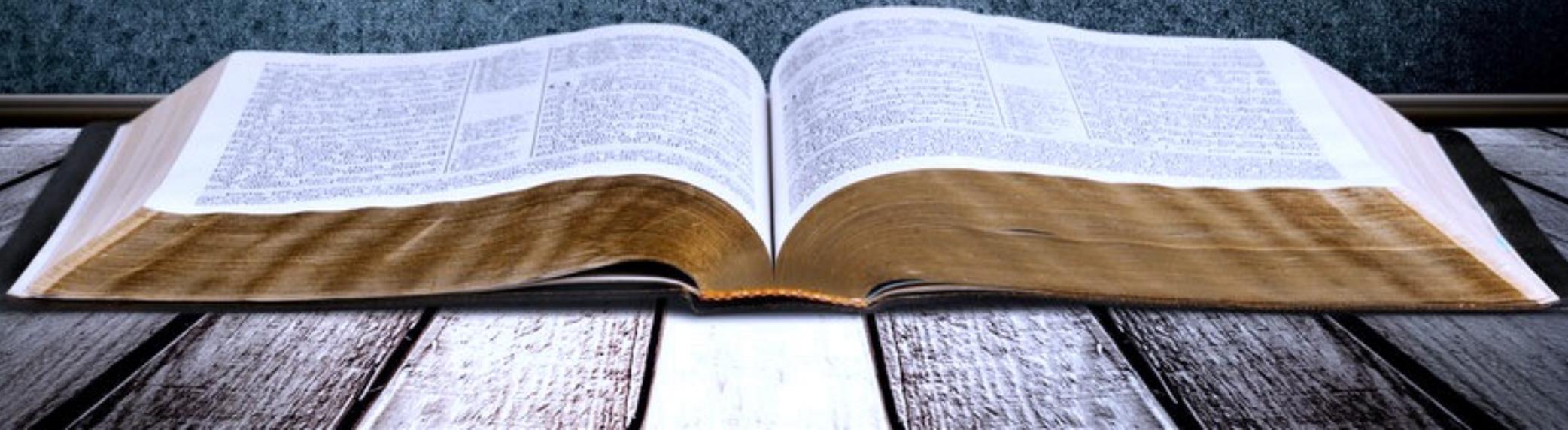


2 CORINTHIANS

A Verse-by-Verse Study



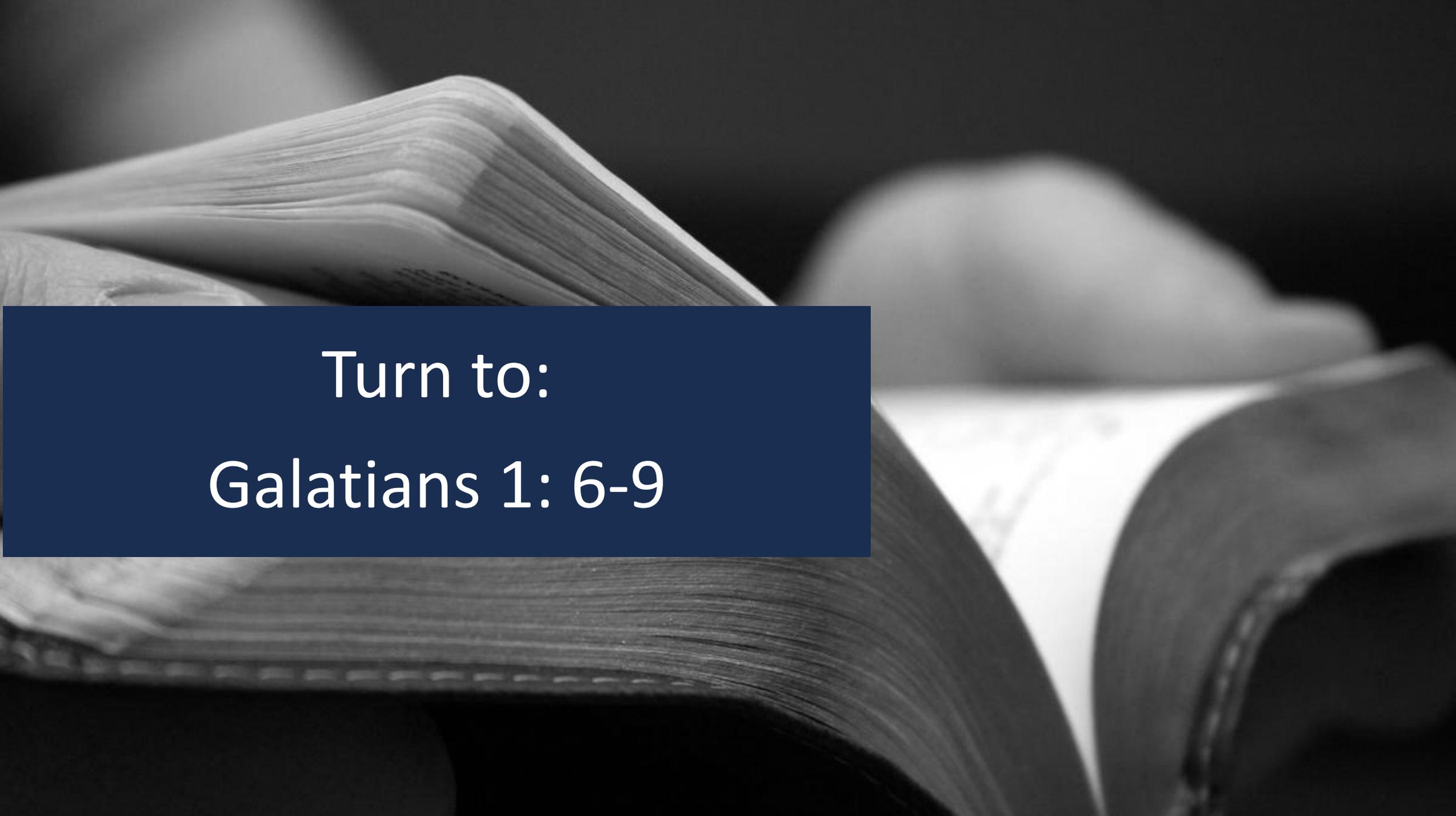
2 Corinthians 11: 4 (NIV)

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Different

Greek: heteros

- Another, but not the same
- That which is off course or different from the original
- That which has been altered
- Something mutated
- Something strange



Turn to:
Galatians 1: 6-9

Galatians 1: 6-9 (NIV)

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and **are turning to a different gospel**— which is really no gospel at all.*

Galatians 1: 6-9 (NIV)

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1: 6-9 (NIV)

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

Galatians 1: 6-9 (NIV)

As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

2 Corinthians 11: 4 (NIV)

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11: 4 (NIV)

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

These last words are a rebuke about how tolerant the Corinthian church has become.

When you become tolerant of sin, you have become intolerant of righteousness!

We have been warned again and again to watch out for churches with “spiritual gatherings” that use “spiritual jargon” where you experience “spiritual feelings” but do not teach the Bible from cover to cover, but rather teach only what makes you feel good about your sinful lifestyle.

2 Corinthians 11: 5 (NIV)

I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.”

Who do you think Paul is referring to when he uses the term “Super Apostles”?



Paul was under attack by a group of people who were considered an elite group of Super-Christians who were charismatic and skilled at public speaking. They had a personality that could draw a crowd and they had a large following.

What does God
look for in
Christian
leaders?



God is looking for a willing heart!

He is not looking for:

- Our speaking abilities
- Our personality
- Our popularity
- Our possessions

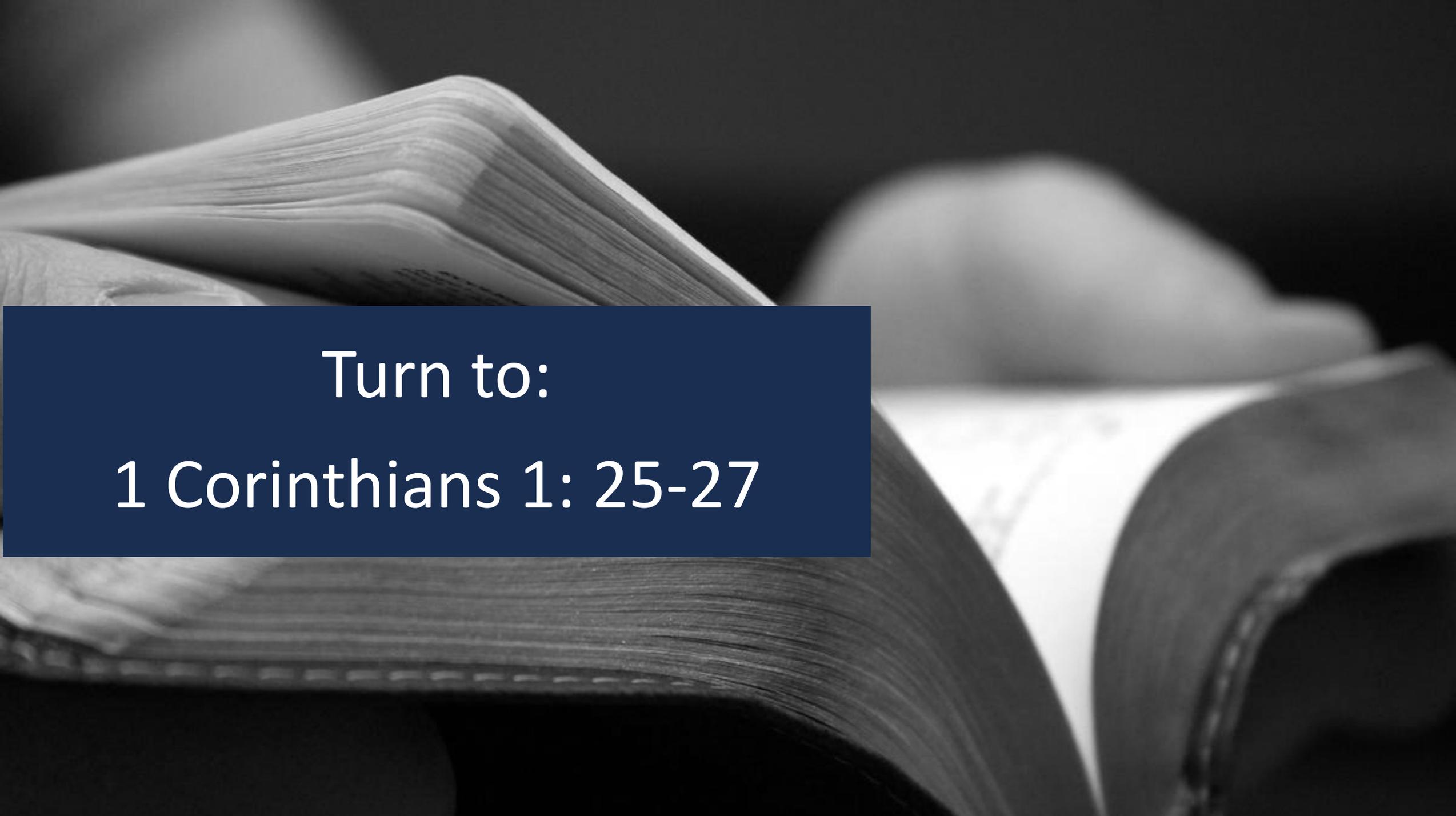


Turn to:
Isaiah 6: 8

Isaiah 6: 8 (NIV)

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for
us?”*

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”



Turn to:
1 Corinthians 1: 25-27

1 Corinthians 1: 25-27 (NIV)

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1: 25-27 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 1: 25-27 (NIV)

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

2 Corinthians 11: 5 (NIV)

I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.”

2 Corinthians 11: 6 (NIV)

I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

2 Corinthians 11: 7 (NIV)

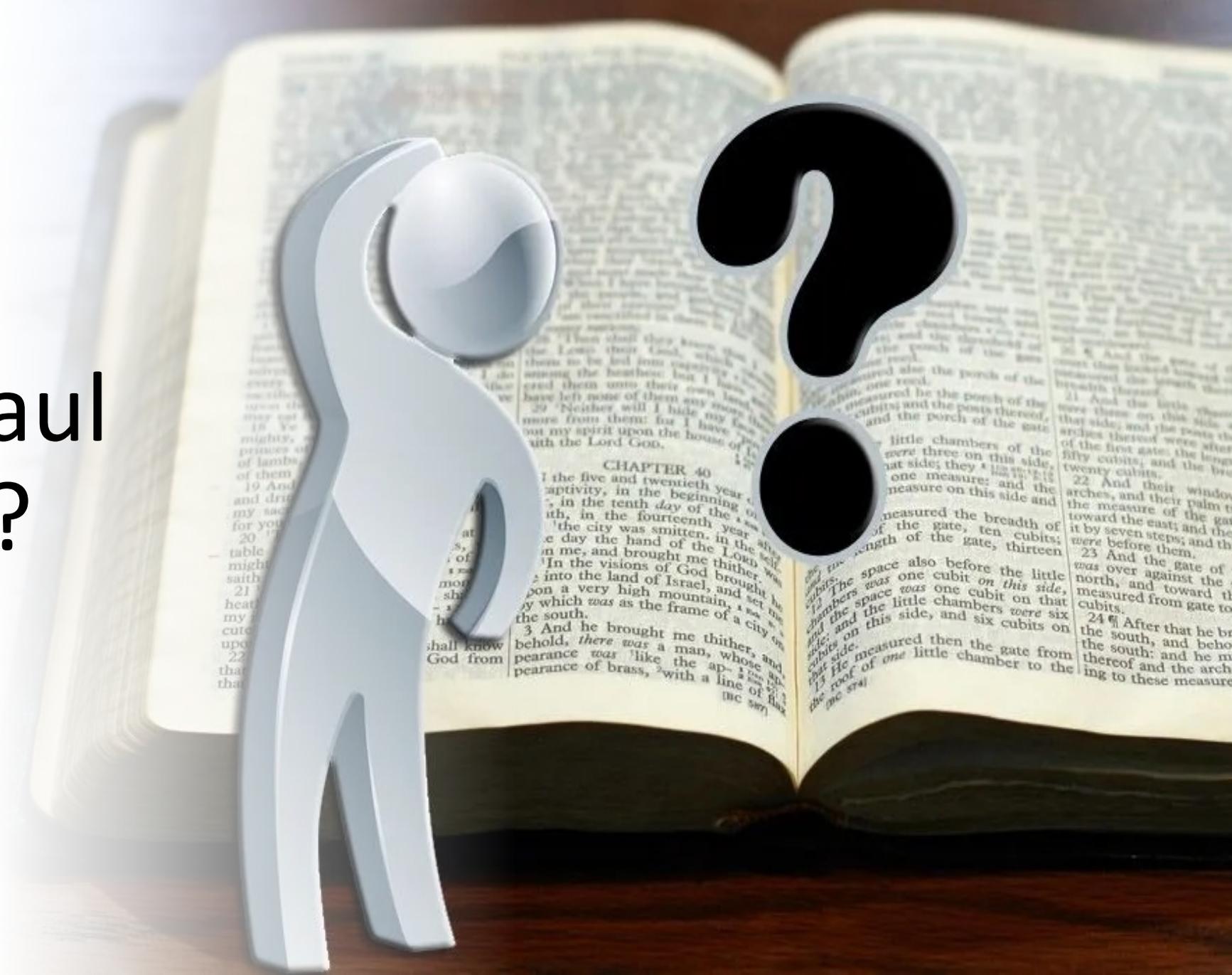
Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge?

Paul did not accept any pay or payment for his preaching and teaching while in Corinth. That should have been a great example, but his opponents used this against him by inferring that Paul's preaching was not useful, that is why it was free.

2 Corinthians 11: 8 (NIV)

I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.

What does Paul
mean here?



Paul is using sarcasm to let them know he was receiving financial support from other Churches in Macedonia to support his work in Corinth. Paul does not literally mean he stole anything from anyone or that he did anything inappropriate.

Paul is making a point that other churches have contributed to his missionary ministry, much like we support other missions today.

2 Corinthians 11: 9 (NIV)

And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.



Turn to:
2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 (NIV)

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 (NIV)

On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.

Why is Paul so concerned about the impression he is making on others?



2 Corinthians 11: 10-11 (NIV)

As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

2 Corinthians 11: 12 (NIV)

And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

Who do you think Paul is talking about here?



2 Corinthians 11: 13 (NIV)

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

False Apostles

Greek:
pseud-apostolos

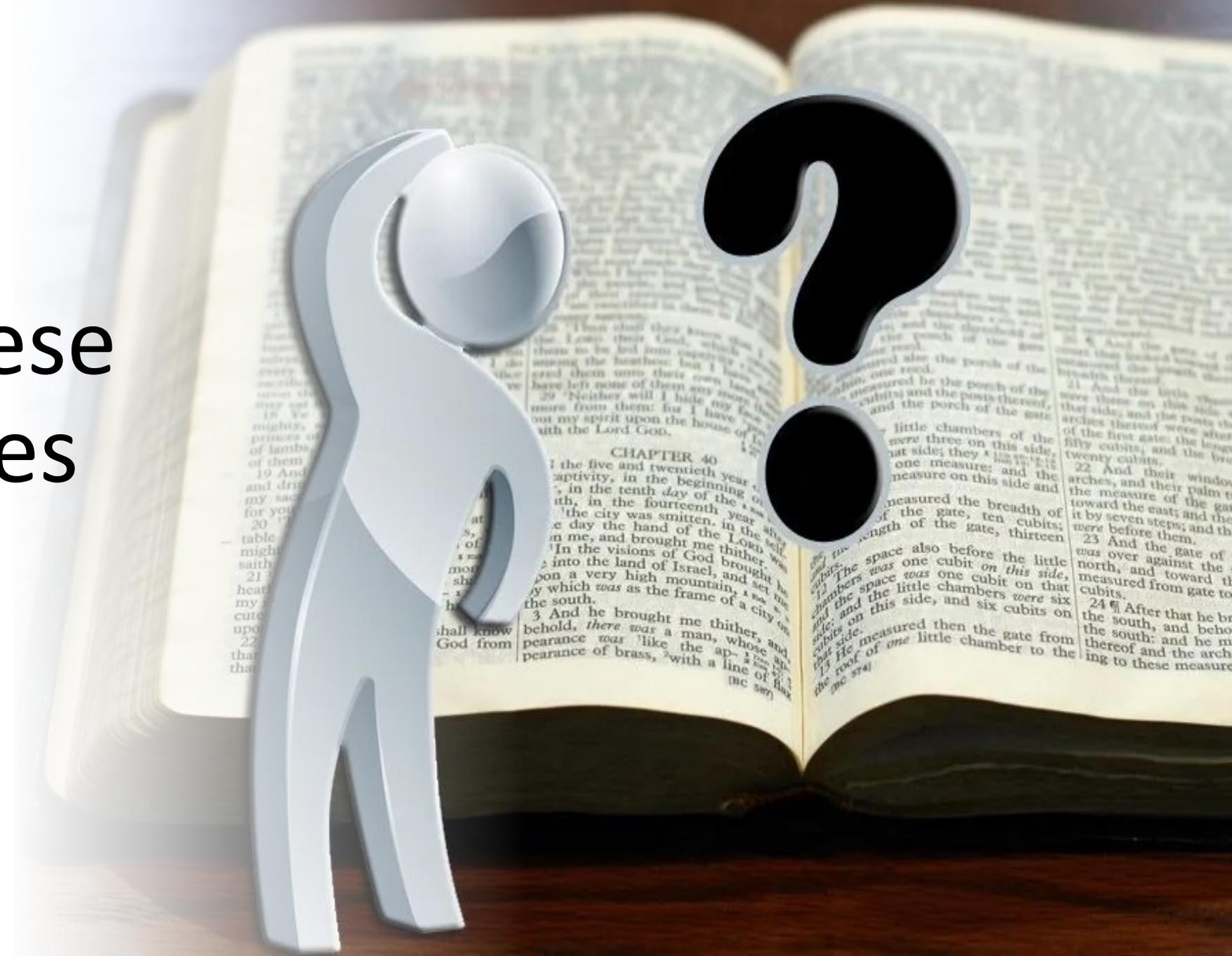
- Pretend apostles
- False teachers
- Off course instructors

Deceitful Workers

Greek:
dolios- ergates

- A person of guile
- To be secretly subversive
- To gain or to deceive by trickery
- To bait
- To use the craft-of-personality or human persuasion
- A false disciple

What are these
false apostles
doing?



2 Corinthians 11: 13 (NIV)

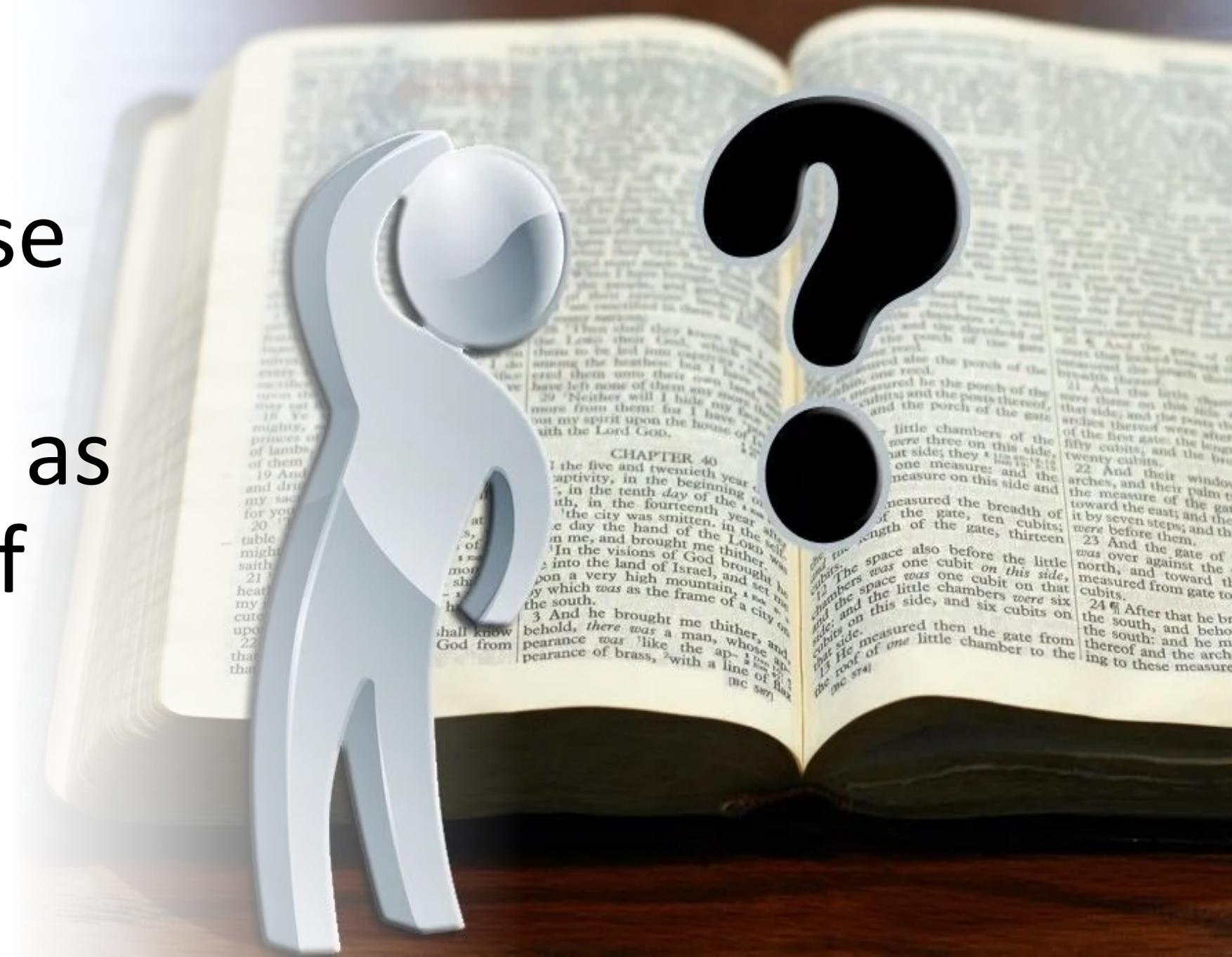
For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

Masquerading

Greek:
metaschematizo

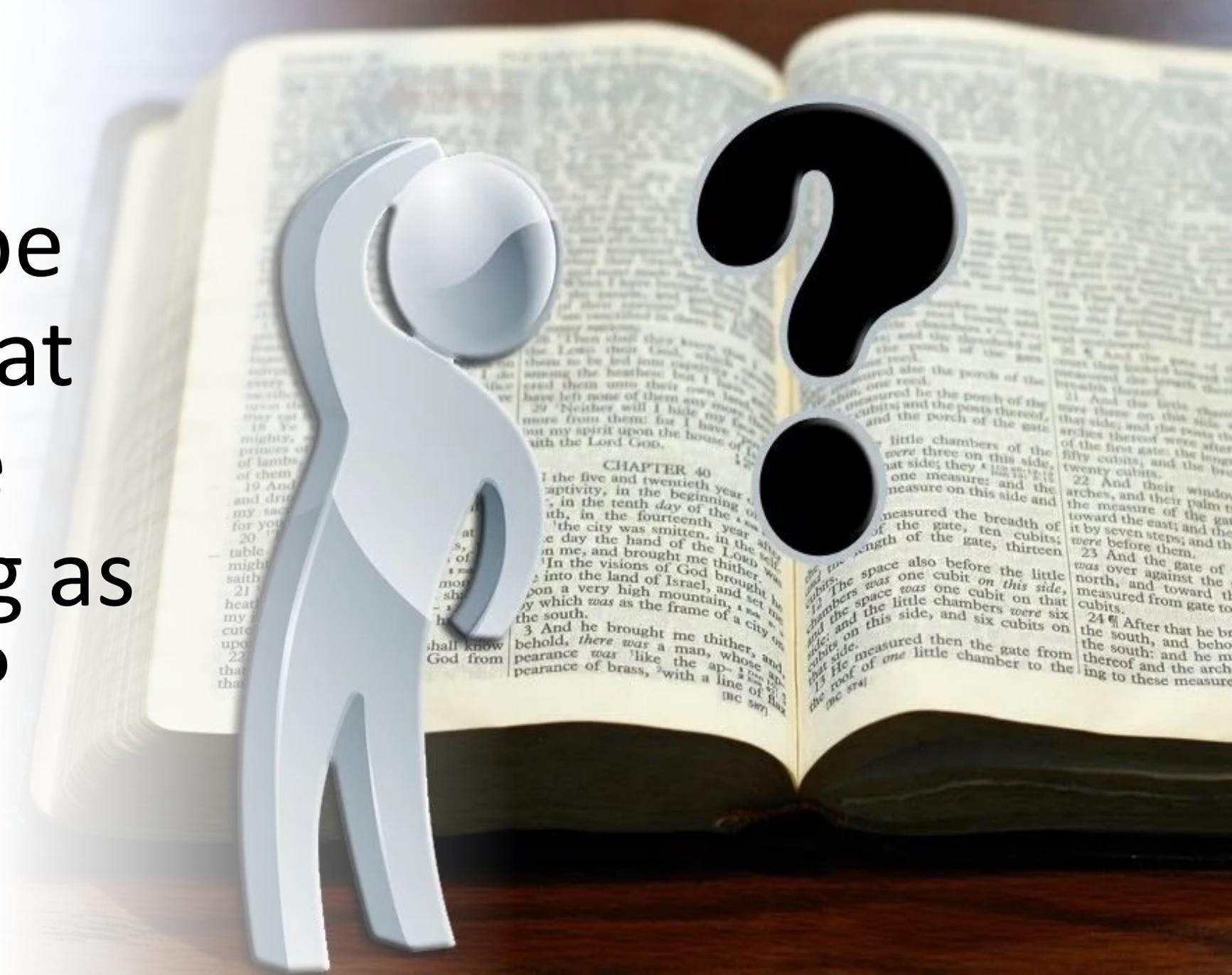
- To self-appoint or self-ordain
- To transfigure or disguise
- To title or label yourself by your own doing
- To self-promotion with the intent to deceive

How do false
teachers
masquerade as
apostles of
Christ?



- They appeal to the culture with affirmation and inclusion.
- They find out what people want to hear regarding scripture and leave out what people may find offensive.
- They seek to unify all religions by removing the differences between them.

Should we be surprised that people are masquerading as Christians?



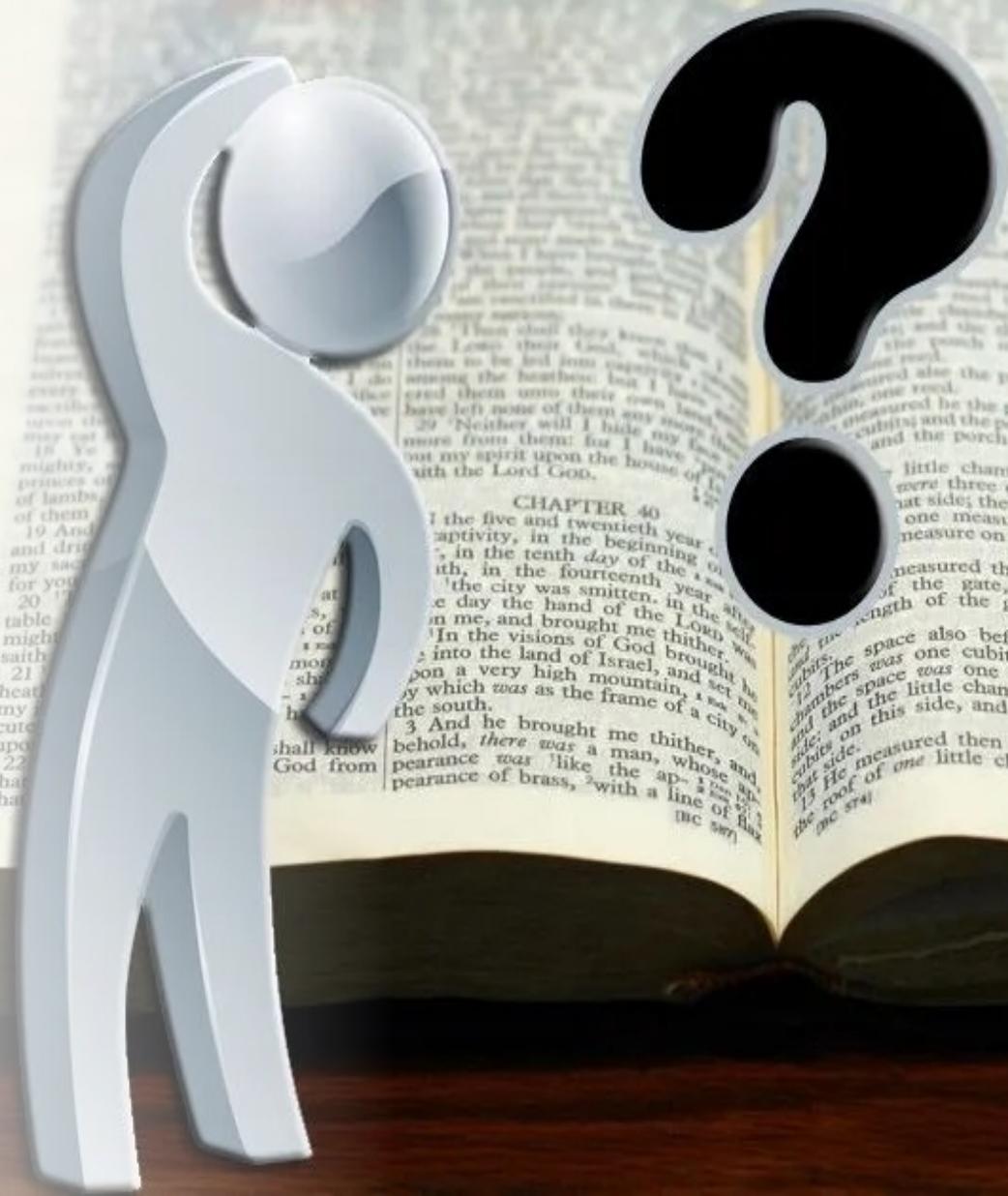
2 Corinthians 11: 14 (NIV)

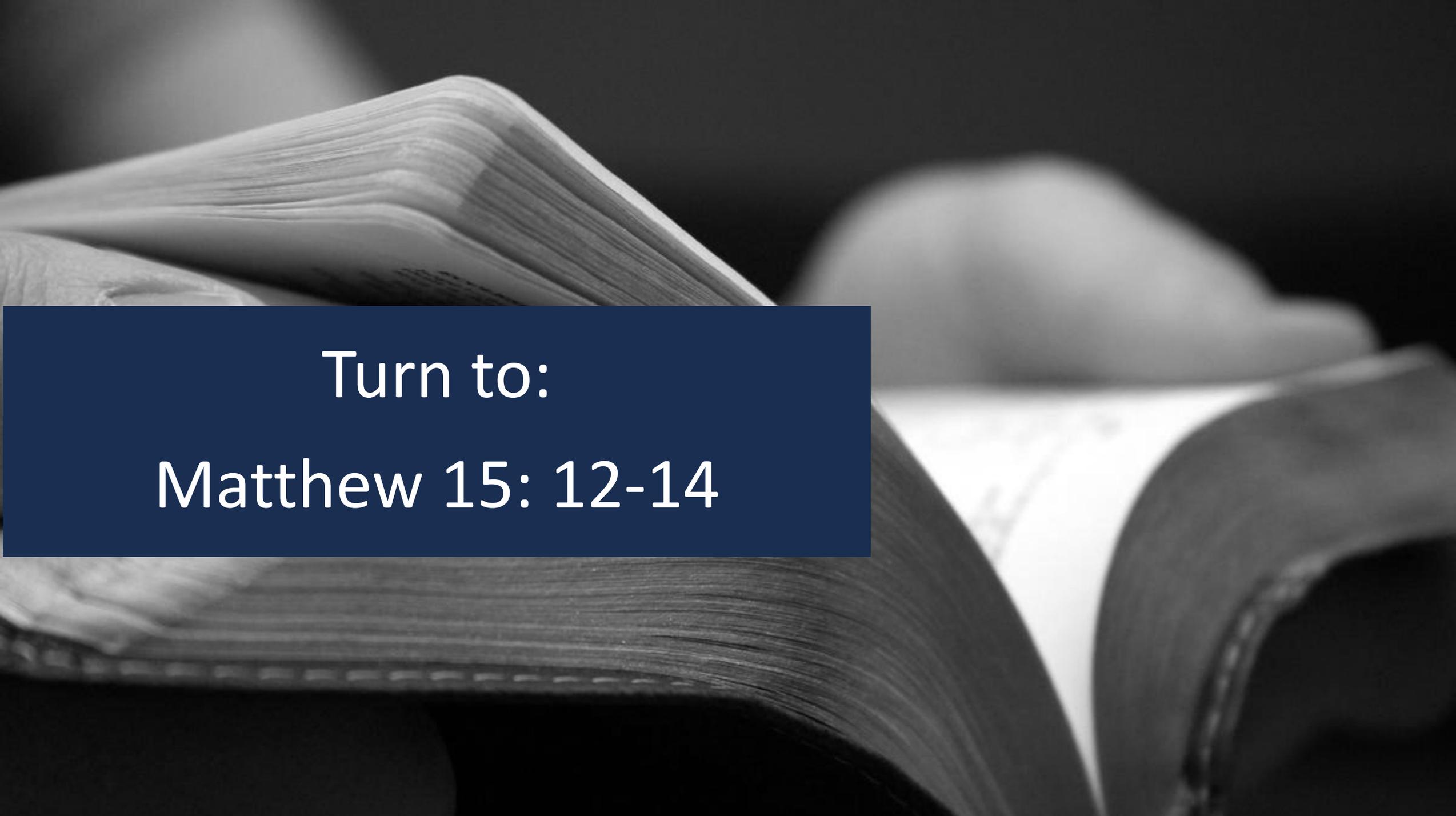
And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11: 15 (NIV)

It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

What is the end
result of those
who are
masquerading as
Christians?



A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the text overlay being the primary focus. The text is white on a dark blue rectangular background.

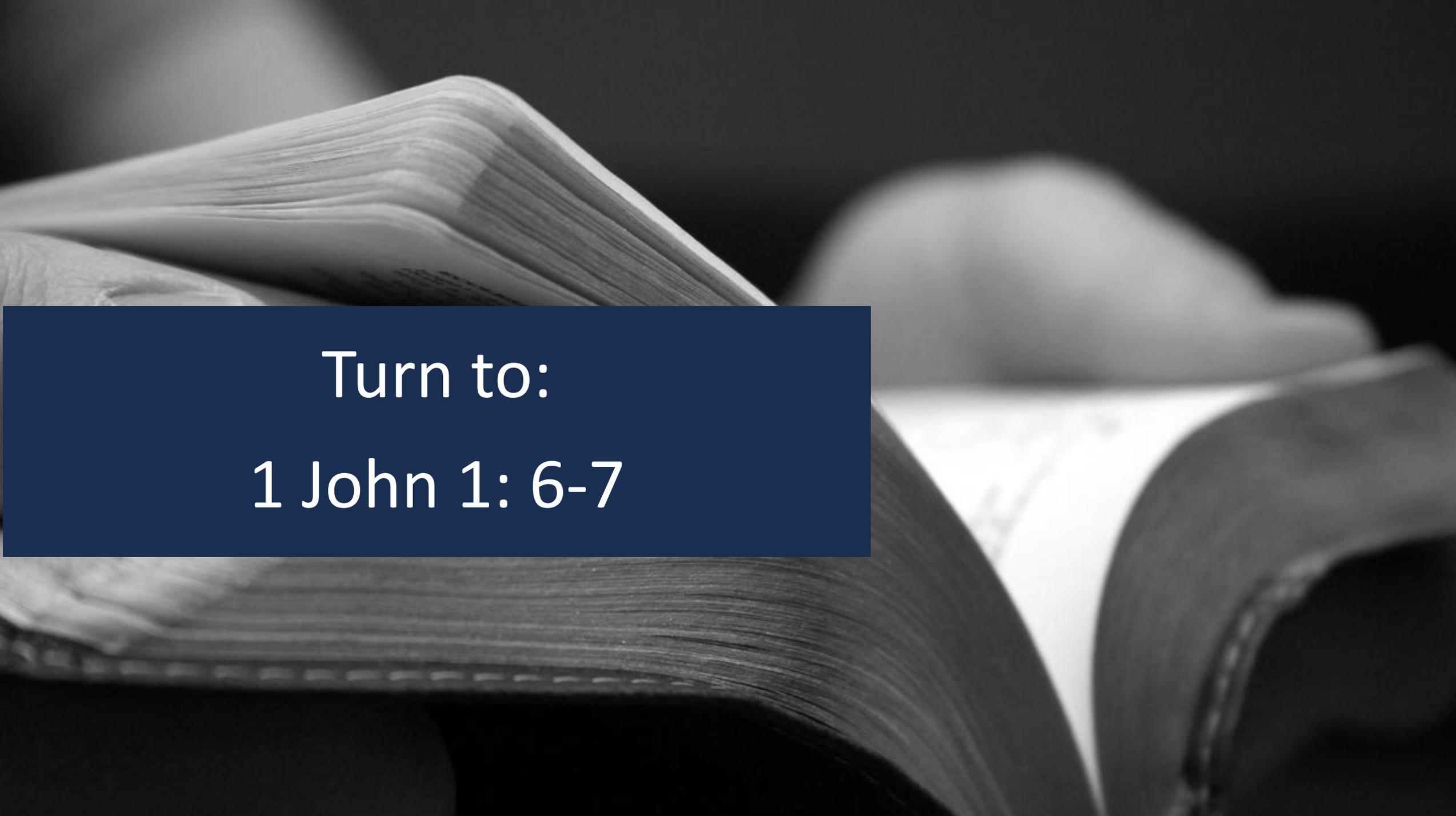
Turn to:
Matthew 15: 12-14

Matthew 15: 12-14 (NIV)

*Then the disciples came to him and asked,
“Do you know that the Pharisees were
offended when they heard this?”*

Matthew 15: 12-14 (NIV)

He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."



Turn to:
1 John 1: 6-7

1 John 1: 6-7 (NIV)

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

1 John 1: 6-7 (NIV)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Should we be surprised that people are masquerading as Christians?



2 Corinthians 11: 16 (NIV)

I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then tolerate me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting.

Paul sees that the Corinthians have been influenced by the boasting of these false apostles, therefore if that is what it takes to reach them, even though it appears as foolishness to Paul, he will boast, only better, with Truth!!!

2 Corinthians 11: 17 (NIV)

In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool.

2 Corinthians 11: 18 (NIV)

Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast.

2 Corinthians 11: 19 (NIV)

*You gladly put up with fools since you are
so wise!*

2 Corinthians 11: 20 (NIV)

In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face.

2 Corinthians 11: 21 (NIV)

To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about.

2 Corinthians 11: 22 (NIV)

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

2 Corinthians 11: 23 (NIV)

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

What point is Paul making with these questions?





Turn to:
Galatians 3: 1-3

Galatians 3: 1-3 (NIV)

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

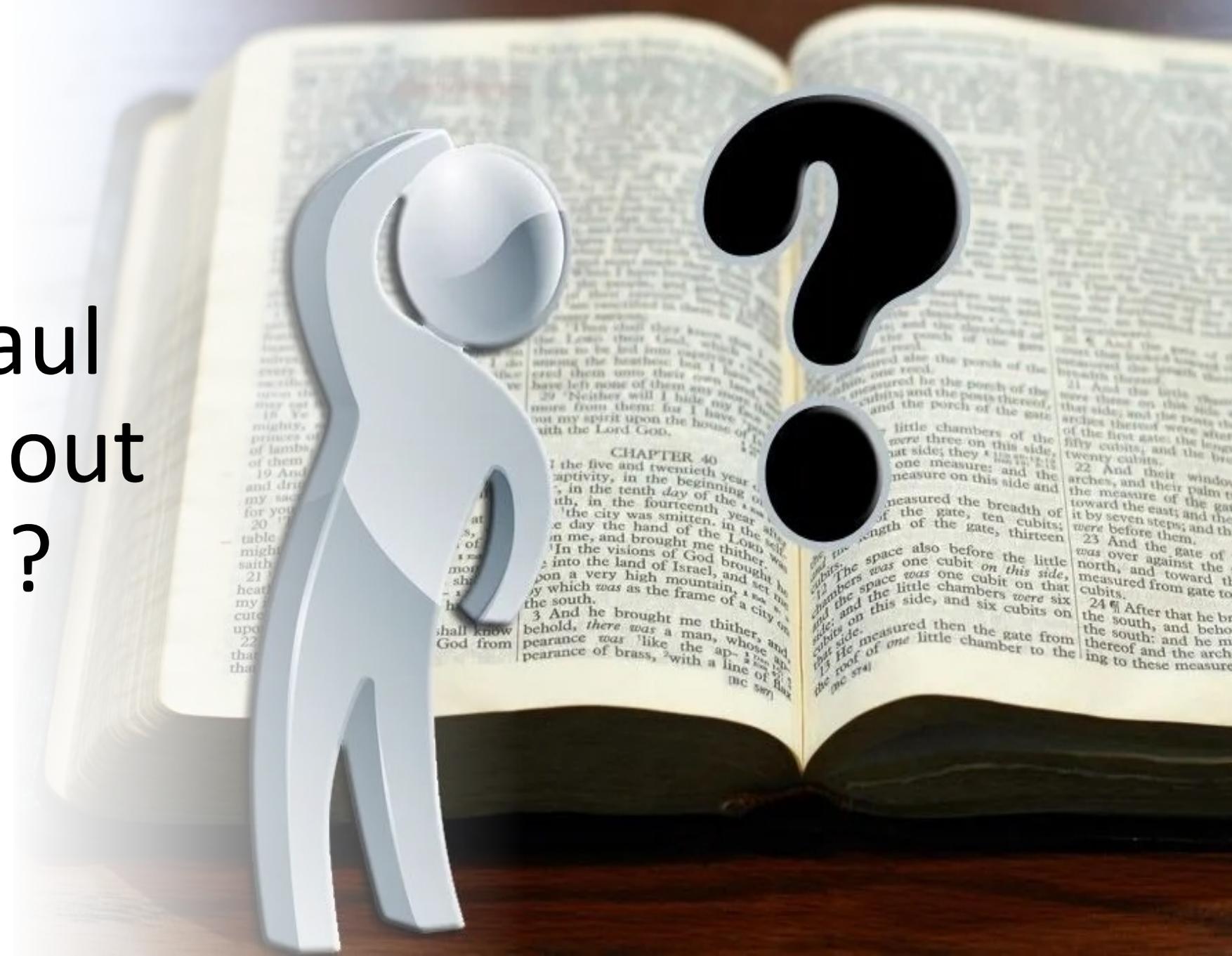
Galatians 3: 1-3 (NIV)

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

2 Corinthians 11: 23 (NIV)

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

Why does Paul
feel like he is out
of his mind?



2 Corinthians 11: 23 (NIV)

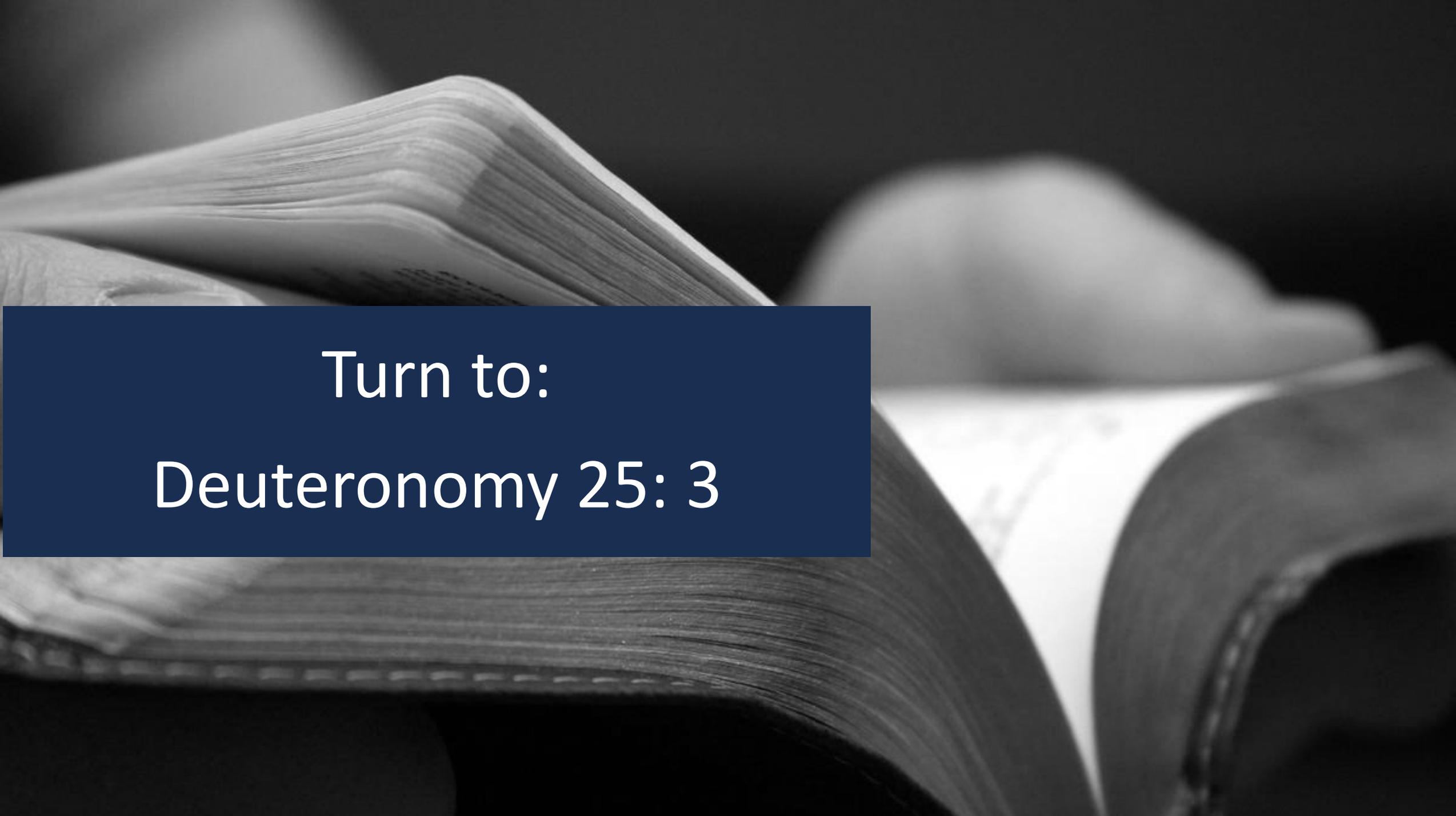
Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

2 Corinthians 11: 24 (NIV)

*Five times I received from the Jews the
forty lashes minus one.*

What does it
mean to receive
40 lashes minus
one?



A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the pages appearing as a series of light and dark lines. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text reads "Turn to:" followed by "Deuteronomy 25: 3" on the next line.

Turn to:
Deuteronomy 25: 3

Deuteronomy 25: 3 (NIV)

but the judge must not impose more than forty lashes. If the guilty party is flogged more than that, your fellow Israelite will be degraded in your eyes.

39 lashes was the common punishment in Jewish law, so Paul was subjected to 39 lashes and therefore would not be at risk of exceeding the 40-lash limit.

Note: Jesus was sentenced to a lashing under Roman law, which did not have a 40-lash limit and was more severe.

Typically, the Jewish lashing involved a whip made of calfskin while the Romans would flog or scourge by using a whip which contained shards of glass, bone and rocks imbedded in the whip.

2 Corinthians 11: 25 (NIV)

Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

2 Corinthians 11: 26 (NIV)

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.

2 Corinthians 11: 27 (NIV)

I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

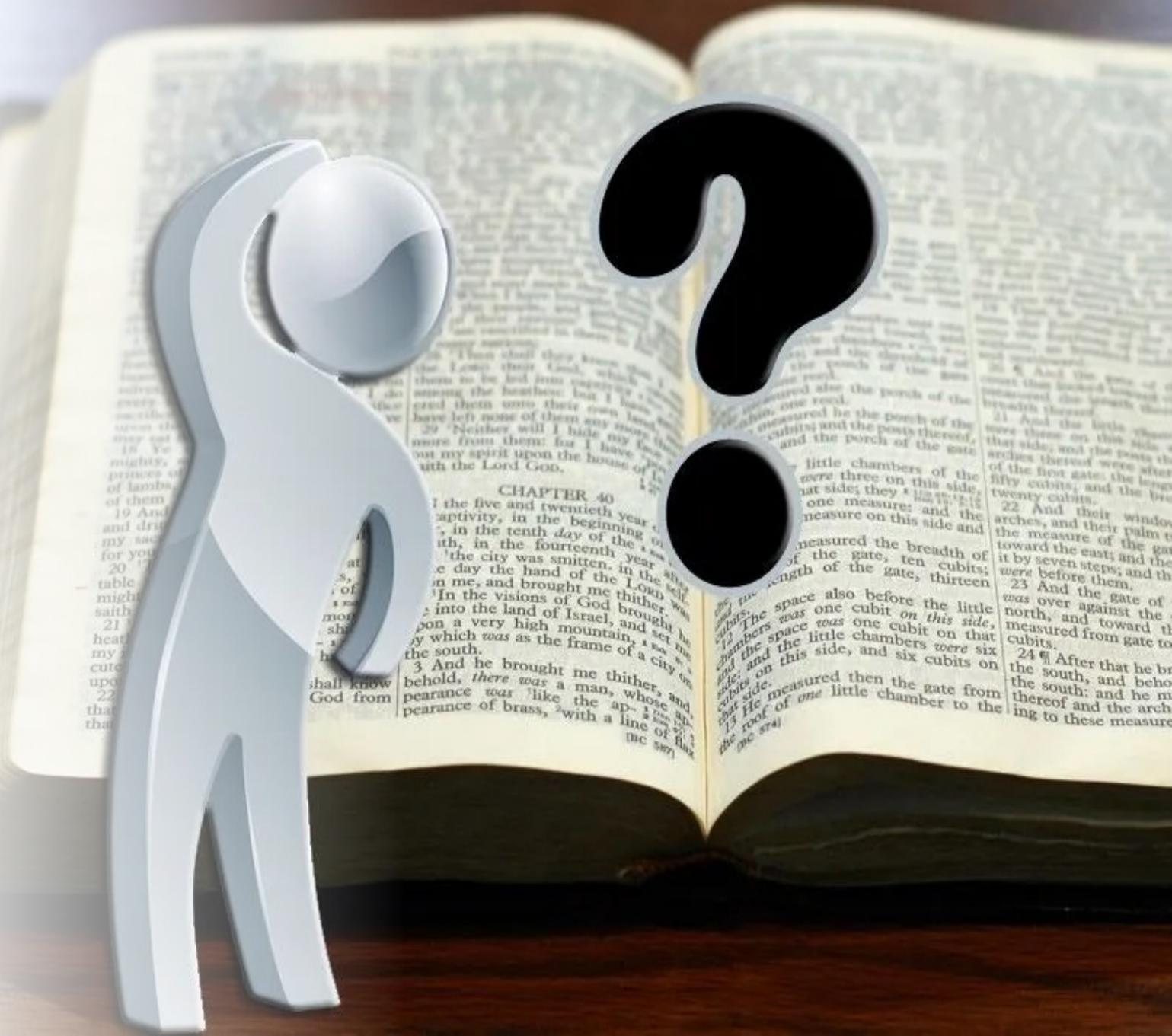
Paul travelled over 6,700 miles by sea
and over 5,400 miles by land.

That totals over 12,000 miles, and that
was before modern travel!

2 Corinthians 11: 28 (NIV)

Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

What concerns
does Paul have
for the other
Churches that is
so great he feels
it pressuring him
just as much as
facing death?



Concern

Greek:
merimna

- A heavy burden
- A persistent weight
- An inescapable anxiety
- To be full of care

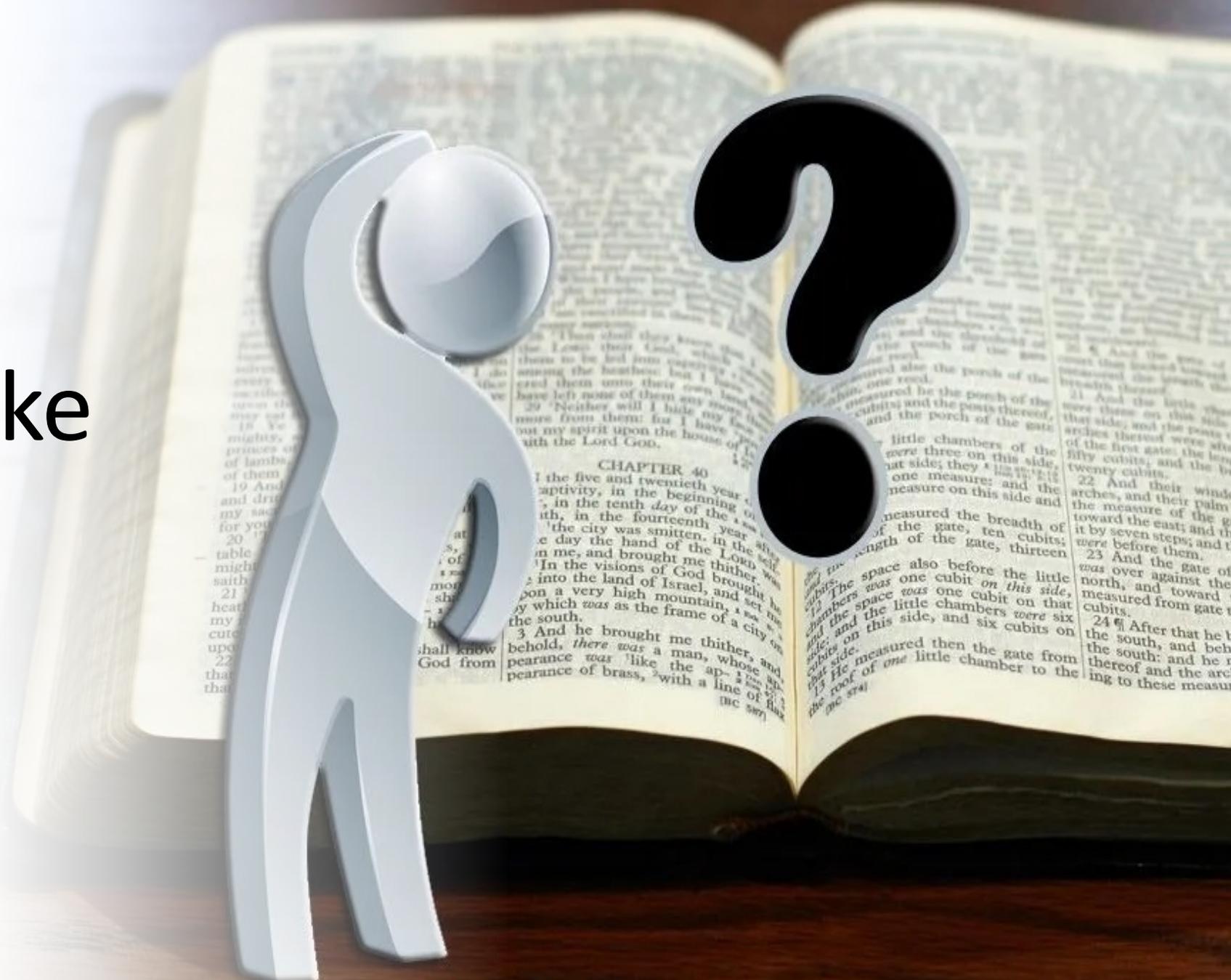
2 Corinthians 11: 29 (NIV)

Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

2 Corinthians 11: 30 (NIV)

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Does that make sense?



2 Corinthians 11: 31 (NIV)

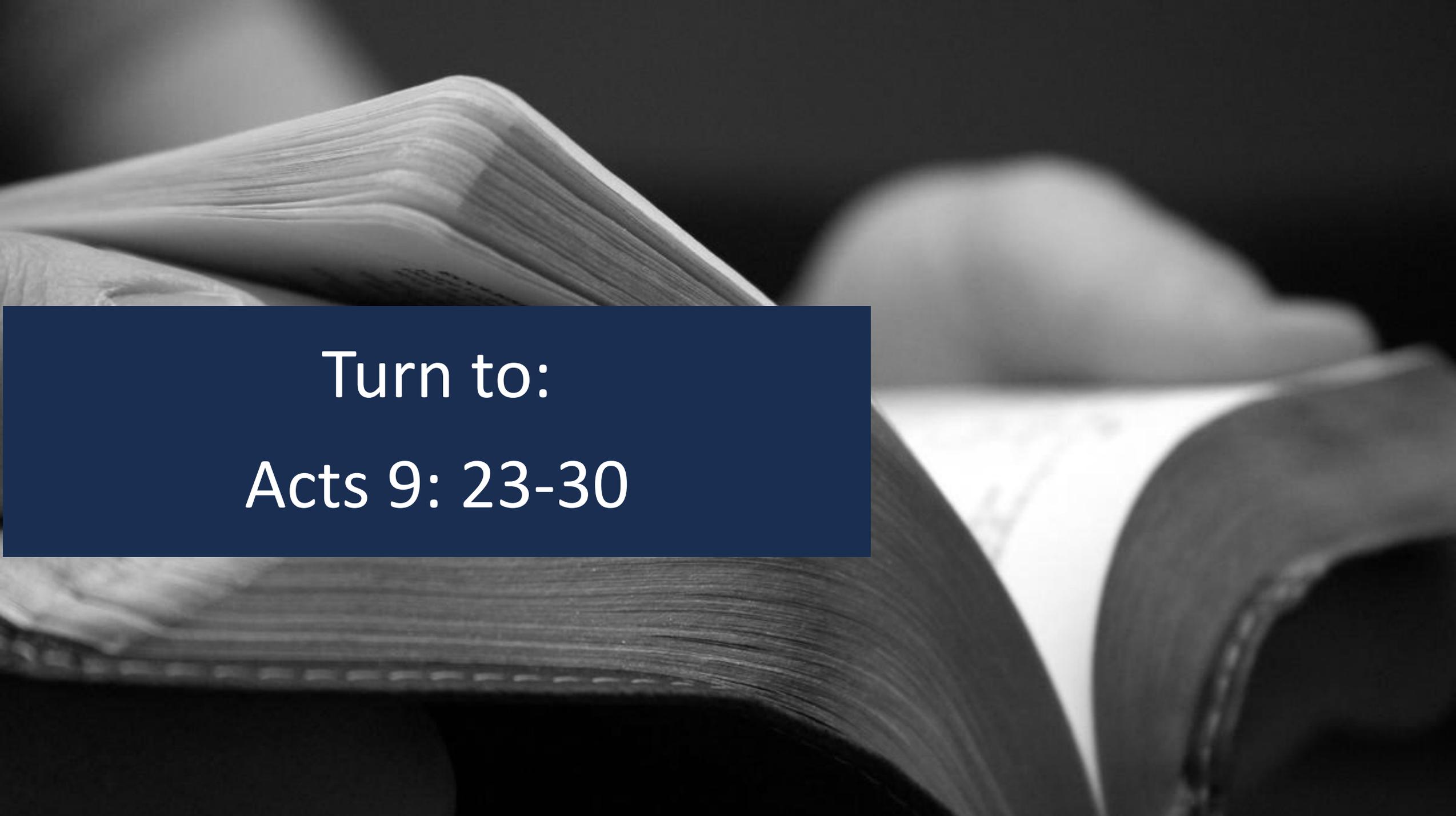
*The **God** and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, **knows that I am not lying.***

2 Corinthians 11: 32 (NIV)

In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me.

2 Corinthians 11: 33 (NIV)

But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the pages appearing as a series of light and dark lines. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text reads "Turn to:" followed by "Acts 9: 23-30" on the next line.

Turn to:
Acts 9: 23-30

Acts 9: 23-30 (NIV)

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.

Acts 9: 23-25 (NIV)

But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Acts 9: 23-30 (NIV)

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

Acts 9: 23-30 (NIV)

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9: 23-30 (NIV)

So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9: 23-30 (NIV)

He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

2 Corinthians 12: 1 (NIV)

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12: 2 (NIV)

*I know a man in Christ who **fourteen years ago** was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.*

Most scholars agree that 2 Corinthians was written around 56 AD which would make fourteen years ago around 42 A.D.

This places Paul on his first missionary journey which is recorded in the 13th and 14th chapters of Acts.

2 Corinthians 12: 2 (NIV)

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago **was caught up** to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.*

Caught up

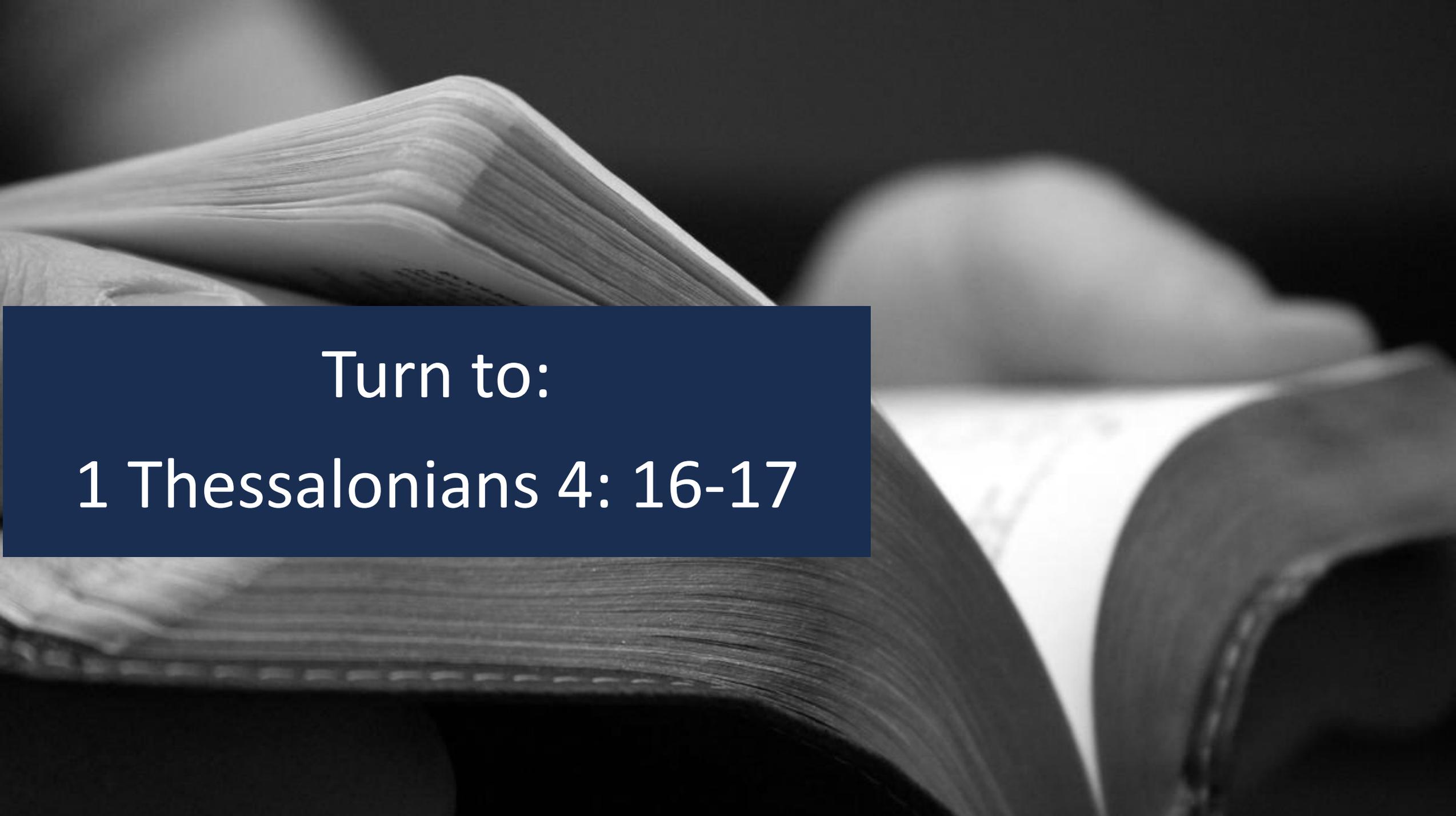
Greek:
harpazo

- To be suddenly seized
- To catch-away
- To be pulled upward by a violent force
- Raptured

Caught up

Latin Vulgate:
rapiemur

- To be caught up
- To be taken away



Turn to:
1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 (NIV)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 (NIV)

*After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

2 Corinthians 12: 2 (NIV)

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.

First Heaven

The atmosphere nearest the earth. The sky and clouds.

Second Heaven

Outer space. The moon stars and sun.

Third Heaven

The Spiritual Realm. Heaven.

2 Corinthians 12: 3-4 (NIV)

And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

Paradise

Greek:
paradeisos

- THE Park
- THE Garden
- THE Eden
- Heaven



Turn to:
Acts 14: 19-20

Acts 14: 19-20 (NIV)

Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

2 Corinthians 12: 3-4 (NIV)

And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

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Turn to:
1 Corinthians 2: 9

1 Corinthians 2: 9 (NIV)

However, as it is written:

*“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has
conceived”—*

*the things God has prepared for those
who love him—*