



God's Plan for Humanity

The Humans Rebel

God Chooses a People

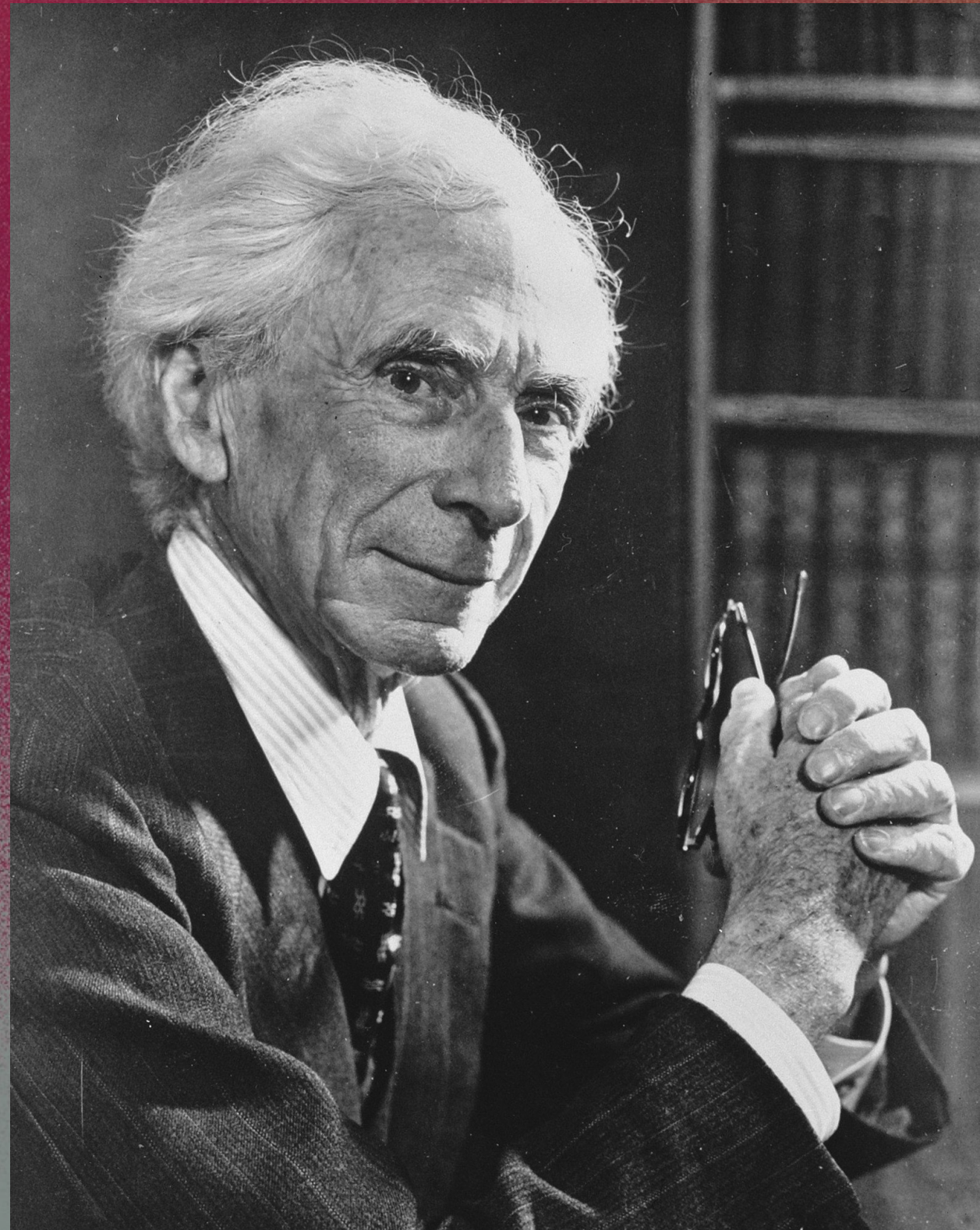
God's People Rebel

Jesus the King

The Empowered Church

God's Mission Accomplished





I do not myself feel that
any person who is really
profoundly humane can
believe in Everlasting
punishment.

Bertrand Russell

Why I Am Not a Christian and Other Essays on Religion and Related Subject

⁴ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music...
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98:4, 8-9 (NIV 2011)

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Psalms 96:13 (NIV 2011)

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5:24-26 (NIV 2011)

²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out — those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

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John 5:27-30 (NIV 2011)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

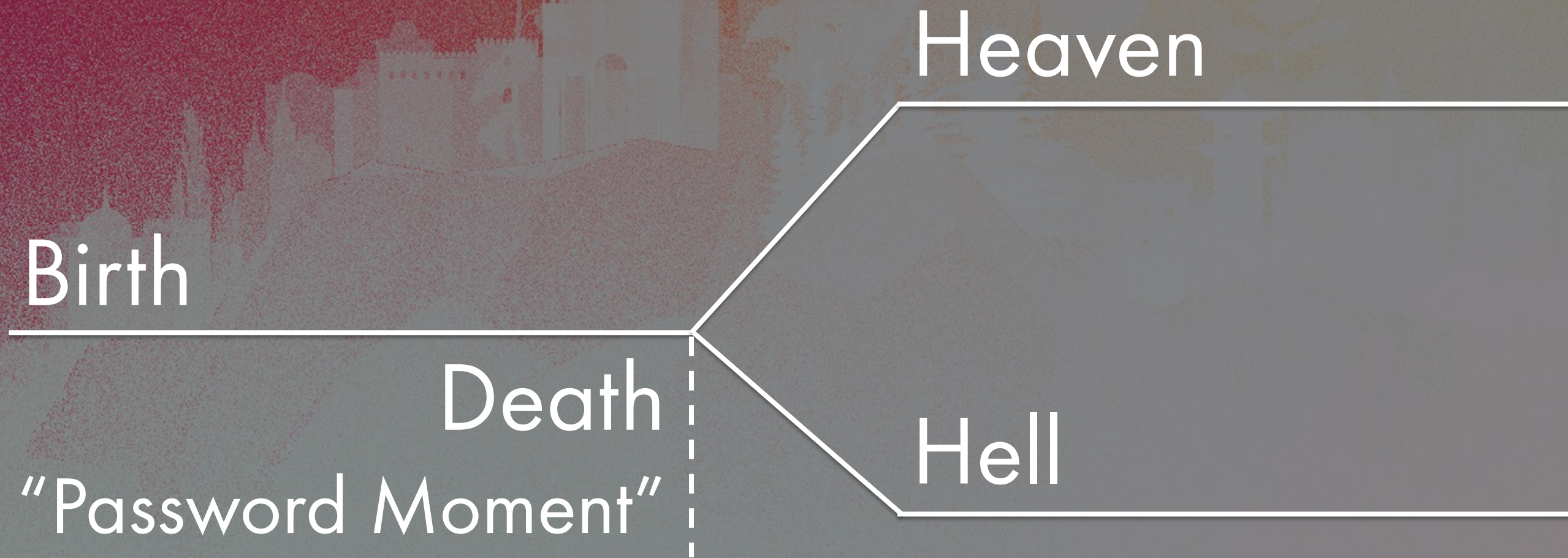
Revelation 20:11-12 (NIV 2011)

¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

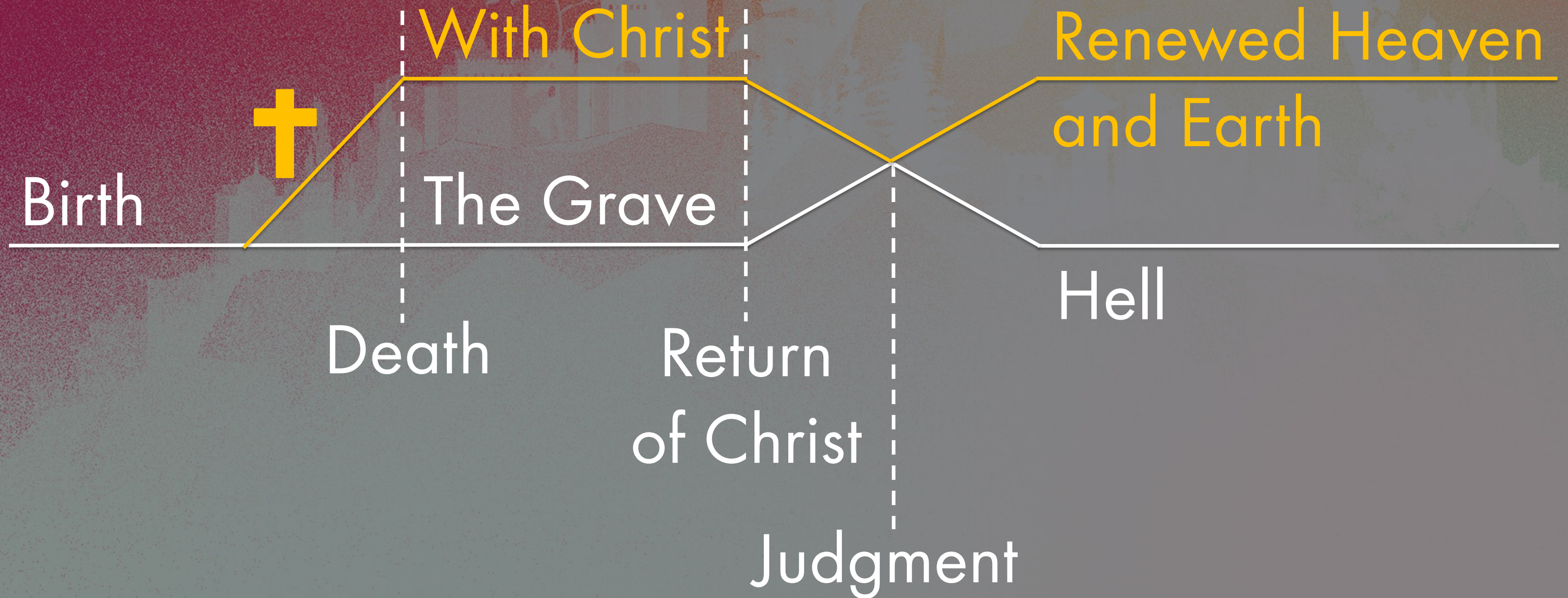
¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:13-15 (NIV 2011)

Traditional View



Biblical View



¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV 2011)

Jesus Describes Hell

γέεννα (*geenna*) – “lake of fire” – “second death”

- “The fire never goes out... the worm never dies” (Mark 9:43, 48)
- “Soul and body destroyed in hell” (Matthew 10:28)
- “Eternal fire” (Matthew 25:41)
- “Eternal punishment” (Matthew 25:46)
- “Outer darkness” (Matthew 22:13)
- “Weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 22:13)

More New Testament Descriptions

- “Blackest darkness reserved forever” (Jude 13)
- “Torment for ever and ever...no rest day or night” (Revelation 14:10-11)
- “Punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his might...” (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Most evangelical Christians who believe that hell is a literal place and that its duration is forever do not interpret the fire imagery literally. Well-known figures such as John Calvin, Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, Billy Graham, D.A. Carson, J.I. Packer, and Sinclair Ferguson all understand the fire images nonliterally.

Erasing Hell

Francis Chan, Preston Sprinkle

Objections to Hell

- My God is loving not judgmental.

It takes the quiet of a suburban home for the birth of the thesis... of God's *refusal* to judge. In a scorched land, soaked in blood of the innocent, it will invariably die.

Miroslav Volf

Objections to Hell

- My God is loving not judgmental.
- Isn't Hell overkill?

Hell appears as God's gesture of respect for human choice. All receive what they actually chose, either to be with God forever, worshipping him, or without God forever, worshipping themselves.

J.I. Packer

Concise Theology

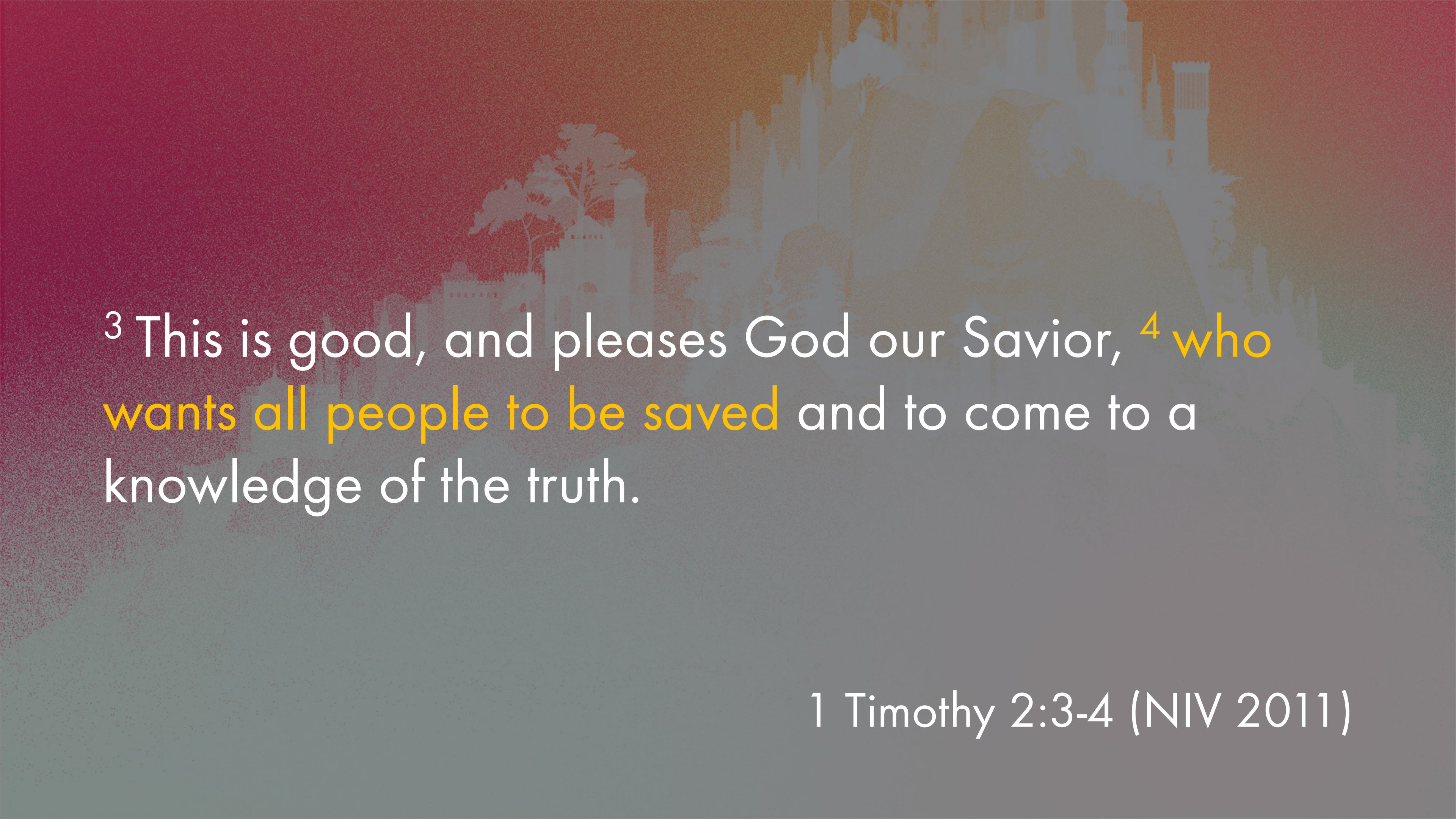
In the long run, the answer to those who object to the doctrine of hell is itself a question: What is it that they are asking God to do? To wipe out past sins and at all costs give them a fresh start? He did that, on the cross... To leave them alone? That's what hell is. There are only two kinds of people in the end: Those who say to God "Thy will be done" and those to whom God says in the end, "Thy will be done."

C.S. Lewis

The Great Divorce

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV 2011)

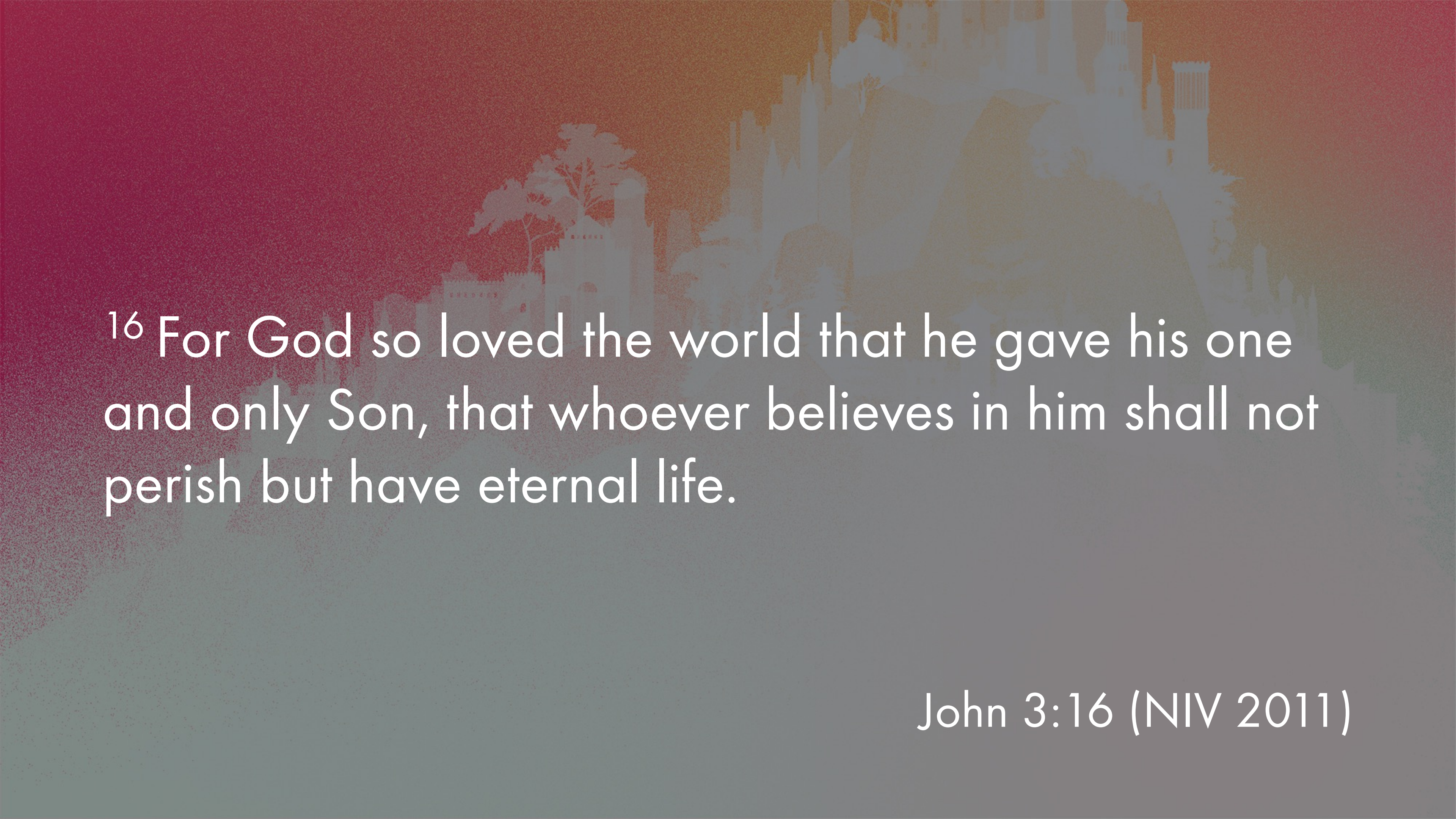


³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV 2011)

¹¹ Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?'

Ezekiel 33:11 (NIV 2011)



¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV 2011)

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with **tears**, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

Philippians 3:18–19 (NIV 2011)