

2 CORINTHIANS

A Verse-by-Verse Study



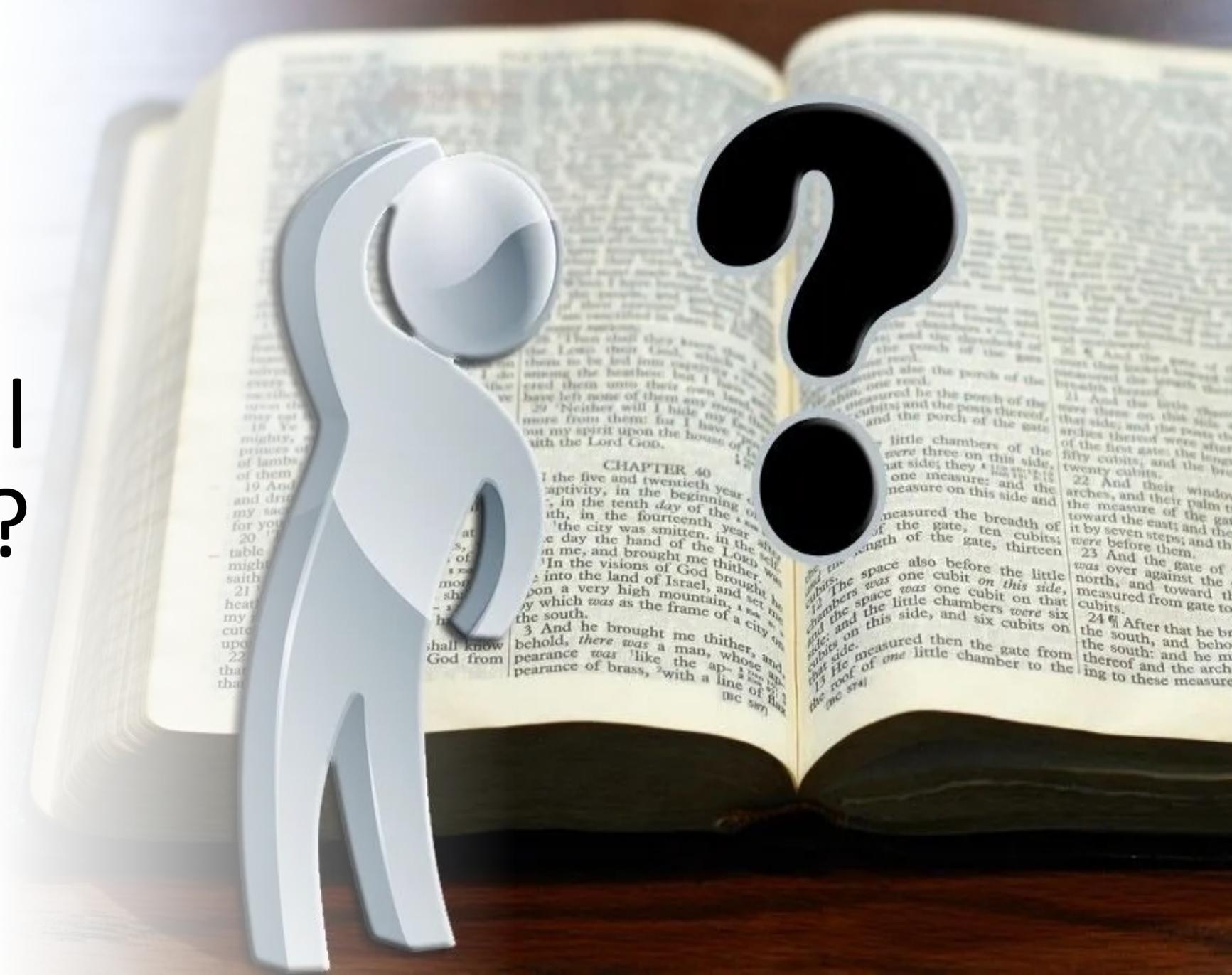
2 Corinthians 13: 1 (NIV)

This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

2 Corinthians 13: 2 (NIV)

*I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: **On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,***

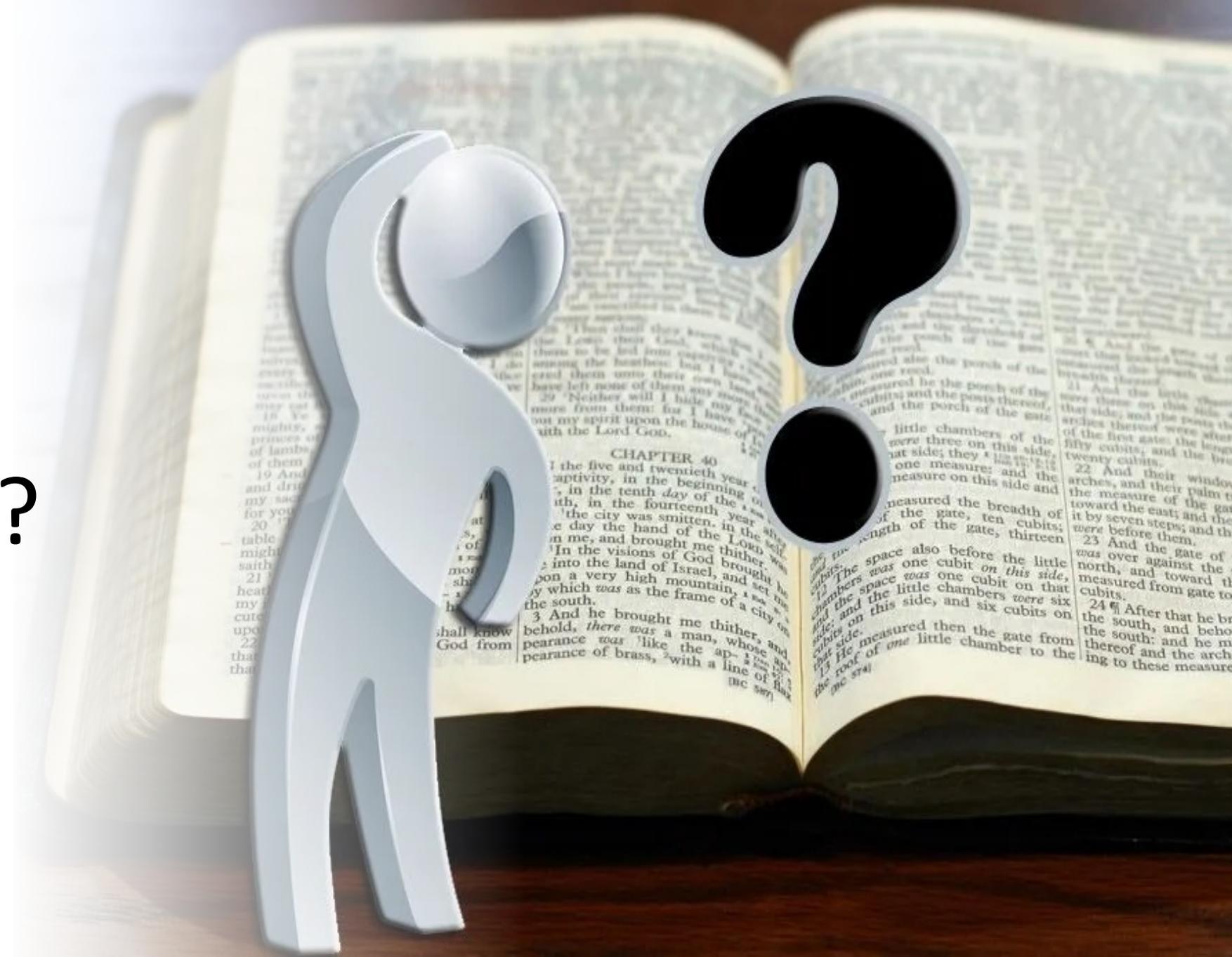
What is Paul saying here?

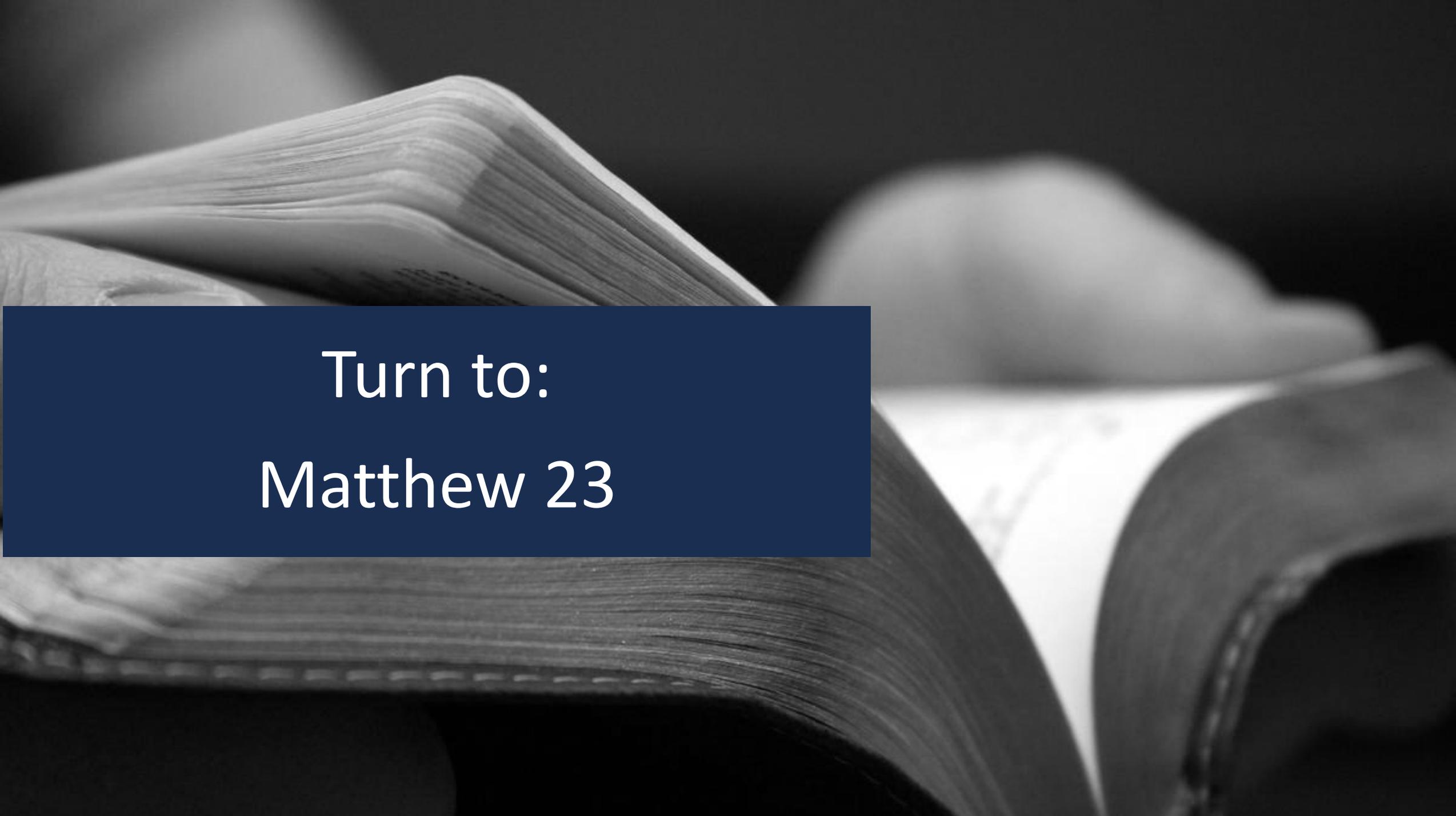


Why is Paul determined to address those in the Church who are unrepentant?



Did Jesus
address sin?





Turn to:
Matthew 23

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

*Then **Jesus said to the crowds** and to his disciples: “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, **for they do not practice what they preach.**”*

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of hypocrisy

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah.

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of pride

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of false teaching

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’ You blind fools!

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?”

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.' You blind men

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of materialism

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of selfishness

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.”

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, **you hypocrites!** You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.*

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



The sin of hypocrisy

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.'

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!
“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

What sin is
Jesus
confronting
here?



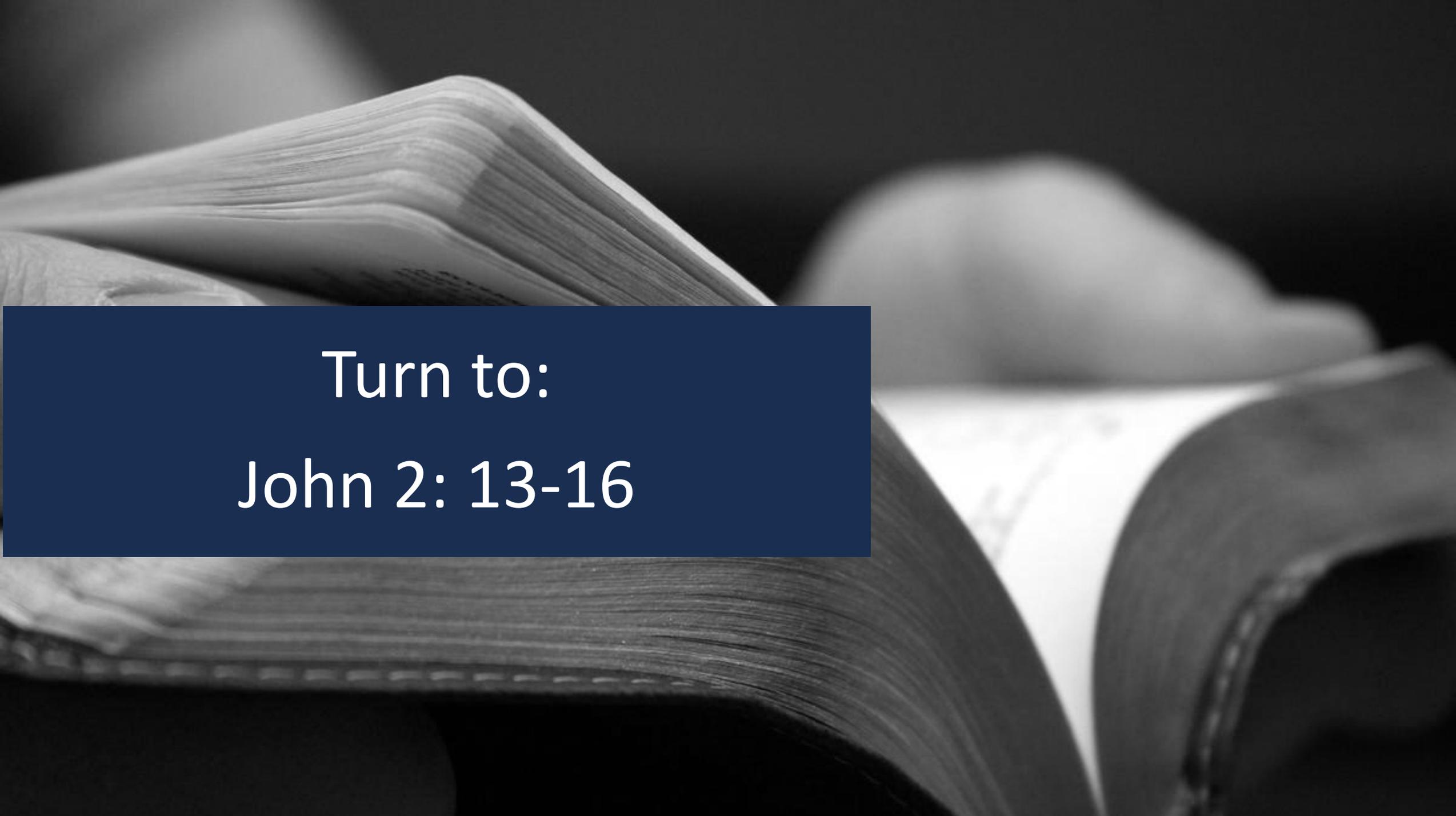
Persecution of Truth

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Matthew 23: 1-38 (NIV)

Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"



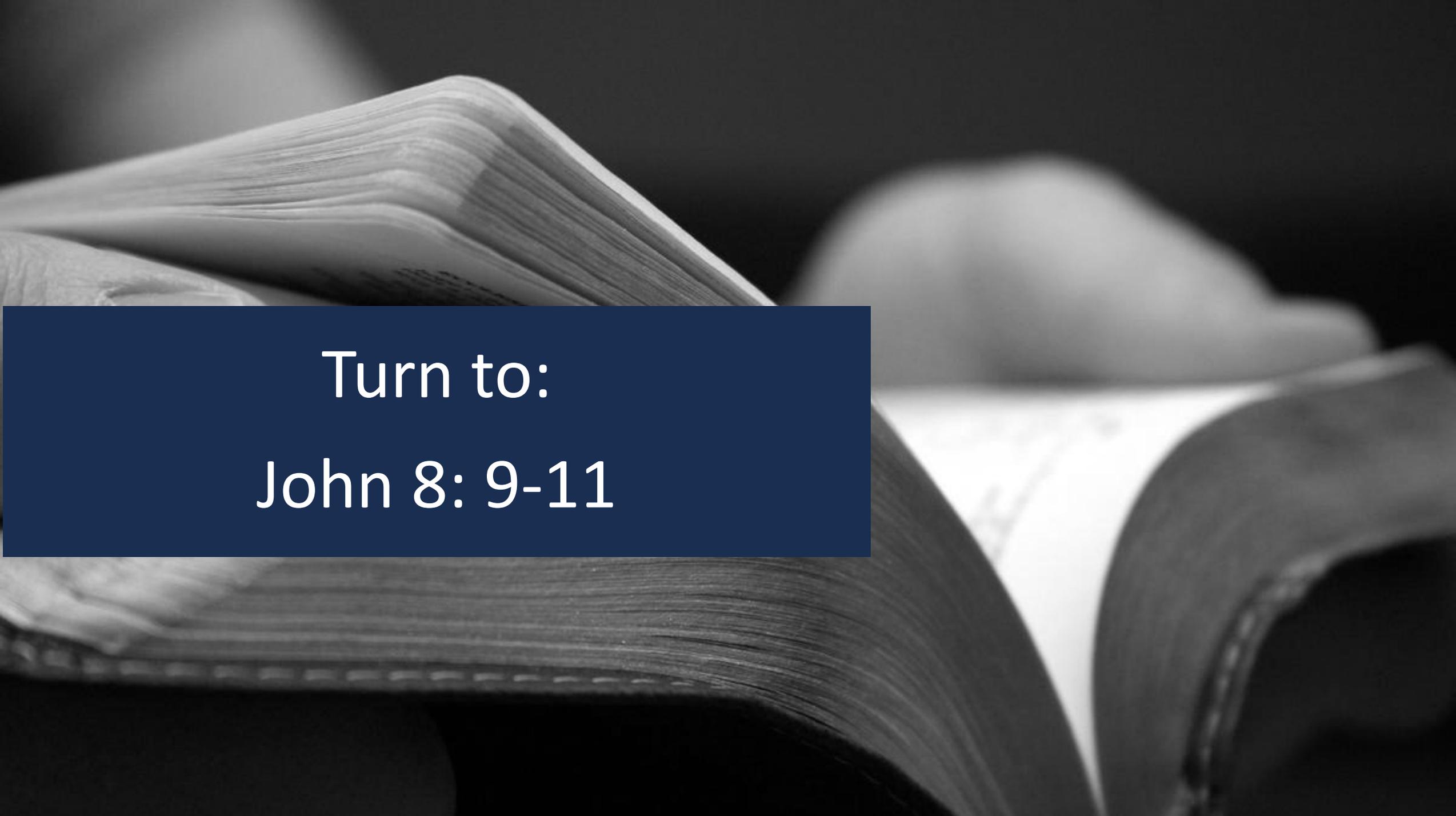
Turn to:
John 2: 13-16

John 2: 13-16 (NIV)

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

John 2: 13-16 (NIV)

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”

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 "John 8: 9-11" on the next line.

Turn to:
John 8: 9-11

John 8: 9-11 (NIV)

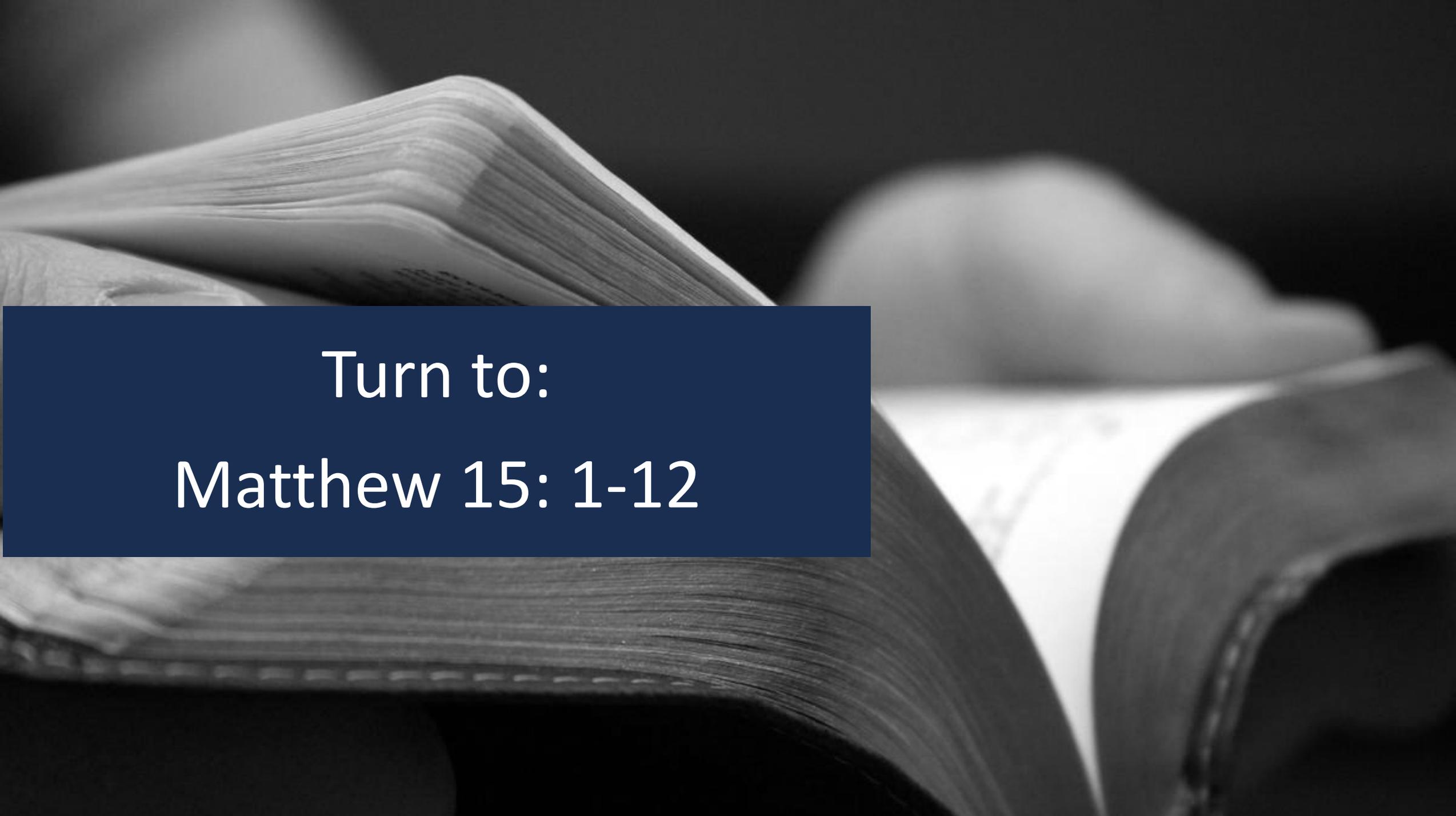
When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

John 8: 9-11 (NIV)

Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

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Turn to:
Matthew 15: 1-12

Matthew 15: 1-12 (NIV)

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?”

Matthew 15: 1-12 (NIV)

For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it.

Matthew 15: 1-12 (NIV)

Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

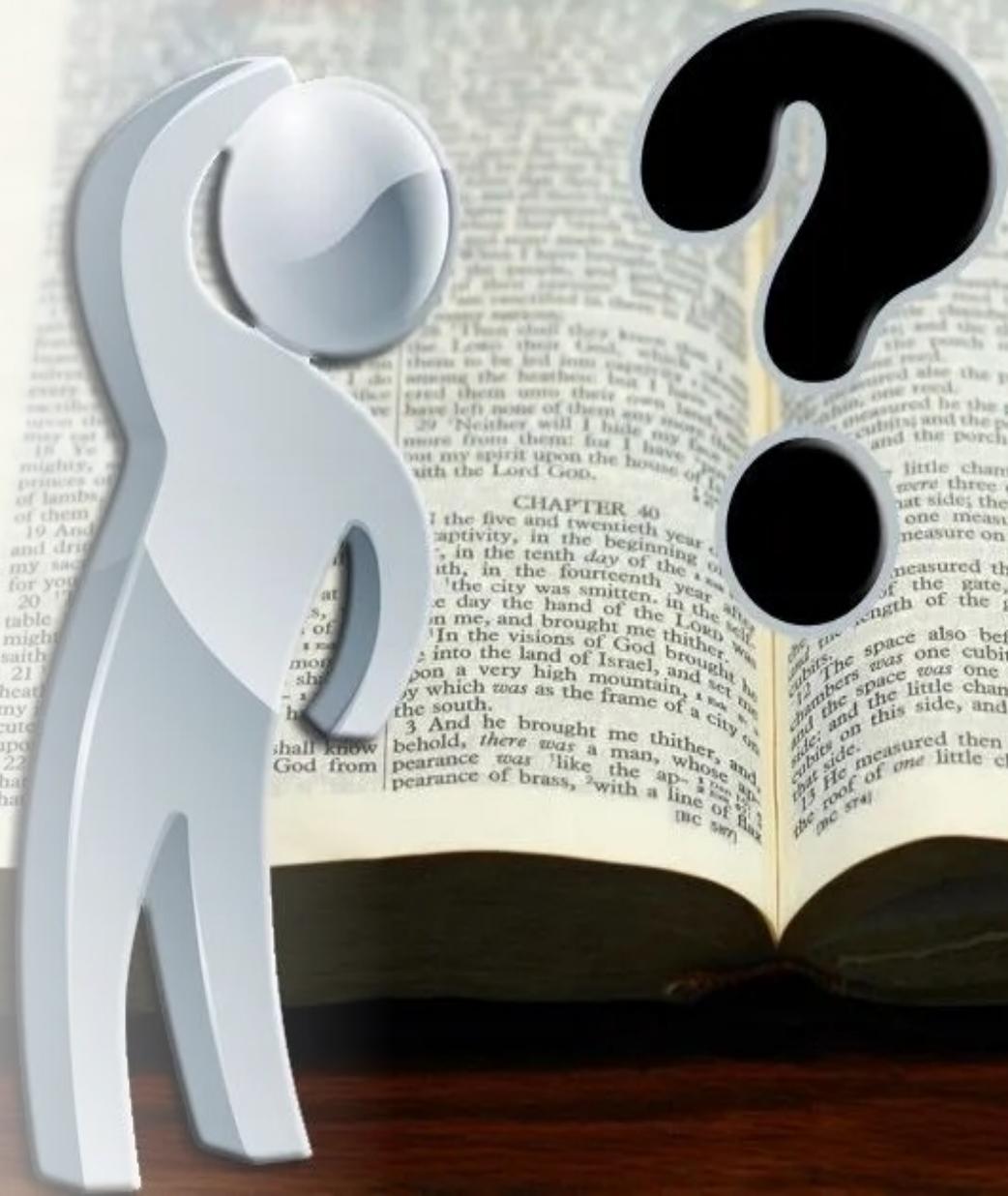
Matthew 15: 1-12 (NIV)

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”

Matthew 15: 1-12 (NIV)

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

How do you
view Jesus
when He was
on the earth?





I believe those who lived while Jesus walked on the earth had a much different view of Jesus than we do today.

2 Corinthians 13: 3 (NIV)

*I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: **On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,***

2 Corinthians 13: 3a (NIV)

since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me.

Why does
confronting
sin serve as
proof that
Jesus is
speaking
through Paul?



2 Corinthians 13: 3 (NIV)

*since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. **He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.***

2 Corinthians 13: 4 (NIV)

For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

2 Corinthians 13: 5a (NIV)

Examine yourselves to see whether you
are in the faith; test yourselves.

Examine

Greek: peirazo

- To test
- To scrutinize
- To examine closely
- To confirm its reality

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Turn to:
Psalm 139: 23-24

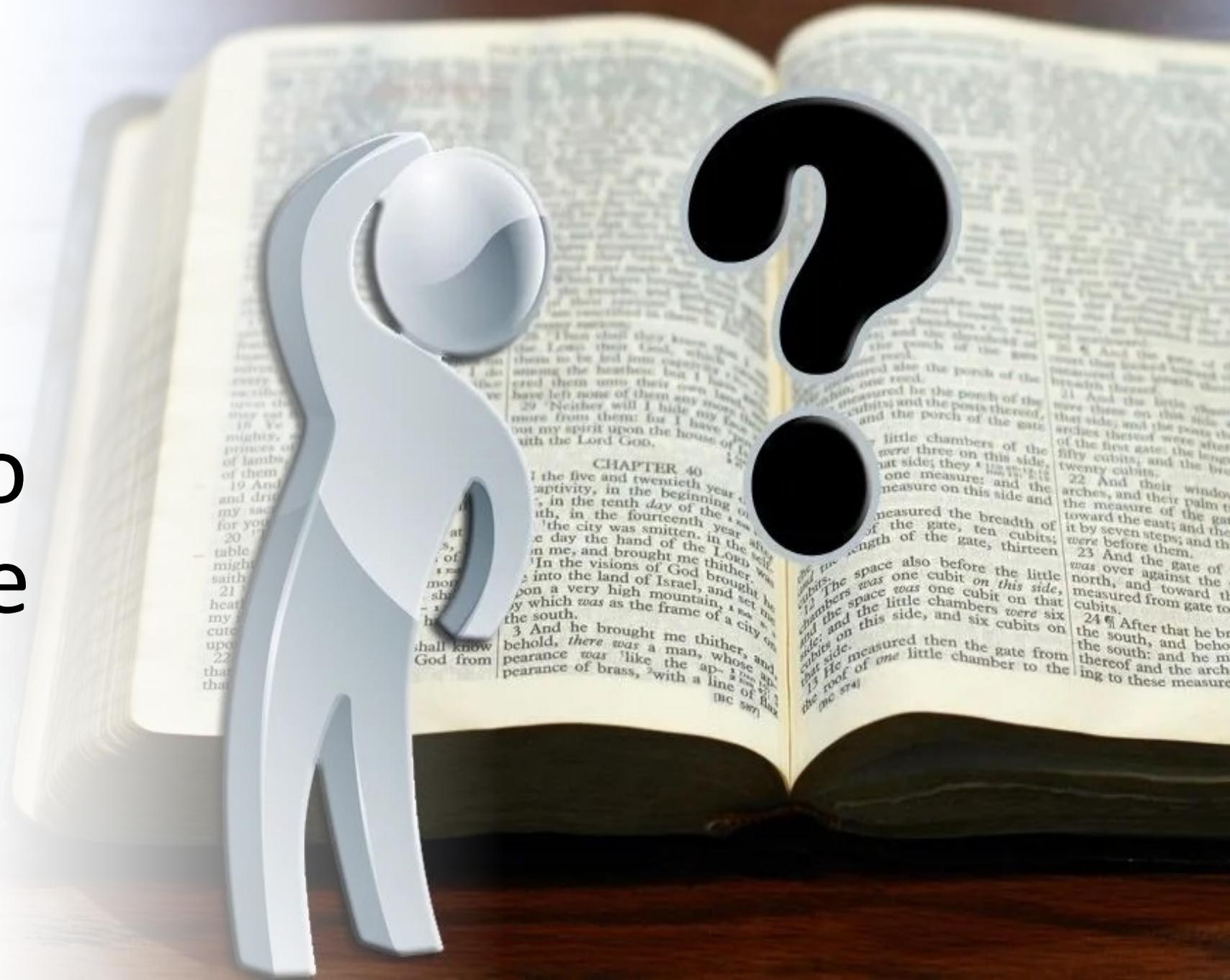
Psalm 139: 23-24 (NIV)

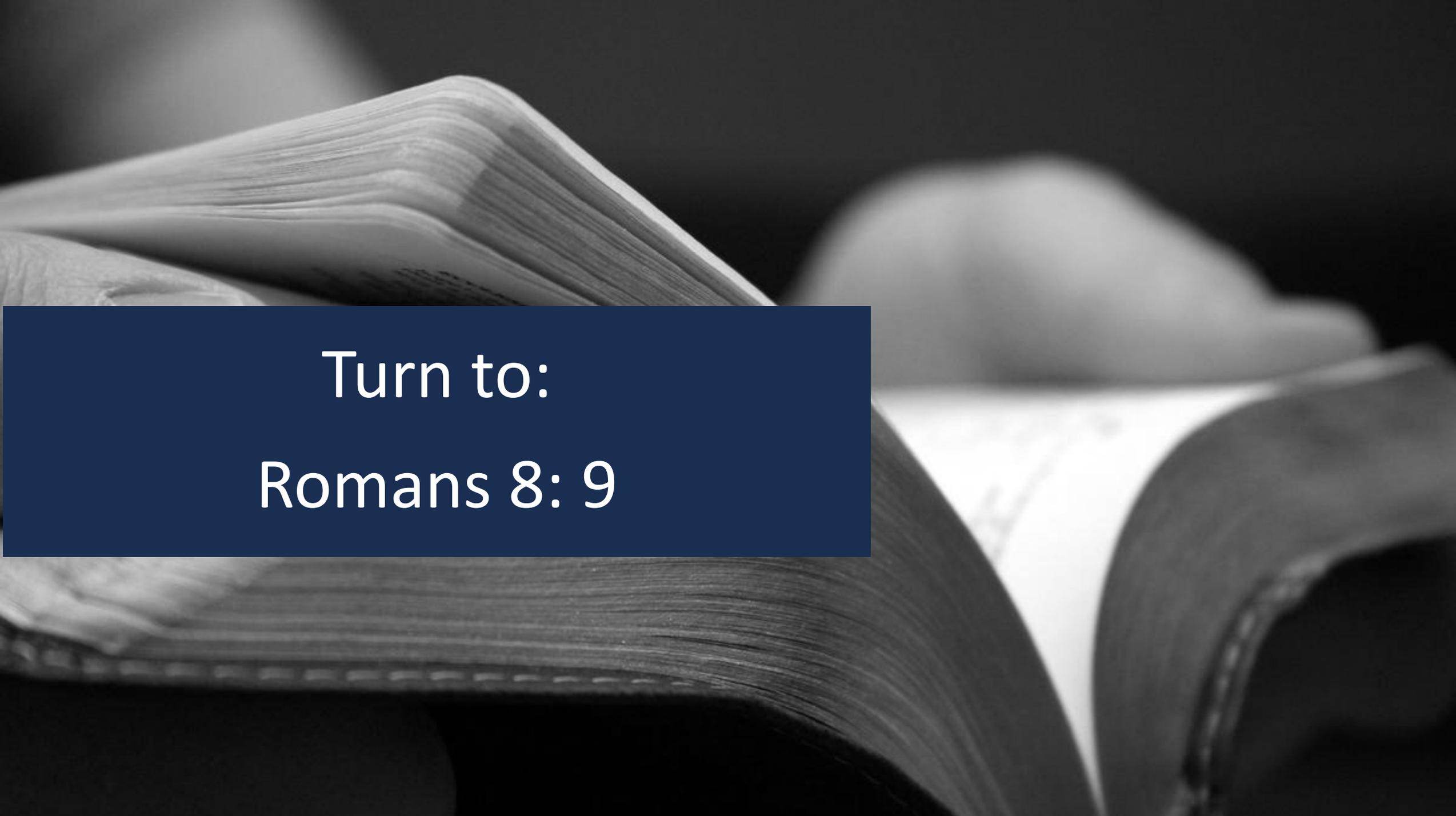
*Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

2 Corinthians 13: 5a (NIV)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.

How do you
examine
yourselves to
see if you are
in the faith?

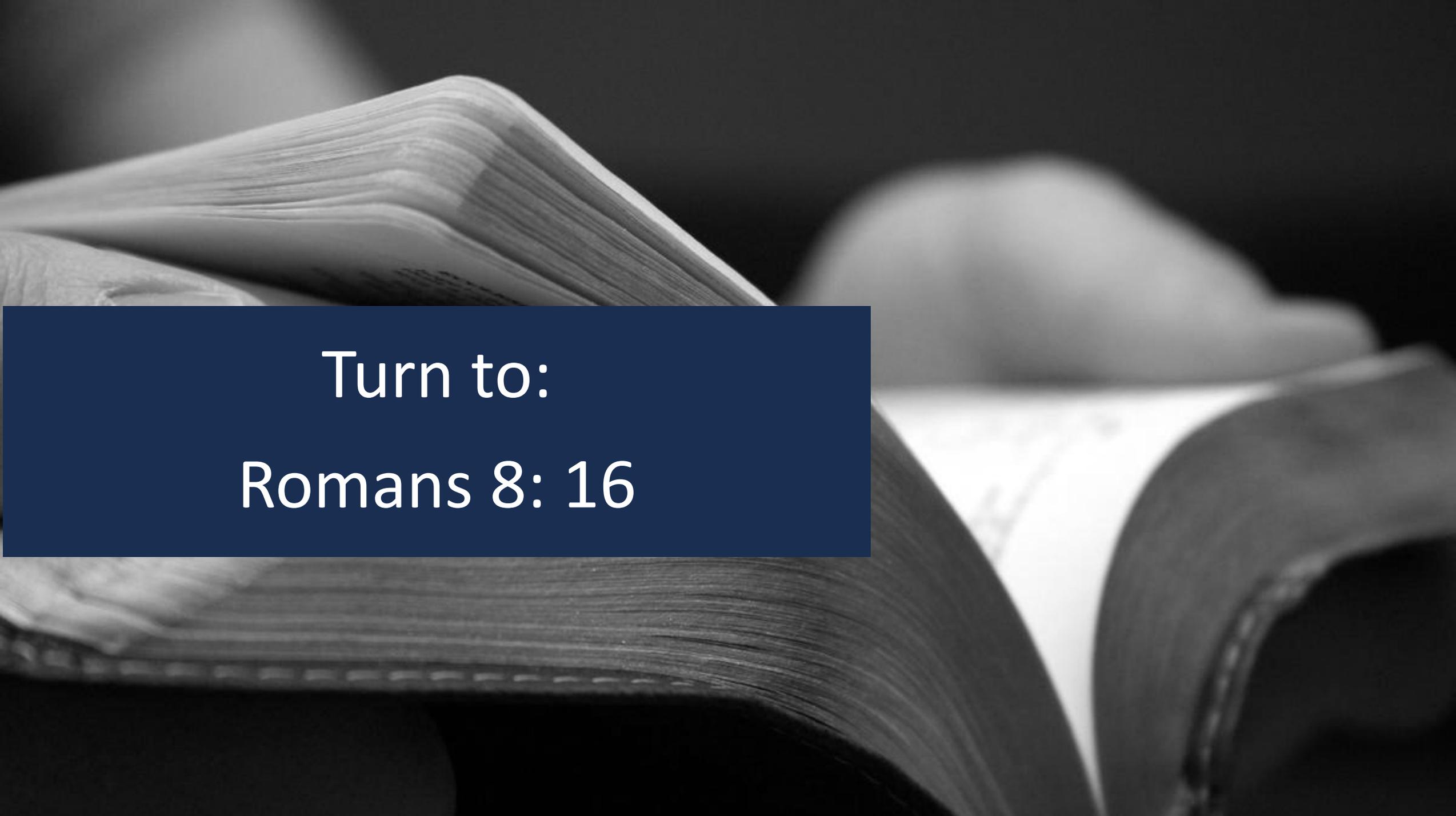


A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the text overlay being the primary focus. The background is dark, making the book stand out.

Turn to:
Romans 8: 9

Romans 8: 9 (NIV)

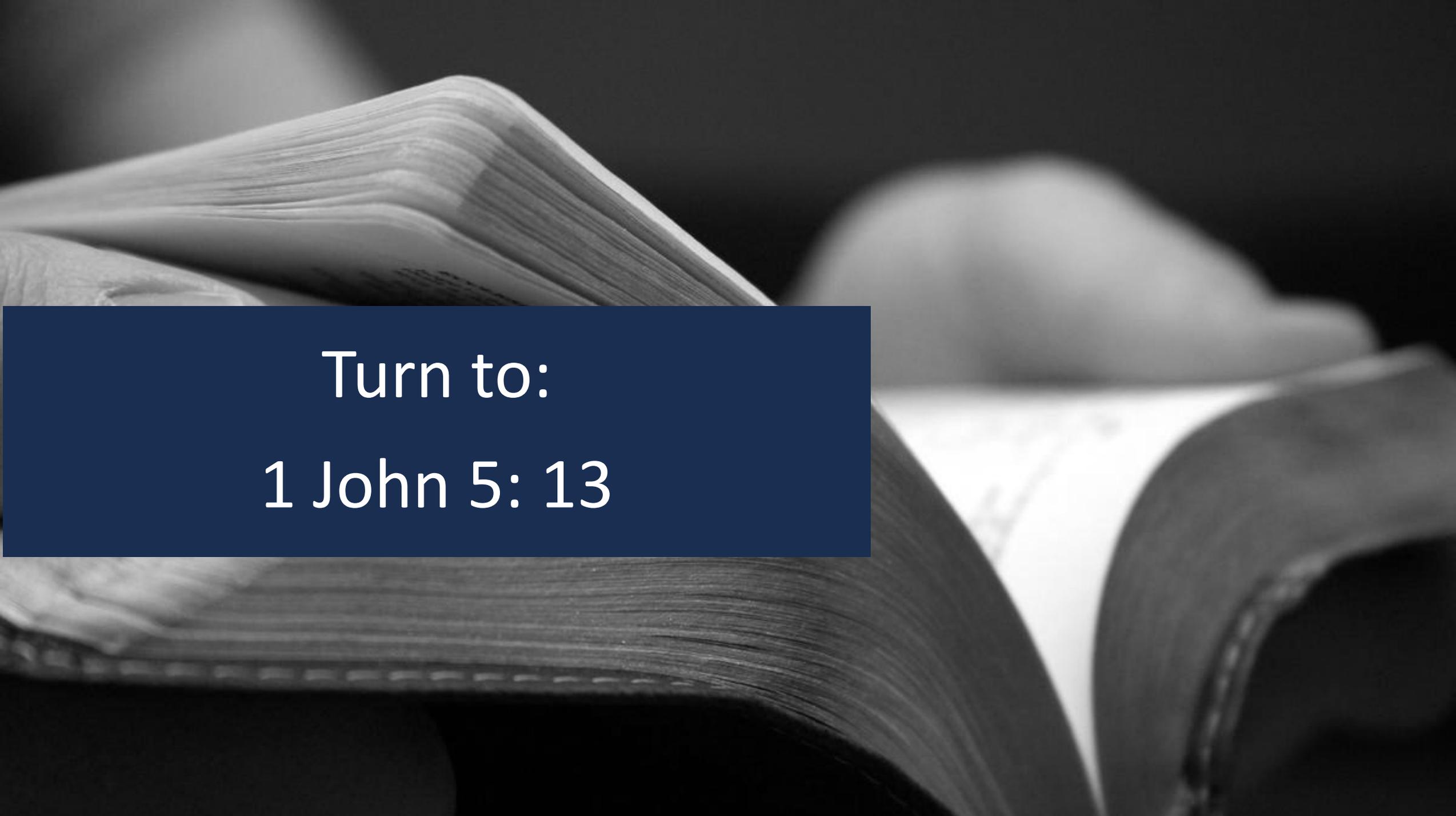
You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

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Turn to:
Romans 8: 16

Romans 8: 16 (NIV)

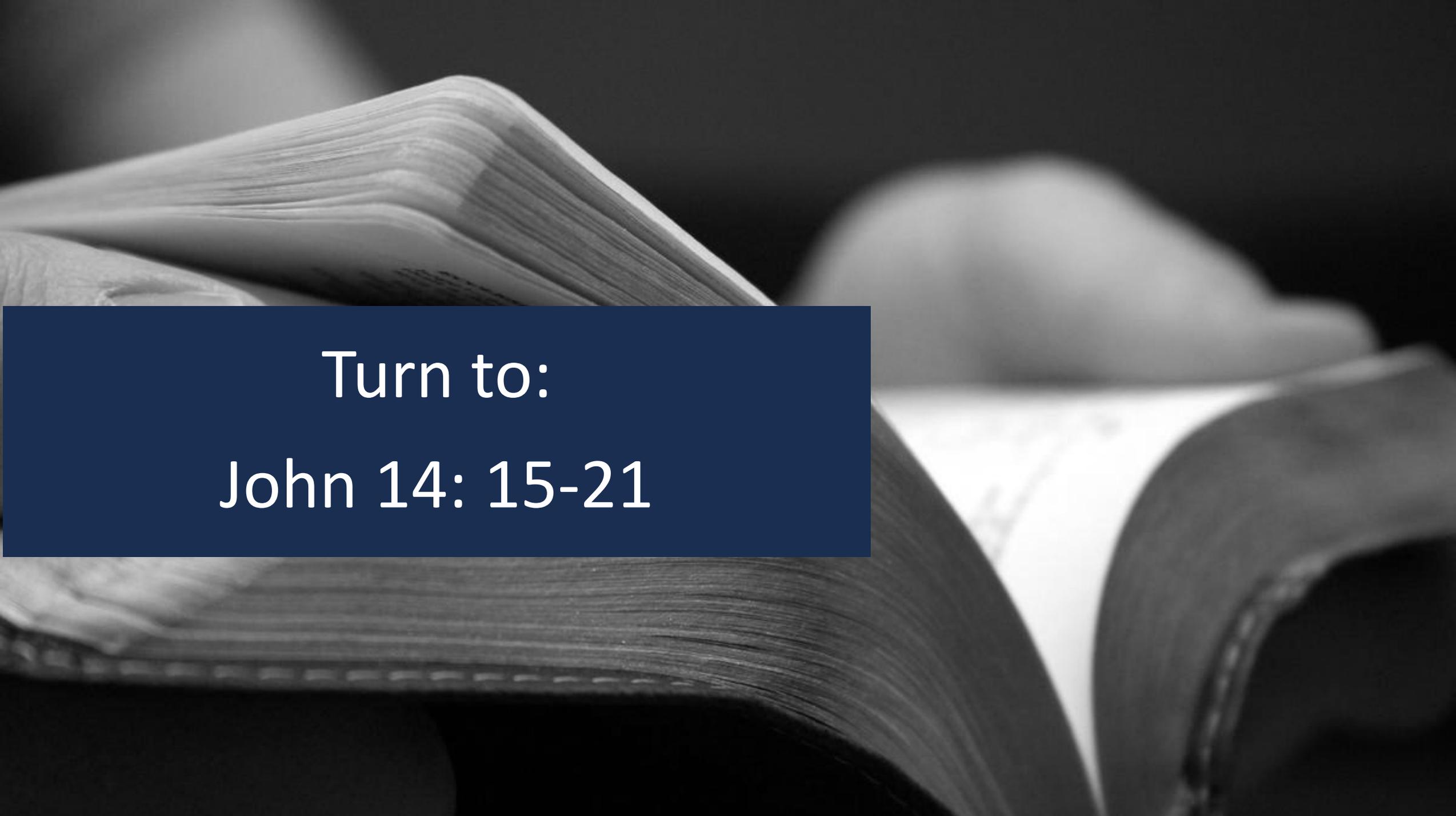
The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.



Turn to:
1 John 5: 13

1 John 5: 13 (NIV)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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Turn to:
John 14: 15-21

John 14: 15-21 (NIV)

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.

John 14: 15-21 (NIV)

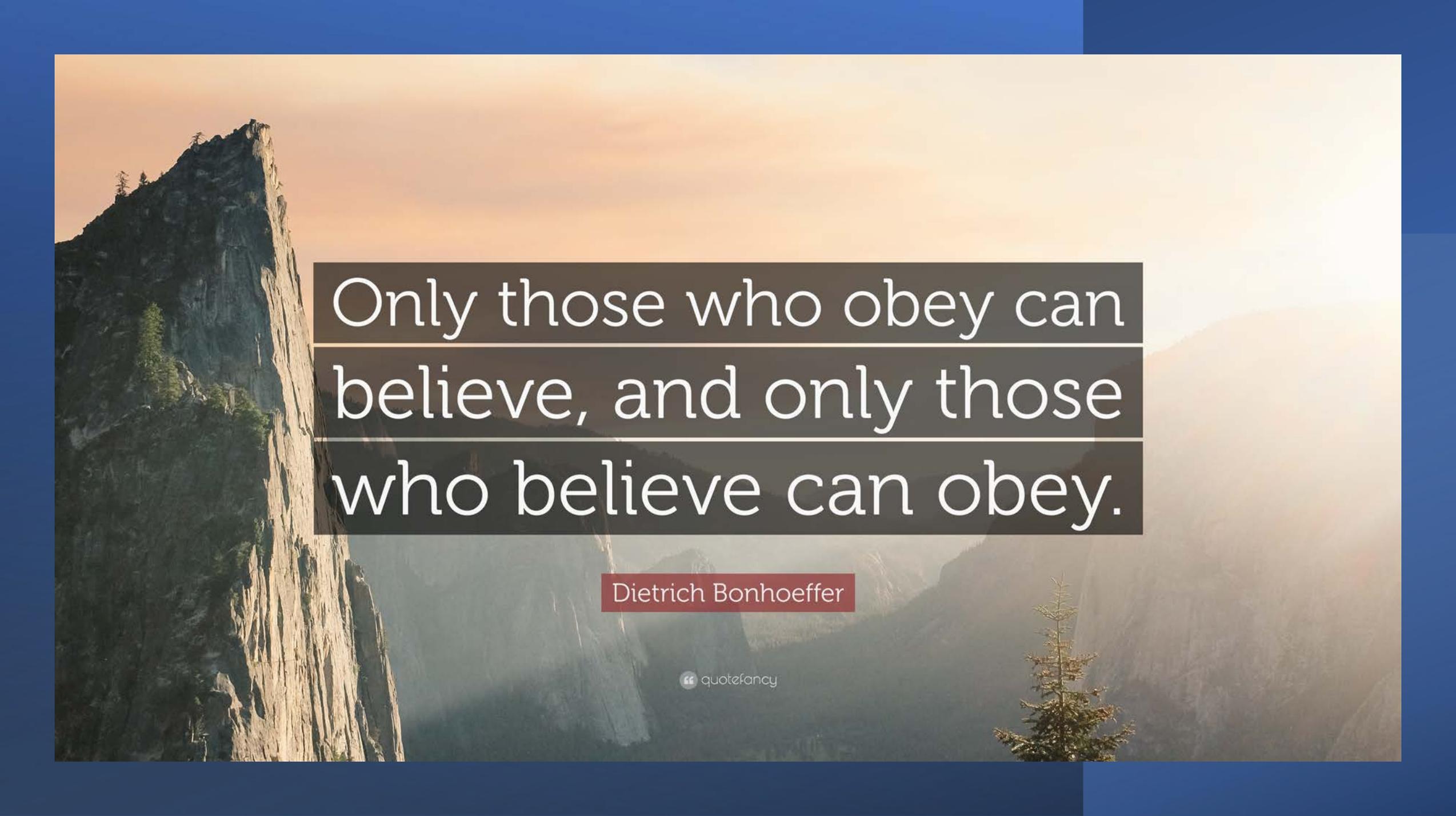
The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14: 15-21 (NIV)

Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 14: 15-21 (NIV)

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”



Only those who obey can
believe, and only those
who believe can obey.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“ quote fancy

2 Corinthians 13: 5a (NIV)

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves.***

Test

Greek: dokimazo

- To allow yourself to be reviewed
- To be inspected
- To present yourself for examination

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Turn to:
2 Corinthians 5: 17

2 Corinthians 5: 17 (NIV)

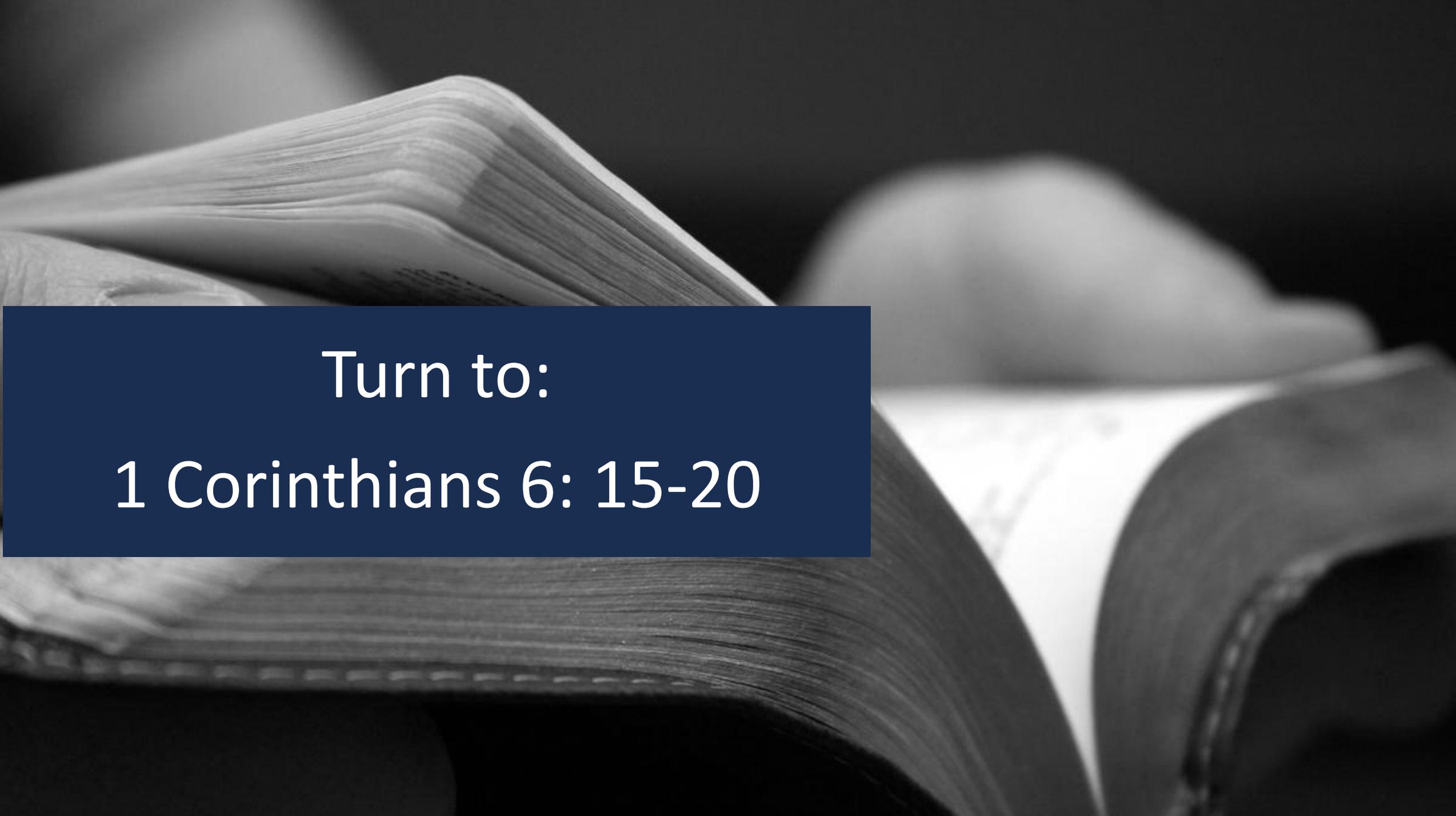
*Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 Corinthians 13: 5a (NIV)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—

How should
we live
knowing Christ
is living in us?



A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with a dark blue rectangular overlay in the center containing white text. The text reads "Turn to:" followed by "1 Corinthians 6: 15-20" on the next line.

Turn to:
1 Corinthians 6: 15-20

1 Corinthians 6: 15-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

1 Corinthians 6: 15-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6: 15-20 (NIV)

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

1 Corinthians 6: 15-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

What does it mean that we are not our own?



What does it mean that we were bought with a price?



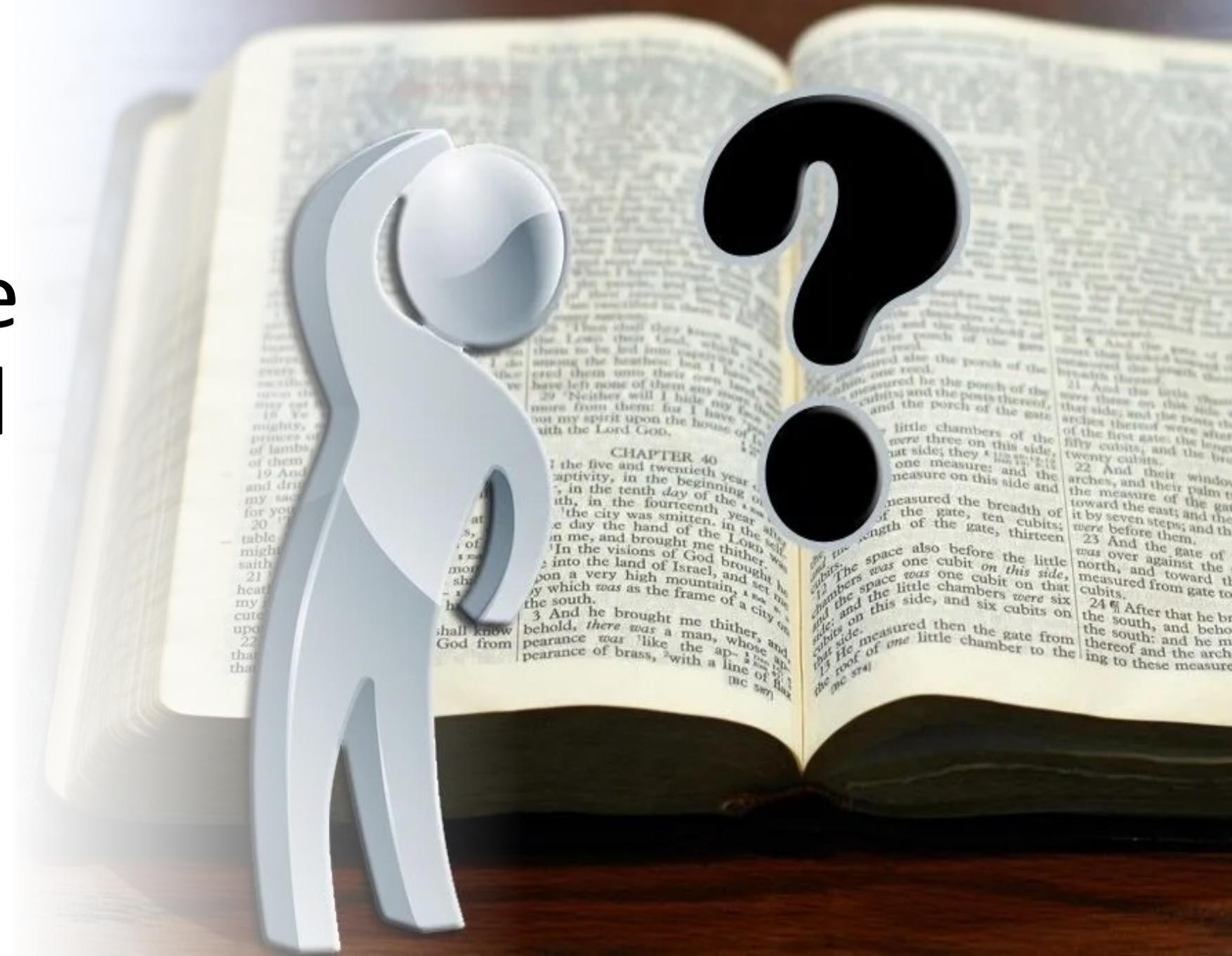
Who do we belong to?



1 Corinthians 6: 15-20 (NIV)

*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. **Therefore honor God with your bodies.***

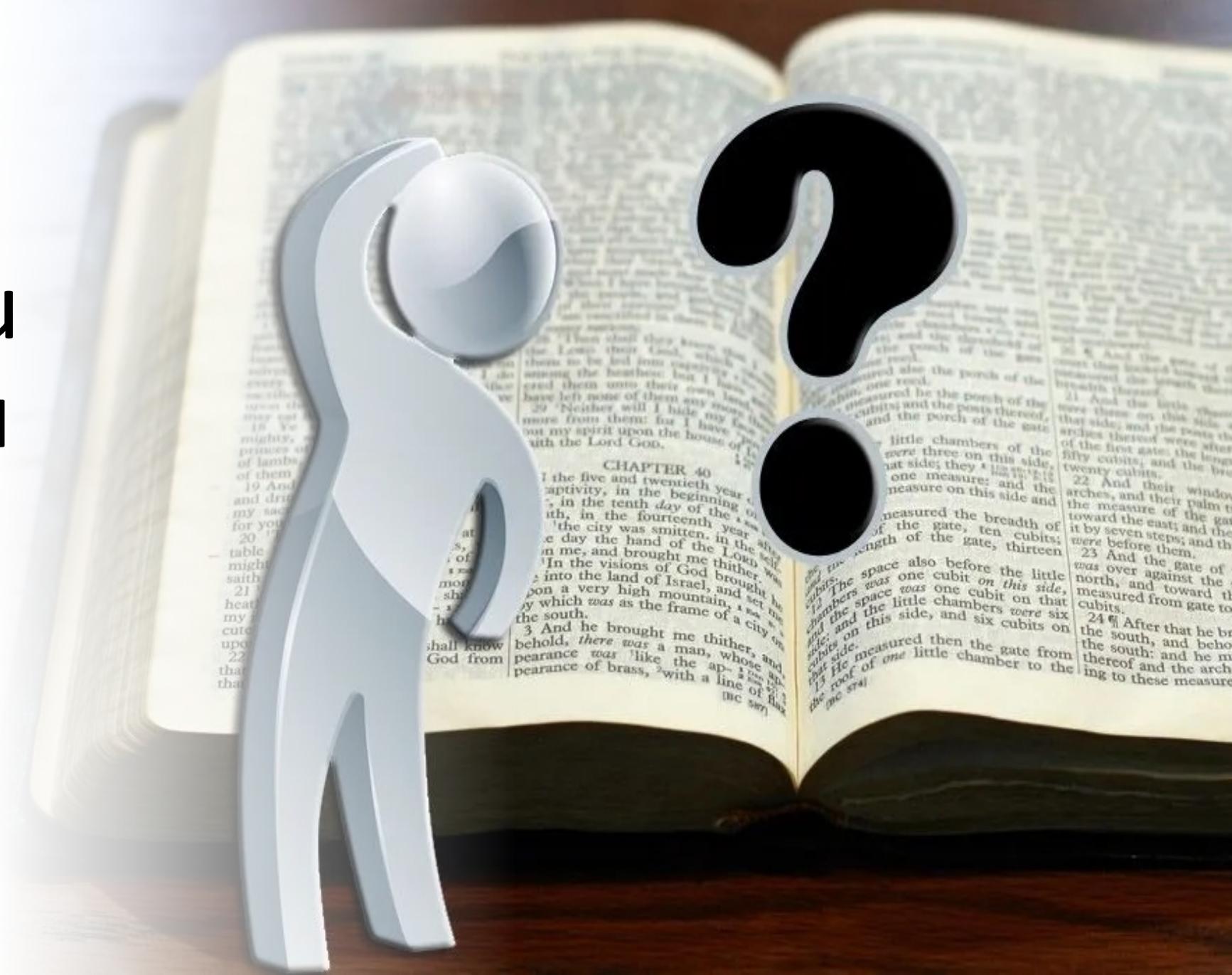
How do we
honor God
with our
bodies?



2 Corinthians 13: 5 (NIV)

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—**unless, of course, you fail the test?***

How do you know if you failed the test?



2 Corinthians 13: 6 (NIV)

*And I trust that you will discover that we
have not failed the test.*

Paul is also asking them to examine his
life and put him to the test!

2 Corinthians 13: 7 (NIV)

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

2 Corinthians 13: 8-9 (NIV)

For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored.

2 Corinthians 13: 10a (NIV)

*This is why I write these things when I am
absent,*

Do you
remember
why Paul
prefers to
confront the
Corinthians in
a letter rather
than in
person?



2 Corinthians 13: 10a (NIV)

This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!

Rejoice

Greek: chairó

- To rejoice
- To be glad
- To be joyful

2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! **Strive**
for full restoration*

Greek: katartizó

Strive for
full
restoration

- To be made complete
- To be fully trained
- To be prepared
- To mend
- To restore

2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another,

Encourage
one
another

Greek: parakaleó

- To encourage
- To exhort
- To admonish
- To comfort
- To build up

2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, **be of one mind,***

Be of one
mind

Greek: autos phroneó

- To have the same mind
- To have the same concerns
- To seek the same things
- To be unified
- To be in agreement

2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, **live in peace.***

Live in
peace

Greek: eiréneuó

- To bring peace
- To be at peace
- To live in peace

What happens
when the
Church lives
like this?



2 Corinthians 13: 11 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. **And the God of love and peace will be with you.***

2 Corinthians 13: 12-13 (NIV)

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

This has a very broad meaning as our culture and greetings have changed over the years.

Today this greeting would be a hug or a handshake.

The point is to demonstrate love, care and compassion for each other

2 Corinthians 13: 14 (NIV)

*May the grace of the Lord **Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.*

2 Corinthians 13: 14 (NIV)

*May the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*