

our
WALK &
WITNESS

IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

EVANGELISM · APOLOGETICS · DISCIPLESHIP

THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM

Why Learn Apologetics?

Why Learn Apologetics?

1. Truth has been derailed in our culture.

Why Learn Apologetics?

1. Truth has been derailed in our culture.
2. False beliefs lead to greater hopelessness.

The Gospel may be simple...



The Gospel may be simple...



... because of the erosion of Truth

Truths in Integrating...

EVANGELISM
APOLOGETICS
DISCIPLESHIP

...in more seamless ways!

Six Truths In Integrating

EVANGELISM · APOLOGETICS · DISCIPLESHIP

The right Biblical Framework (Eph. 4:11-12)

The church body
does the work of the ministry

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

Eph. 4:11-12 (ESV)

11 And he (Jesus) gave the apostles,
the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds
and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work
of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

The church body
does the work of the ministry
which includes...

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

...giving an answer
for our hope in Christ.

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

1 Pet. 3:15 (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always **be ready** to give a defense to
everyone who asks you a reason for the hope
that is in you, with meekness and fear;

“Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe.”

Norman Geisler,
Baker Encyclopedia of
Christian Apologetics, p. 37

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

The Greek word for ready (Hetoimos) is used in Matt 24:44 and Luke 12:40 to communicate the idea that as Christians we need to anticipate Christ's return.

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

The church body
does the work of the ministry
which includes...

... being an ambassador for Christ.

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

2 Cor. 5:18-20 (ESV)

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

2 Cor. 5:18-20 (ESV)

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

The church body
does the work of the ministry
which includes...

... making multiplying disciples.

1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

Matt. 28:19-20 (ESV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

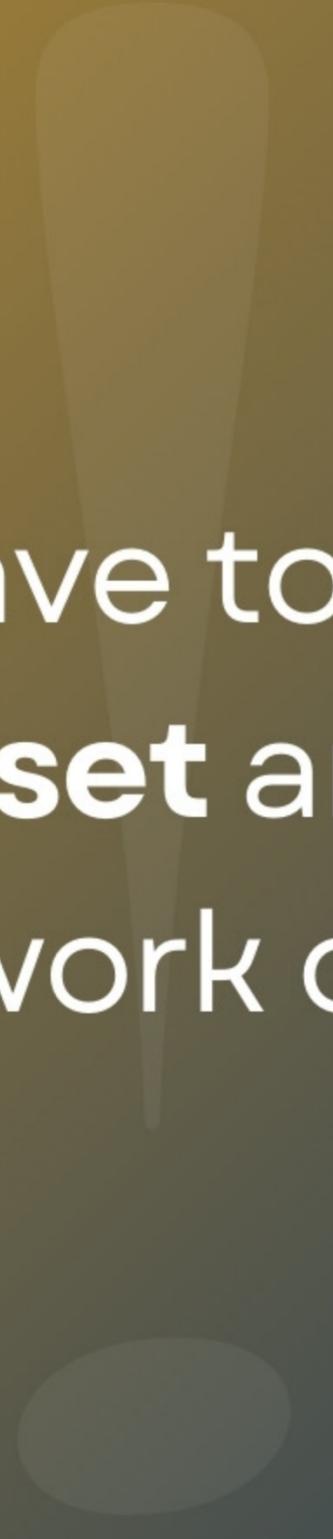
1 The right
Biblical Framework
(Eph. 4:11-12)

The right Biblical Framework (Eph. 4:11-12)

The church body does the work of the ministry.

- Giving an answer for our hope in Christ.
- Being an ambassador for Christ.
- Making multiplying disciples.

How do you and I keep in our mind and heart God's command concerning our witness without feeling a little bit overwhelmed about the task that we have been given?



We have to keep
the **right mindset** and **motivation**
for doing the work of the ministry.

We can only do God's work
if we partner (yoke) with the Holy Spirit
who is our only source of strength.

Matt. 11:28-30 (ESV)

28 “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

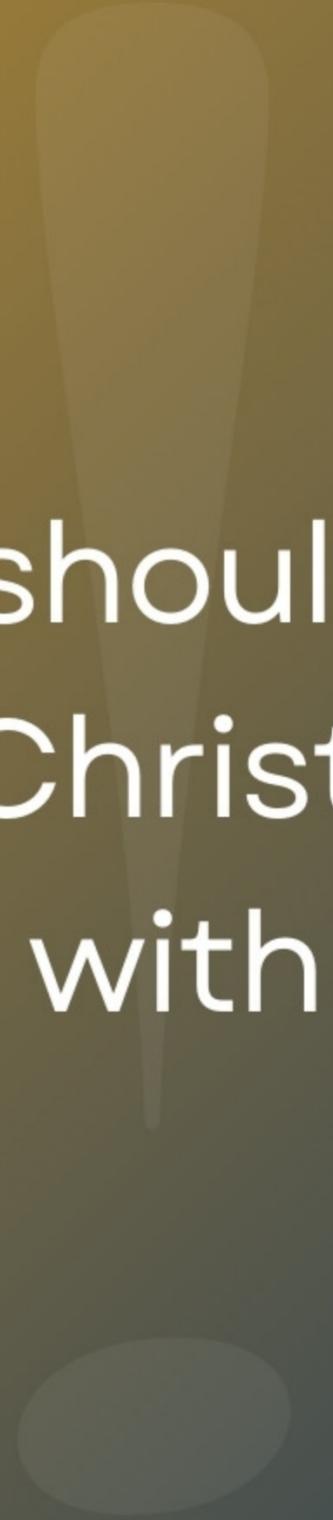
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Phil. 2:12-13 (ESV)

12 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, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gal. 5:16 (ESV)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.



Remember what should be our catalyst,
as followers of Christ, to continue to
serve the Lord with a whole heart.

1 Jn. 4:18-19 (ESV)

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

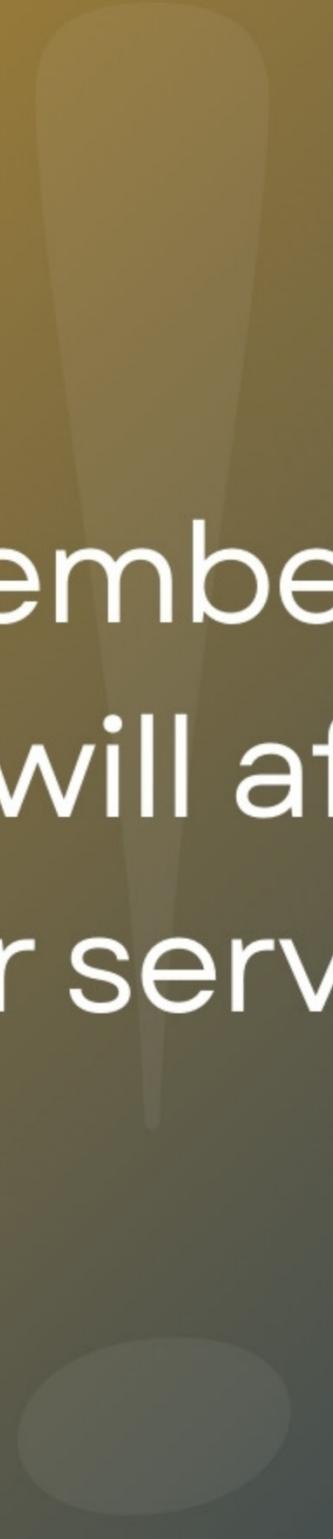
19 We love because he first loved us.

Luke 7:47 (ESV)

47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

A Perspective to Remember

- The more we realize our sinful condition apart from Christ, the more we will realize the degree in which we have been forgiven.
- The degree in which you and I realize we have been forgiven a great debt will be the degree in which through God's power we will be able to love in return.
- This love will translate into having a great desire to serve God.



If we fail to remember how much we were forgiven, it will affect our passion and heart for serving the Lord.

The Bottom Line

If you and I realize how much God has forgiven us, it will free us up...

1 John 4:18-19

The church body does the work of the ministry, not just church leaders. The Body of Christ is responsible:

- To “give a reason for our hope as Christians, to be ambassadors for Christ, to make disciples of all nations.”
- To partner (yoke) with the Holy Spirit who alone is our only source of strength.
- To serve the Lord with a whole heart being motivated alone by God’s deep love for us.

Six Truths In Integrating

EVANGELISM · APOLOGETICS · DISCIPLESHIP

1 Pet. 5:8 (ESV)

Be sober-minded; Be mindful; Be Watchful.
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a
roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1

In our witness to others,
remember that everyone has some
knowledge of an eternal God.

“If you can
believe the big
miracle, you can
believe in the
little miracles!”

Dr. Norman Geisler



Rom. 1:18-19 (ESV)

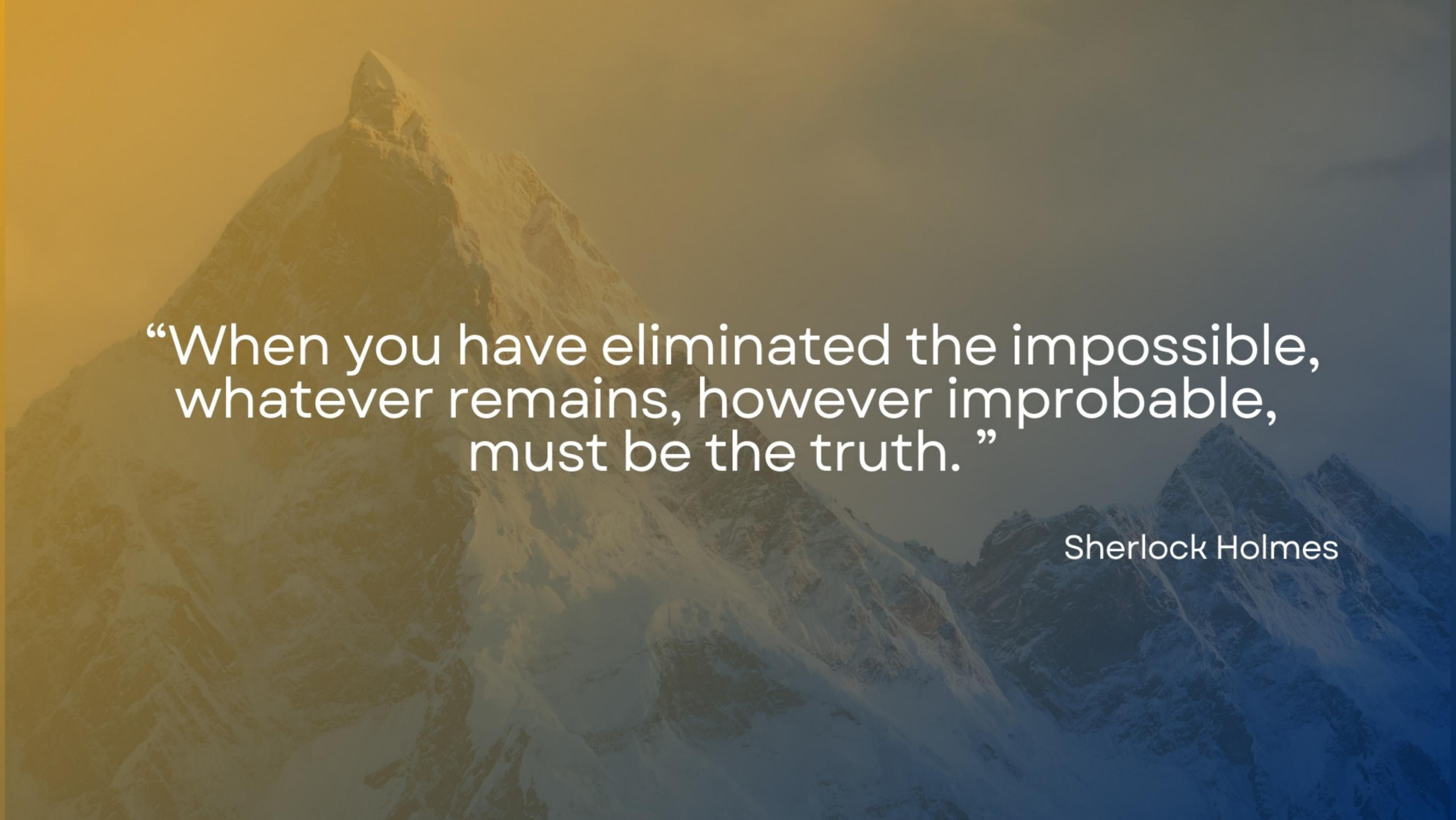
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Rom. 1:20 (ESV)

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

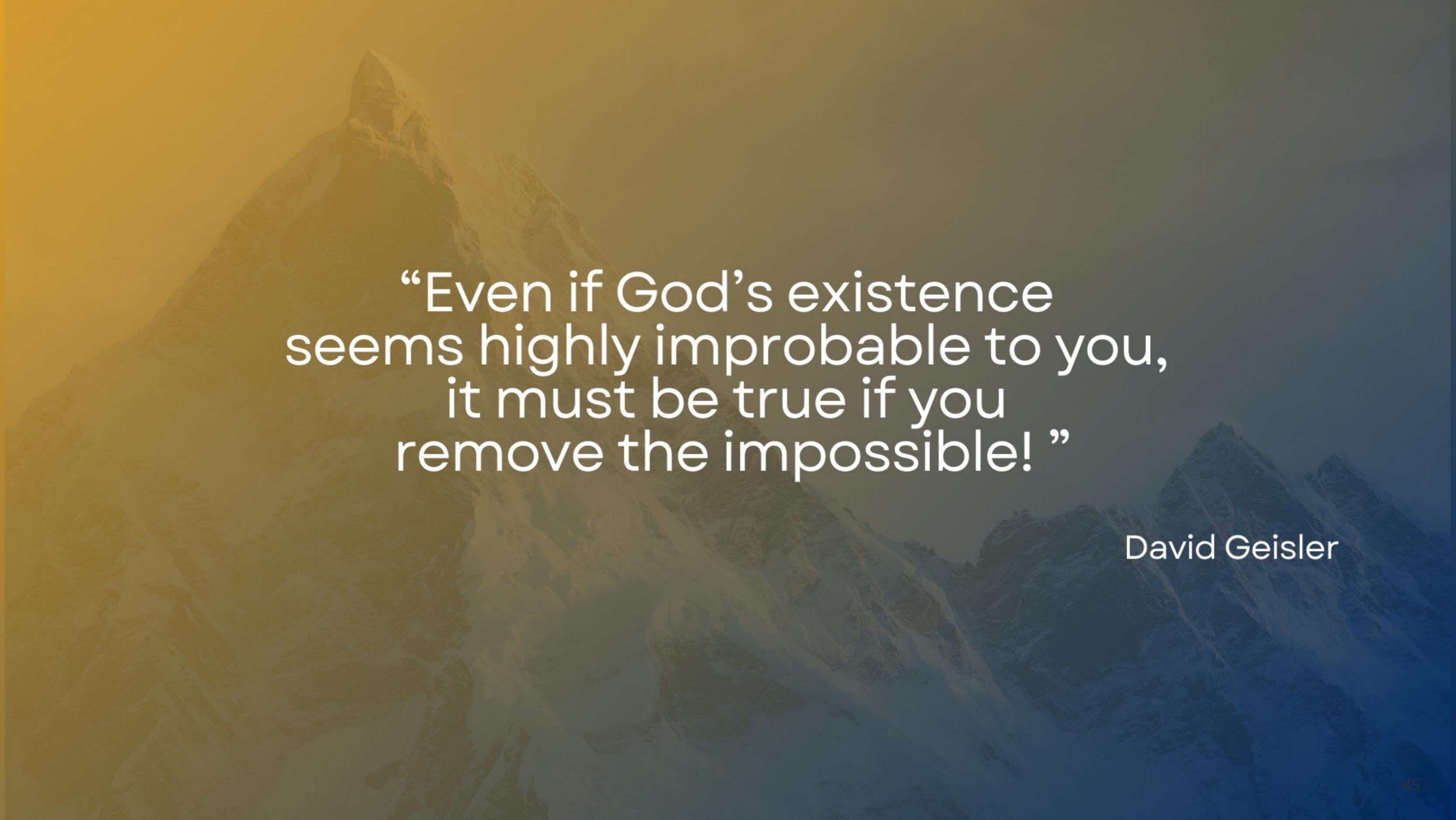


Nothing Cannot
Create Something



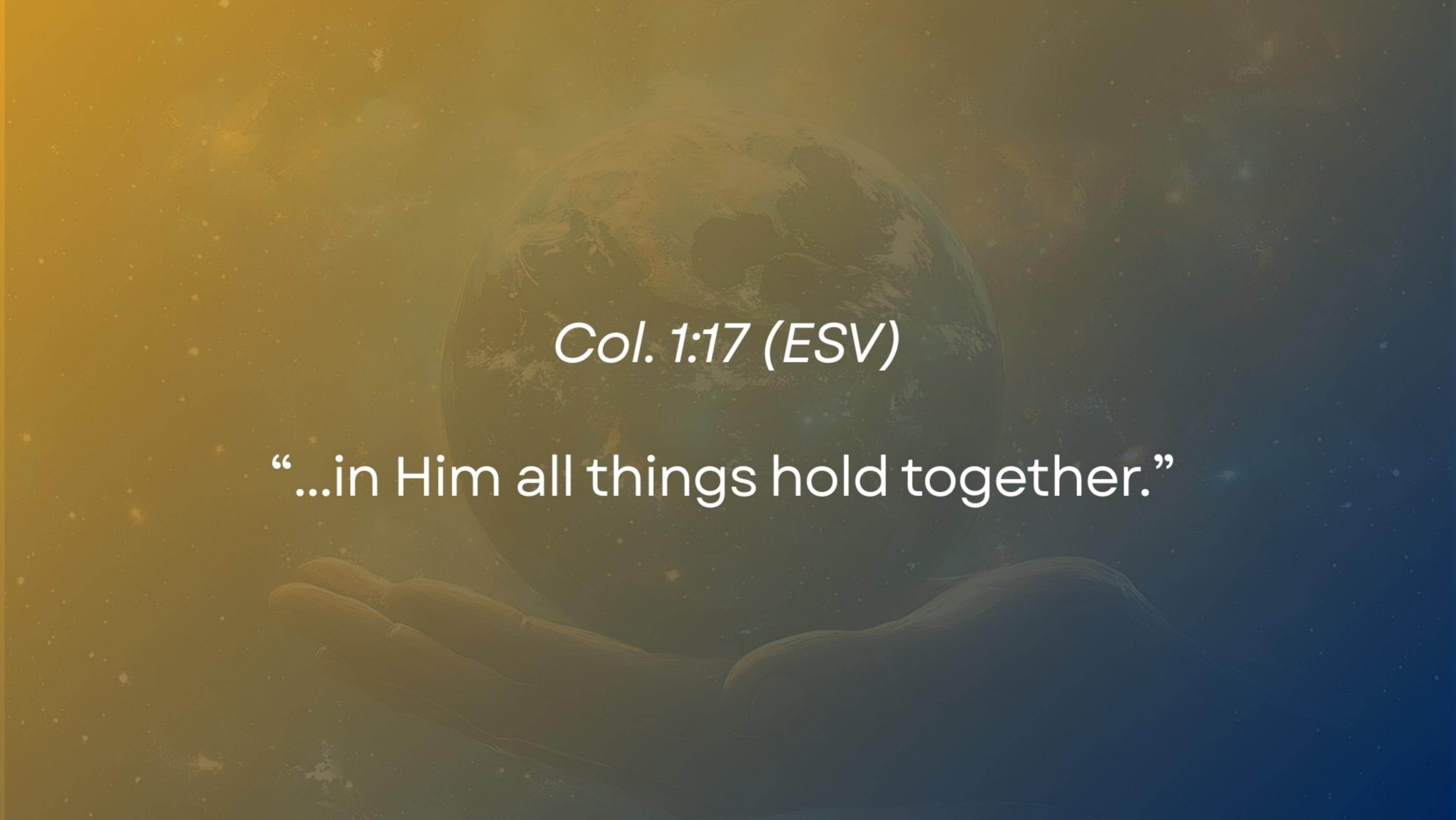
“When you have eliminated the impossible,
whatever remains, however improbable,
must be the truth.”

Sherlock Holmes



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

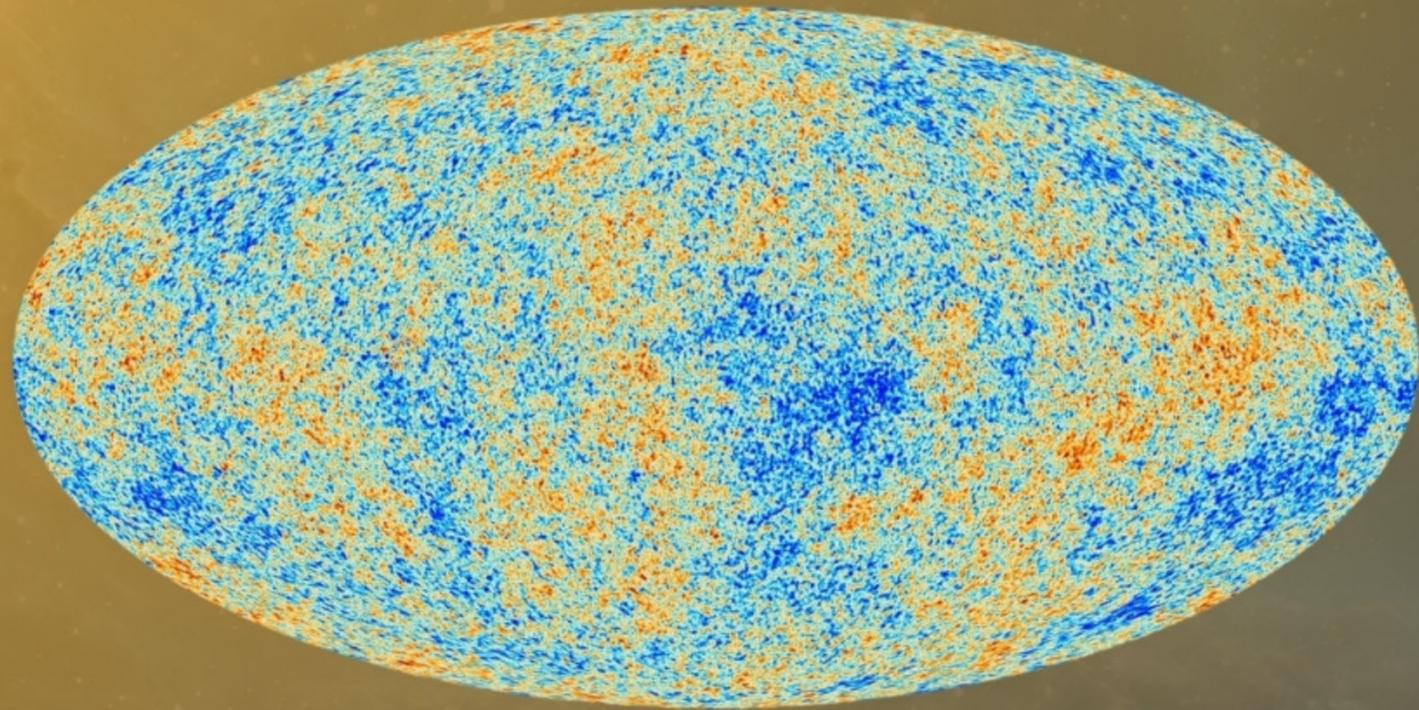
David Geisler

A hand is shown holding the Earth, symbolizing creation and sustenance. The background is a dark, starry space with a golden glow on the left side.

Col. 1:17 (ESV)

“...in Him all things hold together.”

Rom. 1:19-20



94 Billion Light-years

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.

Rom. 1:18 (ESV)

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteous suppress the truth.”

2 Cor. 4:4 (ESV)

“The god of this world has blinded their minds so that they may not see the light of the gospel.”

Remember that our pre-believing friend's
biggest barrier is always volitional.

Jn. 12:37 (ESV)

Though he (Jesus) had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him.

Jn. 6:65 (ESV)

And he (Jesus) said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

1 Cor. 2:14 (ESV)

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Js. 5:16 (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

“Until we are desperate that we have nothing, talking to God is merely incidental, or at best, supplemental in our lives, but it will never be fundamental.”

Edmund Chan,
Growing Deep With God

Eph. 4:17-18 (ESV)

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Remember you must rely on
the work of the Holy Spirit to change
their heart to welcome Jesus!

(Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:18)

Remember you can't use
Christian evidence to argue
someone into the Kingdom.

“Apologetics metaphorically
can make the horse come to the water,
but only the Spirit of God can help it to drink.”

Dr. David Geisler

One decision involves
REASON

The other involves a step of
FAITH

Even if we are never asked a question by our pre-believing friends concerning our hope in Christ, we still have the ***responsibility to remove their barriers.***

Even if we are never asked...

We have other apologetic responsibilities other than 1 Pet. 3:15:

2 Cor. 10:5 (ESV)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

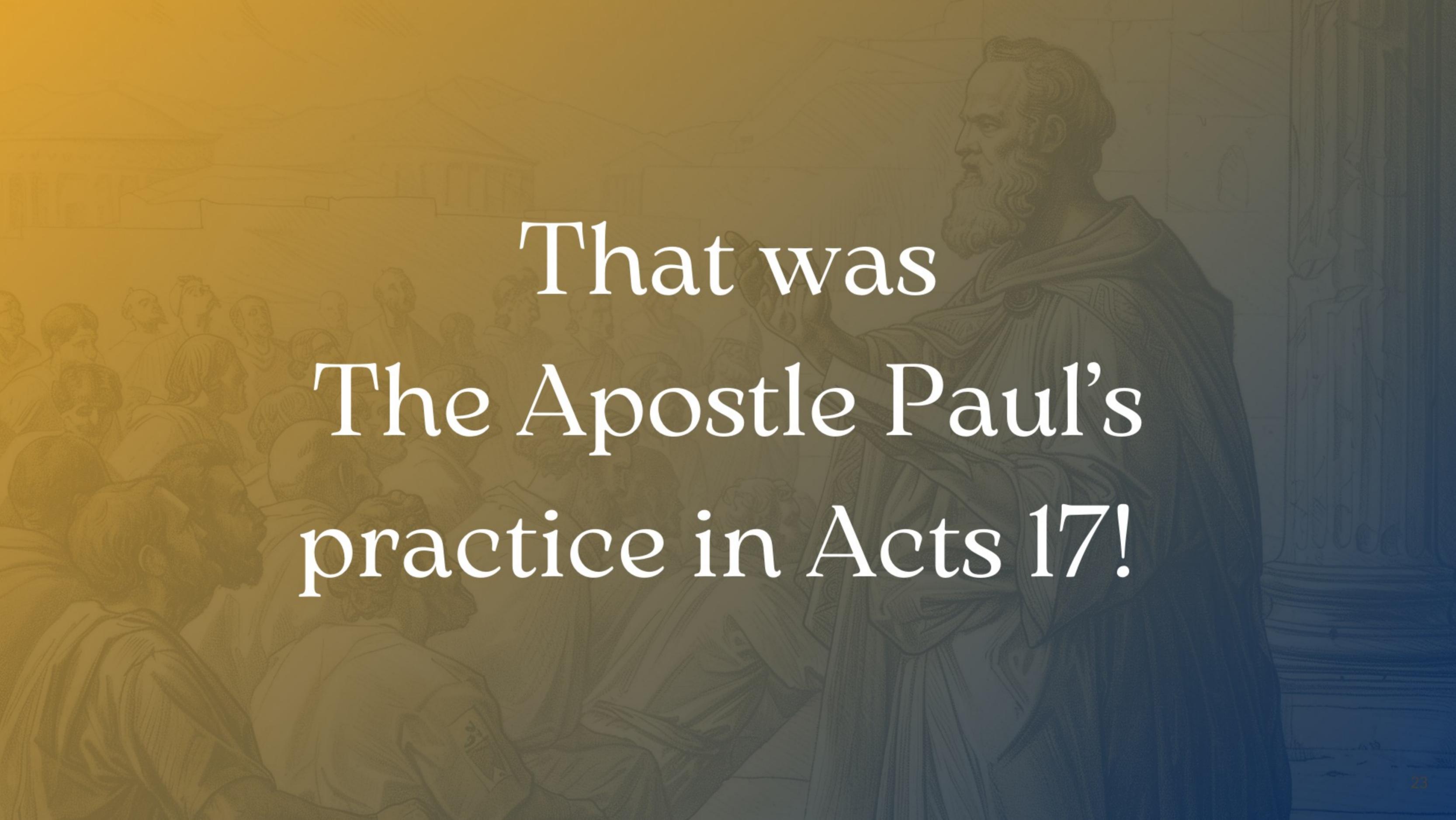
Even if we are never asked...

We have other apologetic responsibilities other than 1 Pet. 3:15:

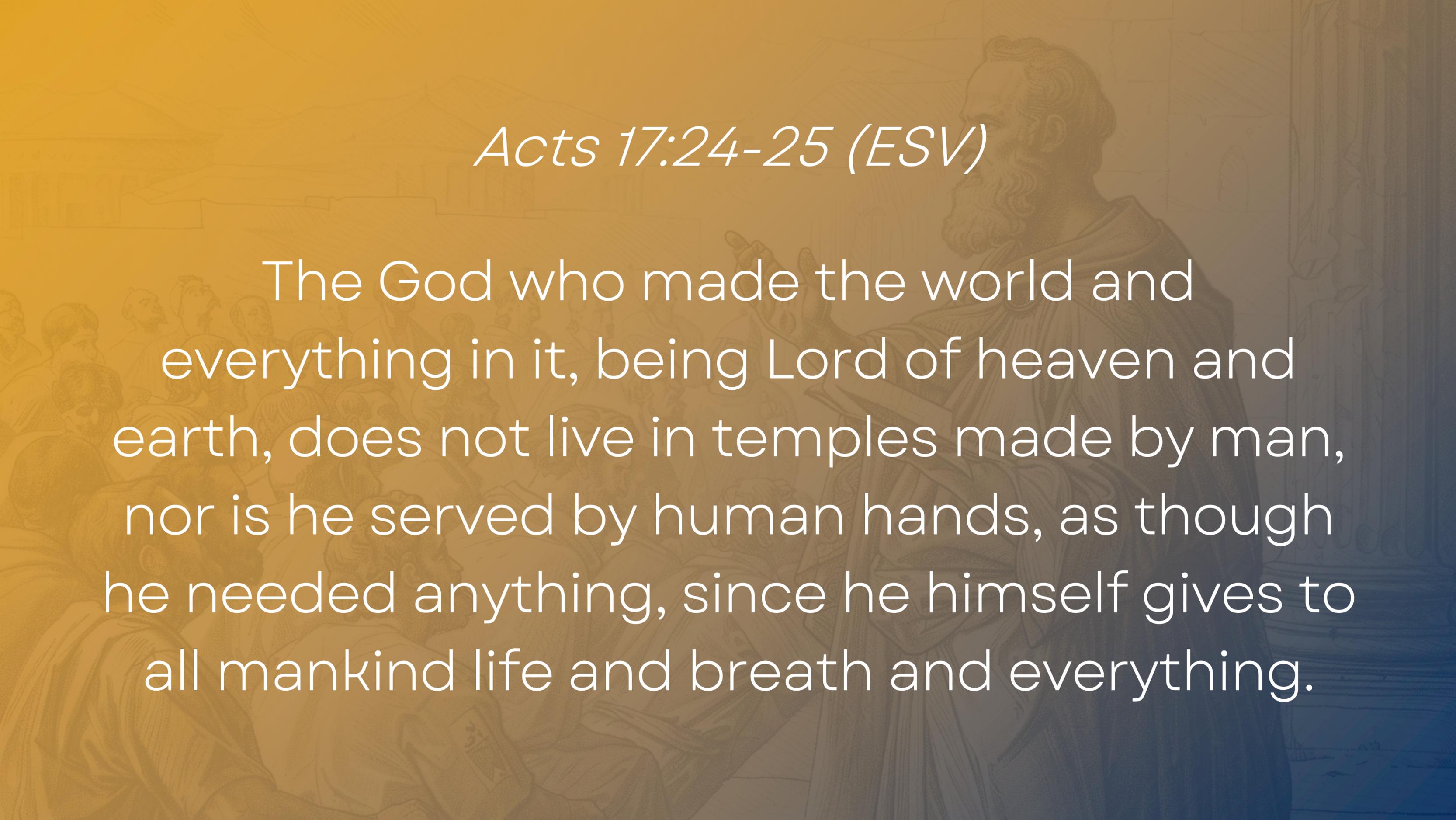
1 Cor. 9:22 (ESV)

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

If we combine 1 Pt. 3:15 with 2 Cor. 10:5 and 1 Cor. 9:22, it is clear that our responsibility is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections and remove barriers **whether others ask us a specific question or not!**

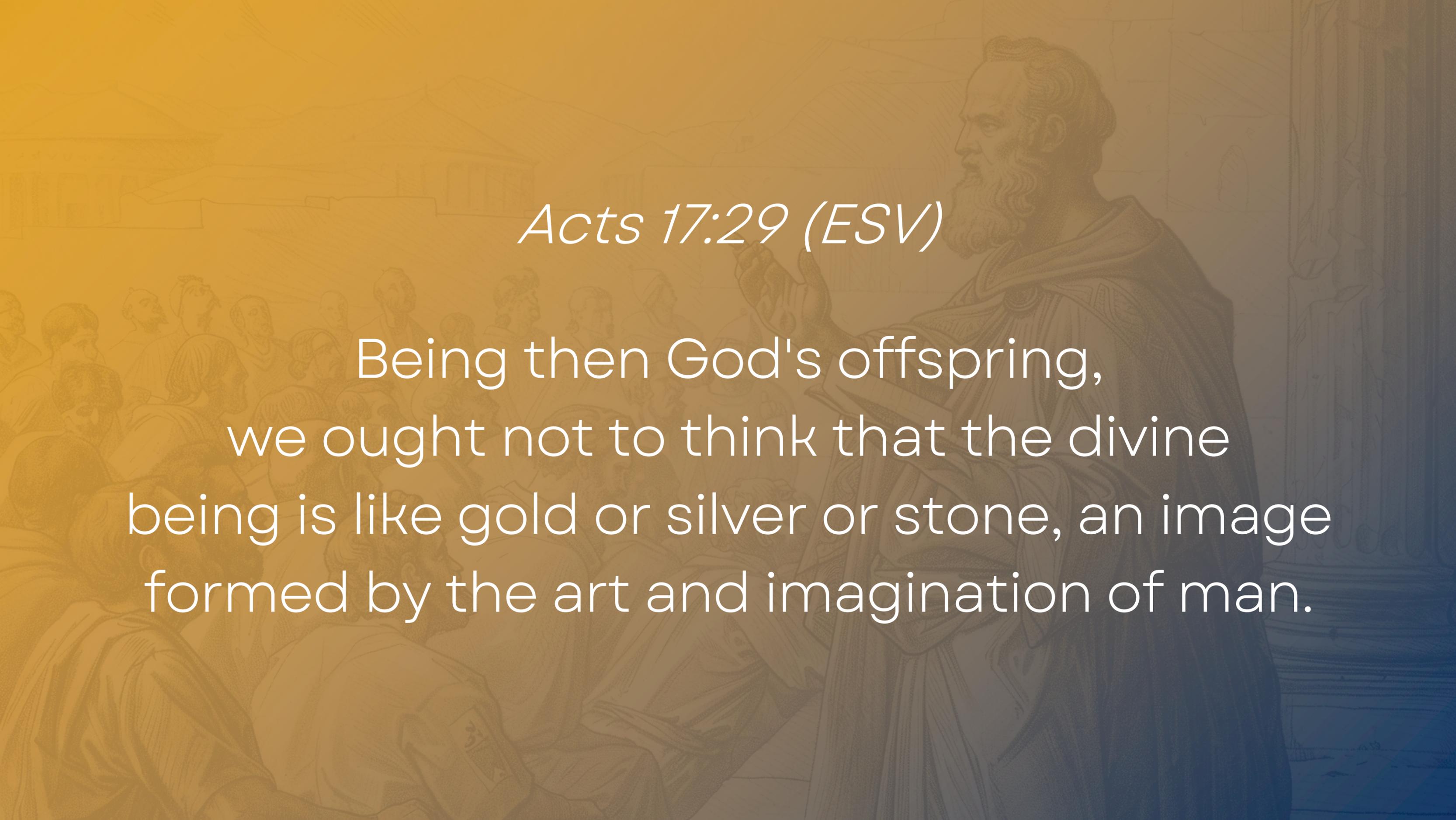
The background features a detailed illustration of the Apostle Paul, depicted with a long, curly beard and hair, wearing a dark, draped robe. He is shown in profile, gesturing with his right hand as if speaking to a large, diverse crowd of people. The crowd consists of men and women of various ages and ethnicities, some looking towards Paul. The setting appears to be an ancient city with classical architecture, including columns and buildings. The overall color palette is a gradient from a warm, golden-yellow on the left to a deep, dark blue on the right.

That was
The Apostle Paul's
practice in Acts 17!



Acts 17:24-25 (ESV)

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.



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.

Responsibility to remove barriers

Showing the connection between
1 Pet. 3:15, Acts 17:24-25, 29 and Matt. 13:19, 23.

Matt. 13:23 (ESV)

23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Matt. 13:19 (ESV)

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

Distortions about...

- **Themselves**
- **God the Father**
- **Jesus Christ**



Why Can't God Just
Let Me Into Heaven?

Theological Truth:

We tend to overestimate
our own righteousness and
underestimate God's holiness.



If we are going to be able to fulfill the imperatives of 1 Peter 3:15 in today's world, we must understand our responsibilities as being more than just giving answers if asked!

**We must eagerly work
to remove their barriers!**

We need to keep the power of
the Holy Spirit from leaking from our life!





Because of sin in our life,
we must continually ask
daily for the Spirit of God
to empower us again.

Eph. 5:18 (ESV)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is
debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

In order for our lives to have a greater multiplying influence, discipleship should be more of a certain kind.

One that understands that
discipleship should be fundamental
and not supplemental or accidental.

What is a Certain Kind?

Remember the Bible doesn't teach us
just to go and make converts only!

Matt. 28:19-20 (ESV)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

One that understands
that that mandate should
precede the mission.

What is a Certain Kind?

*“The Mandate
should precede
the Mission.”*

A Certain Kind, p. 112
Rev. Edmund Chan

"The mandate focuses on our ***walk in God***,
and the mission focuses on ***our work for God***.

The mandate focuses on character,
whereas the mission focuses on
accomplishments. The mandate focuses
on being, the mission focuses on doing."

A Certain Kind, p. 113
Rev. Edmund Chan

The enemy's strategy is to get you and I to focus on the mission and neglect the mandate!

One that understands that...

What is a Certain Kind?

“...the key to abiding in Christ
(our MASTER) is... acknowledging
and mourning our spiritual poverty!”

Rev. Edmund Chan

Matt. 5:3-4 (ESV)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,
blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

"It is not just an awareness of our spiritual poverty that is important to God. It is also our deep anguish about it that is important to God and should be important to us."

David Geisler

What is a Certain Kind of Discipleship?

- One that understands that discipleship should be fundamental and not supplemental or accidental.
- One that understands that mandate should precede the mission.
- One that understands that the key to abiding in Christ is acknowledging our spiritual poverty!

The enemy has a plan to distort
God's truth and weaken our witness.

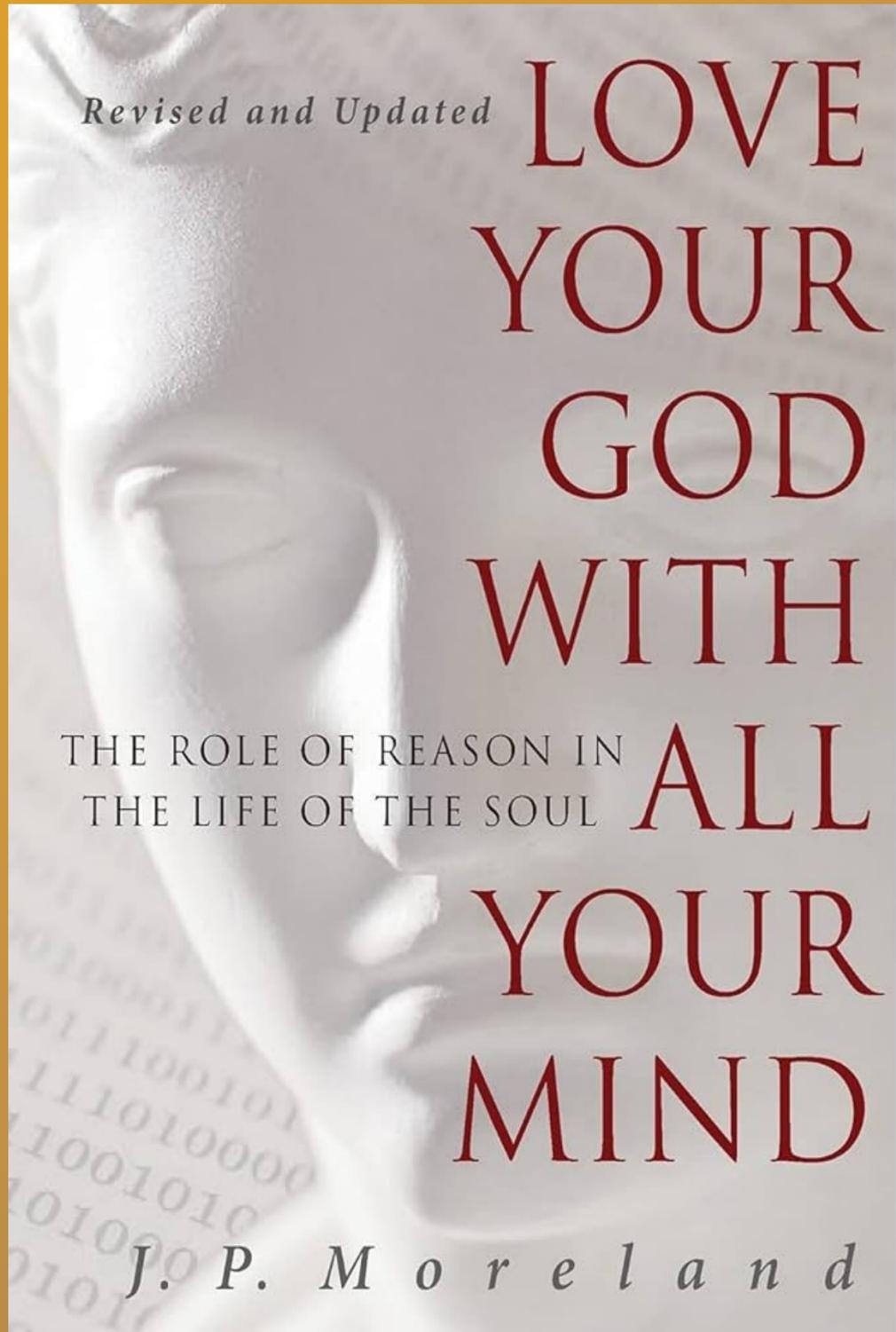
“If you were the devil,
what would you do to keep Christians
from fruitfully integrating into their lives the
three Christian disciplines of evangelism,
apologetics and discipleship?”

If I can make Christians:

- Forget who they are in Christ.
- Doubt the power of the gospel
- And live as if this life is all there is...

*...then evangelism becomes optional,
apologetics feels irrelevant, and discipleship
becomes superficial or nonexistent.*

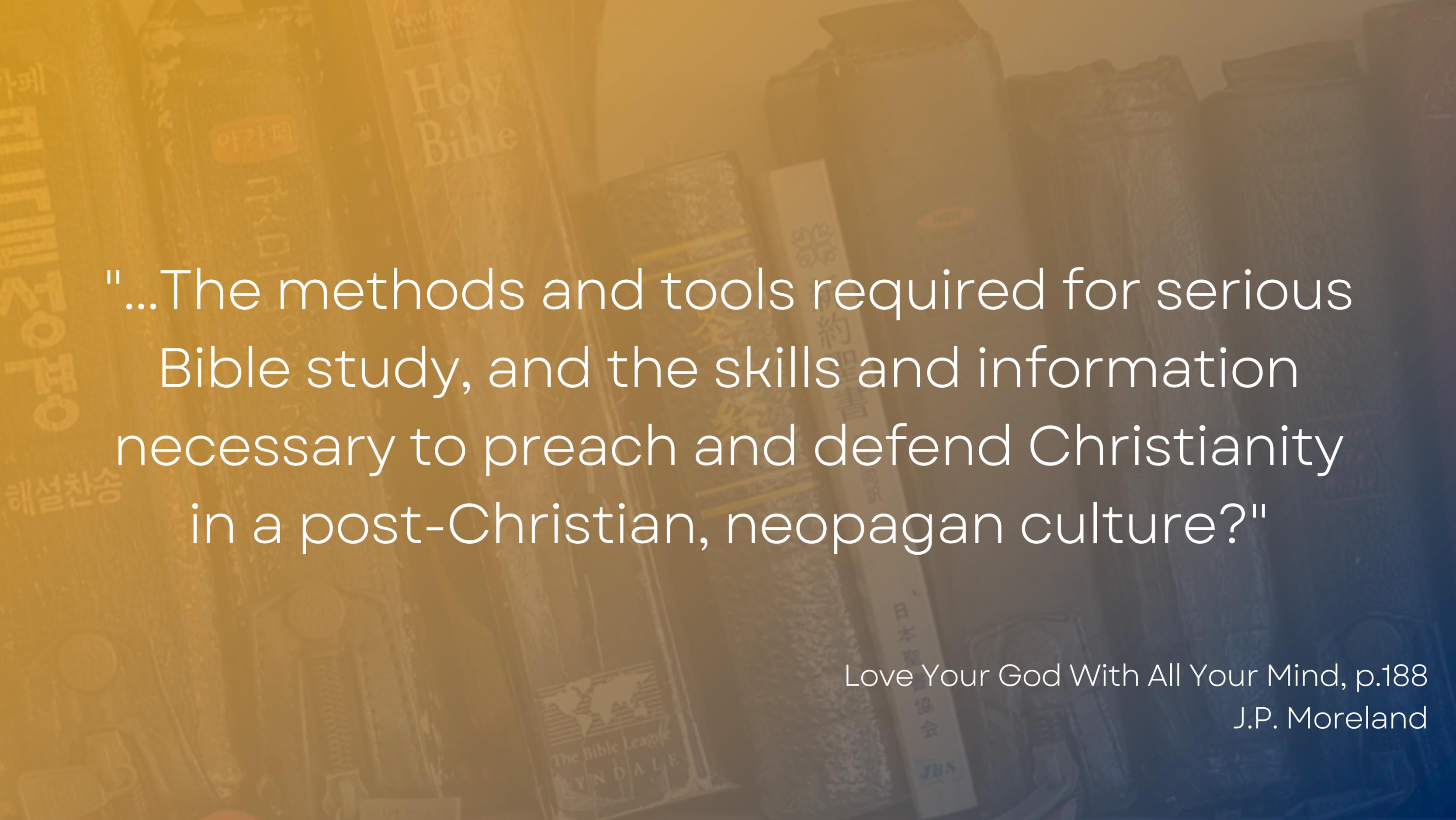
(A brief summary from ChatGPT)



"How is it possible for a person to be an active member of an Evangelical church for twenty or thirty years and still know next to nothing about the history and theology of the Christian religion"

Love Your God With All Your Mind, p.188

J.P. Moreland



"...The methods and tools required for serious Bible study, and the skills and information necessary to preach and defend Christianity in a post-Christian, neopagan culture?"

Love Your God With All Your Mind, p.188

J.P. Moreland

How then do we
keep the enemy from
distorting God's Word?

Search the scripture like the Bereans

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts. 17:11 (ESV)

**Ask God for insight as to whether
we are diluting His commands in our life.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Ps. 139:23-24 (ESV)

Meditate on God's Word

I have stored up
your word in my
heart, that I might
not sin against you.

Ps. 119:11 (ESV)

Your word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light to
my path.

Ps. 119:105 (ESV)

Without modeling an apologetic approach that blends not only evangelism but also the missing key of discipleship...

Our words will not match the testimony
of our lives and that alone will be a cause
for our witness to fall on deaf ears.

What can you and I do
to keep from being silenced
in our walk and witness today?

“You and I should be so changed by Christ that we care about the lost around us that we will eagerly look for those opportunities to remove barriers and help others take steps to the cross, whether we are asked a specific questions or not.”

David Geisler

Six Truths In Integrating Evangelism, Apologetics, and Discipleship in more Fruitful Ways.

- Everyone has some knowledge of an eternal God.
- Our pre-believing friend's biggest barrier is always volitional.
- Even if we are never asked a question by our pre-believing friends concerning our hope in Christ, we still have the responsibility to remove their barriers.
- We need to keep the power of the Holy Spirit from leaking from our life.
- In order for our lives to have a greater multiplying influence, discipleship should be more of a certain kind.
- The enemy has a plan to distort God's truth and weaken our witness.

Application Steps

Pray for God to strengthen you to be a positive and consistent witness to the people in your life; pray that Christ would be evident in your life as you interact with them day by day (Philippians 1:14).

Pray for divine appointments to plant seeds of the Gospel of Christ with those around you as you go about your daily routine, and for God to give you the wisdom and strength to be a good witness in how you speak God's truth to them (Acts 14:1). Meditate on Colossians 4:2-6.

Ask God to help you make the most of every conversation you have with a nonbeliever from this day forward.

- Listen carefully in order to make every encounter count.
- Discover what might create greater spiritual openness (Jn. 4:10; Acts 17:32).
- Look for ways to create more interest in Jesus.

Which Religion's
Leader Ever Said This...

1. I am without sin (Jn. 8:46)
2. I have always existed (Jn. 8:58)
3. I am the only Son of God (Jn. 3:16)
4. I am the light of the world (Jn. 8:12)
5. I have come to save the world (Jn. 3:17)
6. I have authority to forgive sins (Mk. 2:10)
7. I was born to testify to the truth (Jn. 18:37)
8. You trust in God; Trust also in me (Jn. 14:1)
9. I am the Truth and only way to God (Jn. 14:6)
10. I will come again to judge the world (Matt. 25:31-46)

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