

Salvation's Narrow Door
— The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30 —



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE



“I’m a Presbyterian Minister Who Doesn’t Believe in God”

John Shuck, Minister of Southminster Presbyterian Church
in Beaverton, Oregon



I think of Christianity as a culture. It has produced 2000 years of artifacts: literature, music, art, ethics, architecture, and (yes) beliefs. But cultures evolve, and Christianity will have to adapt in order to survive in the modern era. Many of those paths will be dead ends....



**I believe one of the newer religious paths
could be a 'belief-less' Christianity.**

**In this 'sect,' one is not required to believe
things.... But what about belief in God?**

**Can a belief-less Christianity really survive if
God isn't in the picture? Can you even call
that Christianity anymore? In theory, yes....**



Someone quipped that my congregation is BYOG: Bring Your Own God. I use that and invite people to ‘bring their own God’ — or none at all. While the symbol ‘God’ is part of our cultural tradition, you can take it or leave it or redefine it to your liking. That permission to be theological do-it-yourselfers is at the heart of belief-less Christianity.

— John Shuck, “I’m a Presbyterian Minister Who Doesn’t Believe in God” —



**“I don’t appreciate being told that
I’m not **truly** a Christian.”**

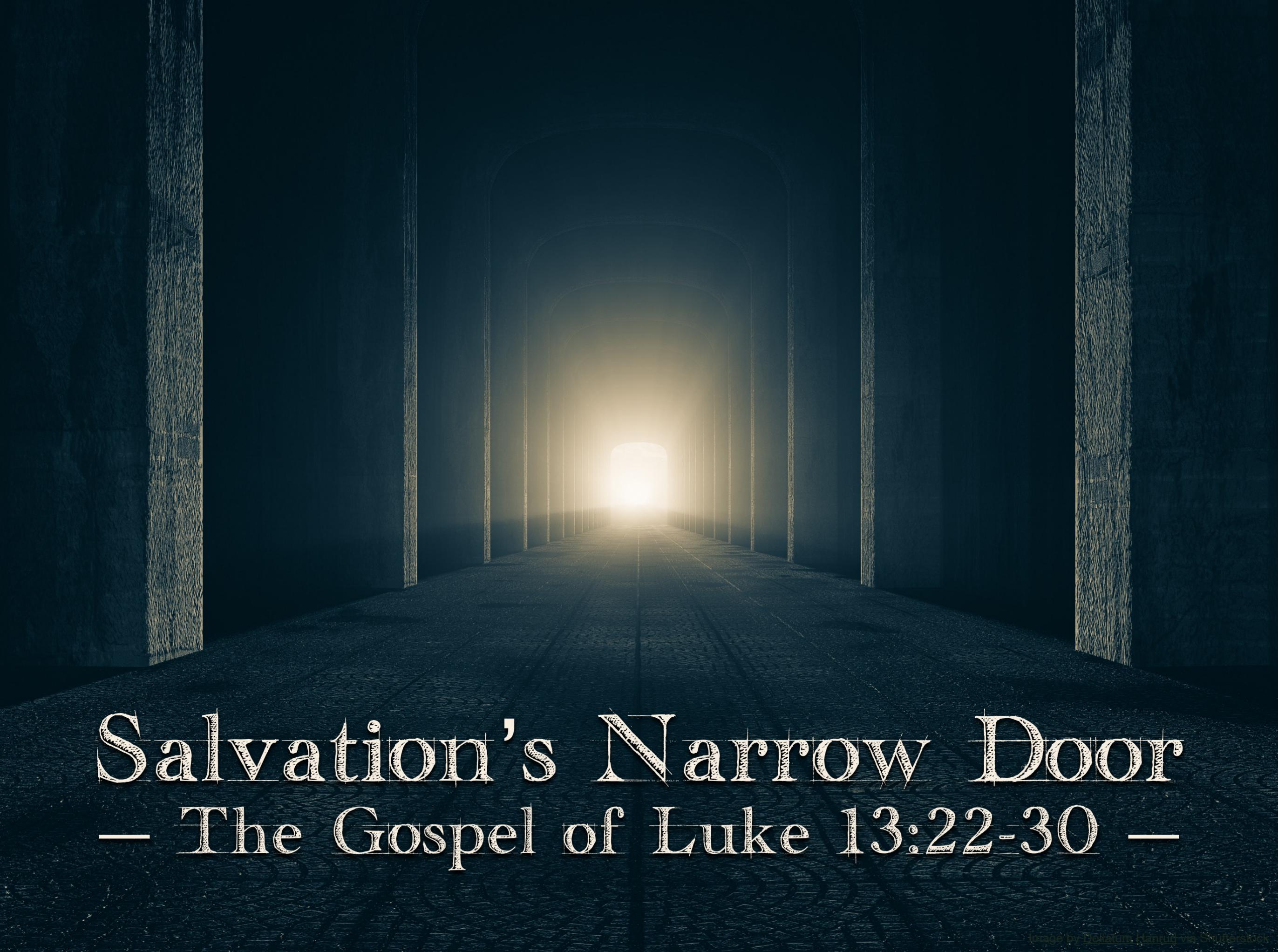
John Shuck, minister of Southminster Pres Church in Beaverton, Oregon
in “I’m a Presbyterian Minister Who Doesn’t Believe in God’

Key Thought

Jesus doesn't shy away from offending people if that means awakening them to the reality of God, sin, salvation, and the world to come. He interrupts DIY spirituality and has the audacity to place Himself at the very center of our lives.



**Heads up! We're
going to be looking
at one of the so-called
“hard sayings”
of Jesus.**



Salvation's Narrow Door
— The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30 —

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

22 He went on his way through the towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?”

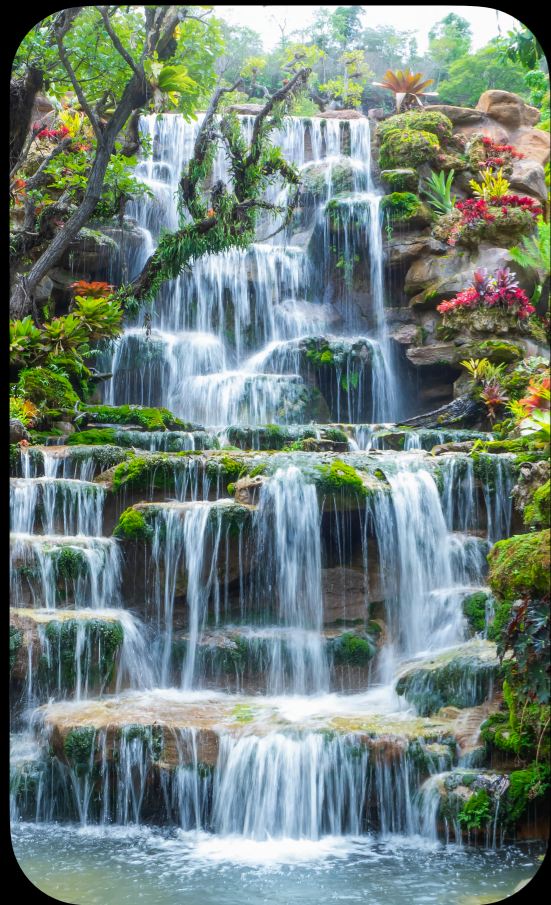
“All Israelites have a share
in the world to come.”

— Mishnah Sanhedrin 10.1 —



— The Four Part Story of the World —

Part 1



Creation

Part 2



Rebellion

Part 3



Part 4



Restoration

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

22 He went on his way through the towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?”

**Jesus, is it
possible for me
to enter the
kingdom of God**



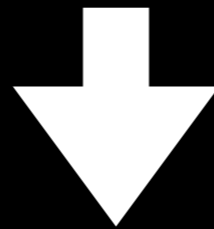
The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

And the Lord said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door....”

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

“Strive” = Greek: *agonizethe*
(ἀγωνίζεσθε)

“to endeavor with strenuous zeal”



**The door to the kingdom of God
is standing open before you.
Focus your attention and energy
on entering the narrow door now.**

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

LUKE 1-13

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

'Ralph Davis always unfolds the text with freshness, insight, and humor, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of what God is up to.'

Iain Duguid

DALE RALPH DAVIS

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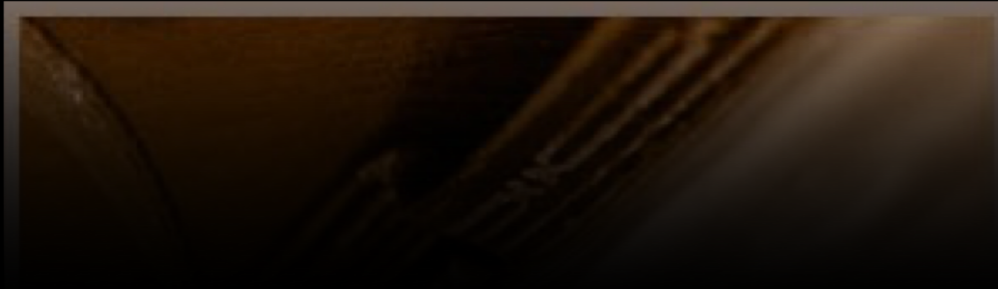
DALE RALPH DAVIS

**Jesus refuses to
allow this to be a
matter of curiosity
but makes it a
matter of urgency.**



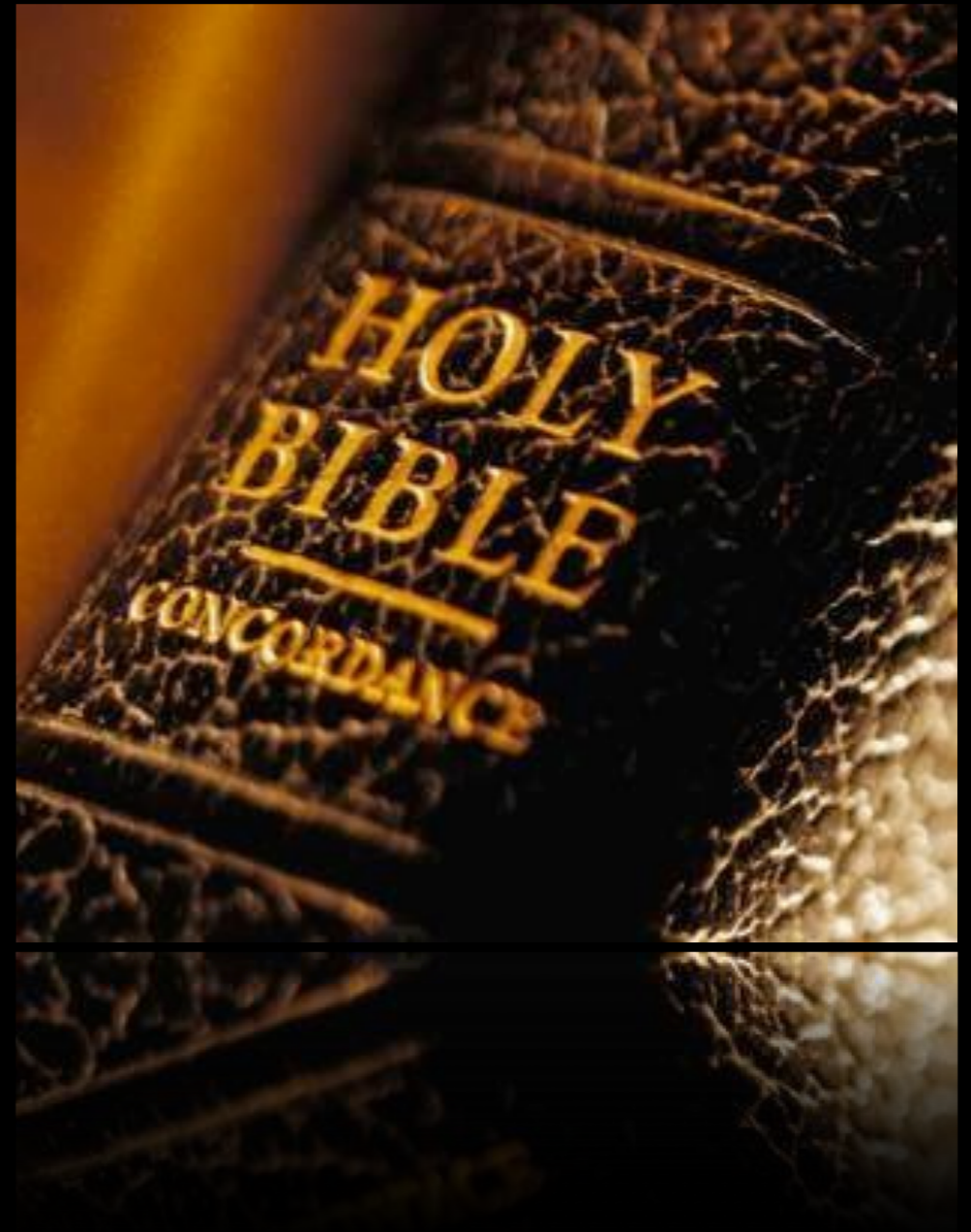
**I am the door.
If anyone enters
by me, he will be
saved....**

— Jesus of Nazareth —
The Gospel of John 10:9



**I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one
comes to the Father
except through me.**

— Jesus of Nazareth —
The Gospel of John 14:6





**This is what I don't like
about Christianity.
It's too exclusive.
I believe any
sincerely good person
can find salvation.**

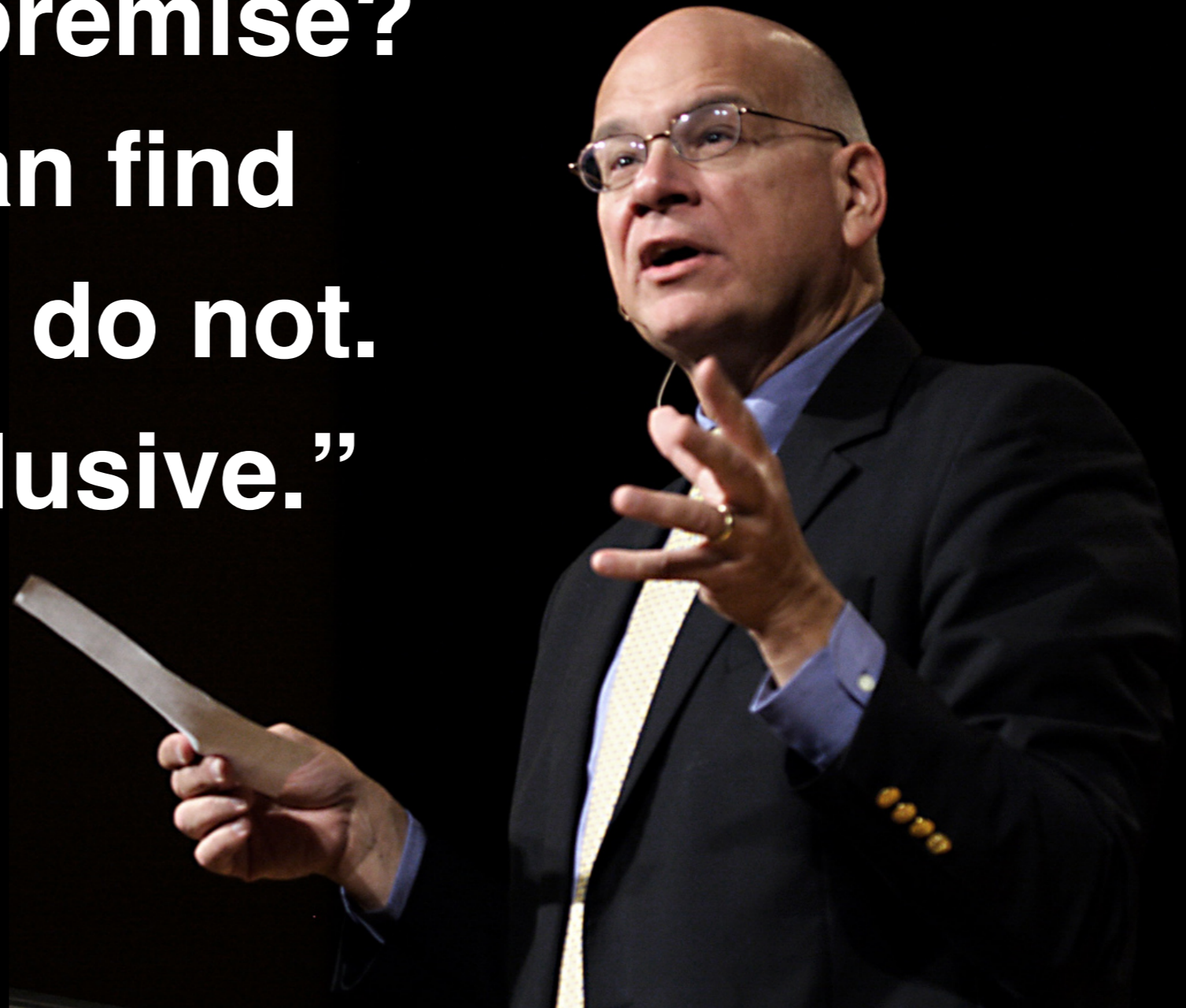
**It sounds very open-minded to say,
“I believe that any good person can
find God, not just Christians.”**

But what is the premise?

**That the good can find
God and the bad do not.**

That’s very “exclusive.”

Very.

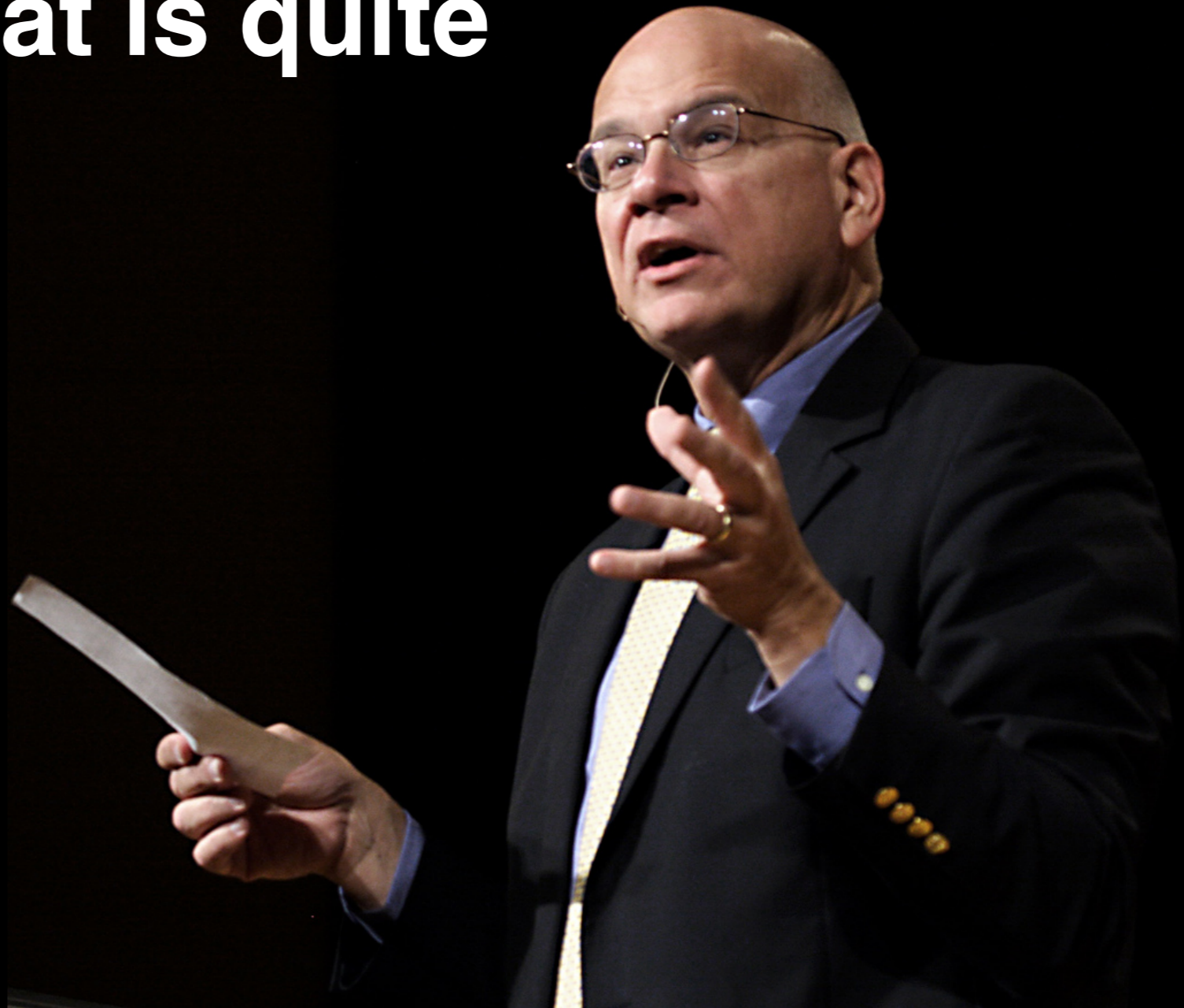


If you don't have to believe in Jesus to find God, then good works are enough. And if good works are enough, then God accepts people through performance.



Everyone knows that somewhere there is a “cut-off” point for moral performance, or goodness of heart, etc. But that is quite exclusive.

Tim Keller



**All the great religions
of the world and all
the DIY spiritualities
of mankind embrace
“moralism,” with
the only exception
being Jesus.**





**THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS,
NO, NOT ONE;
NO ONE SEEKS FOR GOD.**

— Romans 3:10-11 —

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and not be able. 25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you will begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer, ‘I do not know where you are from....’

Key Thought

If folks are asked, “If heaven exists, would you want to go there?”, many would undoubtedly say yes.

But if you were to say, “Jesus says you must turn from living for yourself and turn to God,” many will respond, “Uh, no thanks. I prefer my own DIY spirituality.”

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27 But he will say to you, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from. **Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’**

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

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THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

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**Familiarity with
Jesus is not the
same as having
a place in the
kingdom of God.**

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see **Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves cast out.**”

The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30

29 And people will come from the east and the west, and from the north and the south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

**Lord, are
there few
who will be
saved?**



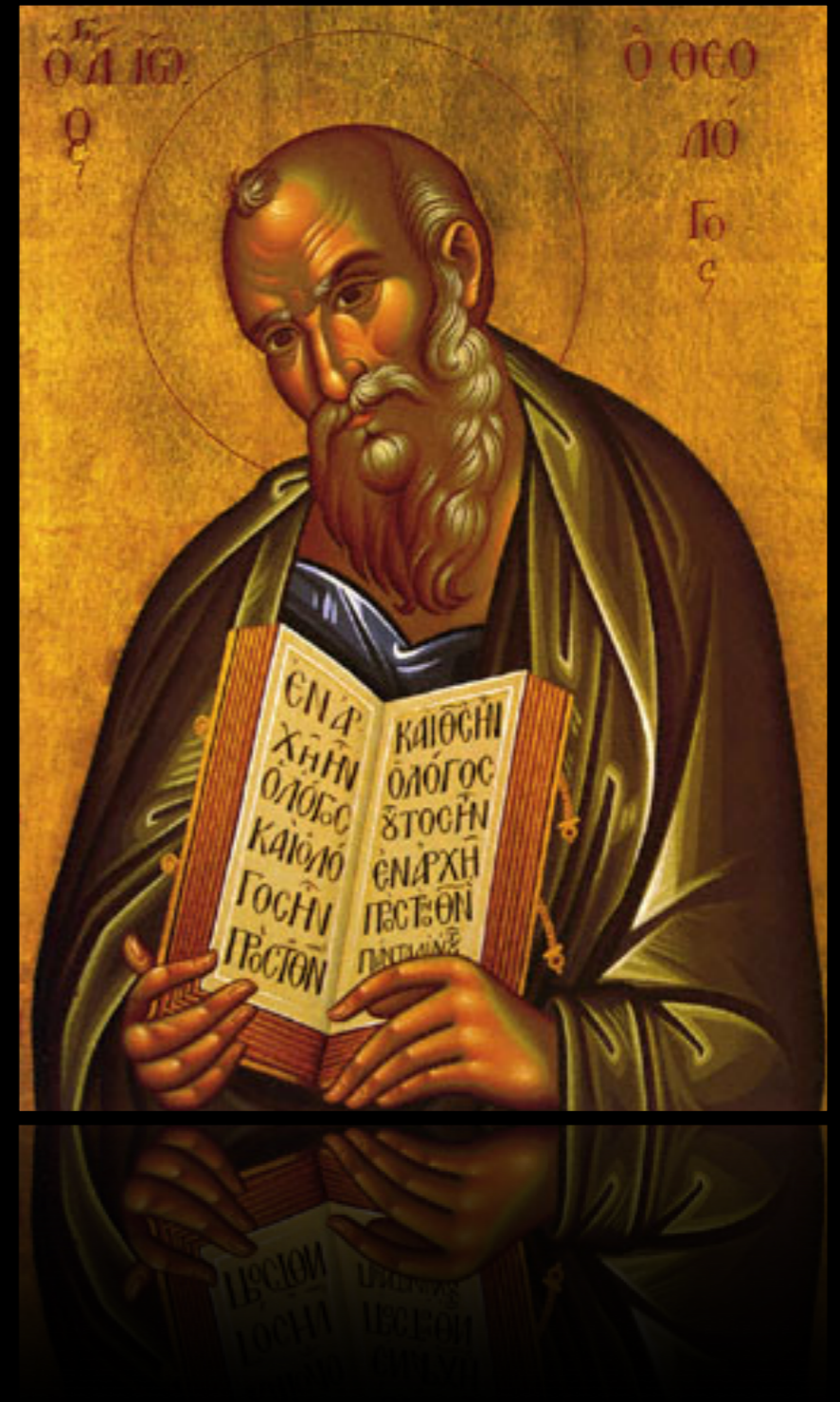
The Answer

A lot fewer than one would expect, but far, far more than one would imagine.

HT: Ralph Davis

**He came to his own, and
his own people did not
receive him. But to all who
did receive him, to those
who believed in his name,
he gave the right to
become children of God....**

— The Apostle John —
The Gospel of John 1:11-12



**After this I looked, and behold, a
great multitude that no one could
number, from every nation, from all
tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and
before the Lamb,**



**clothed in white robes, with palm
branches in their hands, and
crying out with a loud voice,
“Salvation belongs to our God
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”**

— Revelation 7:9-10 —



Important Question

Why does Luke record this episode in his historical biography of Jesus?

**Because Jesus is
salvation's door,
His invitation
we can't ignore.**

A perspective view of a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel is flanked by tall, textured pillars that recede into the distance. At the far end of the tunnel, a bright, glowing light source creates a strong lens flare, illuminating the path ahead. The floor of the tunnel is dark and textured, with a central line leading towards the light.

Enter Through
The Narrow Door

**The wages of
sin is death,
but the free gift
of God is
eternal life in
Christ Jesus.**

The Apostle Paul
Romans 6:23





“Come, Ye Sinners”
by Joseph Hart

**Come, ye sinners
poor and needy
Weak and wounded
sick and sore
Jesus ready
stands to save you
Full of pity
joined with power**



“Come, Ye Sinners”
by Joseph Hart

**Come, ye weary
heavy laden
Lost and ruined
by the Fall
If you tarry till
your better
You will never
come at all**



“Come, Ye Sinners”
by Joseph Hart

**I will rise and
go to Jesus
He will save me
from my sin
By the riches
of His merit
There is joy and
life in Him**

**For you have heard of my
former life in Judaism,
how I violently persecut-
ed the church of God and
tried to destroy it.**

**I was advancing in
Judaism beyond many of
my own age among my
people, so extremely
zealous was I for the
traditions of my fathers.**



The Apostle Paul
— Galatians 1:13-14 —

**Even though I was once
a blasphemer and a
persecutor and a violent
man, I was shown mercy
because I acted in
ignorance and unbelief.
The grace of our Lord
was poured out on me
abundantly, along with
the faith and love that
are in Christ Jesus.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 1:13-16 —

**Here is a trustworthy
saying that deserves full
acceptance: Christ
Jesus came into the
world to save sinners —
of whom I am the worst.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 1:13-16 —

**But for that very reason
I was shown mercy so
that in me, the worst of
sinners, Christ Jesus
might display his
immense patience as an
example for those who
would believe in him
and receive eternal life.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 1:13-16 —

**THE GOSPEL IS
"GOOD NEWS!"**

**IT'S "BREAKING NEWS"
THAT WHOSOEVER
BELIEVES IN JESUS,
MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE,
MAY BE SAVED,
MAY ENTER THE KINGDOM.**





**JESUS TAKES
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR OUR SINS**



**FOR ALL HAVE SINNED
AND FALL SHORT OF
THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY
HIS GRACE AS A GIFT,
THROUGH THE
REDEMPTION THAT IS
IN CHRIST JESUS.**

- ROMANS 3:23 -



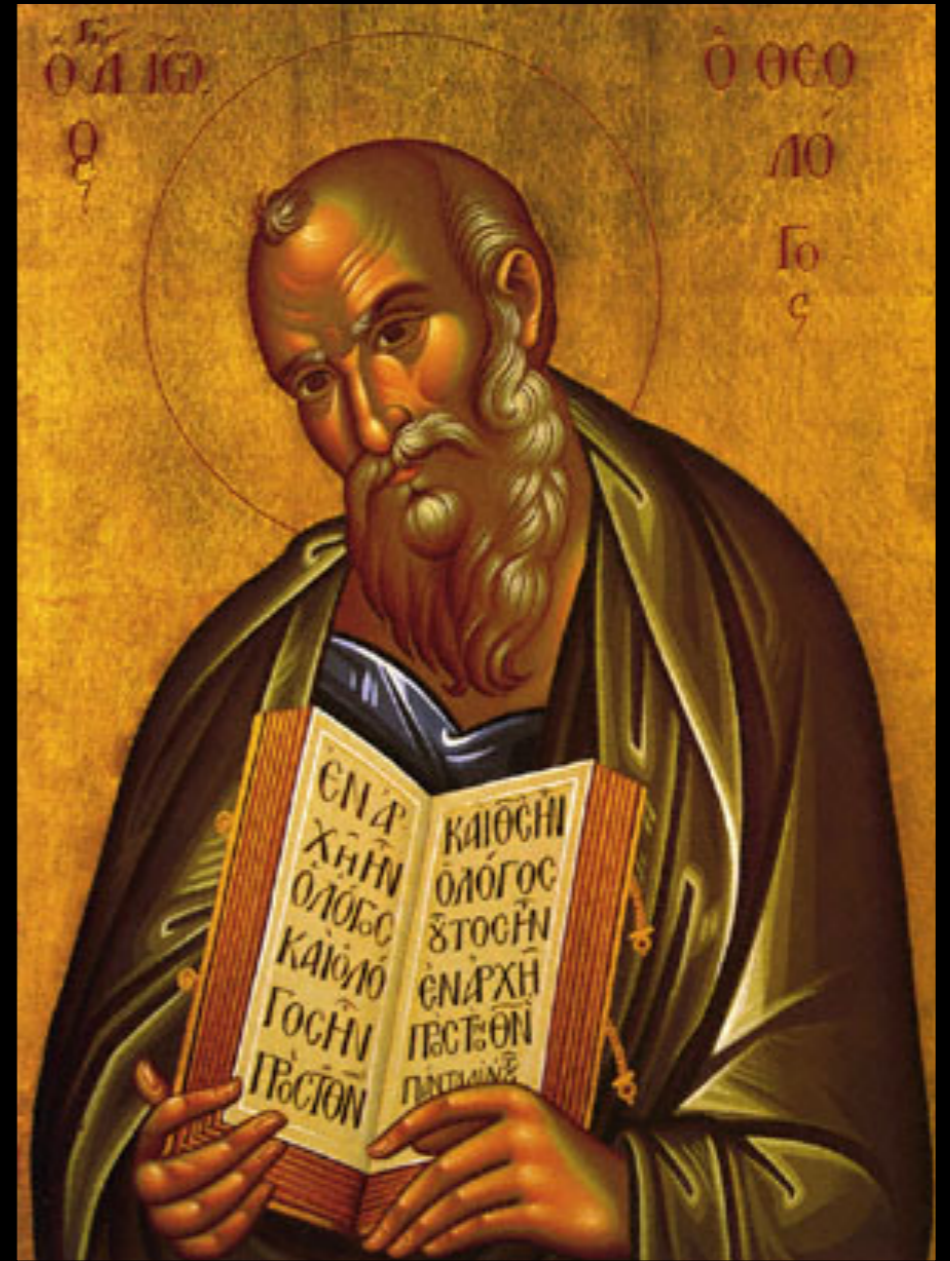
**Just as I am
without one plea
but that Thy blood
was shed for me
And that Thou bidst
me come to Thee
O Lamb of God
I come, I come**



Find Your Courage
To Follow Jesus.

**For God so loved
the world that He
gave His only Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
might not perish,
but have eternal life.**

The Words of Jesus
in the Gospel of John 3:16

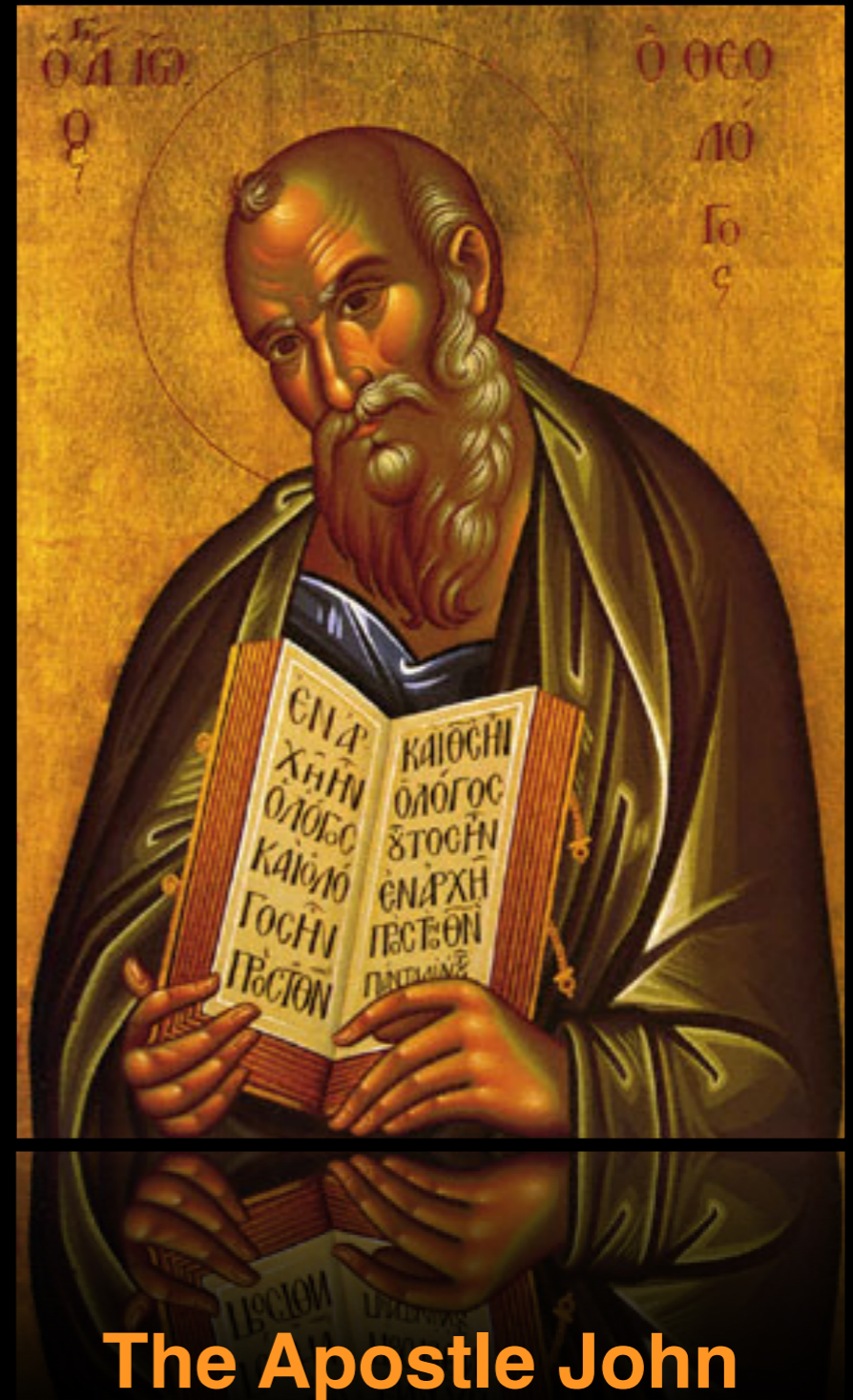


“I’m a Presbyterian Minister Who Doesn’t Believe in God”



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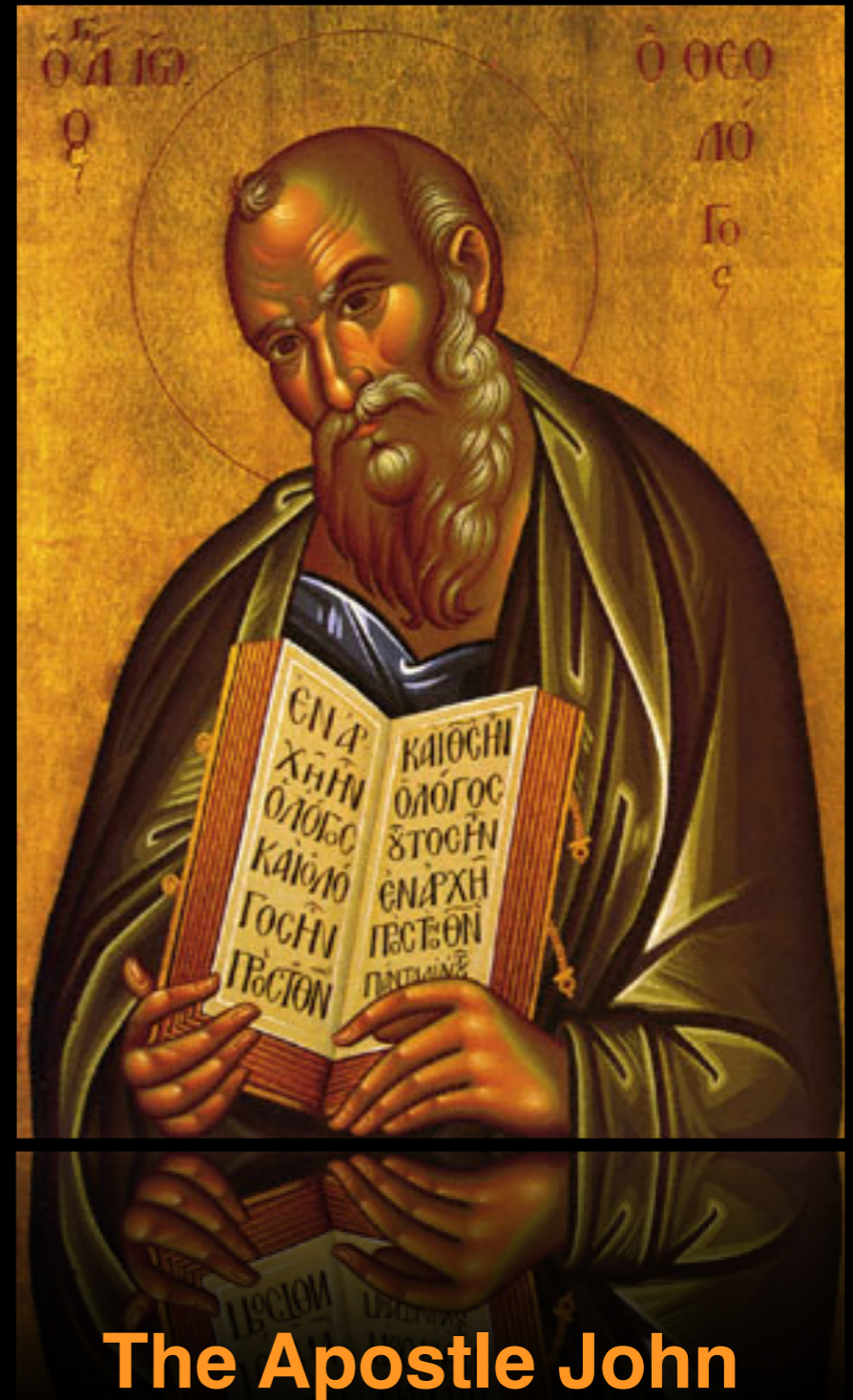
**If we receive the
testimony of men, the
testimony of God is
greater, for this is the
testimony of God that
he has borne con-
cerning his Son.
Whoever believes in
the Son of God has the
testimony in himself.**



The Apostle John

1 John 5:9-12

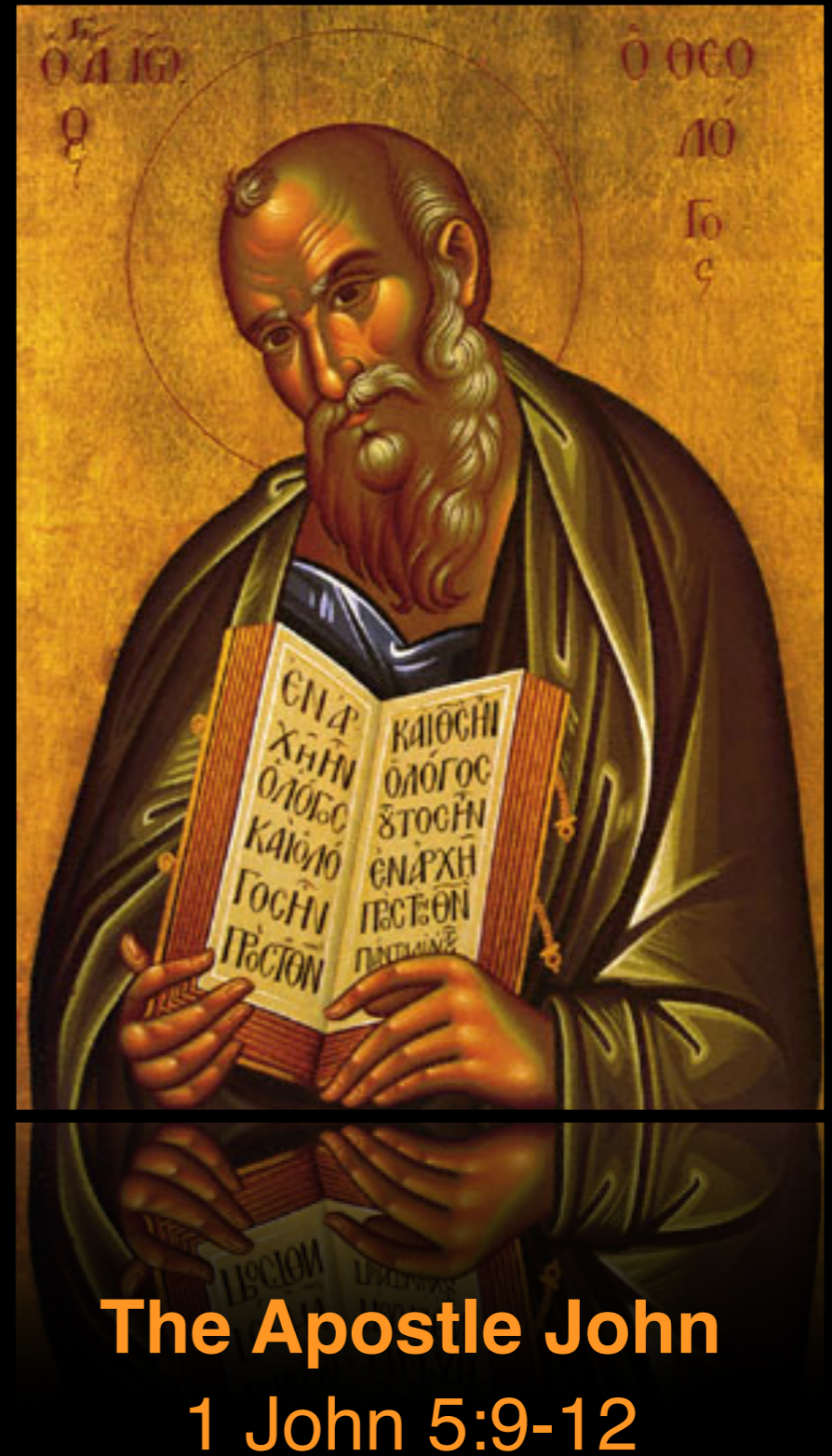
**Whoever does not
believe God has
made him a liar,
because he has not
believed in the
testimony that God
has borne
concerning his Son.**



The Apostle John

1 John 5:9-12

**And this is the
testimony, that God
gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his
Son. Whoever has
the Son has life;
whoever does not
have the Son of God
does not have life.**



The Apostle John

1 John 5:9-12



**I still don't like the idea
of there being only "one
door" to heaven....**

Is Jesus

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graph TD; A[Is Jesus] --> B((Crazy?)); A --> C((Telling the truth?)); A --> D((Lying?))
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Crazy?

**Telling
the
truth?**

Lying?

**For I am not ashamed
of the gospel, for it is
the power of God for
salvation to everyone
who believes....**

The Apostle Paul
— Romans 1:16 —



**The thing that keeps
me on my knees is
the difference
between grace
and karma.**



— Bono —

At the center of all religions is the idea of karma. You know, what you put out comes back on you.... And yet along comes this idea called grace to upend all that....



— Bono —

Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff.... I'd be in big trouble if karma was going to finally be my judge.



— Bono —

Interviewer:
**“The Son of God who
takes away the sins
of the world. I wish I
could believe in that.”**

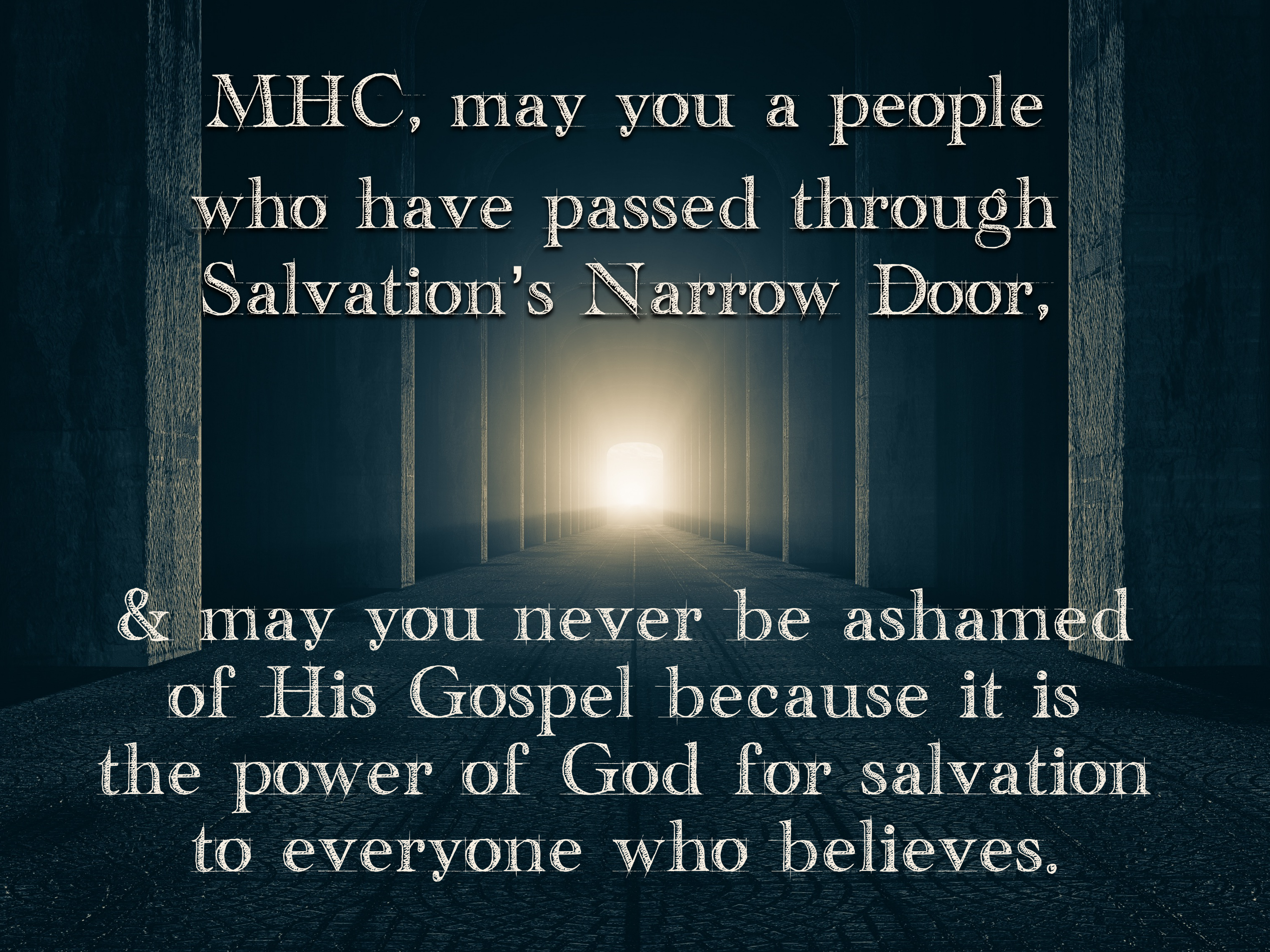


— Bono —

**The point of the death
of Christ is that Christ
took on the sins of the
world, so that what we
put out does not come
back to us. It's not our
good works that get us
through the gates of
heaven.**



— Bono —



MHC, may you a people
who have passed through
Salvation's Narrow Door,

& may you never be ashamed
of His Gospel because it is
the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes.