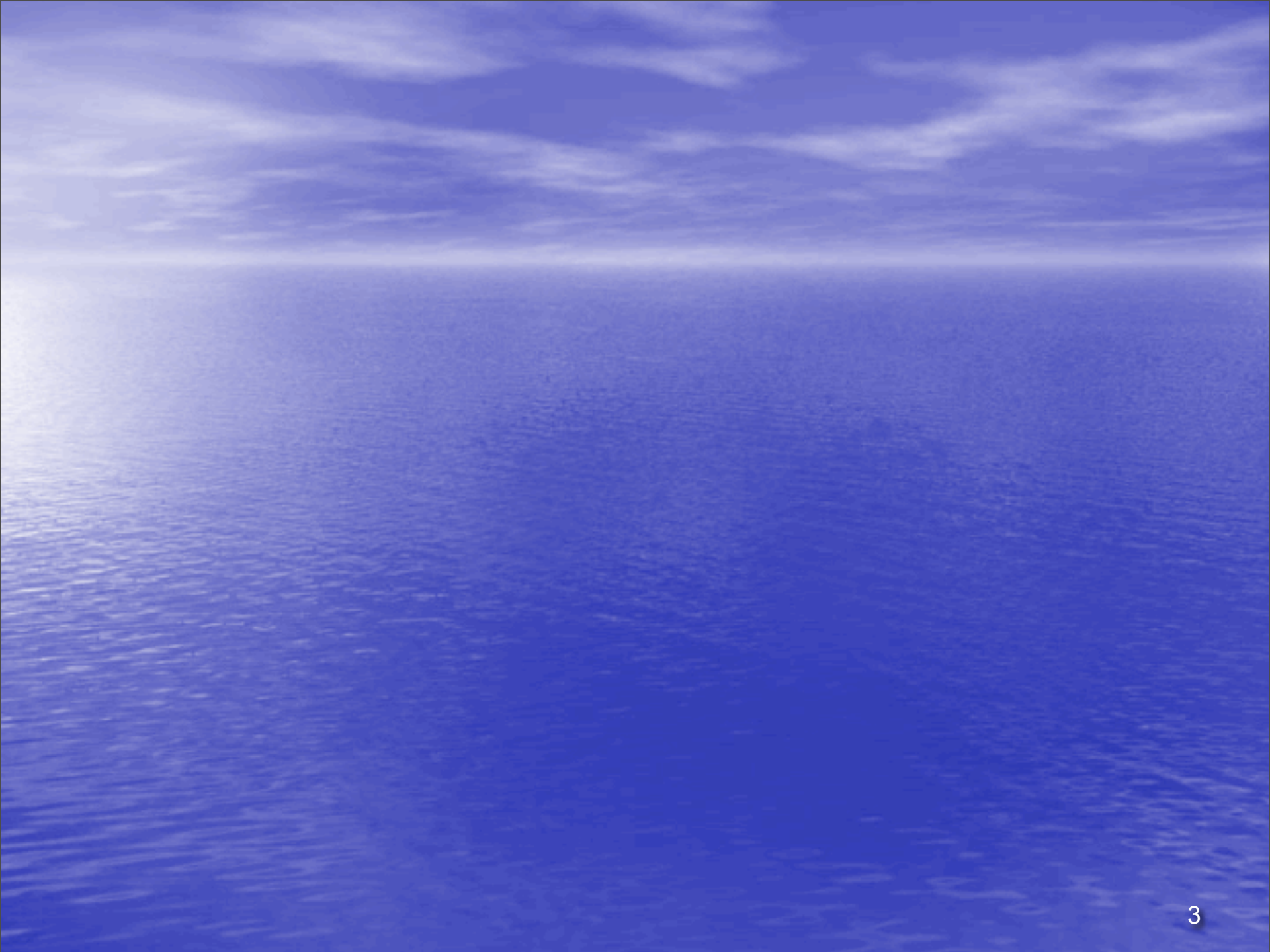


21st Century Discipleship

WCBS 2012
At Menucha

Outline

- **Class 1 - 21st or First Century Challenges?**
- Class 2 - Grace and faith versus Law and works
- Class 3 - Reconciling Our Belief Systems
- Class 4 – Repentance and Change
- Class 5 – Character of a Disciple



21st Century Challenges

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- Partisanship

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- Hedonism/materialism

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- The solution

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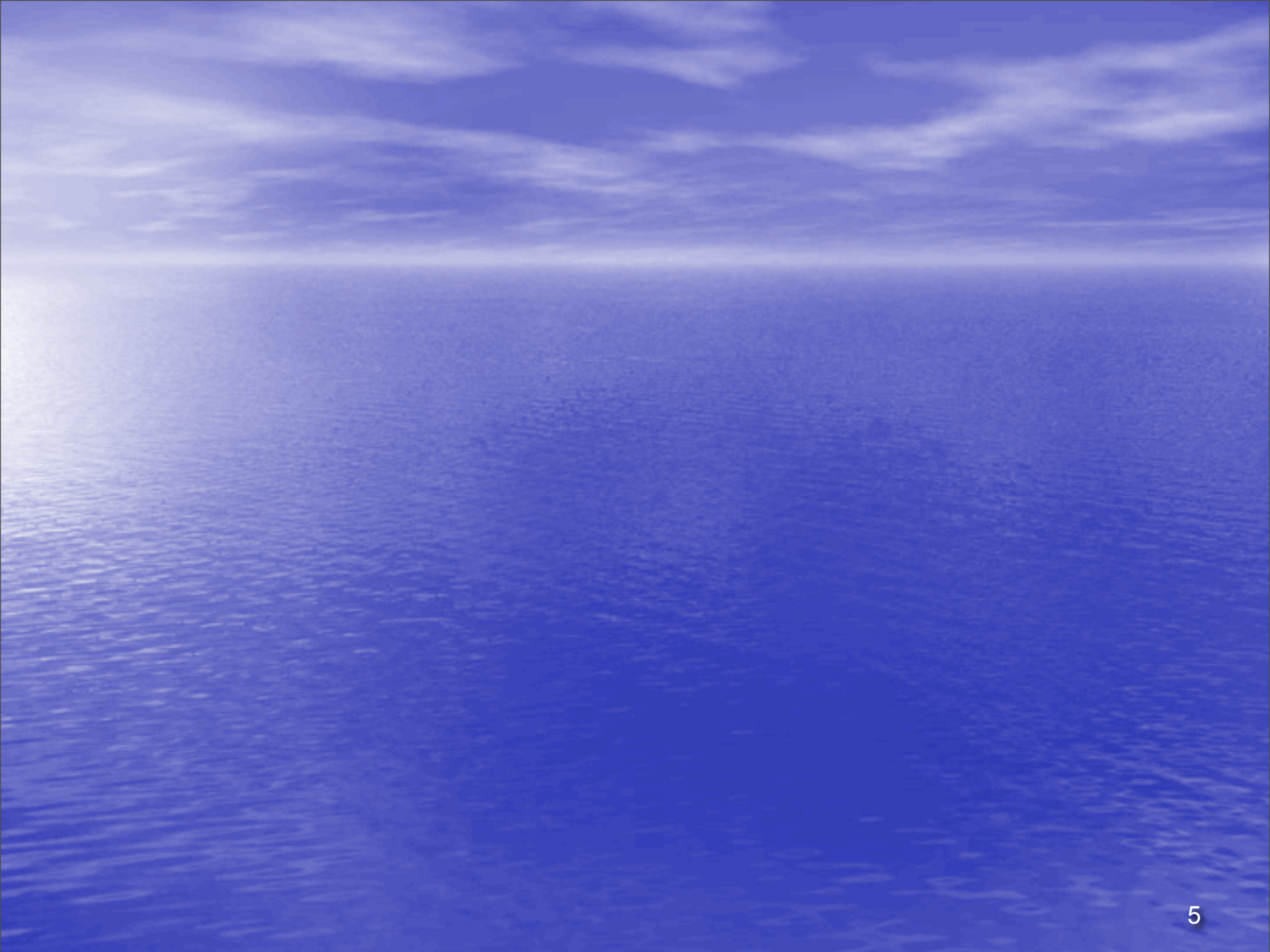
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- All these problems existed in the First Century
- The context for our issues may be different

Nothing New Under The Sun

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- The context for our issues may be different
- But the causes are the same



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 - 2 Timothy 2:16-18 - Deniers of Resurrection

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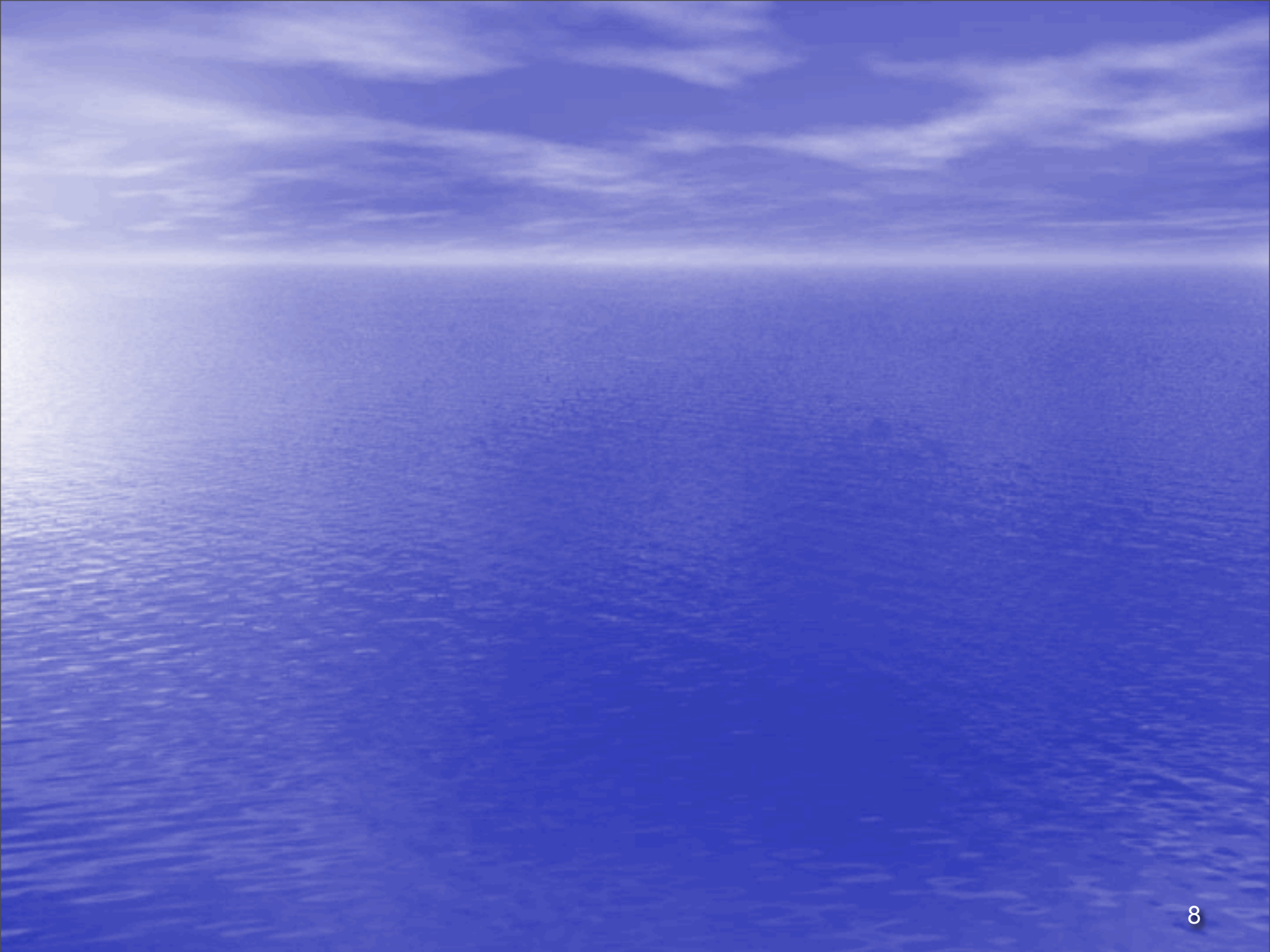
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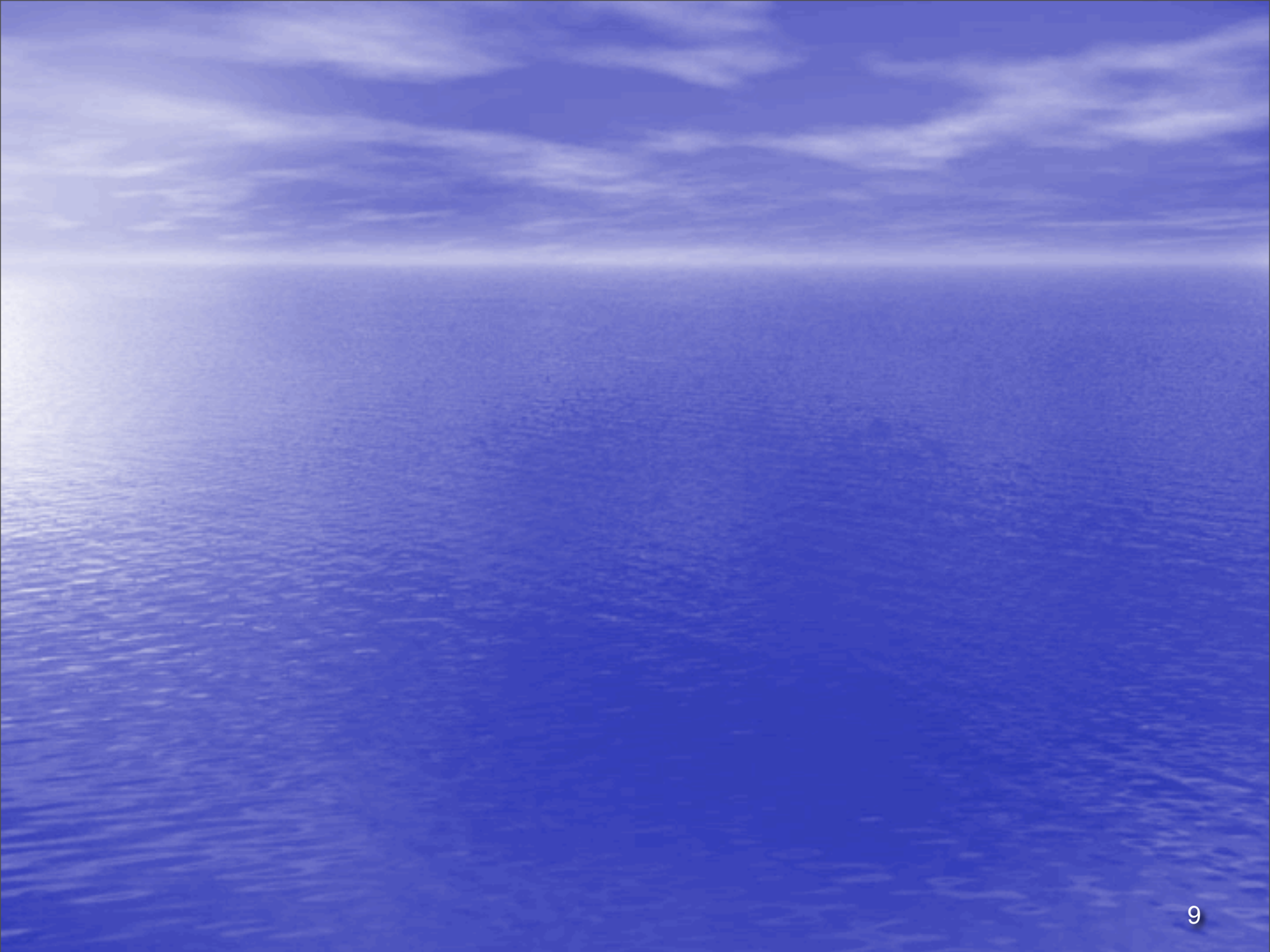
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 - 1 Timothy 6:6-11
- Godliness with contentment



Legalism

Legalism

- Colossians 2:16 - 23
 - v.18: "Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind"
 - v.23: "These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh."



Legalism

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- 1 Timothy 4:1-5
 - “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

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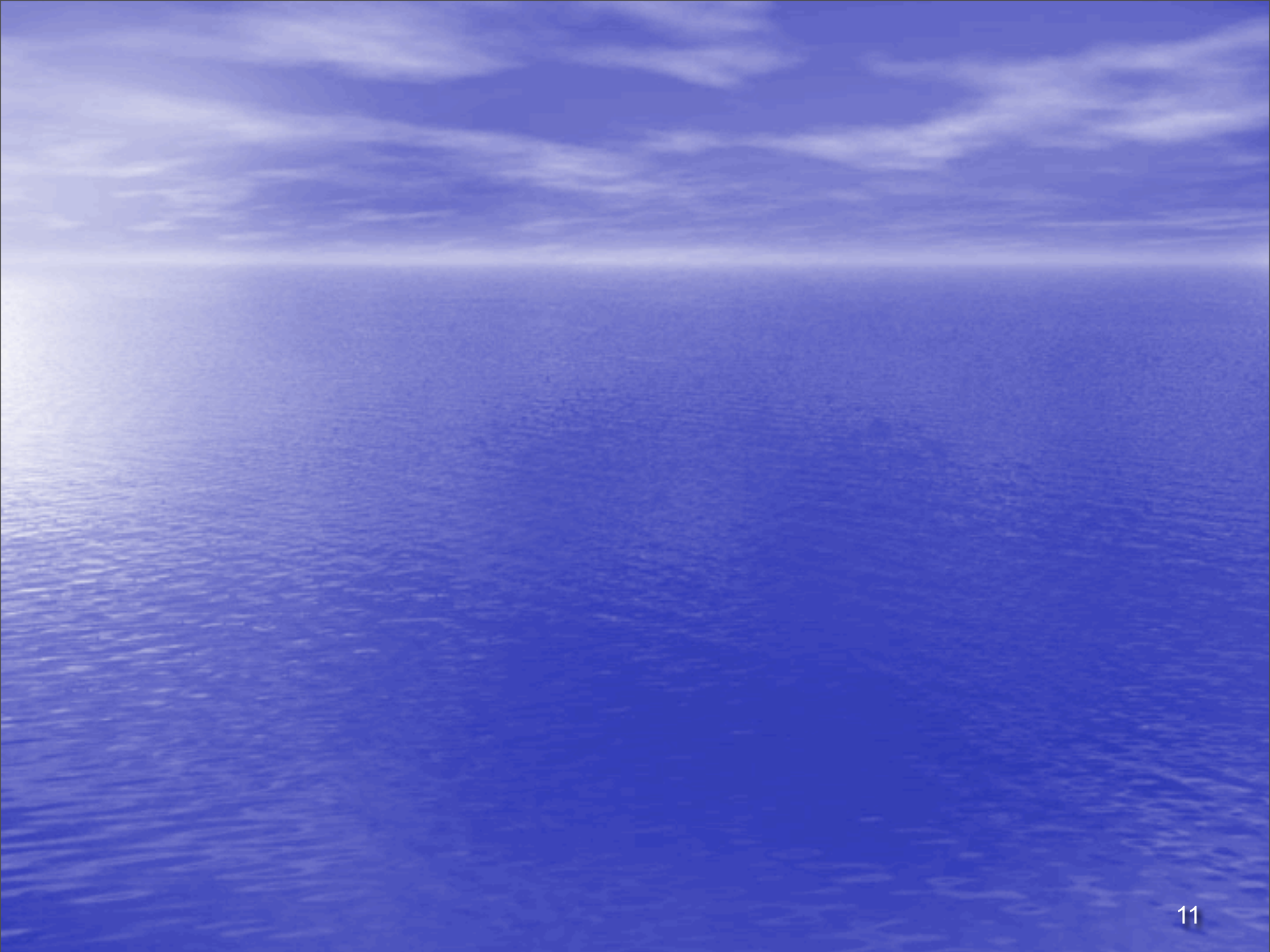
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- Acts 15 v1ff
- Romans and Galatians
- And almost every other book of NT!



Apathy, Resentment and Fatigue

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- Luke 18: 1-8
 - Don't lose heart

Simple Solution



Simple Solution

Accept God's Grace



- “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mar 10:45)

- Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
(Joh 15:13)

- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Rom 5:8)

- For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.
(1Pe 3:18)

- And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor 6:11)

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn 1:9)

- Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Heb 4:14-16

Our Response to God's Grace

- We love because he first loved us.
(1Jn 4:18-19)

- “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20)

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- Exodus 33:12-19 – Moses asks for affirmation of God's favor

'Grace' in NT

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- "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" - Rom 3:23-24

Ephesians 2:4-10

- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

'Grace' and 'gift'

- (Rom 3:24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
- (Rom 5:15) But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.
- (Rom 5:17) For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ
- (Rom 12:6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;
- (Eph 2:8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
- (Eph 3:7) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.
- (Eph 4:7) But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- (1Pe 4:10) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

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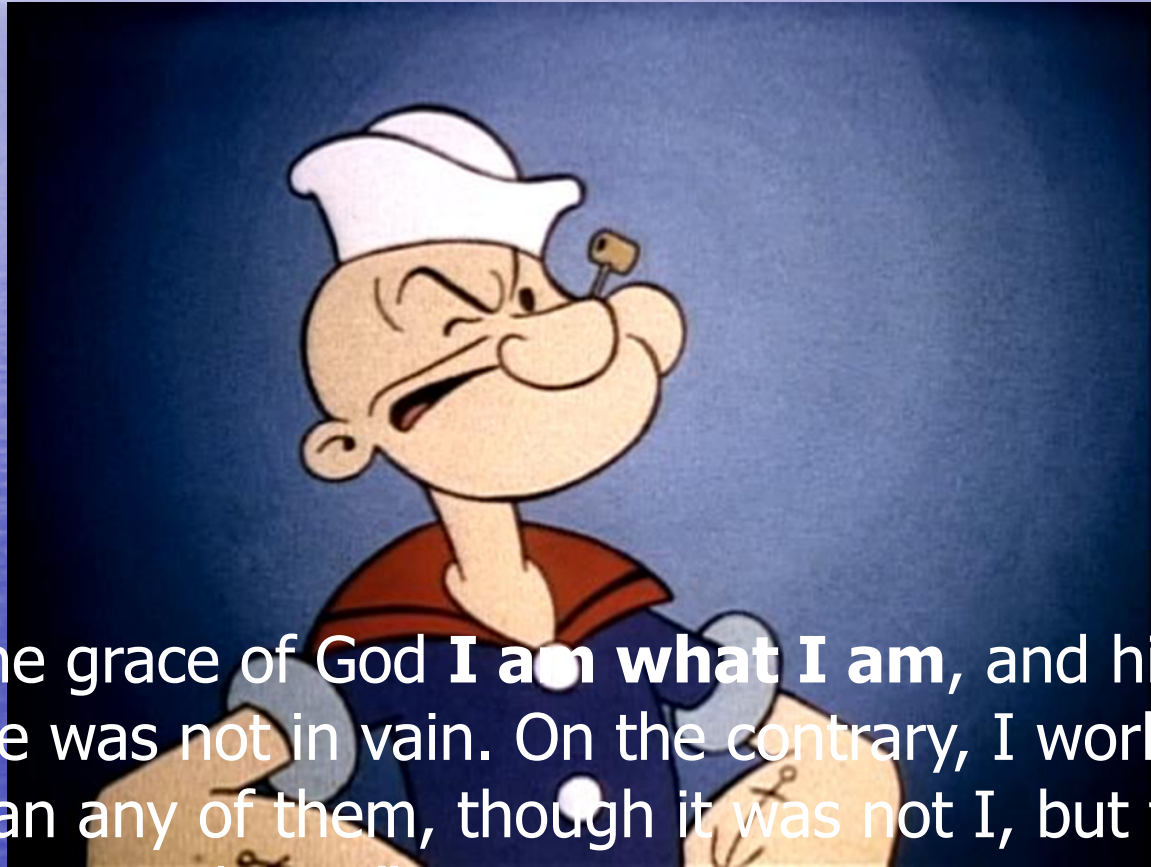
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- Thank (-s, -worthy) – 2 Cor 2:14

The Popeye Verse

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“But by the grace of God **I am what I am**, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” 1 Cor 15:10

Finding grace

- Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Heb 4:14-16

Law and Grace

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- Romans 3 and 4

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- “For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” - Romans 3:28

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- How do we define what is a 'good work' and what isn't?
- What happens when our works don't bring the desired results?

Focusing on Works of Law

- What happens when we focus on works-based righteousness ?
 - Conclude that austerity and self-denial are righteous
 - Perhaps: something inherently good in 'protestant work ethic'
 - Flip-side: self-indulgence:
 - "I deserve a break"

Alternative Attitude

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- And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

Remember: It's God's work!

- Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
(Phillipians 2:12-13)

Justified by faith

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift ("grace") but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the

Our faith

- But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (Rom 4:23-25)

The Free Gift – 'Charisma'

- But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the **free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ** abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:15-17)

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The Gift Produces Genuine Love

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- But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart...
- the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 2 – Works from Faith

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 - Either with Paul
 - Or with James himself!

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- v.50 - “Your faith has saved you”

Framework for Understanding

- “He will render to each one according to **his works**: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.” - Rom 2:6-8
- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what **he has done** in the body, whether good or evil.” - 2 Cor 5:10
- “And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each **one's deeds**, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile” - 1 Peter 1:17

Paul's Own Experience of Grace

I thank him who has **given me strength**, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the **grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love** that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. - 1Tim 1:12-15

We Are God's Workmanship

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” - Eph 2:8-10

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- Often these are incongruent

Christianity is about Change

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- “Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day” – 2 Cor 4:16 (sw)
- “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind” – Romans 12:2

Jesus: Behavior Driven By Thoughts

Matt 15:12-20 ESV Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.

Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us."

And he said, "Are you also still without understanding?"

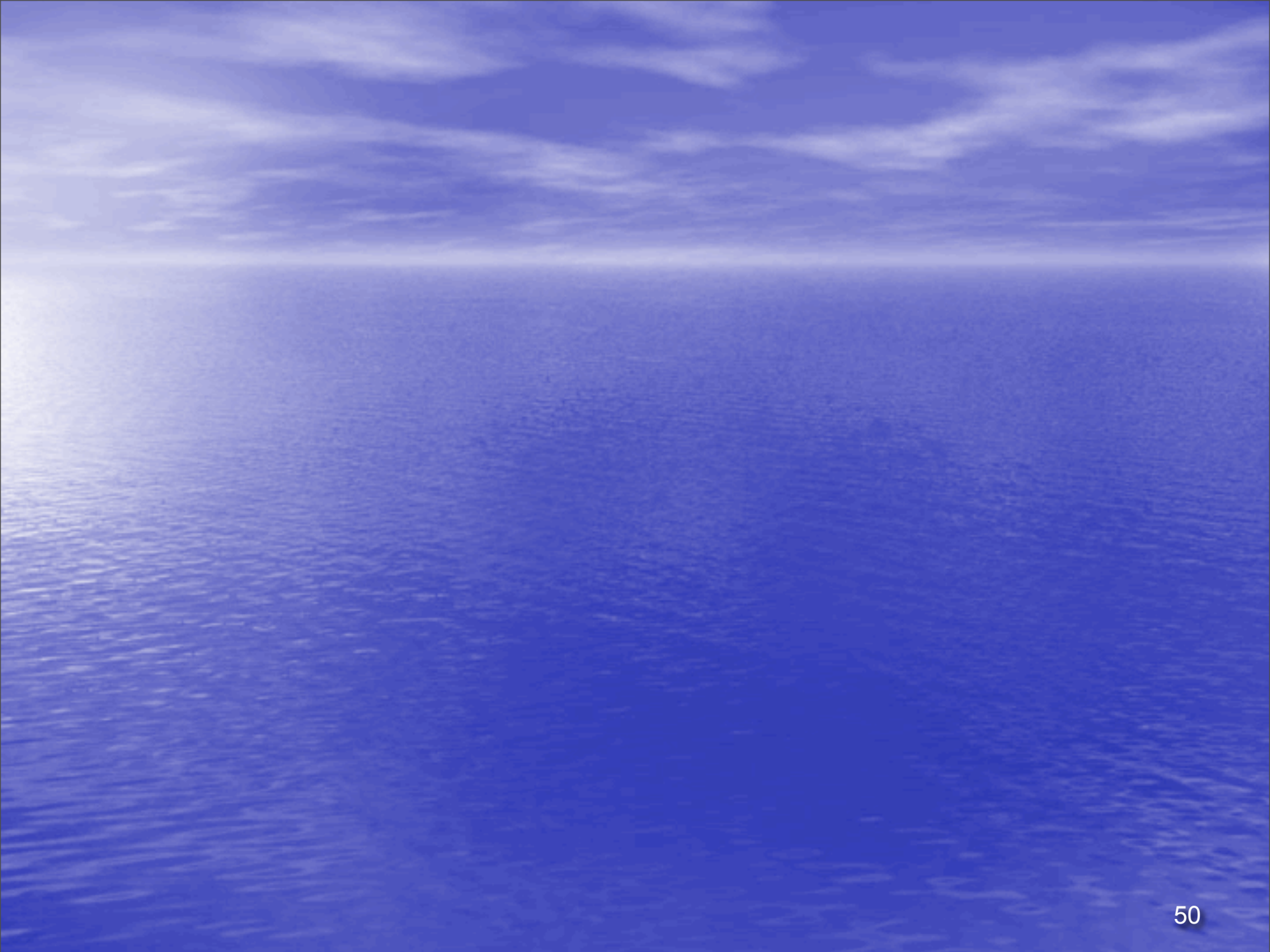
Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."









A "Diaper Cake"

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6. They wanted to spend some time with their spouse who is often away from home working, so there isn't much time available

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4. They hate crafts
5. They hate children!
6. They wanted to spend some time with their spouse who is often away from home working, so there isn't much time available
7. They wanted to go visit an elderly brother in a nursing home and read to him and sing hymns with him.

Dichotomy



I Yam What I Yam

I Yam What I Yam



I Yam What I Yam



I can't change!

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- My possessions give me comfort
- When I drive my car people respect or envy me
- I'm spiritual, just not religious
- I have no personal gifts (talent) to offer the ecclesia
- It's up to me to hold things together

My possessions give me comfort

Luke 12:15-21 "And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,
and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'

And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

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- But:
- Gal 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Practicing True Giving

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your

'Measure'

- "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."
– Ephesians 4:7

Case of The Rich Young Ruler

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- "Treasure in heaven" (Luke 12:32-33)

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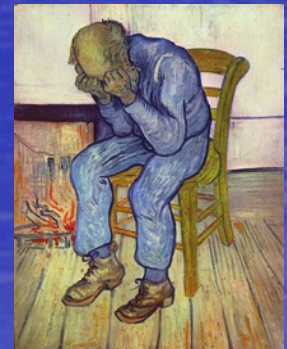
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The Victim Mentality



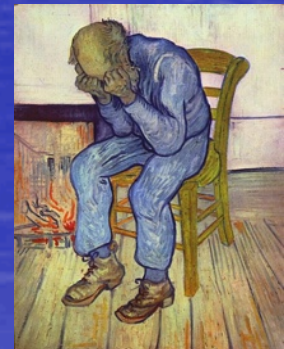
“Definition of a victim: a person to whom life happens”

Victimhood belief system:



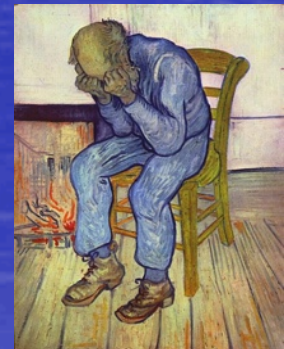
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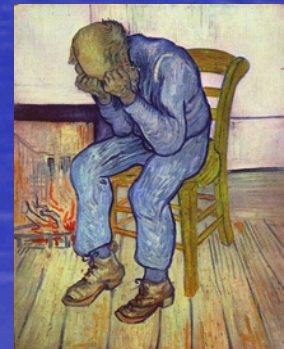
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Victimhood belief system:

- I am not responsible for my behaviour because I have been hurt.
- I am going to hang on to my hurt because it gives me comfort and significance.
- Because I'm a victim, normal rules of human conduct don't apply to me. I can lash out in revenge or to express my hurt because I've been victimized in the past.



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- Being a victim means I am powerless to bring about change in my life.

How Did Jesus Deal With Victimhood?

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- He showed the consequences
- He just 'healed' it
- He demonstrates why the alternative is better

The Consequences

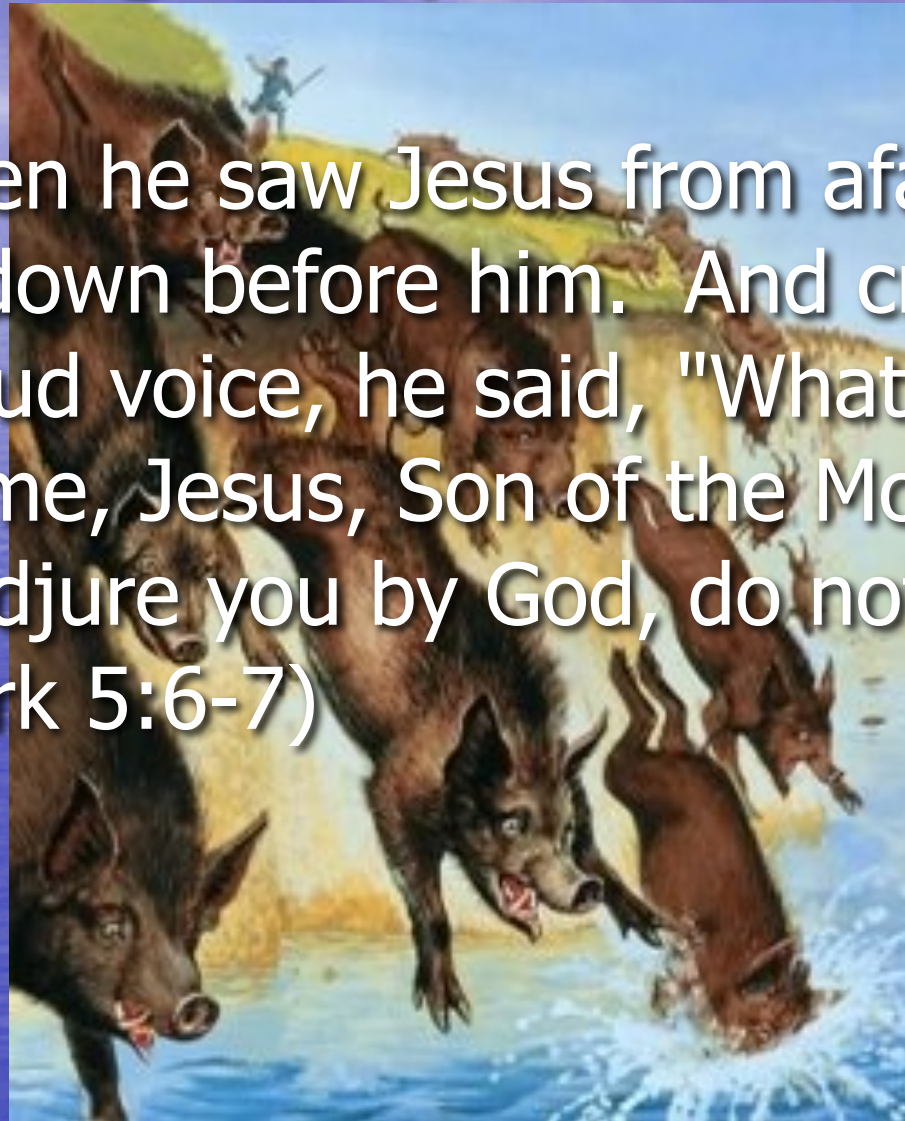
He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours'.

But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.'

(Matt 25:24-28)

Removing the problem

“And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”(Mark 5:6-7)



The alternative

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.
(Mat 15:22-28)



It's Up To Me...

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 - “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth”

God Is Faithful

- 2 Thess 3:1-3
 - “For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against evil”
 - Cf Lord’s prayer

Jesus and the Woman at the well

- She focuses on externals and differences
 - possibly she also had a victim mentality
- The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
 - She repeats her concern with differences and history (like a 'fellowship' argument) - "are you greater than our father Jacob?"

Jesus and the Woman at the well

- Jesus ignores her question and focuses on internals instead
- Examines the core issues in her life:
 - Her relationship with men
- Concerned with her moral and spiritual well-being
- Not an argument over where or how to worship!

What Jesus regards as beautiful

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

What Do We regard as beautiful?

- "Blessed are the go-getters, for they will rise to prominence"
- "Blessed are those who are healthy and wealthy, for their lives are comfortable"
- "Blessed are the proud and self-confident, for they will rule over others"
- "Blessed are those who eat and drink heartily, for their god is their belly"
- "Blessed are the ruthless, for they will inevitably get their own way"
- "Blessed are the perverse in heart, for they shall be titillated by all the sordid things the world has to offer."
- "Blessed are the warmongers, trouble-makers and busy-bodies, for they shall see sin"
- "Blessed are those who do whatever they want, without hurting anyone, for no-one will persecute them"

Accepting Grace allows us to love

- 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - Isn't always "me first" – The Message
 - "Love does not insist on its own way" -ESV
 - "Love is not self-seeking" -NIV
 - (Greek literally "seeks not self")

Outline

- Class 1 - 21st or First Century Challenges?
- Class 2 - Grace and faith versus Law and works
- Class 3 - Reconciling Our Belief Systems
- **Class 4 – Repentance and Change**
- Class 5 – Character of a Disciple

Repentance: Turning Back to God

- 1 Kings 8: 33-53: Solomon's dedication of the temple.
 - "turn again," God "bring them again" – v. 34 etc.

Repentance draws us closer to God

- Zech 1:3-17 – “Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”
- James 4:8 - “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you” –
- And Malachi 3:7
- Other terms: reconciliation, restoration.

Need for ongoing repentance

- Deut 30:1-6
 - v.1 “Call them to mind” – a reminder
 - v.2 – “return to the Lord”
 - v.6 – “God will circumcise your heart”
- Rev 2 and 3 – Christ calls on churches to repent

Repentance versus Regret

- Repentance
 - “a turning”
- “Regret” (in Greek)
 - “a caring afterwards”
 - ie self-pity and guilt over past events.
- Repentance : Forward-looking
- Regret : backward-looking

Example from 2 Cor 7

- V.8-9 : distinction between 'regret' and 'repent':

2Co 7:8-10 AV: "For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent ("regret"), though I did repent ("regret"): for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to **repentance**: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

For godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation not to be repented of ("regretted"): but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Same passage in NIV

- Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and **leaves no regret**, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Judas 'regretted' his actions

Matt 27:3-5: When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Jesus' baptism

- John's message: repentance (Matt 3:2)
- Jesus' baptism (Matt 3: 8,11)
 - Baptism of repentance!
 - Why?
 - Final expression of total commitment
 - Looking forward!
 - 'Beginning' for Christ :John 1:1-14, 1 John 1:1-4

Jesus and John: Same Message!

- Matt. 4:17 - Jesus' initial teaching is identical to John's !
- Matt 9:31 – Jesus teaches same message regarding need for repentance.
- Luke 24:47 – Last message of Christ is same as first !

Church Founded on Repentance

- Acts 2:37 – “cut to the heart”
 - Conscience drives change
 - Looking forward: “what shall we do?”
- Acts 2:38 – Peter’s answer: repent!
 - Peter puts Jesus’ commission in Luke 24:47 into effect.

Repentance at Baptism

- Our children grow up associated with the household of faith
 - But not 'in the truth' !
- Need to teach great distinction between 'before' and 'after'

Stark Contrasts

Reference	Before	After
Romans 6:6-7	Slave to sin	Free from sin
Romans 6:22-23	Free from sin	Slave of God
Eph 2:5	Dead in our trespasses	Alive together with Christ
Col 1:13	Delivered from domain of darkness	Transferred ("removed") us to Christ's kingdom
Col 2:13	Dead in your trespasses and uncircumcision of your flesh	Alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses
Col 3:9-10	Put off old self	Put on new self

Repentance and Forgiveness

- Luke 17:3-4 – Part of our every day experience as brethren
 - Practice admitting mistakes
 - Practice committing to change
 - Practice letting go immediately
- Acts 3:17-20
 - Jesus' return tied to our repentance!

Gaining Strength to Change

- Motivation
- Reliance on God's grace and power
- Meditating on (reading!) the Bible
- Prayer
- Renewal of our minds
 - Romans 12:2
 - Col 3:10 - vb form of sw

Renewal

- Regeneration
 - Matt 19:28 – Jesus calls kingdom “regeneration”
 - cf Acts 3:20 – “times of refreshing”
- God wants a relationship with us:
 - Jer 30:22 “You shall be my people and I shall be your God”

Regeneration through Christ

- Titus 3:4-5
 - echoes Exodus 34:6 -7
 - “regeneration” : sw – Matt 19:28
 - “and renewal” : sw – Romans 12:2 !
 - “pouring out” : Acts 2:17,18,33

Process of Change in Romans 5

- Romans 5:9 10

Christ's death **reconciled** us:

Provided possibility for our repentance to be met by a welcoming, receptive God

Christ's subsequent resurrection to eternal life **saved** us:

gave meaning to that reconciliation, substance to our repentance, and a way forward.

God's kindness designed to motivate us

- Romans 2:4
 - “goodness” = “kindness”
- Matthew 11:30 - my yoke is “easy” –sw
- Galatians 5:22 - “gentleness”
 - One of the fruit of the spirit
- God gently coaxes change in us

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Fruit of the Spirit

- “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ” - Gal 5:22, 23

Character Traits

- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self Control

Patience

- I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with **patience**, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
(Eph 4:1-3)

Patience : Fortitude

- As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. - Jas 5:10-11

Patience : Long-term view

- May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (Col 1:11-12)

Patience : Long-term view

- And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
(Heb 6:11-12)

Kindness

- "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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matt 11:29-30

Quality of God seen in Christ

- But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy... - Titus 3:4-5
- See Exodus 34:6

Kindness

- Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. -Eph 4:31-32

Kindness over works

- For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. - Hos 6:6
- He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

My Top Ten Ways of Showing Kindness

1. Value people's opinions
2. Be trustworthy - don't betray confidences or gossip
3. Be generous in spirit and with time/money
4. Show loyalty - give others benefit of doubt
5. Give others the opportunity to shine
6. Be gentle, polite and considerate
7. Include others in your ecclesial/personal life
8. Forgive quickly and without equivocation
9. Be hospitable
10. Avoid envy, jealousy, anger, party (as in political) spirit

Goodness

- May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.
(Rom 15:13-14)

Goodness

- For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) (Eph 5:8-9 - AV)
- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- (Joh 1:14)

Goodness

- To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good (lit: "his goodness") and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
(2Th 1:11-12)

Virtue

- “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence (virtue), if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ” - Php 4:8-9

Faithfulness

- But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.
(Exo 17:12)

Faithfulness

- Jesus:
- I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. - Psa 40:6-11
- See also Hebrews 10:5-10

The just shall live...

- By his faithfulness ! – Habakkuk 2:4
- Romans 1:17
- Gal 3:11
- Heb 10:38

Gentleness

- Jesus avoids confrontation:
- “He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory” -Mat 12:19-20
- Cited from Isaiah 42:3

Gentleness

- Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(Jas 3:13-18)

Gentleness

- Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with **gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth - 2Ti 2:23-25
- To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. -

Weak and Strong

- We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. - Rom 15:1
- As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. - Rom 14:1-2

Self Control

- Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - James 1:19-20

Self-control

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with **self-control**, and **self-control** with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours (AV "things be in you" - ie are a part of you) and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. - 2 Pe 1:5-11

What Governs Us

- For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. – 2 Co 5:14-15
NIV