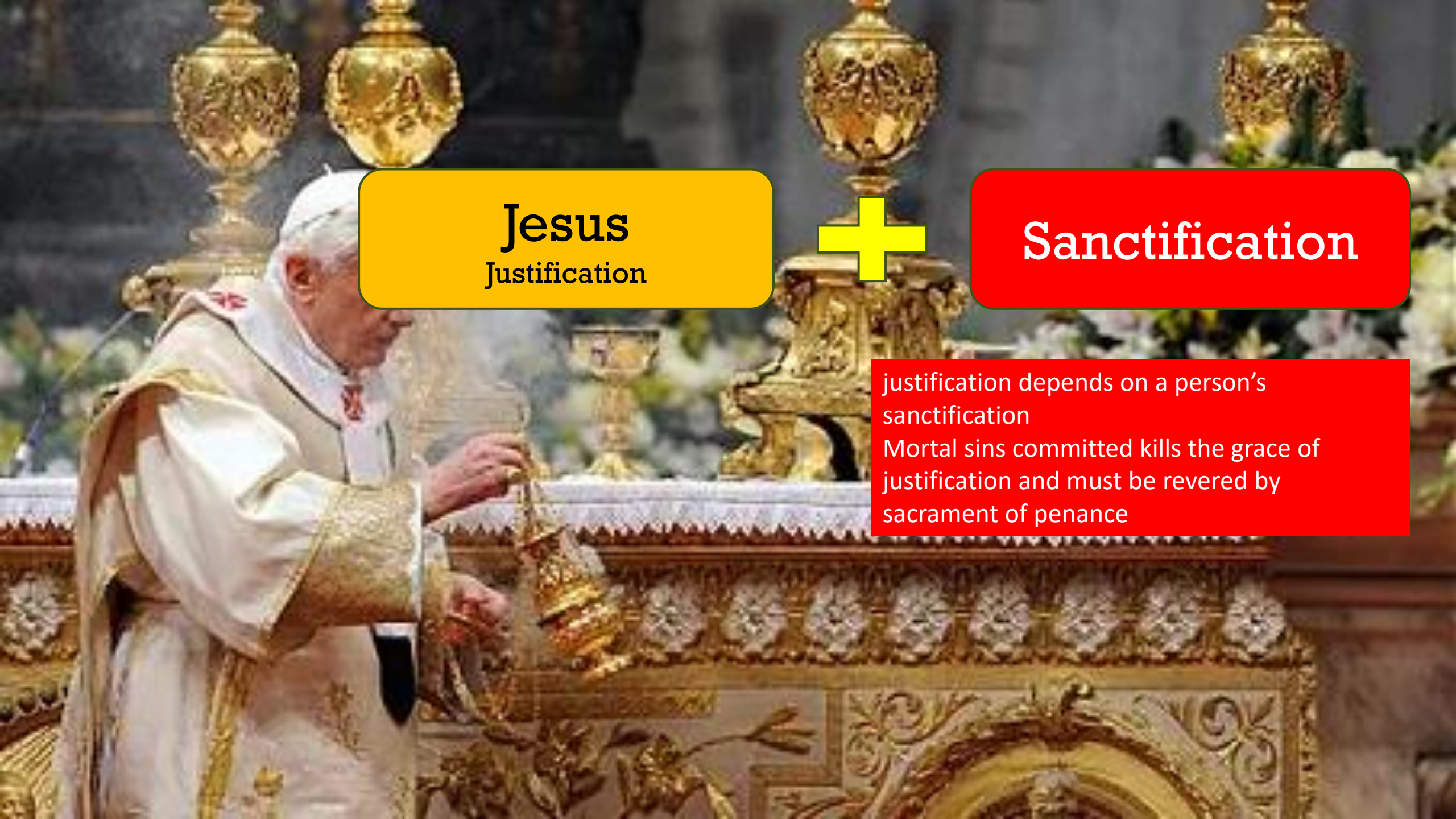
Sanctification

Rob the freedom of grace
Burden on people

TERTULLIAN PROHIBITIONS



- **Theatre**..origin in pagan worship
- **Dancing** inflame sexual desires
- **Cosmetics** If God meant you to smell like a flower he would have given you a crop on your head



Jesus
Justification



Sanctification

justification depends on a person's sanctification
Mortal sins committed kills the grace of justification and must be reversed by sacrament of penance

The 'Hebrew Roots' Movement



HEBREW ROOTS MOVEMENT

Re-establish first-century Judaism (our Jewish Roots) and the milieu and lifestyle of first-century Jews and impose them on both Jewish and non-Jewish believers.

Claims that the church has moved off its Jewish foundation and must return to a more Jewish way of life to be authentic.

G. Richard Fisher, "Bewitching Believers Through the Hebrew Roots Movement," Berean Call, January 1, 2014, <https://www.thebereancall.org/content/january-2014-bewitching-believers-hebrew-roots>.



Levitical Laws

Food laws
Sacrifices

Circumcision



INCONSISTENCIES

- Focus just on Sabbath and Levitical Feasts
does not follow all aspects of Levitical Laws
- Torah observant
- Claim modern Christianity influenced by
Greek pagan myths
- Dismiss Paul's Epistles

CONTEMPORARY DANGERS

Jesus



**Church
attendance**

What about the thief on the cross
What about the Gentiles in Acts 10