

# ACTS

THE GOSPEL  
ON THE MOVE



## STUDY 14 MISSION TO EPHESUS THE PROBLEM OF IDOLATRY

Acts 18-19



ITALY  
Rome  
Three Taverns  
Forum of Appius  
Puteoli

MACEDONIA  
Thessalonica  
Philippi  
Troas  
MYSIA  
ASIA  
Pergamum  
Smyrna

Black Sea  
PONTUS  
BITHYNIA  
GALATIA  
CAPPADOCIA  
Antioch  
Iconium  
Tarsus

Corinth ministry Acts 18

Sermon Aeropagus Acts 17

# 2<sup>ND</sup> MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Mediterranean Sea

PHOENICIA  
SYRIA  
Damascus  
Ptolemais  
Samaria  
Jerusalem  
Caesarea  
Joppa  
Gaza



KEY	
	First Journey
	Second Journey

EGYPT



Acts 19

**PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY**

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches" (Rev. 2-3)
- ← Paul's route

# APOLLOS

Acts 18:24-26 (ESV) Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:27-28 (ESV) And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

## DISCIPLES OF JOHN

Acts 19:1-2 (ESV) And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

**They were not Christians**

## HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

Luke 3:16 (ESV) John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

## THE ANSWER-DEFECTIVE FAITH

Acts 19:3-5 (ESV) And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.



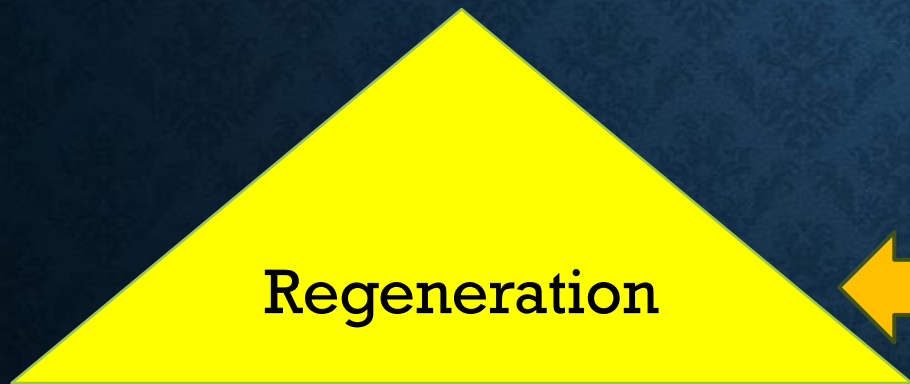
Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them,  
the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began  
speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were  
about twelve men in all.

# TWO RECEPTIONS OF THE SPIRIT

Impartation of Spirit

Conversion

Second blessing

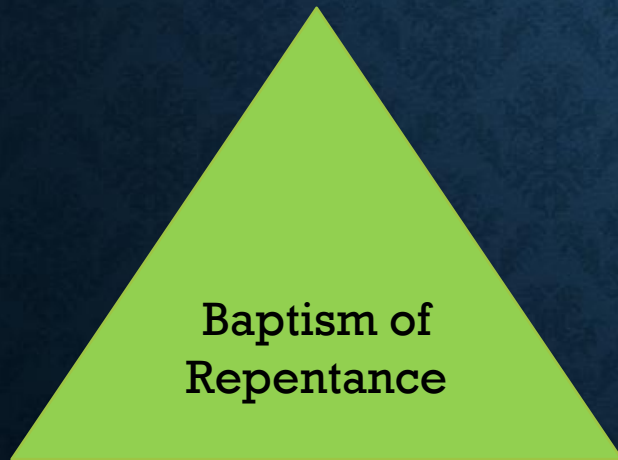


Days-Years



# ONE RECEPTION OF THE SPIRIT

Ministry of John



Baptism of the Spirit



## **HOLY SPIRIT PASSAGES**

Isaiah 44:2-3 (ESV) Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

## **HOLY SPIRIT PASSAGES**

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

## **HOLY SPIRIT PASSAGES**

Joel 2:28 (ESV) And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

## **2 YEAR MINISTRY IN EPHEBUS**

**Acts 19:10 (ESV) This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.**

Acts 19:11-12 (ESV) And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.



Acts 19:13-16 (ESV) Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

**They sought to use Jesus**

# TRANSFORMATION WILL FOLLOW CONVERSION

Acts 19:17-20 (ESV) And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

**The Nature of Repentance**

The image shows the ruins of the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, Turkey. Several tall, fluted columns with Corinthian capitals stand prominently against a clear blue sky. The columns are arranged in a row, with a central archway visible behind them. The base of the temple is a multi-tiered stone platform. In the foreground, there are scattered stone blocks and a low wall. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape under a bright sky.

# TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

Imperial cult  
Three temples dedicated  
to this there  
Temple Artemis  
7<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world

# TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS





# IDOLATRY

1. Pervasiveness of idols
2. Weakness and Power of idols
3. The cost of getting rid of idols

## **THE GOSPEL THREATENS THE ECONOMY**

**Acts 19:24-26 ESV** For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods

# HUMAN DESIGN AND SKILL

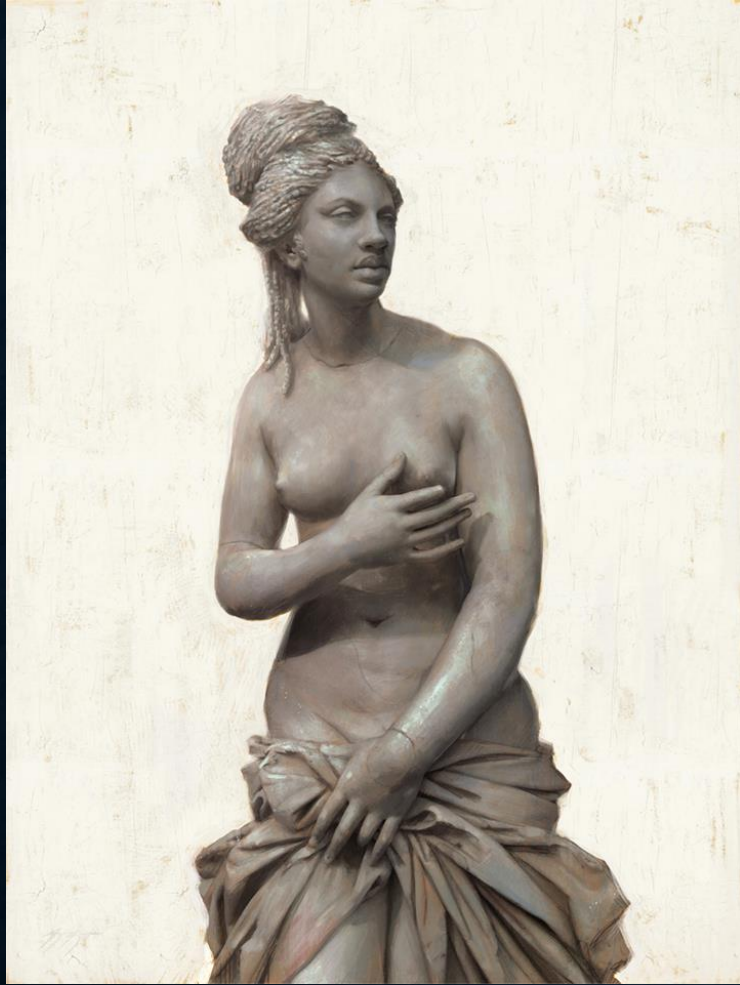
Acts 17:29 ESV Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man

## EXAMPLE OF WARPED THINKING

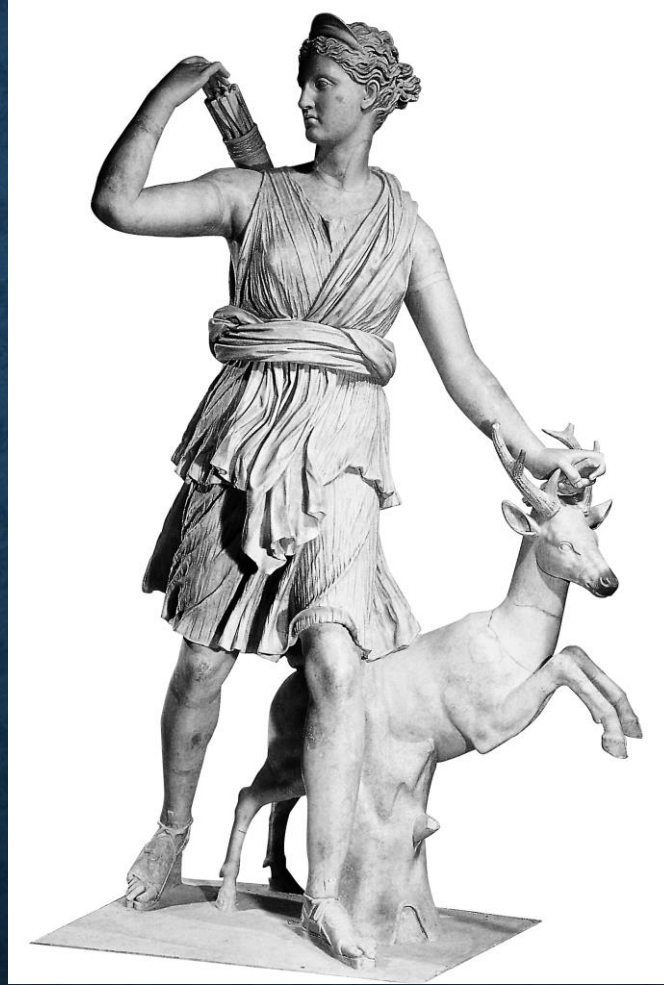
Romans 1:21-23 (ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.



# GREEK IDOLS



Aphrodite



Artemis



Dionysus



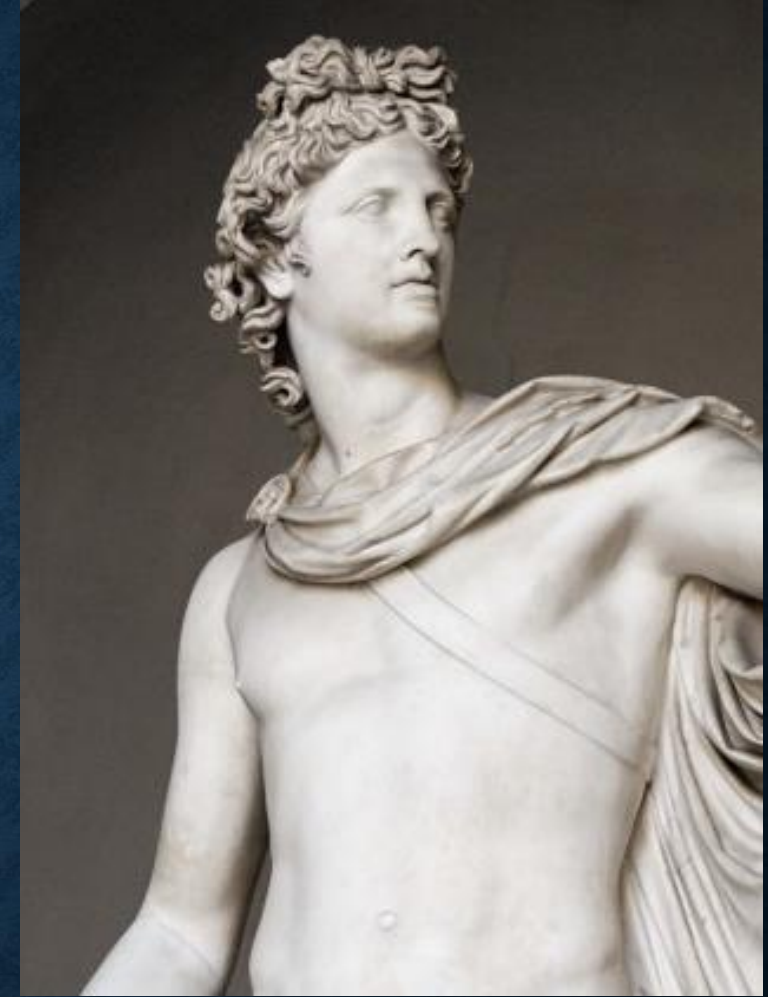
Hera-goddess of marriage, mothers family



Demeter - agriculture



Aphrodite - love



Apollo- sun, medicine



Artemis goddess of the hunt and young women



Hermes-god of thieves, merchants



Ezekiel 14:7-8 (ESV) 7 For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself. 8 And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

# I BELIEVE IN GOD

But if only I have that  
contract from DHL then I  
would be safe and truly  
secure and happy

But if only I have that  
promotion to partner then I  
would be safe and truly  
secure and happy

But if only I marry that  
beautiful woman then I  
would be satisfied and  
happy



# ROBERT BELLAH SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGIST



**futile in their thinking,**  
**and their foolish hearts**  
**were darkened.** 22

Claiming to be **wise,** **they**  
**became fools,**

**Creature better than**  
**Creator**

No one has a right to tell us  
who god is , no one has a right  
to tell us what to believe . We  
have the right to shape our  
own spirituality or faith and  
worship a god we prefer

# **ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD FOR YOUR IDENTITY, HOPE, MEANING OR HAPPINESS -IDOL**

**Good things deified**

**Prime movers of  
our emotions or  
our behaviour**





# IDOLS ARE BOTH WEAK AND POWERFUL

Acts 19:27-29 (ESV) And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

**Great hostility when idols are threatened**

# DAVID BOWIE



“I had enormous self-image problems and very low self-esteem, which I hid behind obsessive writing and performing. ... I was driven to get through life very quickly,” “I really felt so utterly inadequate. I thought the work” — songwriting, recording, performing — “was the only thing of value.”



## MADONNA

I have so many [regrets]...and I have none. I wish I hadn't done a lot of things, but, on the other hand, if I hadn't I wouldn't be here. But, then again, nobody works the way I work. I have an iron will. And all of my will has always been to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy. I'm always struggling with that fear. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being and then I get to another stage and think I'm mediocre and uninteresting.



## MADONNA

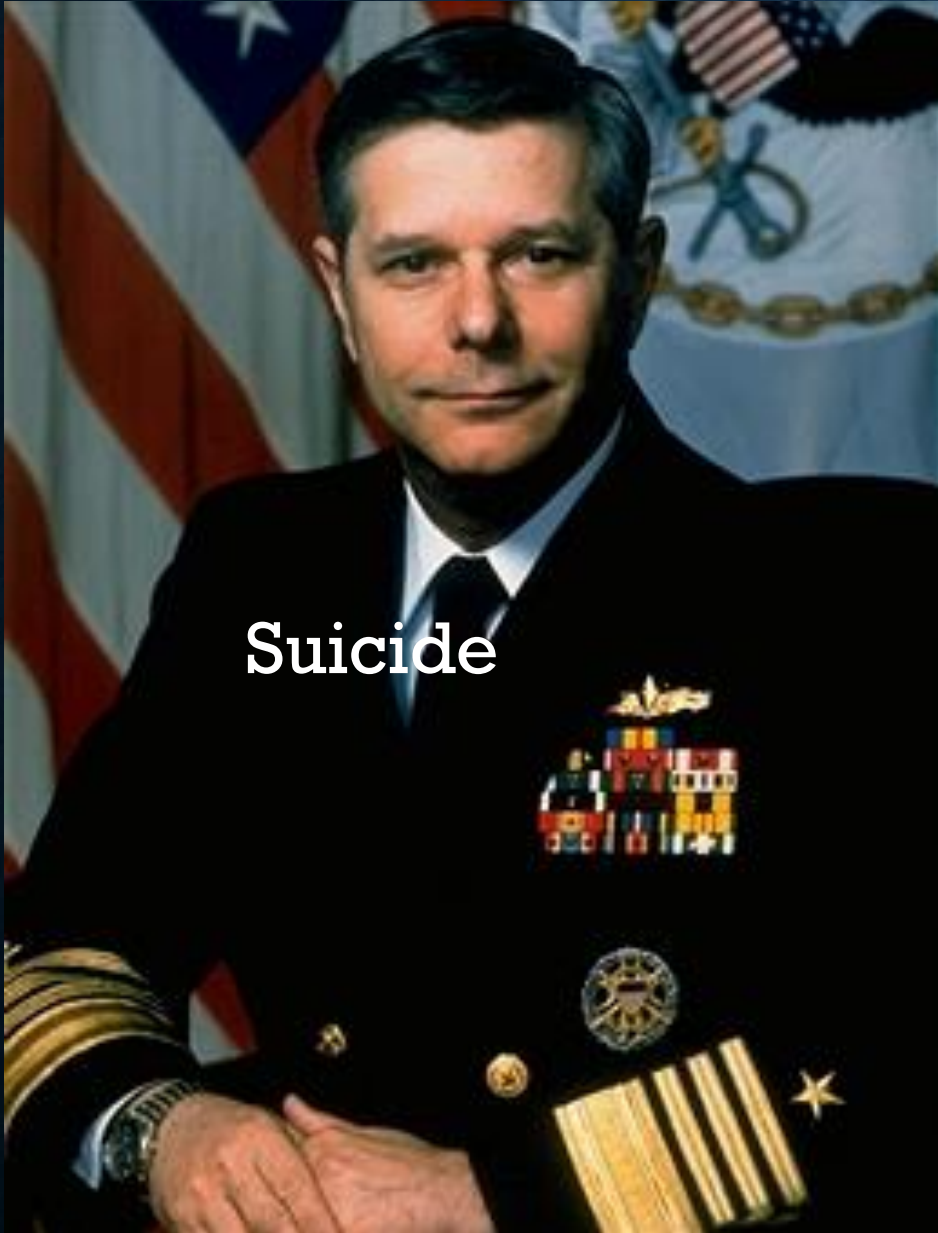
*And I find a way to get myself out of that. Again and again. My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that's always pushing me, pushing me. Because even though I've become Somebody. I still have to prove that Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.*



## KRISTEN BELL

*I struggled a lot with anxiety and depression," Bell revealed in a recent interview. "I shatter a little bit when I think people don't like me. That's part of why I lead with kindness and I compensate by being very bubbly all the time because it really hurts my feelings when I know I'm not liked."*

# ADMIRAL BOORDA, THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS



Suicide

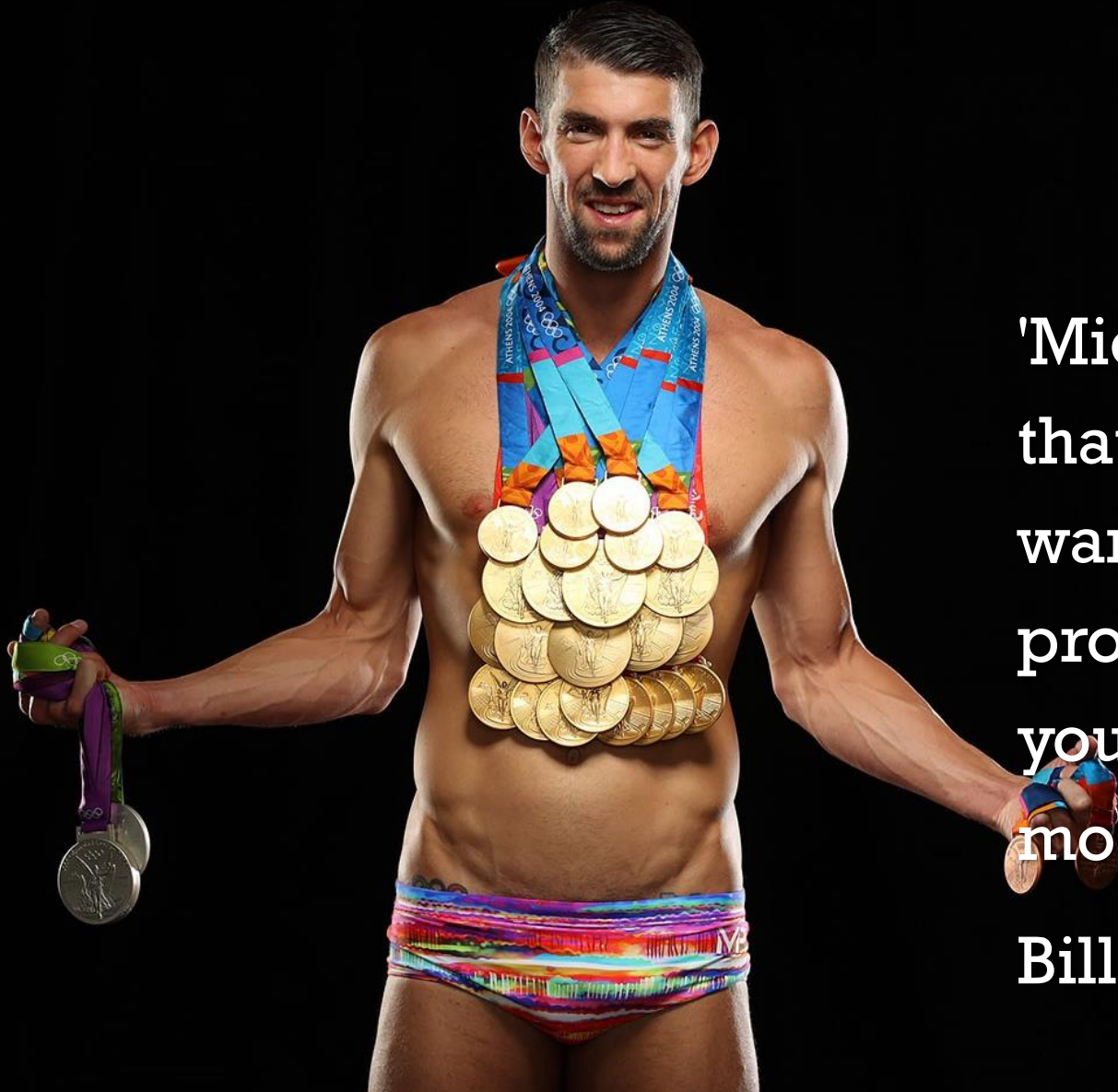
His Idols

honor, courage and commitment

New York Times

“poured out his fear that a dispute over the legitimacy of two of his wartime medals would harm the already battered reputation of the Navy”

# MICHAEL PHELPS



'Michael, you have all the money that anybody your age could ever want or need; you have a profound influence in the world; you have free time - and you're the most miserable person I know.'

Bill Bowman

# WHAT I DID WAS WHO I WAS

Idols are empty yet totally powerful and control you and yet they give you nothing in return







## ROMANTIC IDOL

*You will crush him  
under your  
expectations and  
he will crush you  
with his  
imperfections*

# IDOLATRY IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Gospel of felt needs

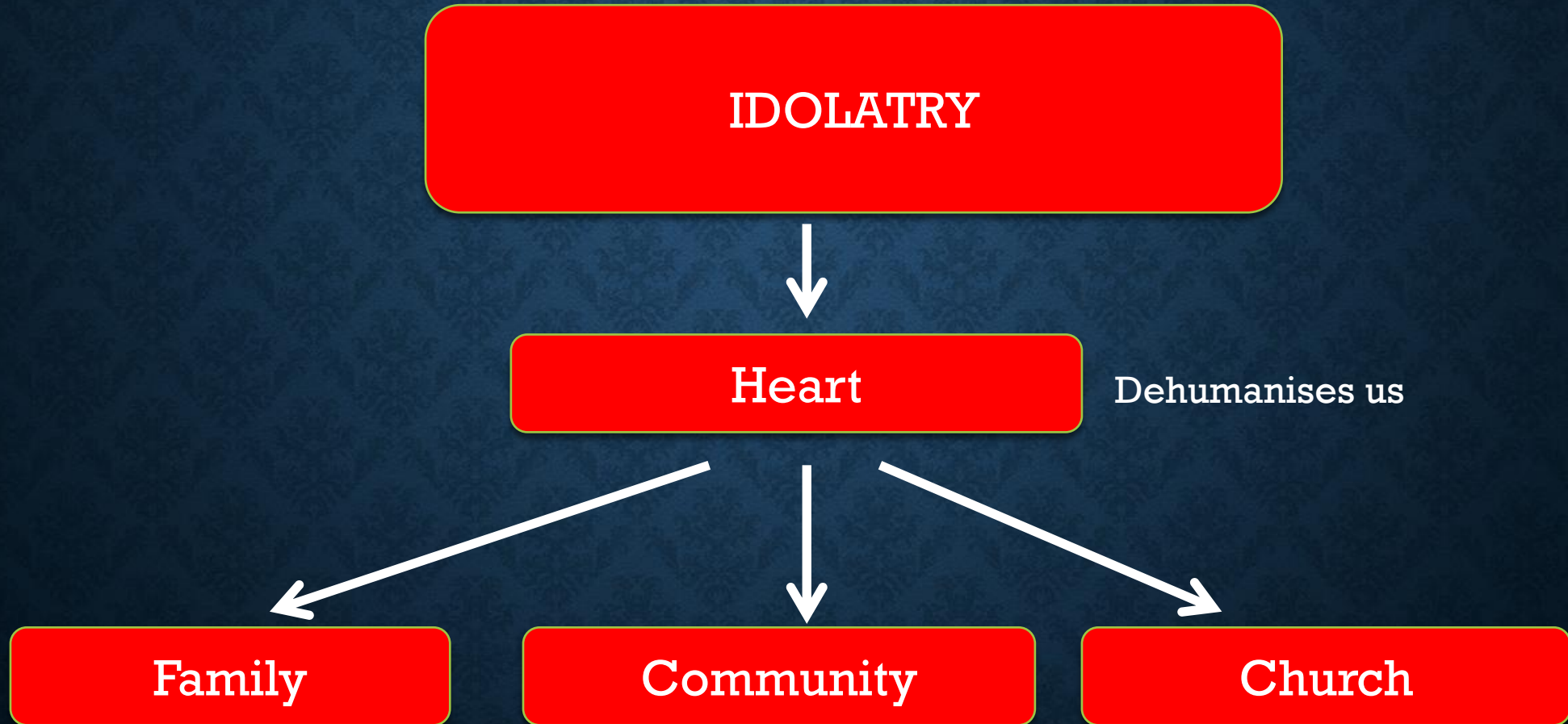
James 4:3-5 (ESV) You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

# RELIGIOUS PEOPLE FIND GOD USEFUL. CHRISTIANS FIND GOD BEAUTIFUL.



Acts 19:24-25 (ESV) 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth.

# IDOLS DESTROY COMMUNITY



# **IDOLATRY SHAPES OUR VALUES AND DEVALUATION OF OTHERS**





**CREDITOR**

**DEBTORS**

**CUSTOMERS**





**RICH**

**MIDDLE CLASS**

**POOR**





**CROWD**

**Market**

**Competitors**



# **GAMMA MEAL**



**Is it worth the money?**

**Who is paying?**

**Who is not paying?**

**What is return on investment?**



# WORSHIP POWER



Competitor



Collaborator



Detractor



# IDOLS DEHUMANIZE THE HEART AND CAUSE US TO ACT INHUMANELY TOWARDS OTHERS





**If we idolize our  
gender, we must  
demonize the other  
gender.**



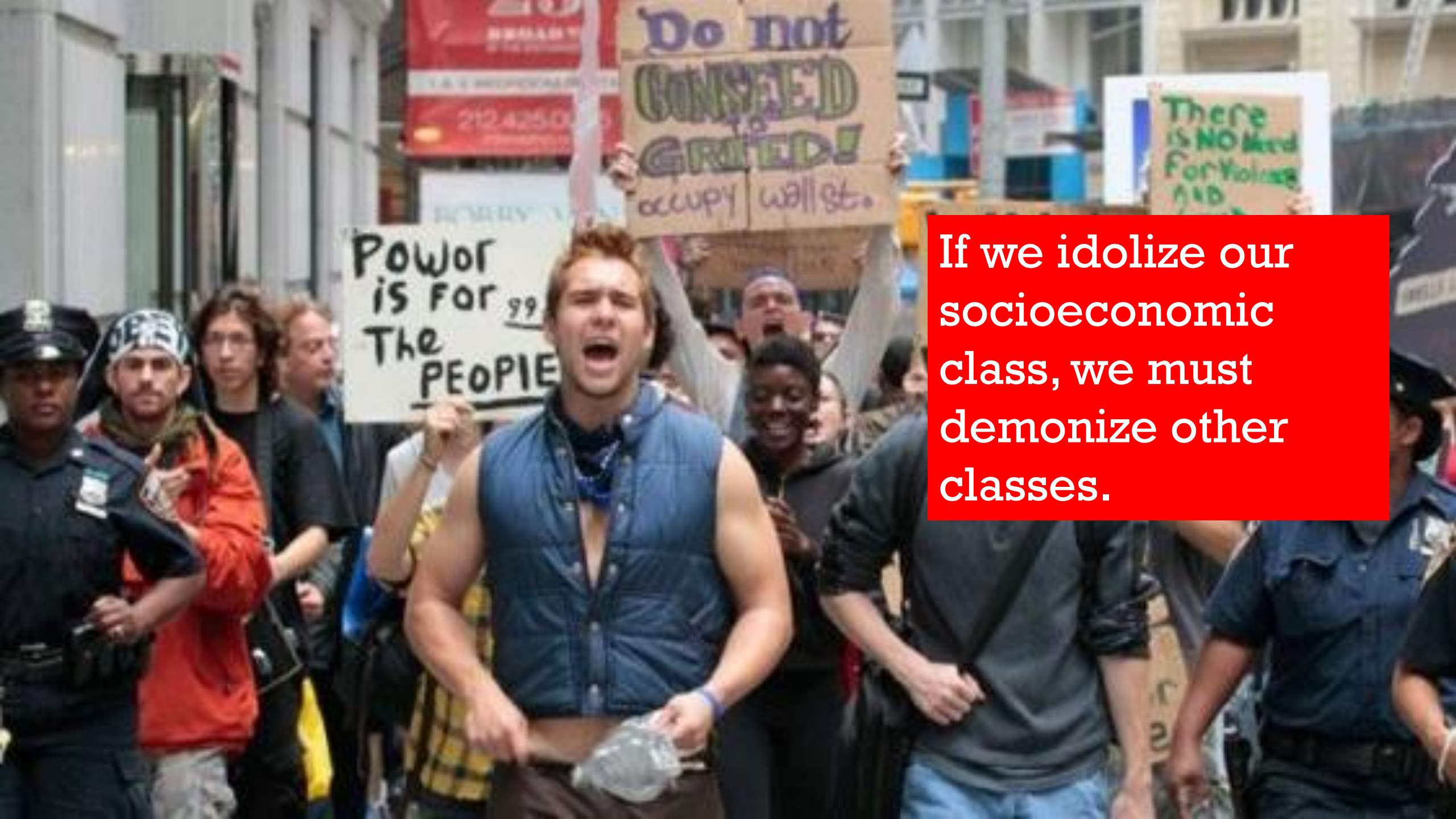
If we idolize our nation, we must demonize other nations



**LIM KIT SIANG**

JANGAN HASUT BENCI MELAYU SEPERTI **13 MEI** DULU

If we idolize our political party, we must demonize other political parties.



If we idolize our socioeconomic class, we must demonize other classes.





. If we idolize our family, we must demonize other families.



If we idolize our theological system, we must demonize other theological systems. If we idolize our church, we must demonize other churches..

This explains the great polarities and acrimonies that plague every society. If something other than God's loving grace is the source of our identity and value, we must invariably defend our idol by treating everyone and everything who may call our idol into question as an enemy to be demonized so that we can feel superior to other people and safe with our idol.

Mark Driscoll " Doctrine" Crossway 2010 p 350-351

A vibrant, sunlit field of white flowers with yellow centers, growing in a lush green field. A large, dark tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green landscape with bright sunlight creating a lens flare effect in the upper left corner.

**IN THE BEAUTY OF  
THE WORLD, WE ARE  
TO SEE GOD'S  
EXISTENCE**



**IN THE BROKENNESS OF THE WORLD,  
WE ARE TO SEE GOD'S JUSTICE.**

A wooden cross with a crown of thorns, set against a dark, textured background. The cross is made of two wooden beams, and the crown of thorns is made of several sharp, dark thorns. The background is a dark, mottled blue-grey color with some subtle textures.

As we do, we run back to the place where  
we see God's mercy: the cross.

## TIM KELLER

Jonathan Edwards once said: 'God is glorified not only by His glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in.' It is not enough to say, 'I guess he is God, so I have got to knuckle under.' You have to see his beauty. Glorifying God does not mean obeying him only because you have to. It means to obey him because you want to – because you are attracted to him, because you delight in him. This is what C. S. Lewis grasped and explained so well in his chapter on praising. We need beauty.

# RELIGIOUS PEOPLE FIND GOD USEFUL. CHRISTIANS FIND GOD BEAUTIFUL.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS THE “PROSPERITY GOSPEL”?

