

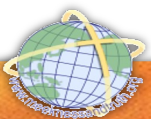
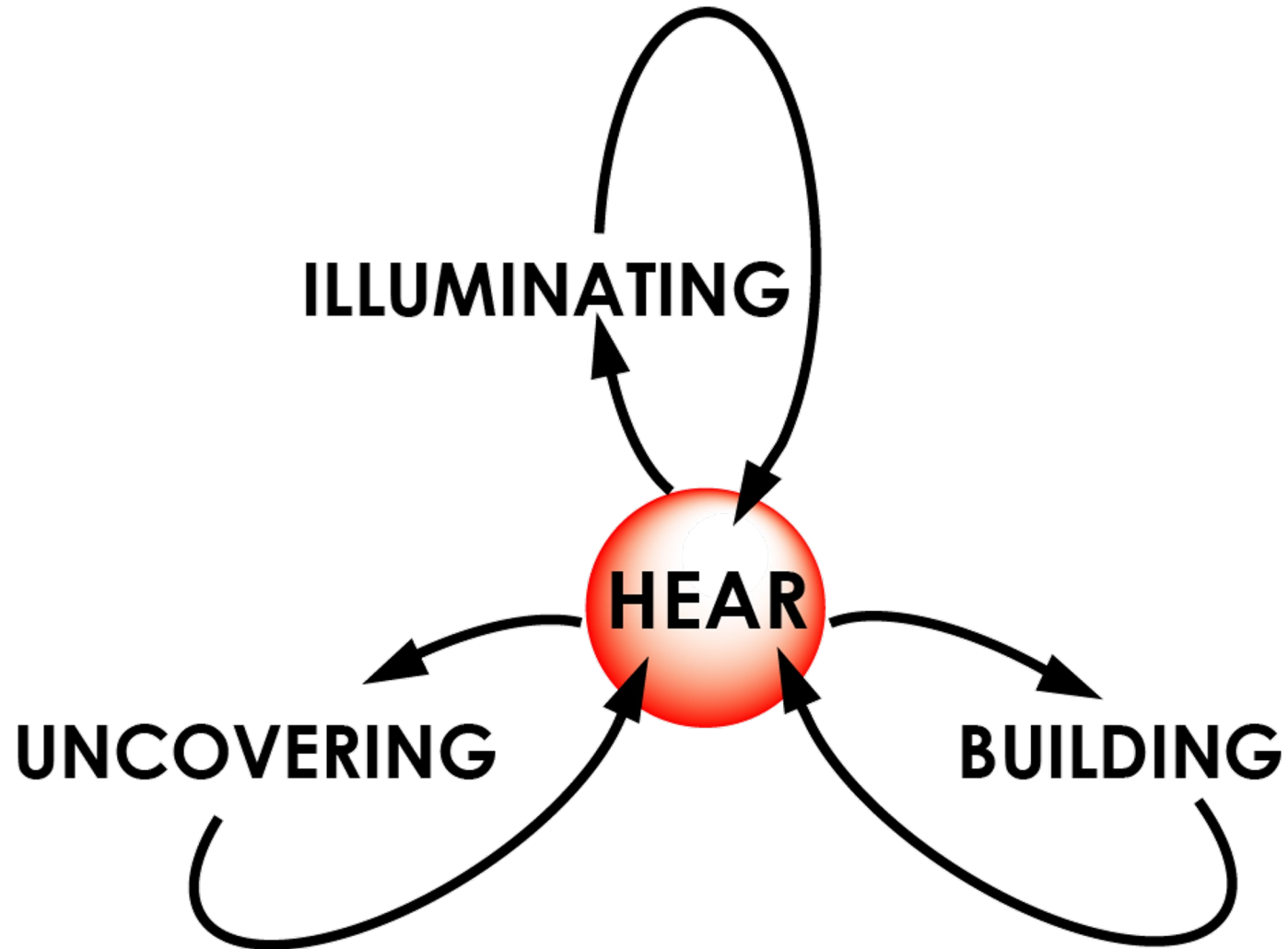


Conversations That Matter: **Recapturing Our Culture for Christ**

Dr. David Geisler



4 Types of Conversations We Want to Have with Non-believers



4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



Musician



Artist




Archeologist



Builder





The Integration of
Apologetics and
Evangelism

How Do We Do It!



**How do I practice
pre-evangelism?**

What Does Pre-Evangelism Look Like?



A conversation with rich business man



His Proclamation:

**You are probably one of those
fundamentalist pro-lifers!**

Is there a Creator? And if so, am I accountable to this Creator in some way?





BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS

- 1. “I am accountable.”**
- 2. “I cannot measure up.”**
- 3. “I am a sinner.”**
- 4. “I need an outside source for help.”**
- 5. “I need what only Jesus can give.”**

A conversation with Japanese Scientist



**Now If you and I were created shouldn't we
expect to be accountable in some way to our
Creator?**





I need what only Jesus can give

I need an outside source for help

I am a sinner

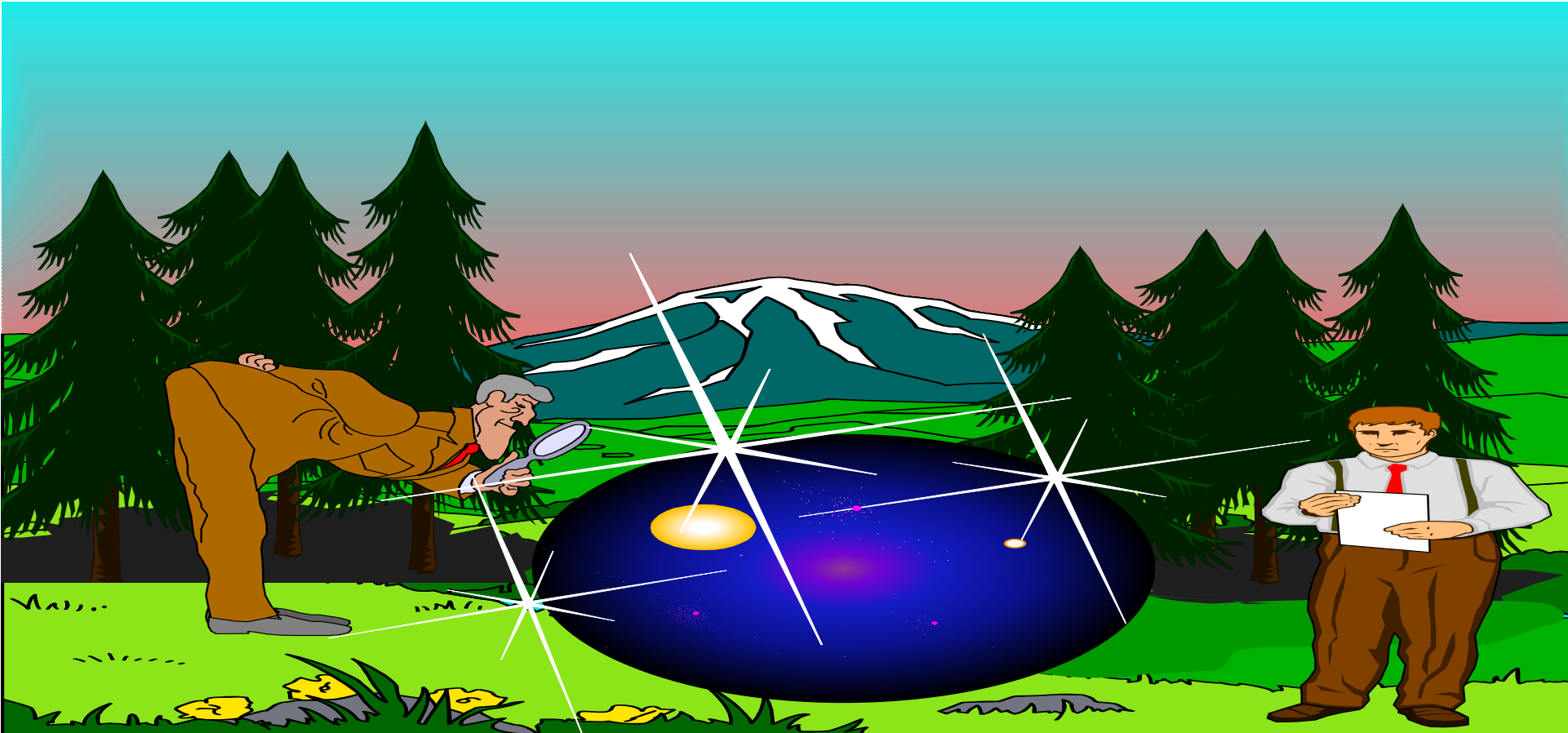
I cannot measure up

I am accountable

Major Objection:

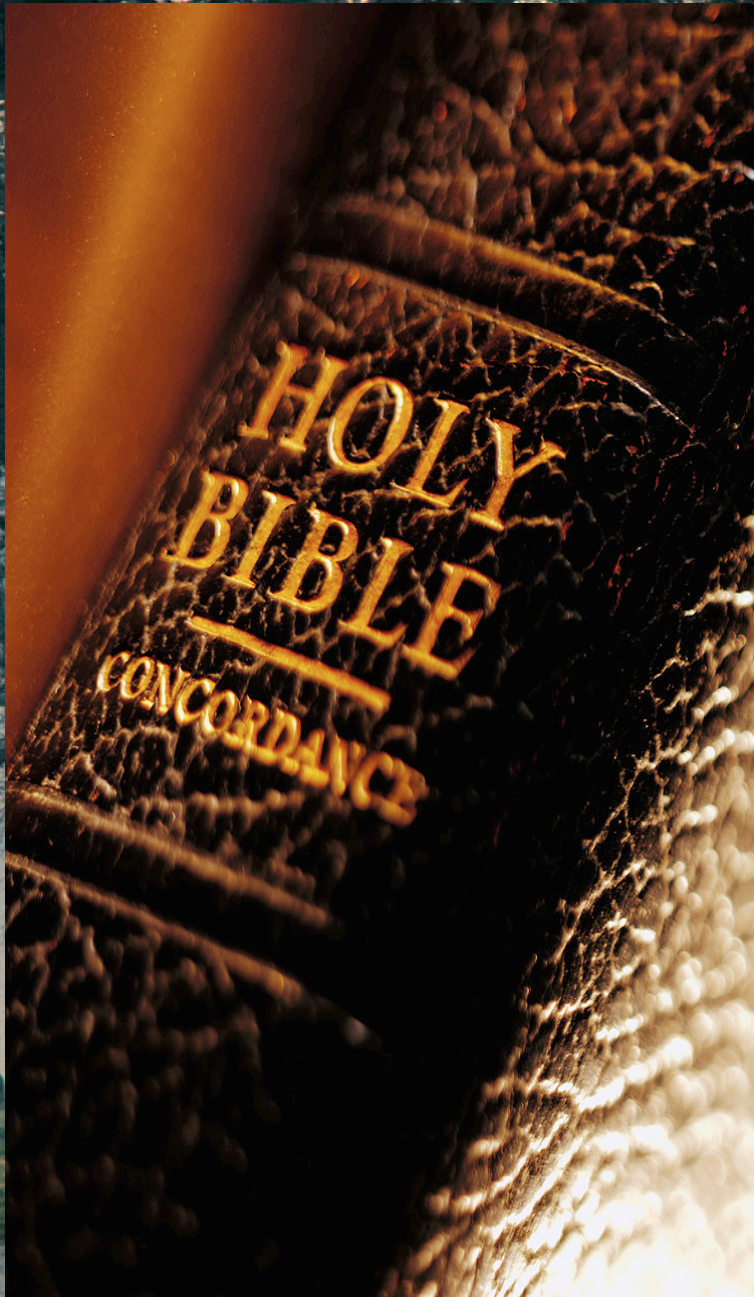
But I don't think God exists!

Steps to helping our skeptical friends see the world the way we see it



A group of people are shown in silhouette, standing on a pier or walkway overlooking the ocean at sunset. In the background, a large, dark silhouette of a crucifix stands on the horizon. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper right corner of the frame, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and water. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Why Should
We Trust What The
Bible Says About Jesus?



Criticism Levelled Against Christians

“You say you believe in the Bible because of Jesus, but then you say you believe in Jesus because of the Bible.”

“Isn't this circular reasoning?”



The Bible Can Be Trusted

- I.If God exists, then miracles are possible
- II.The N.T. documents are historically reliable
- III.In the NT Jesus claimed to be God
- IV.Jesus proved to be God by an unprecedented convergence of miracles
 - A. The miracle of fulfilled prophecy
 - B. The miracle of the Resurrection
- V.Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh
- VI.What Jesus (who is God) teaches is true
- VII.Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God
- VIII.Therefore the Bible is the Word of God

The Twelve Points Consists of:



**Establish
Theism**



**Establish
Christianity**

What we need to remember!

There cannot be:

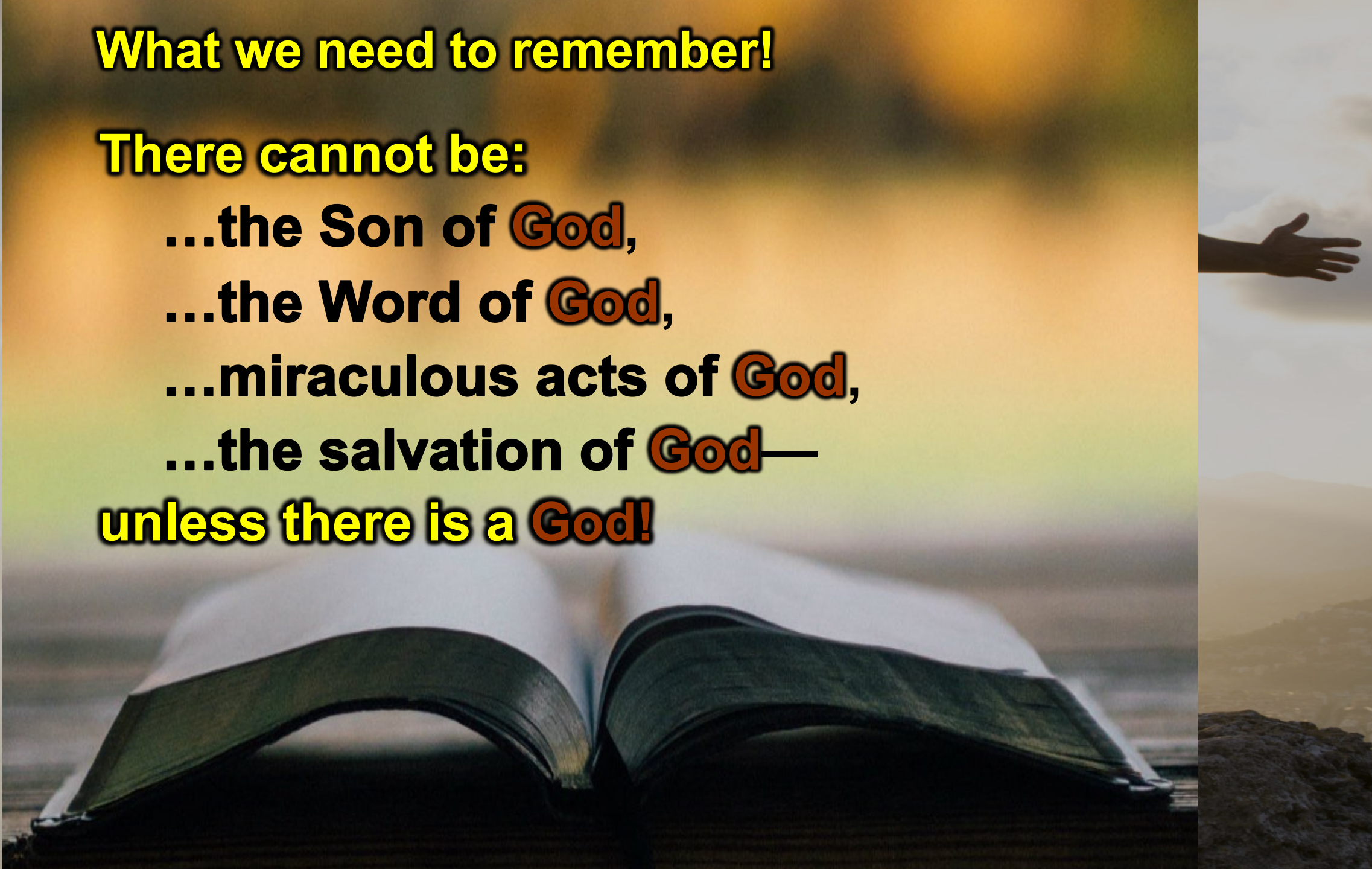
...the Son of God,

...the Word of God,

...miraculous acts of God,

...the salvation of God—

unless there is a God!



THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS



Judaism
Christianity
Islam

THEISM

God Made All



Zen Buddhism
Hinduism
New Age

PANTHEISM

God Is All



Religious
Humanism

ATHEISM

No God At All

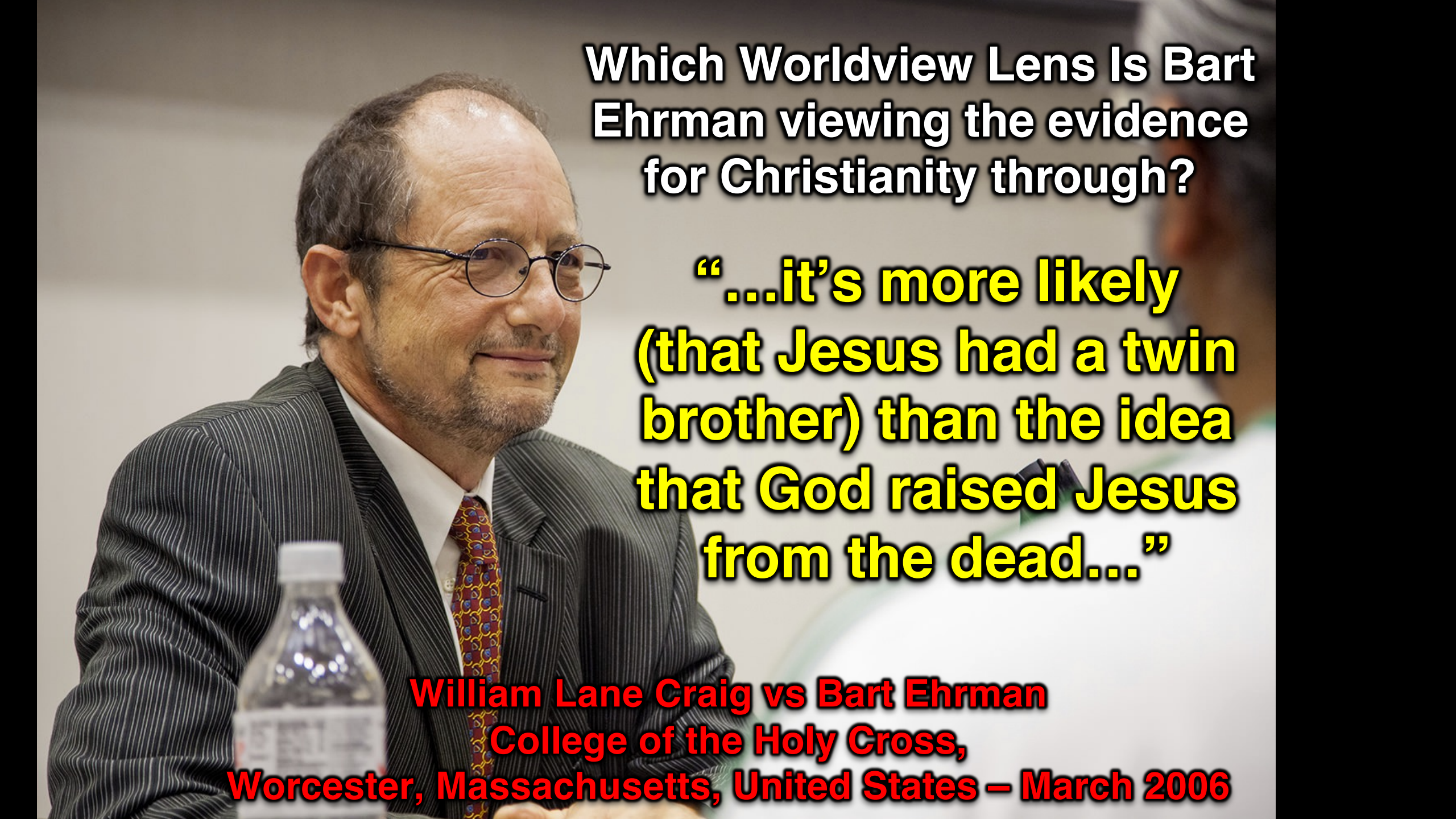
ILLUSTRATION

**A worldview is
like a lens.**



**Viewing Your World Through the
Right Lens Is Important
Because Your worldview
lens will color your conclusion!**





Which Worldview Lens Is Bart Ehrman viewing the evidence for Christianity through?

“...it’s more likely (that Jesus had a twin brother) than the idea that God raised Jesus from the dead...”

**William Lane Craig vs Bart Ehrman
College of the Holy Cross,
Worcester, Massachusetts, United States – March 2006**

**Building an unshakable foundation begins
with seeing through a theistic lens!**



12 Steps That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. **It is true that the theistic God exists.**
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

*See **Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True** by **Dr. Norman Geisler**
(This can be ordered on Amazon)*

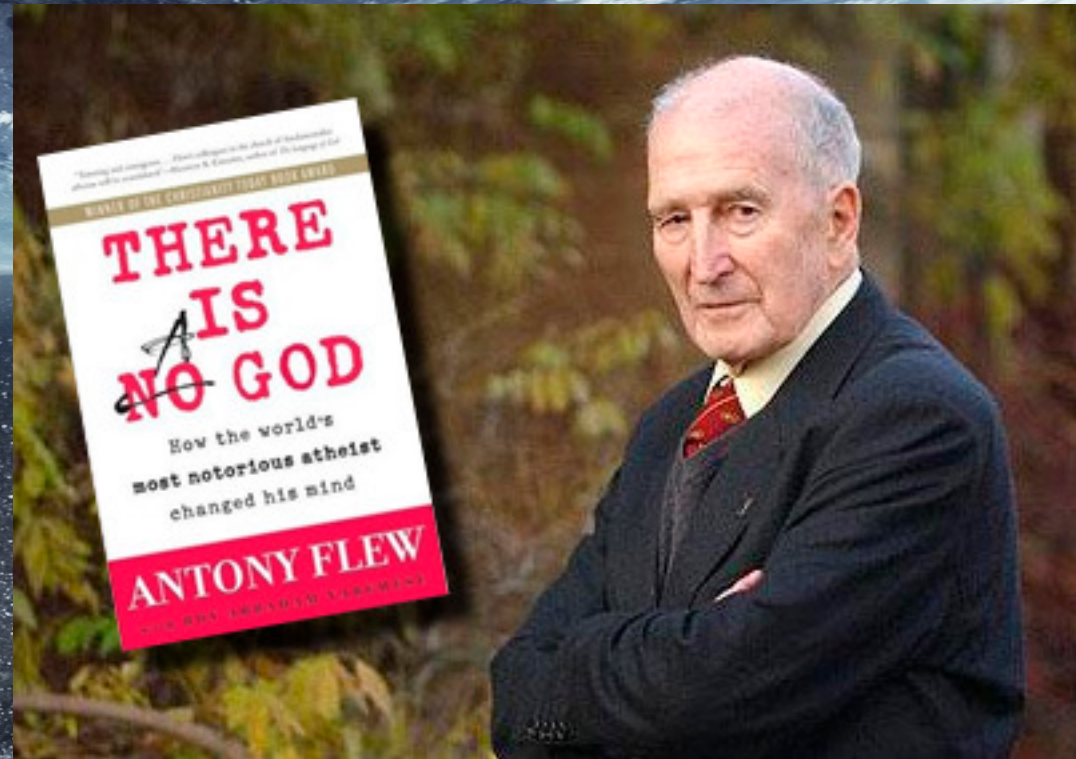
Example: Apologetic Lite Question

**Did you know
that one of
the greatest atheistic
philosophers of
the twentieth century
gave up his atheism
before he died?**

**Do you know
why he did this?**



Antony Flew's Story

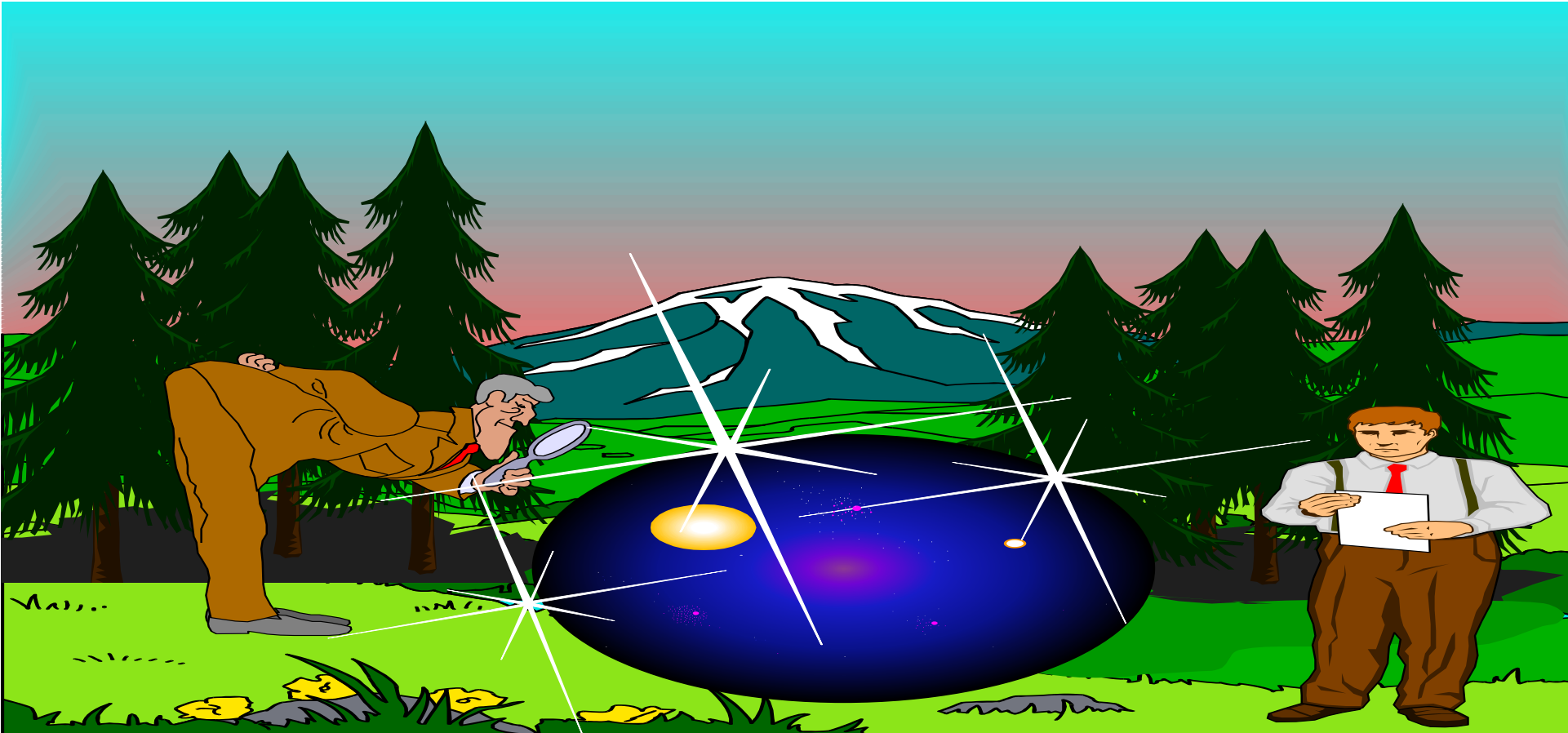


At a 2004 symposium he announced his new beliefs to the world, his change of heart was “almost entirely because of the DNA investigations”.

(Now at this point if this person says:)

**“I still don’t think God exist,”
then ...GO DEEPER!**

Why is there something rather than nothing?



There are only two possibilities

Either

No one created something

out of nothing OR

Someone created something

out of nothing.

**If there is no God, why is there something
rather than nothing?**

Which is more likely?

**That Mind produced Matter
or that Matter produced
Mind?**

“It is easier to believe that infinite mind can make matter than it is that finite matter can produce a mind that can contemplate the infinite.”

Norman Geisler, *Knowing the Truth About Creationism* p. 7

Establishing the Existence of God

Because if there ever was a time where there was nothing, there would still be nothing.

1. **Would you agree that if something presently exists,**
2. **And something can not come from nothing,**
3. **Then something must have always existed.**

Removing Their Barriers



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Nothing
cannot
create
something.

Z Q M

WHEN YOU HAVE ELIMINATED THE
IMPOSSIBLE, WHATEVER REMAINS, HOWEVER
IMPROBABLE, MUST BE THE TRUTH.

– SHERLOCK HOLMES

Even if God's existence seems highly
improbable to you, it must be true if
you remove the impossible!

DAVID
GEISLER



Now if it is valid to argue from effect to cause, then there are other attributes about this Creator that he/she must possess other than being an infinitely powerful power.

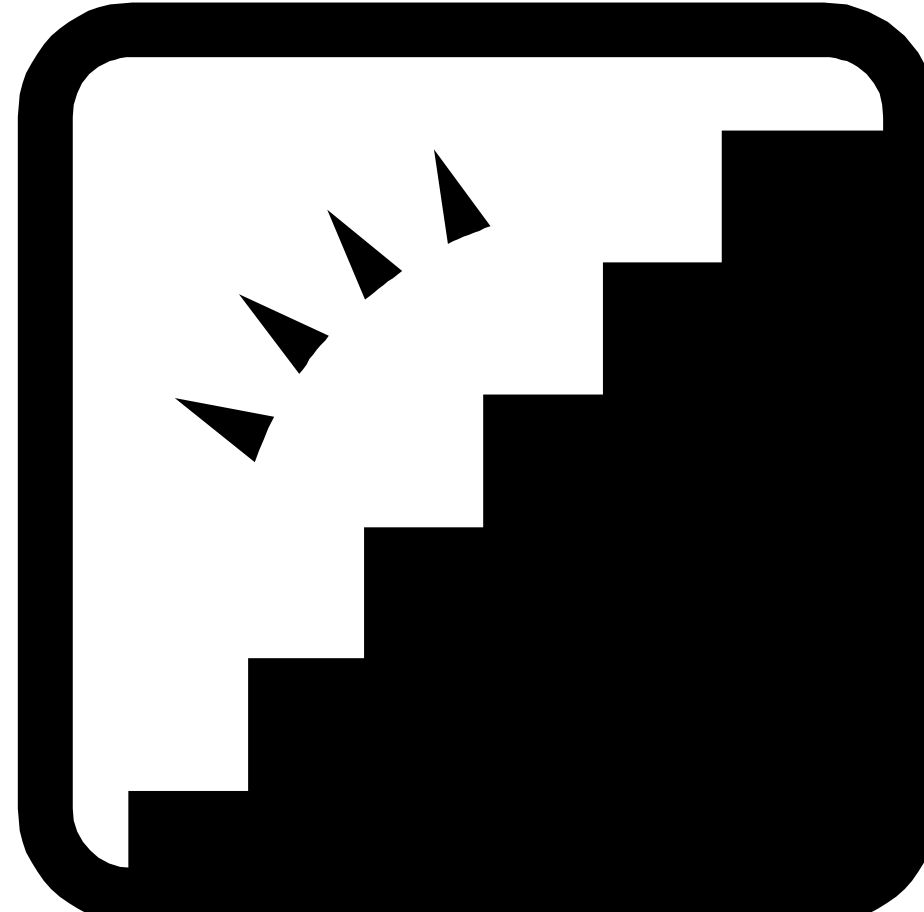
For example since we are a moral effect, we know our Creator must be moral also. Since you and I are intelligent, we know our Creator must be intelligent. As a result, we can conclude that this Creator must be infinitely intelligent, infinitely moral, and infinitely powerful in order to create the universe.

Building A Foundation For Belief In A Theistic God

Argument from the
reality of intelligent
effects - God is an
intelligent cause

Argument from the
reality of moral
effects – God is a
moral cause

Argument from effect
to cause - God is an
infinite power



* This God is identical to the God described in the Bible, a Theistic God

An inference about our Creator from observations in the known universe

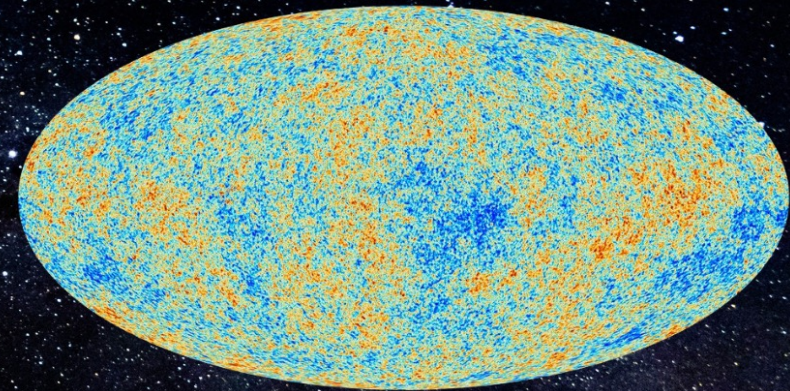


One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles. Cosmologists have theorized that the universe is 94 billion light-years long. Obviously that is only how big the *known* universe is. Certainly the power to create stars and galaxies in that big space, had to be pretty powerful. So our creator has to be pretty powerful.

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ROMANS 1:19-20



|||||
94 Billion Light-years

Uncovering the moral law within us....



An Independent Standard for Measurement



C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity, p 25.

“The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other. But the standard that measures two things is something different from either.”

12 Steps in Establishing the Case for Christianity


1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
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 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
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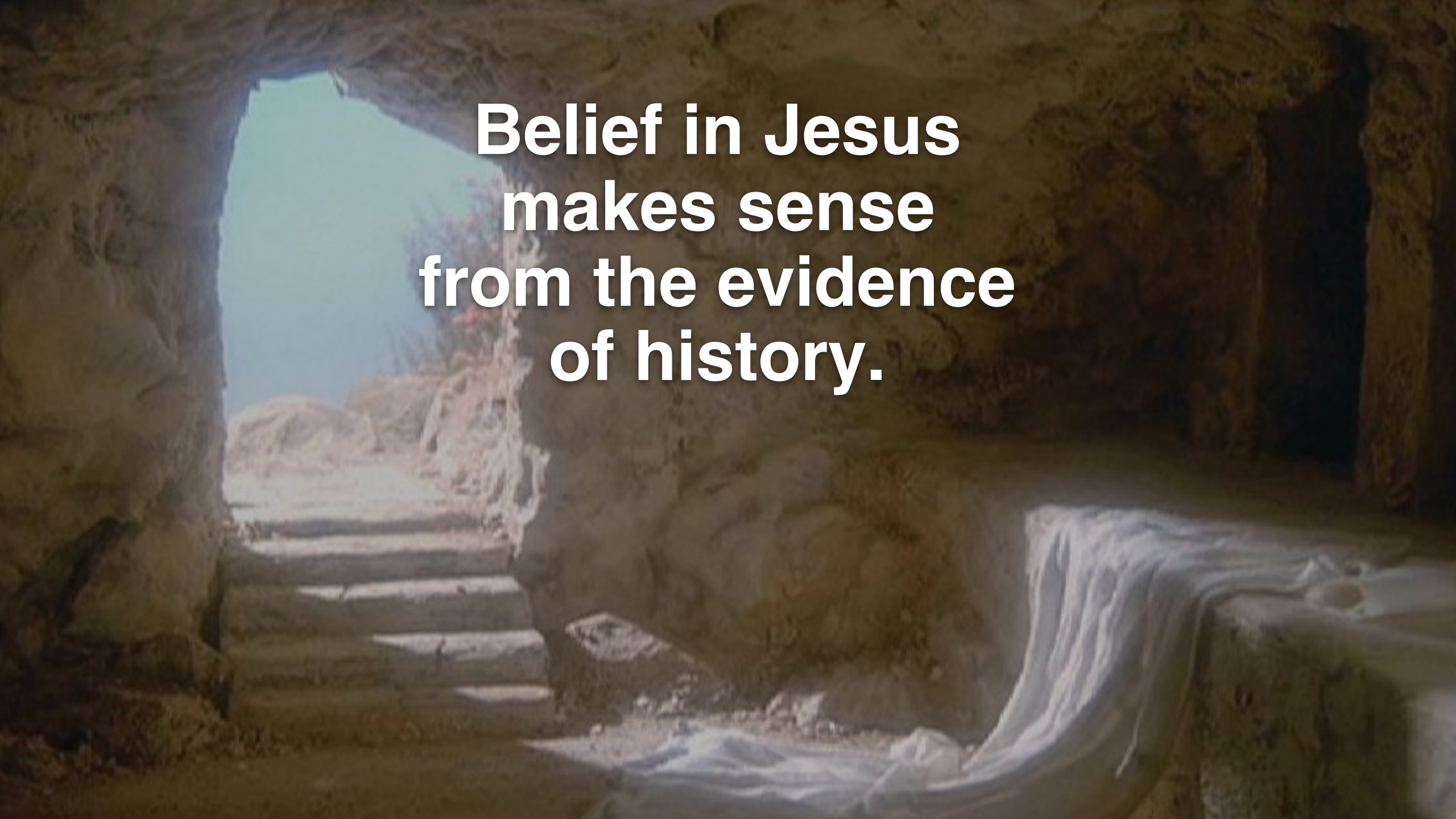


**Belief in God makes
sense of our logical
and moral compass**





**Belief in God makes
sense in light of
the intelligent design
we see around us.**

A photograph of the interior of a stone tomb. The walls are made of rough, textured stone. A white cloth is draped over the entrance on the right side. In the background, a set of stone steps leads up to an opening in the rock, through which a bright, hazy outdoor scene with some vegetation is visible. The lighting is dim inside the tomb, with the brightest light coming from the opening.

**Belief in Jesus
makes sense
from the evidence
of history.**

**Belief in Jesus gives meaning
and significance to my life.**



In Him all things hold
together. Col. 1:17



**If we see the world through a theistic lens
we can build an unshakable foundation**



Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

1. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
2. **Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of Rom. 1:20; 2:14-15)**

*

A student's changed perspective after 9/11.



Conv



Conversational EVANGELISM

A wooden suspension bridge with metal cables and railings spans across a river. The bridge is made of wooden planks and leads into a dense green forest. The water in the river is a clear, light blue-green color. The bridge is the central focus of the image, with the forest and river providing a natural backdrop.

“I am accountable”

1st Plank

“I cannot measure up”

2nd Plank

“I am a sinner”

3rd Plank

**“I need an outside
source for help”**

4th Plank

**“I need what only
Jesus can provide.”**

5th Plank

Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

Possible transition questions:

- **Would you agree that there is more evidence now for an intelligent designer than say 40 or 50 years ago?**
- **Do you think it's even possible that if the universe had a beginning, then we may have a Creator?**



Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

Possible transition questions:

- **Do you think it's possible that if scientific evidence supports a beginning for the universe, then it may be possible that we are put here for some kind of purpose?**
- **If we do have a Creator, what would be most important to ask, if you had the opportunity?**



Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

Possible transition questions:

- **Now if we do have an intelligent Creator who's good and moral... do you see how we might be accountable in some way?**
- **Do you agree that our Creator probably meant for us to experiencing life in a better way than what we are currently experiencing these days? (Rev. 21:4)**



Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

Possible transition questions:

- **Can I share with you what I believe about my faith that provides the kind of hope that some are looking for?**



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The Five Planks

“I am accountable”

1st Plank

**Our Goal:
Help non-
believers
surface the
truth that
we are
accountable to
our Creator in
some way.**



We are accountable to our parents as children!



We are accountable to our teachers as children




We are accountable to our boss!



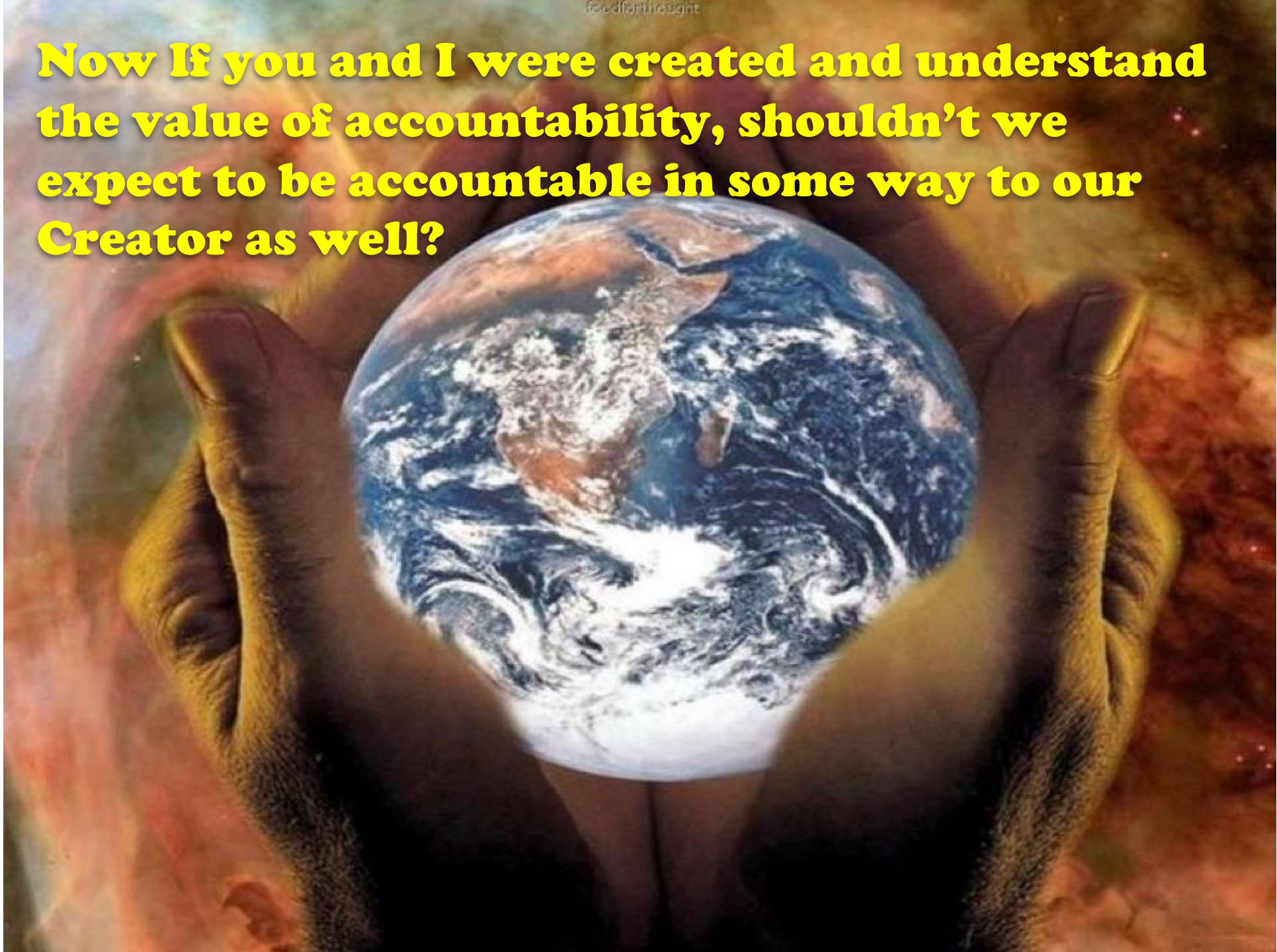
We are accountable to our government!





We hope there is some kind of accountability in the afterlife for the crimes of people like Adolf Hitler, Osama bin Laden, and ISIS.

Now If you and I were created and understand the value of accountability, shouldn't we expect to be accountable in some way to our Creator as well?



A wooden boardwalk with railings, constructed from light-colored wood, winds through a dense forest. The boardwalk is made of parallel wooden planks and is bordered by railings consisting of vertical posts and horizontal rails. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and thick undergrowth, creating a lush green backdrop. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

**“I cannot
measure up”
2nd Plank**

Our Goal:

You shall have no other gods before me

You shall not murder

**Help the non-believer surface
the truth that our problem is
not just that we don't measure
up to God's standards
according to the bible.**

(Is. 64:6; Matt. 5:48; Js. 2:10)

Honor your father and your mother

You shall not covet

**Our own
experience
teaches us also
that at times
we can't even
measure up
to our own
standards.**



PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- For example It bothers me that I am not a better _____ to my (children/brother/sister) or a better _____ to my (spouse/parents).

PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- Now many of us feel this sense of alienation because of this separation from our Creator, but some of us may try to bring about greater reconciliation by doing good things to make up for our shortcomings.
- The problem is that no matter how much good we do...it is still not going to make a difference. *Let me explain what I mean by this by giving an illustration.*

PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

Illustration:

Suppose you have done something to hurt your spouse, significant other, or good friend deeply. How can you reconcile with them? Can you do something very nice and sacrificial for their parents that will bring about a restored relationship? Obviously not.

- So why would we think that by doing good things for others that somehow that will help us in our relationship with our Creator?

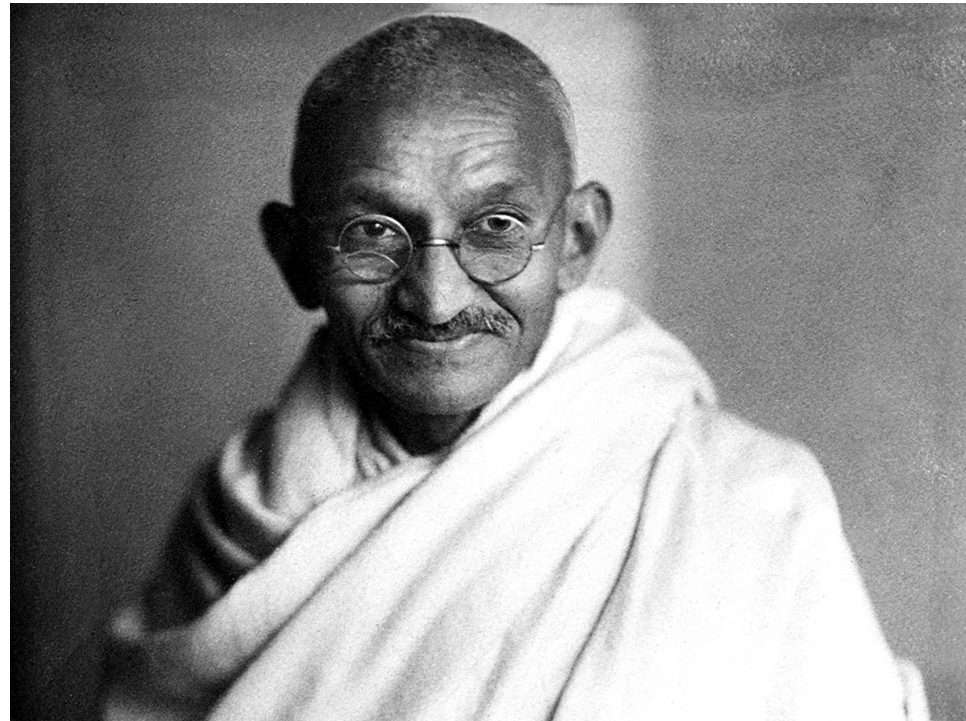
**Now if you and I have
a standard of what is
right and wrong and
we don't live up to it,
can you imagine that
God's standard might
be higher than our own?**

A photograph of a wooden bridge in a lush forest. The bridge has a curved railing and is supported by two large wooden posts. The path leads through dense green foliage and tall trees. The text "I am a sinner" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font at the bottom of the image.

“I am a sinner”

3rd Plank

**We know that people like
Mother Teresa and
Gandhi did some
good things in their life.**

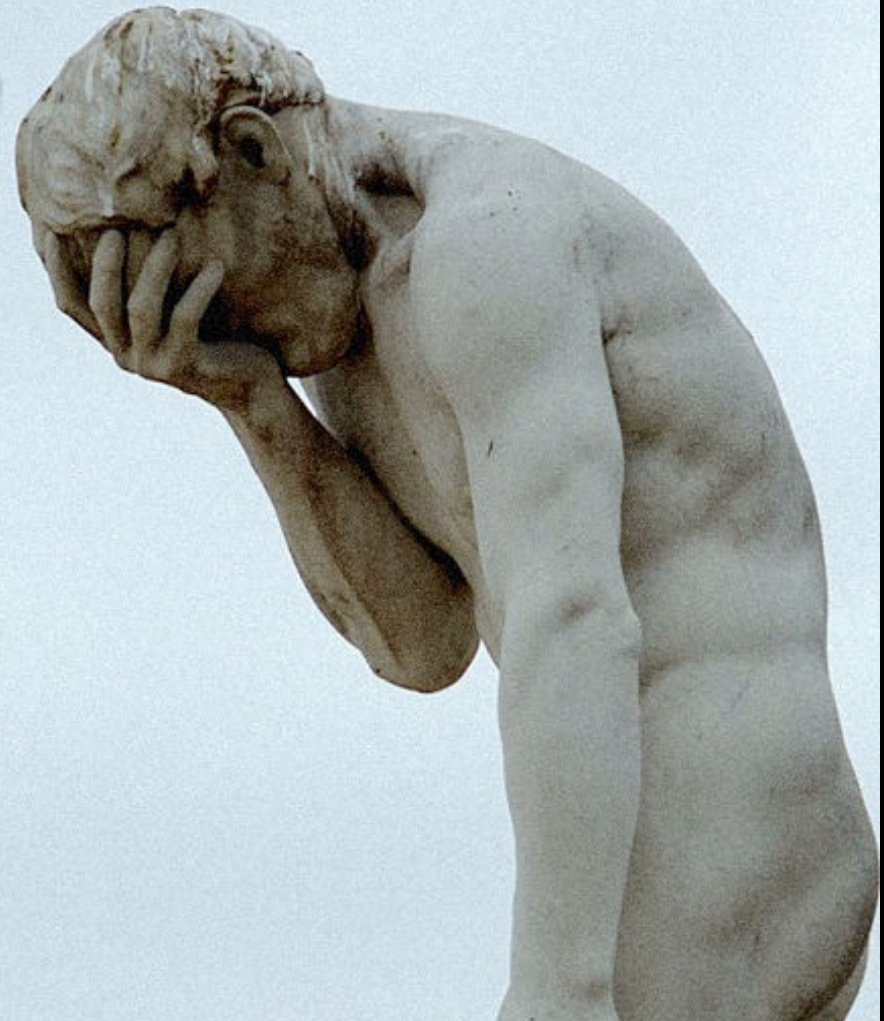


**But we also know others that
did some really evil things**



**“But I’ll be honest with
you...it’s not just the
evil in other people
that bothers me.
The evil in my own life
bothers me as well!
In fact, you don’t have
to look in the Bible
to see what God
says about me.
Just ask my wife!”**

Dr. David Geisler



PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- The Bible teaches that our rebellion against God has caused a separation between God and us. (Romans 6:23)

PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- Now if our sins have to be judged, and we are not capable of changing our situation, what can we do?


Answer: We need to turn to an outside source.

(This then allows us to look for another way other than our own effort)

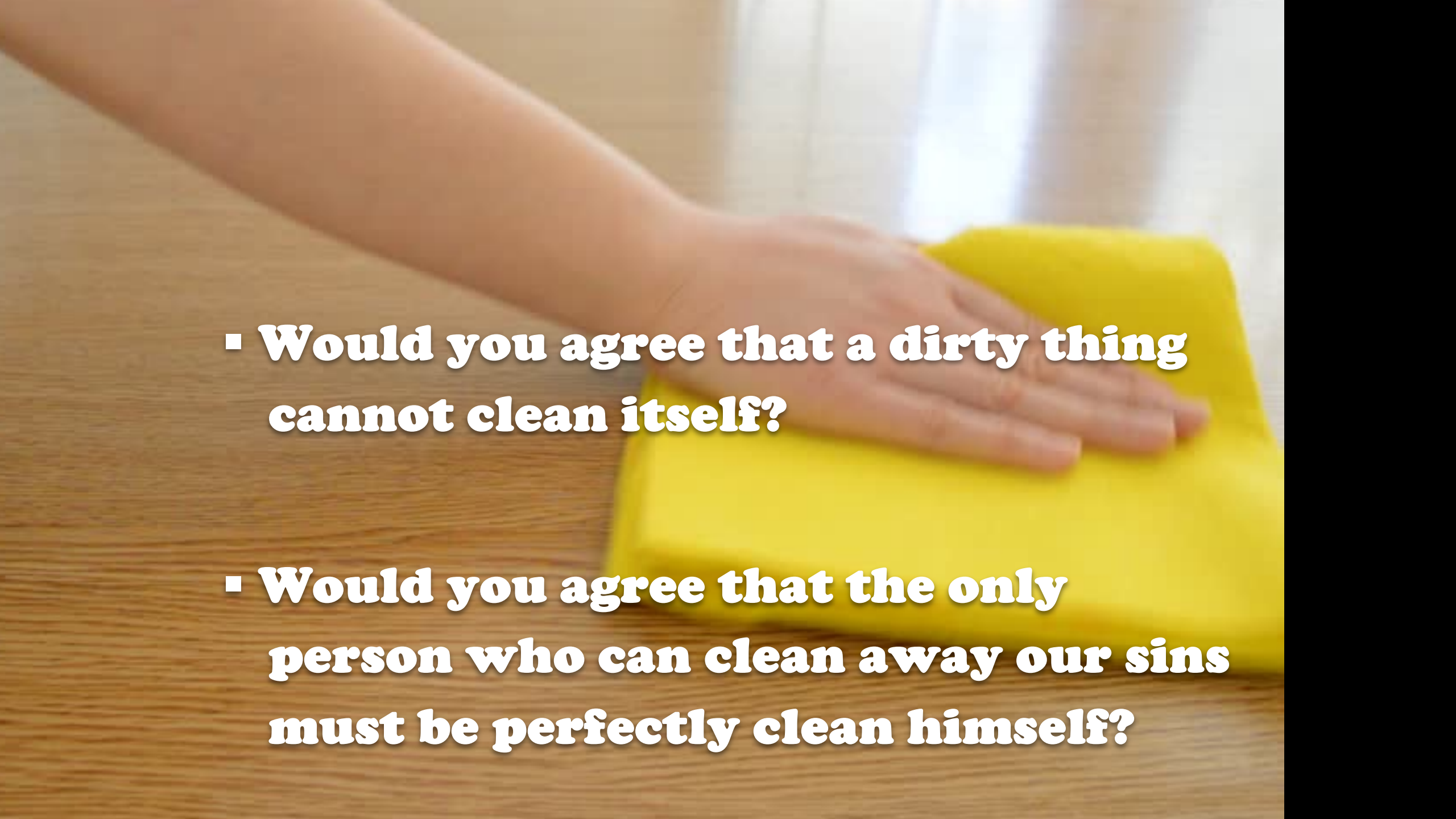
A long wooden boardwalk with railings stretches through a forest. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and has a railing on both sides. The railing consists of two horizontal wooden rails and vertical posts. The forest is dense with tall trees, and the lighting suggests a bright, sunny day. The boardwalk leads towards a bright opening in the trees in the distance.

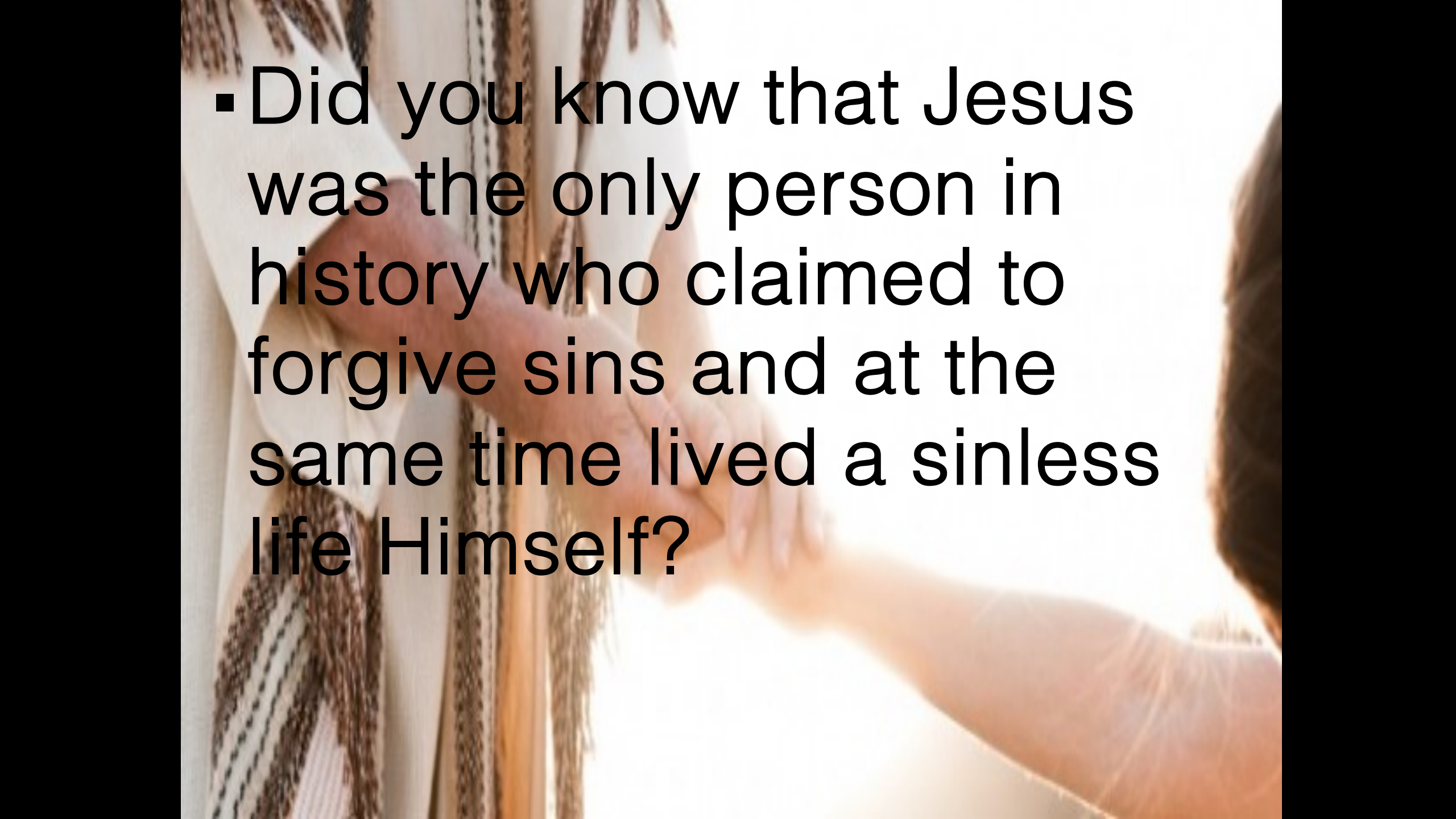
**“I need an outside
source for help”**

4th Plank

A close-up photograph of a person's hand wiping a light-colored wooden table with a bright yellow cloth. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, moving from right to left. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with white curtains. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**When you clean
a dirty table, do you use
a dirty or a clean cloth?**

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hand resting on a bright yellow rectangular cloth. The cloth is placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through. The overall scene is clean and bright.
- **Would you agree that a dirty thing cannot clean itself?**
 - **Would you agree that the only person who can clean away our sins must be perfectly clean himself?**

- 
- A person wearing a white robe with a brown sash is shown from the chest up, holding hands with another person whose arm is visible on the right. The background is bright and out of focus.
- Did you know that Jesus was the only person in history who claimed to forgive sins and at the same time lived a sinless life Himself?



**“I need what only
Jesus Christ can
provide”
5th Plank**

Christ's Unique Life

- Not only was Jesus unique in living a sinless life, he also gave evidence that he had power over death. Do you know how he did this?

Answer: By rising from the dead!

Christ's Unique Life

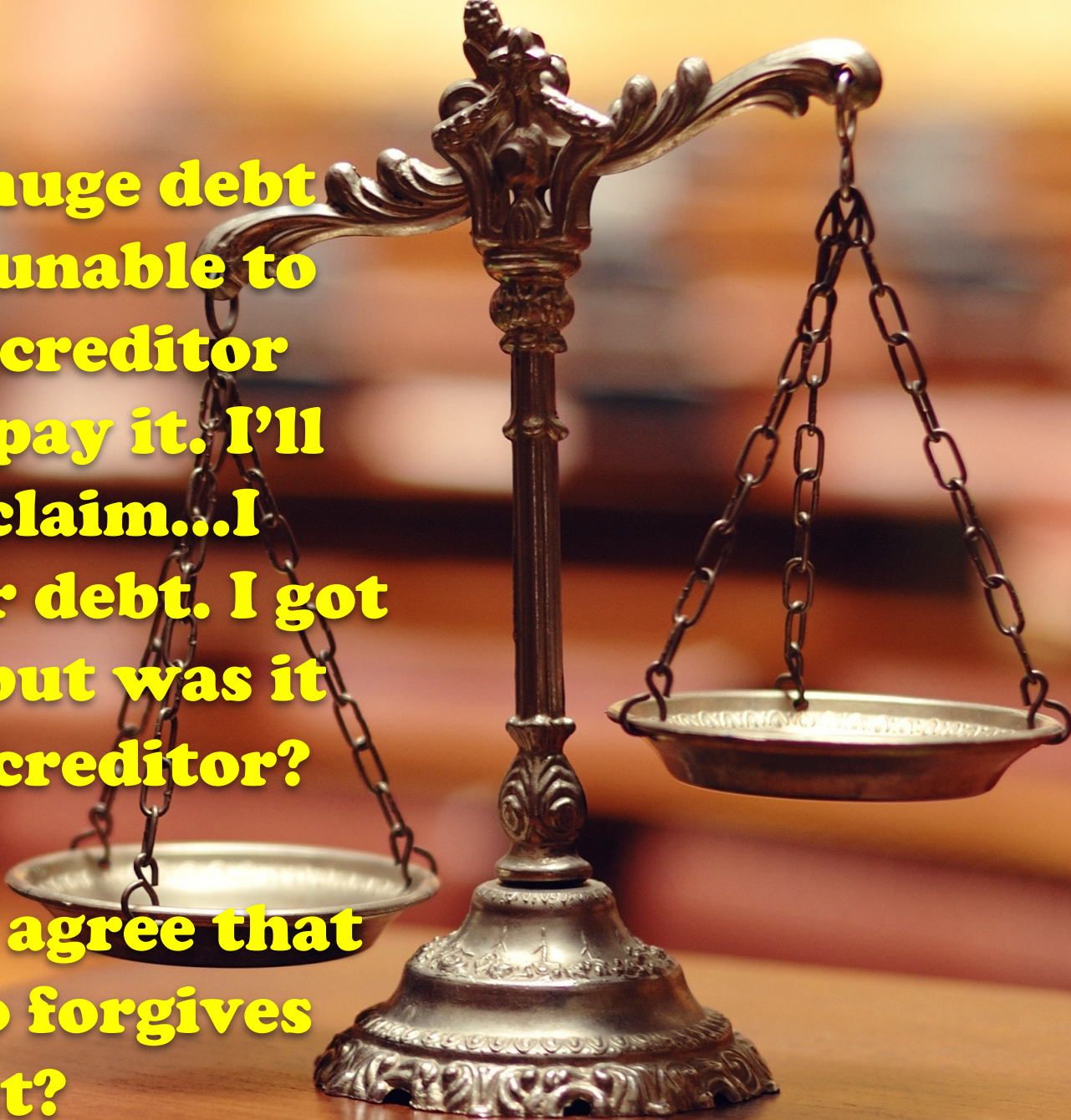
- Do you know any other person in history who died, and came back to life and told us what was on the other side?
- Do you know why it is so important for Christians that Jesus actually rose from the dead? (Rom. 8:11)

Christ's Unique Life

Answer:

Because that same power that raised Jesus from dead is available to me to live a transformed life!

Because of Jesus' power in my life, I can be a better _____ to my (children/brother/sister) and a better _____ to my spouse, (parents).

A brass scale of justice is positioned on a wooden surface. The scale has two pans hanging from a central beam. The background is a blurred wooden bookshelf. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

▪ If I have a huge debt which I am unable to pay and my creditor says “don’t pay it. I’ll give up my claim...I forgive your debt. I got it for free, but was it free for my creditor?”

▪ Would you agree that the one who forgives pays the cost?

- **So when God forgives who pays the cost?**
- **Did God pay the cost for us for the forgiveness of our sins?**
- ***How did God pay the cost?***
- **Can I suggest to you that Jesus paid the cost for the forgiveness of your sins.**
- **Invite them to take a step of faith and trust in Christ!**



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