



Rescued

God's Plan For Redemption Revealed In Romans
Week 20 - The Debts You Owe

Mark Petersburg — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, June 7, 2026

Debt

- 1. Something that is owed**
- 2. A liability or obligation to pay or render something**
- 3. The condition of being under such an obligation**

Three Institutions

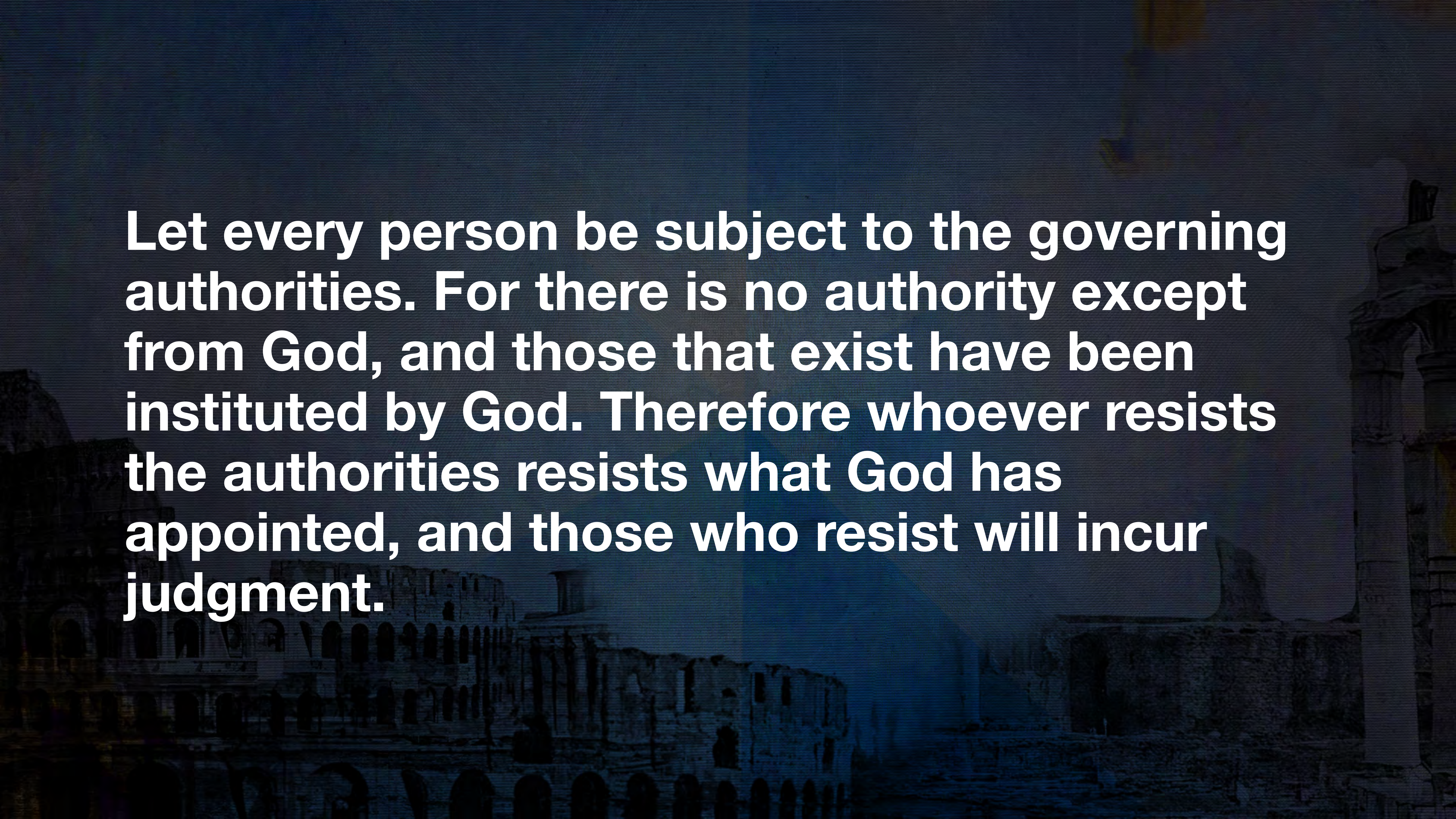
1. Family

2. Government

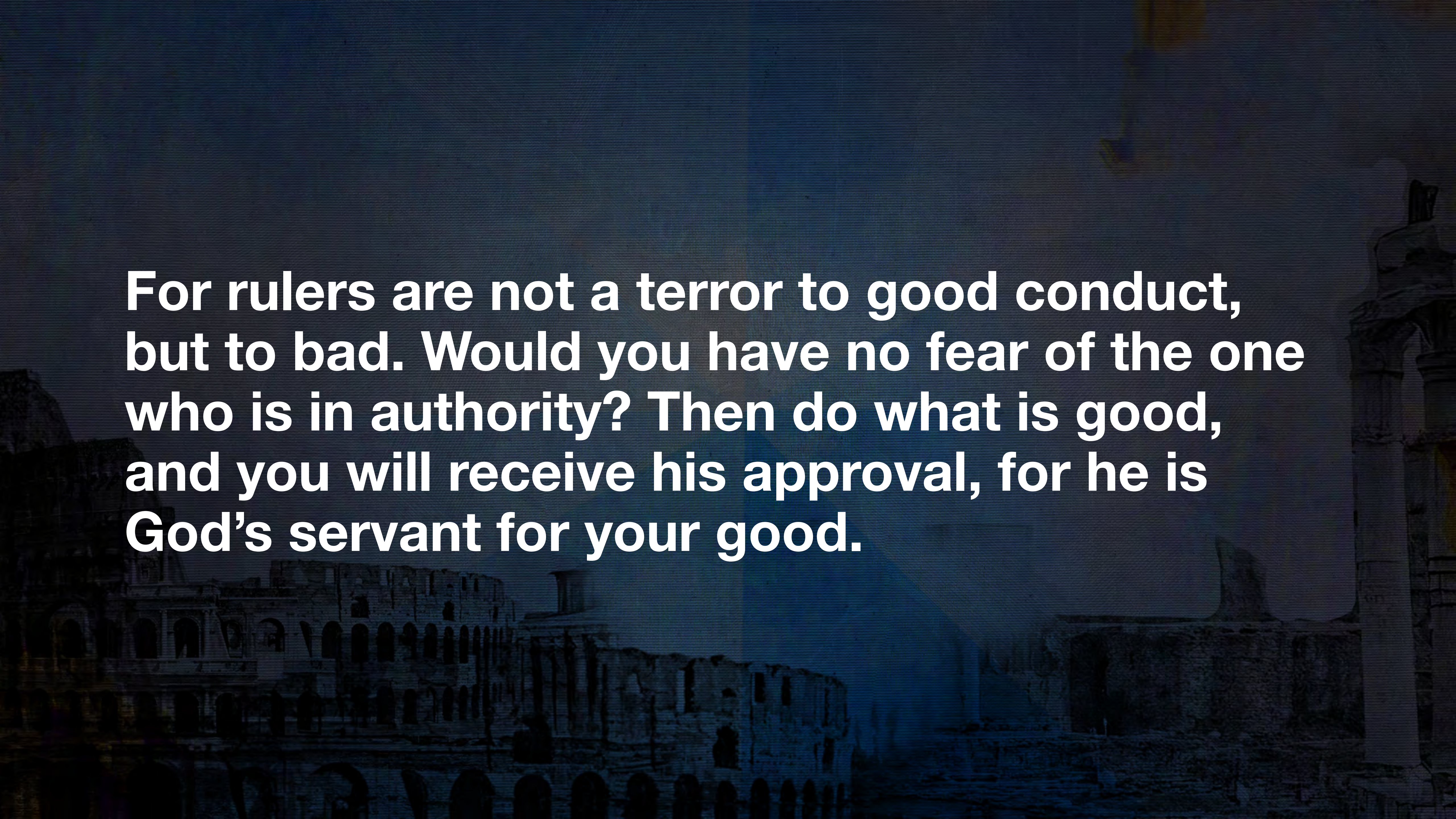
3. Church

What You Owe To Government - Public Debt

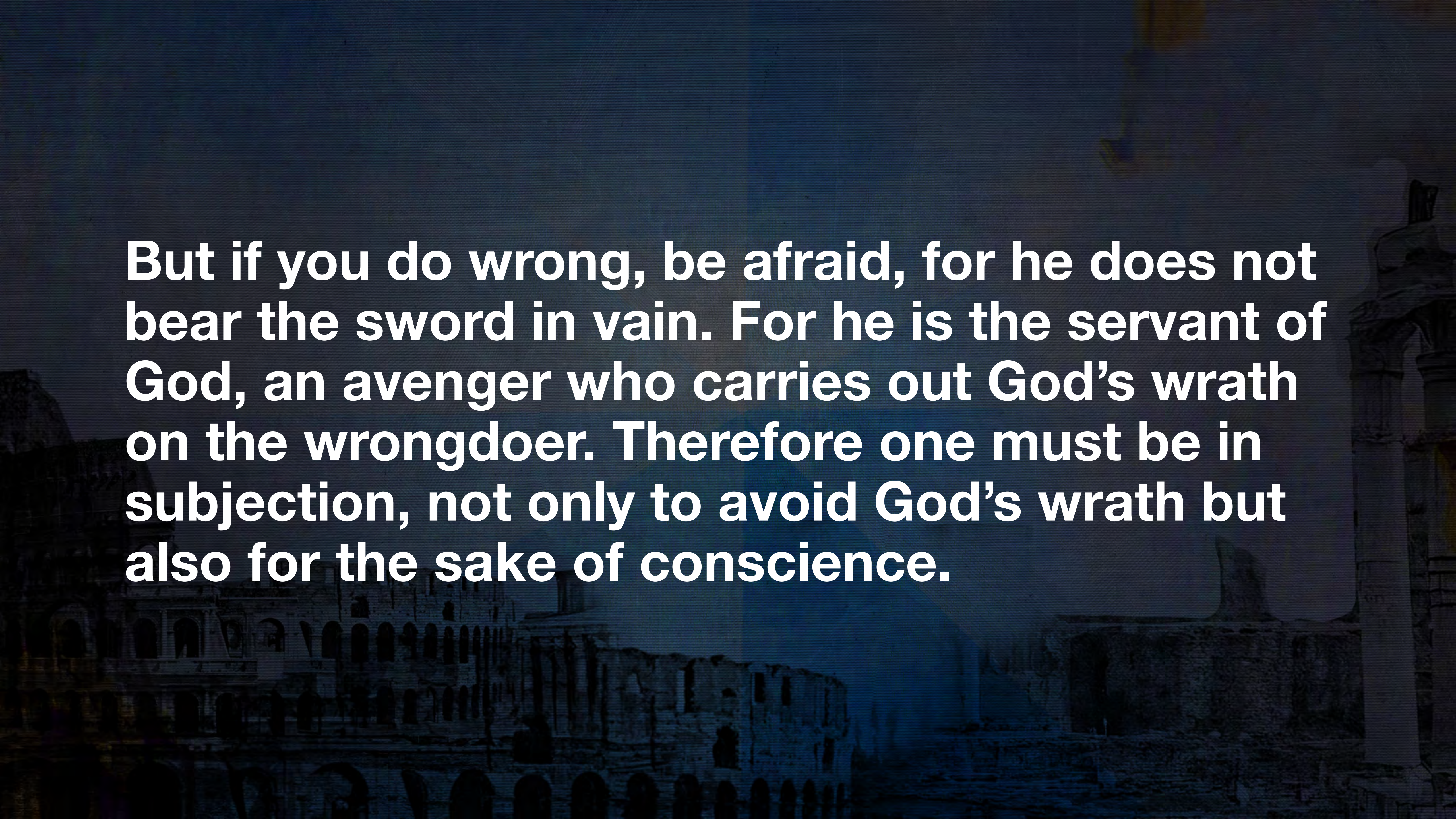
The background of the slide is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of the Colosseum in Rome. The structure's iconic arches and tiered seating are visible, though the lighting is low, creating a somber and historical atmosphere. The title text is centered horizontally and vertically over the image.



Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.



**For rulers are not a terror to good conduct,
but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one
who is in authority? Then do what is good,
and you will receive his approval, for he is
God's servant for your good.**



But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

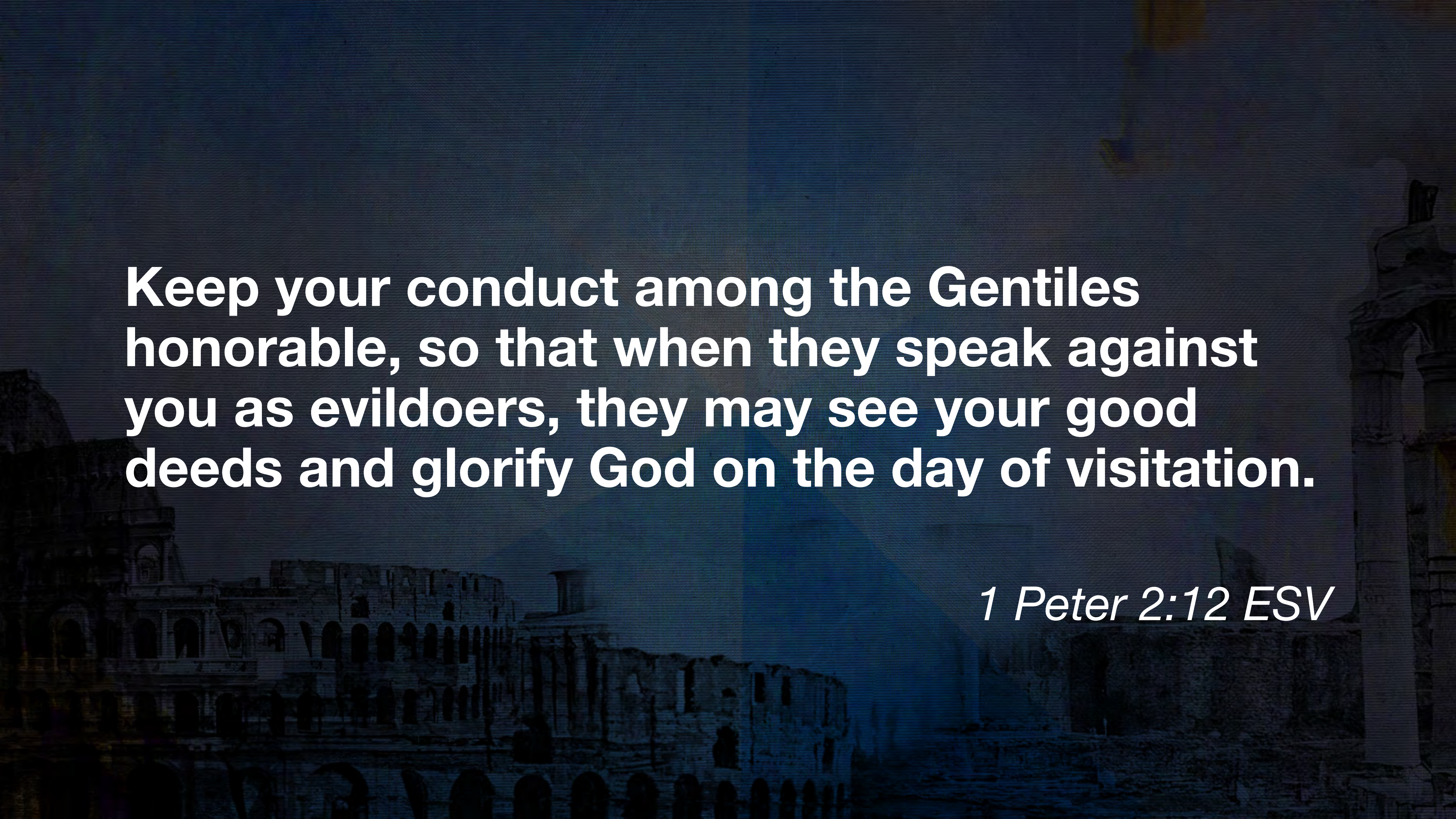
Romans 13:1-7 ESV

“...submission is broader and more basic than obedience. To submit is to recognize one’s subordinate place in a hierarchy established by God. It is to acknowledge that certain institutions or people have been placed over us and have the right to our respect and deference.”

Douglas Moo

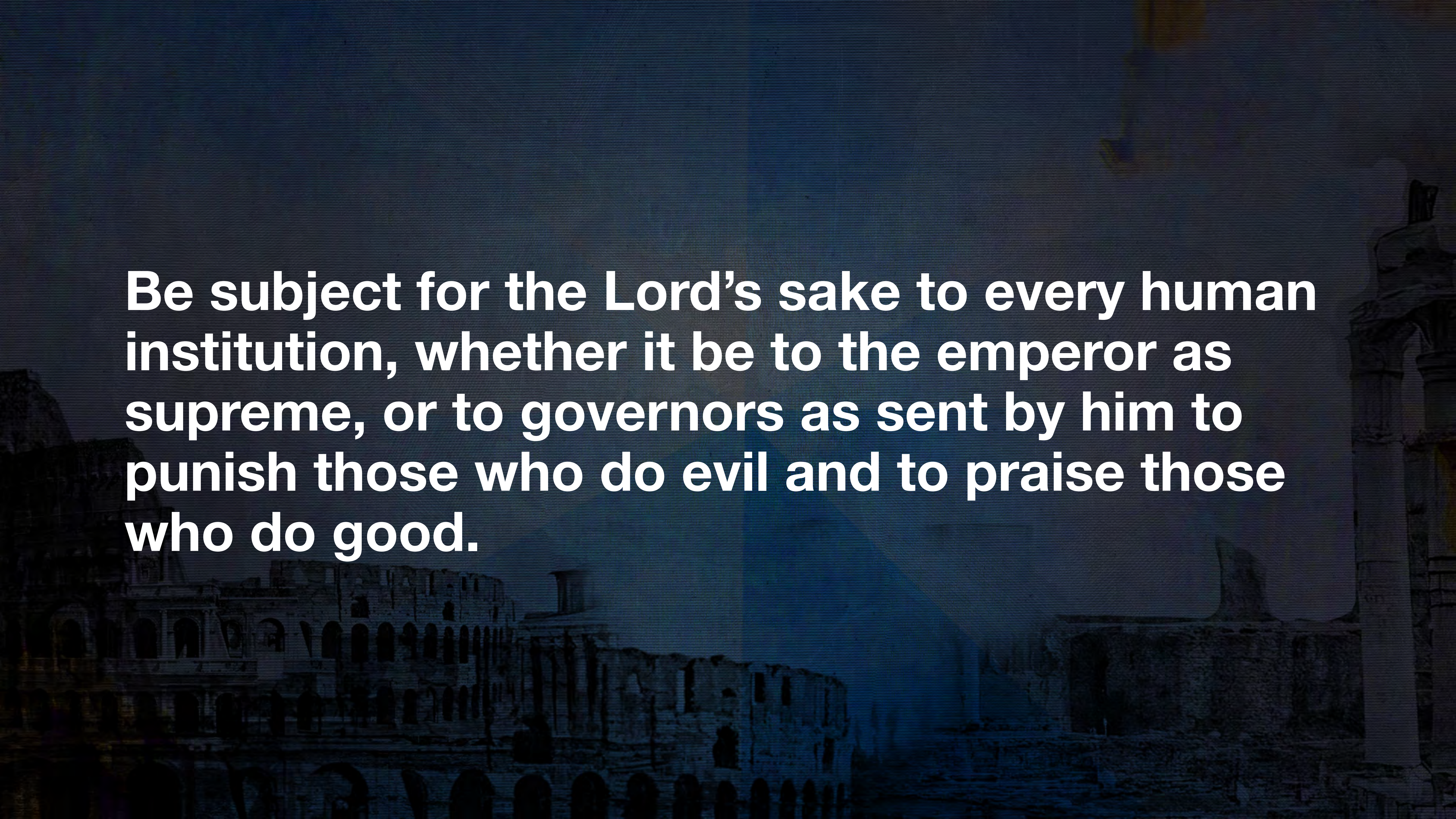
Because you have not obeyed my words, behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.

Jeremiah 25:8-9 ESV

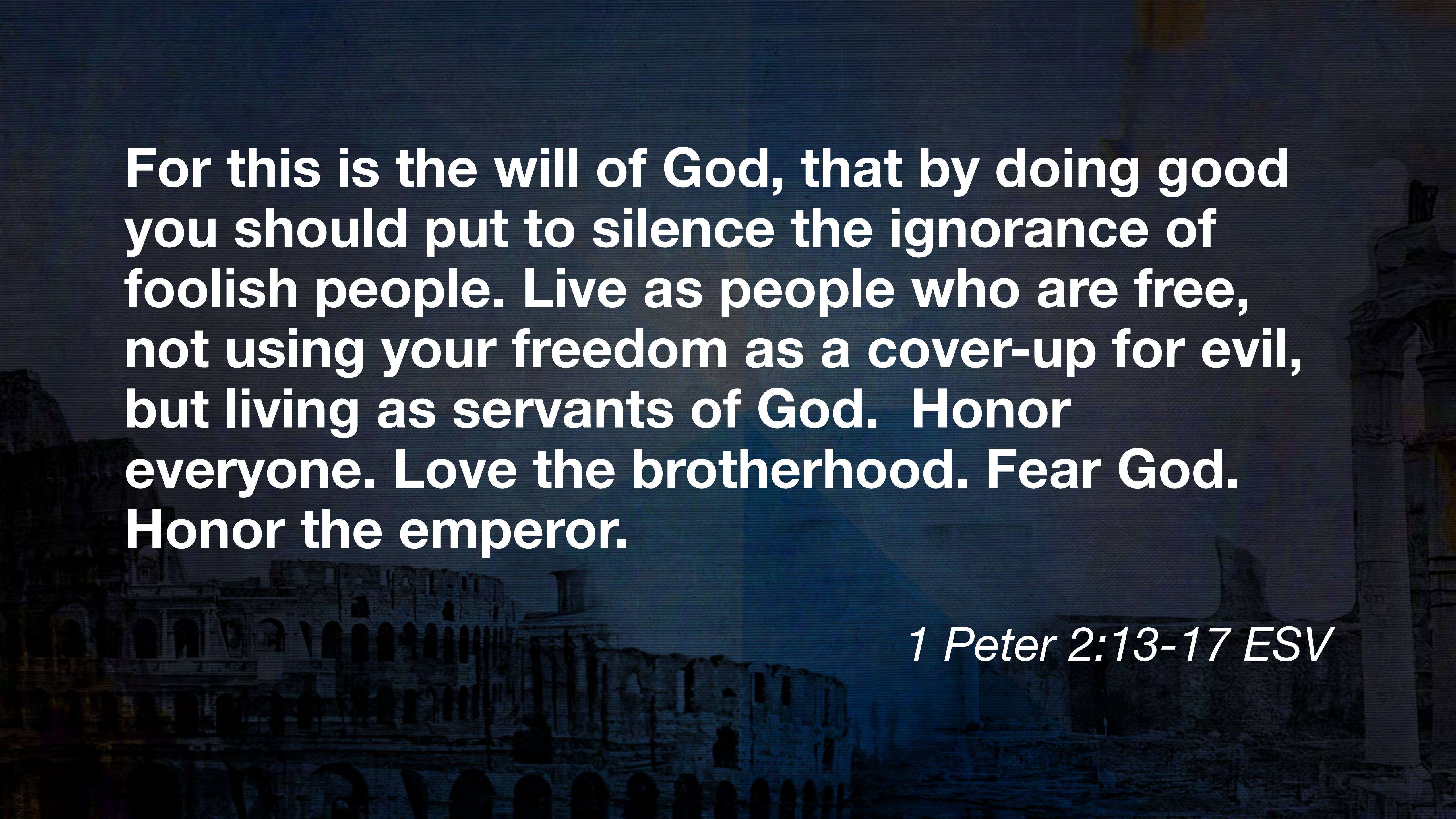


Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:12 ESV



Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.



For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

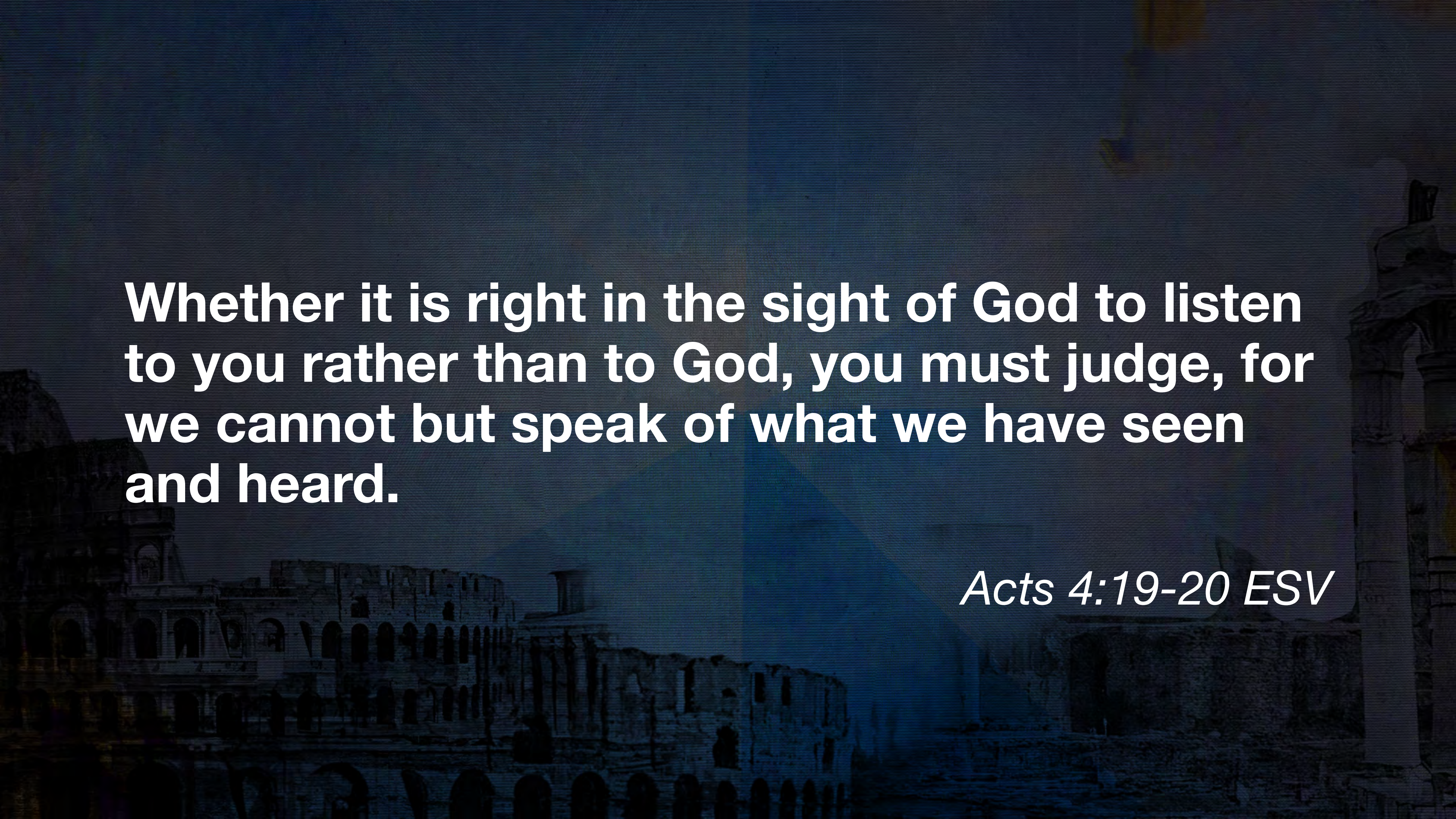
1 Peter 2:13-17 ESV

Why We Should Obey Government

1. Government is ordained by God
2. Government restrains evil
3. Government rewards good
4. Government punishes evil
5. Submission provides a good testimony

When To Resist Government

- 1. When asked to violate a clear command of God.**
- 2. When asked to do an immoral act or accept an immoral act.**
- 3. When asked to go against our Christian conscience in order to obey the government.**



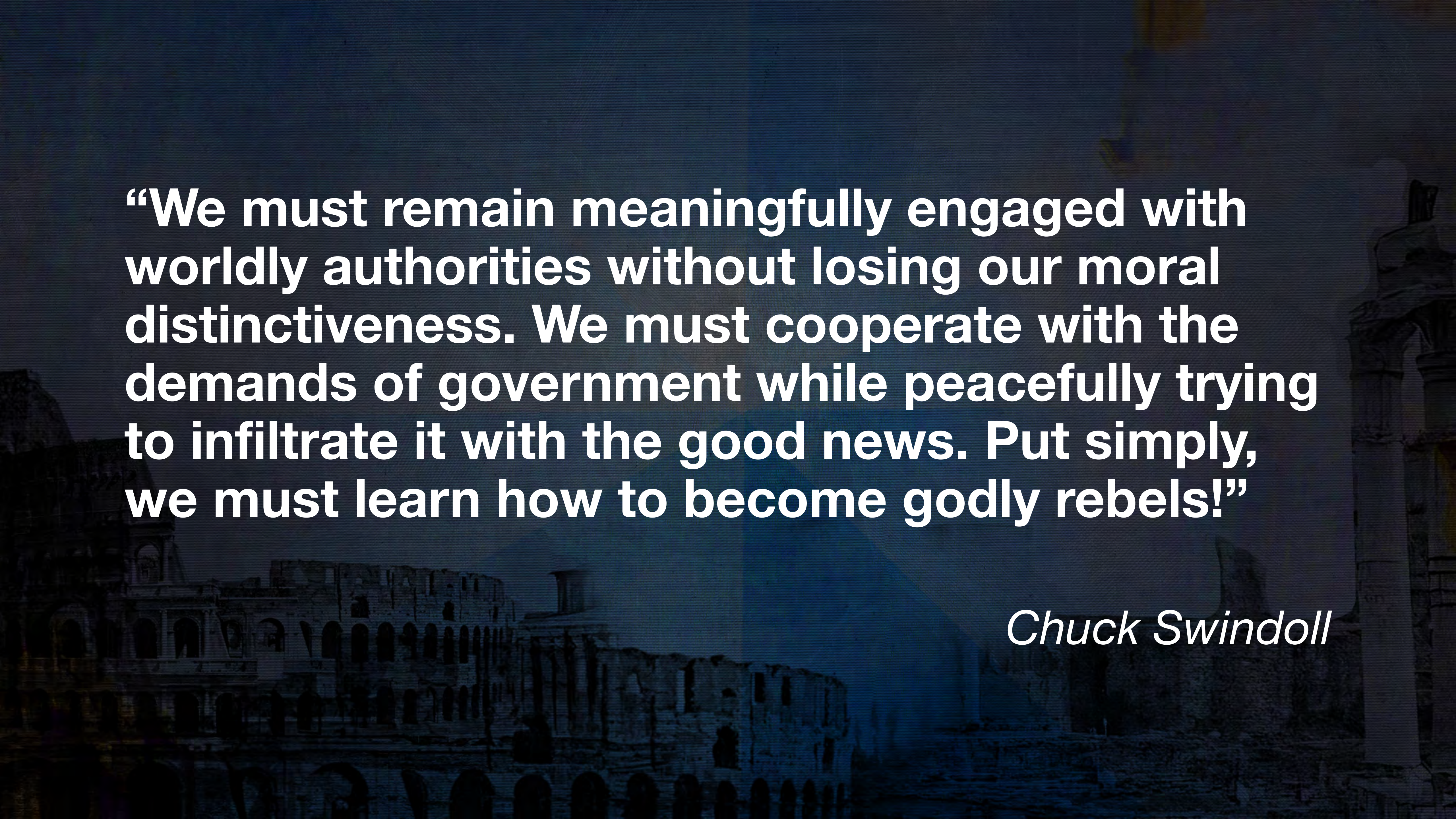
Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:19-20 ESV



We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29 ESV



“We must remain meaningfully engaged with worldly authorities without losing our moral distinctiveness. We must cooperate with the demands of government while peacefully trying to infiltrate it with the good news. Put simply, we must learn how to become godly rebels!”

Chuck Swindoll



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

1 Peter 2:16 ESV



**Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear
God, honor the king.**

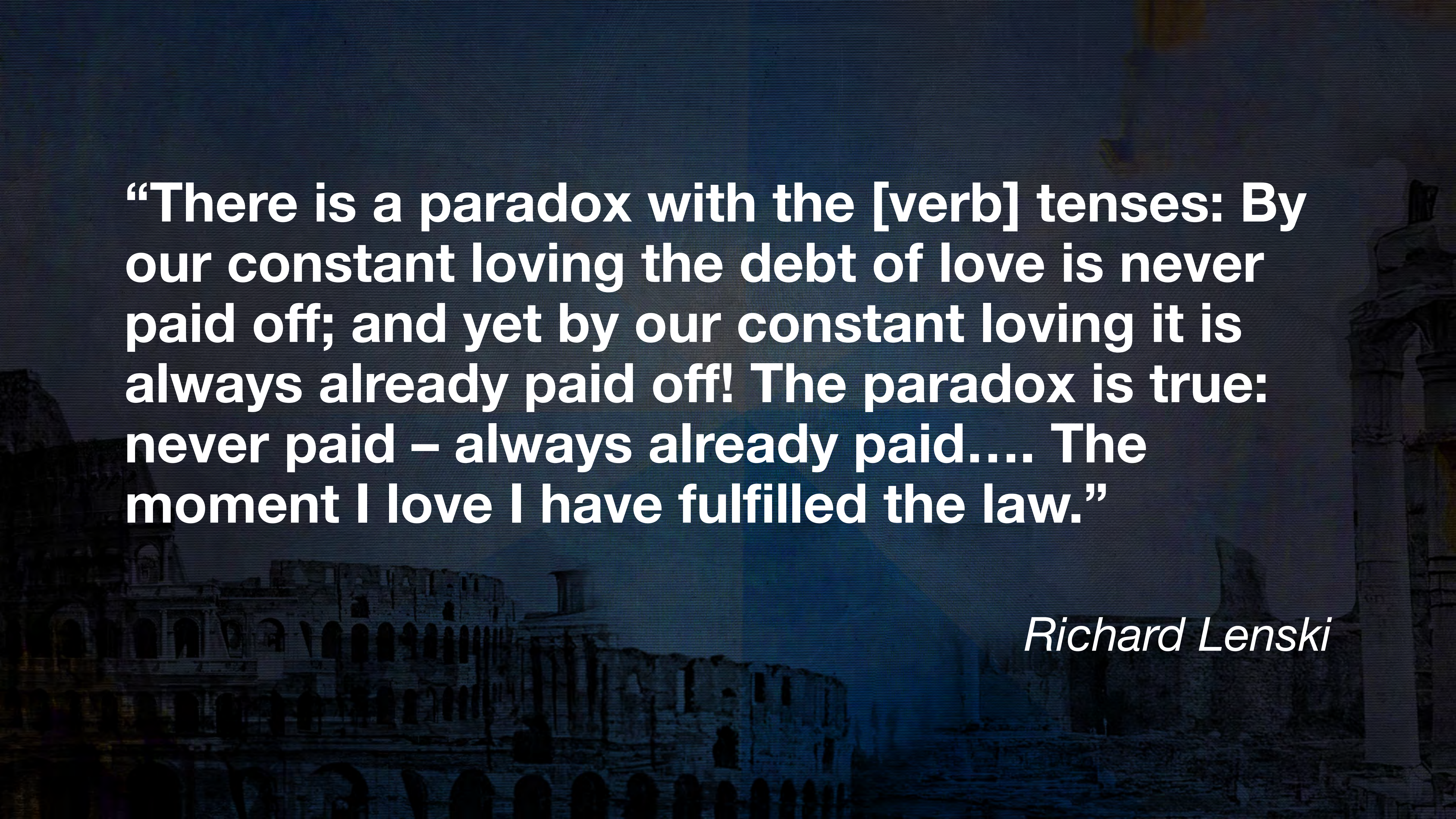
1 Peter 2:17 NASB

What You Owe To Others - Private Debt

The background of the slide is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of the Colosseum in Rome. The structure's iconic arches and tiered levels are visible, though the lighting is low, creating a somber and historical atmosphere. The text is centered horizontally and vertically over the image.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Romans 13:8-9 ESV



“There is a paradox with the [verb] tenses: By our constant loving the debt of love is never paid off; and yet by our constant loving it is always already paid off! The paradox is true: never paid – always already paid.... The moment I love I have fulfilled the law.”

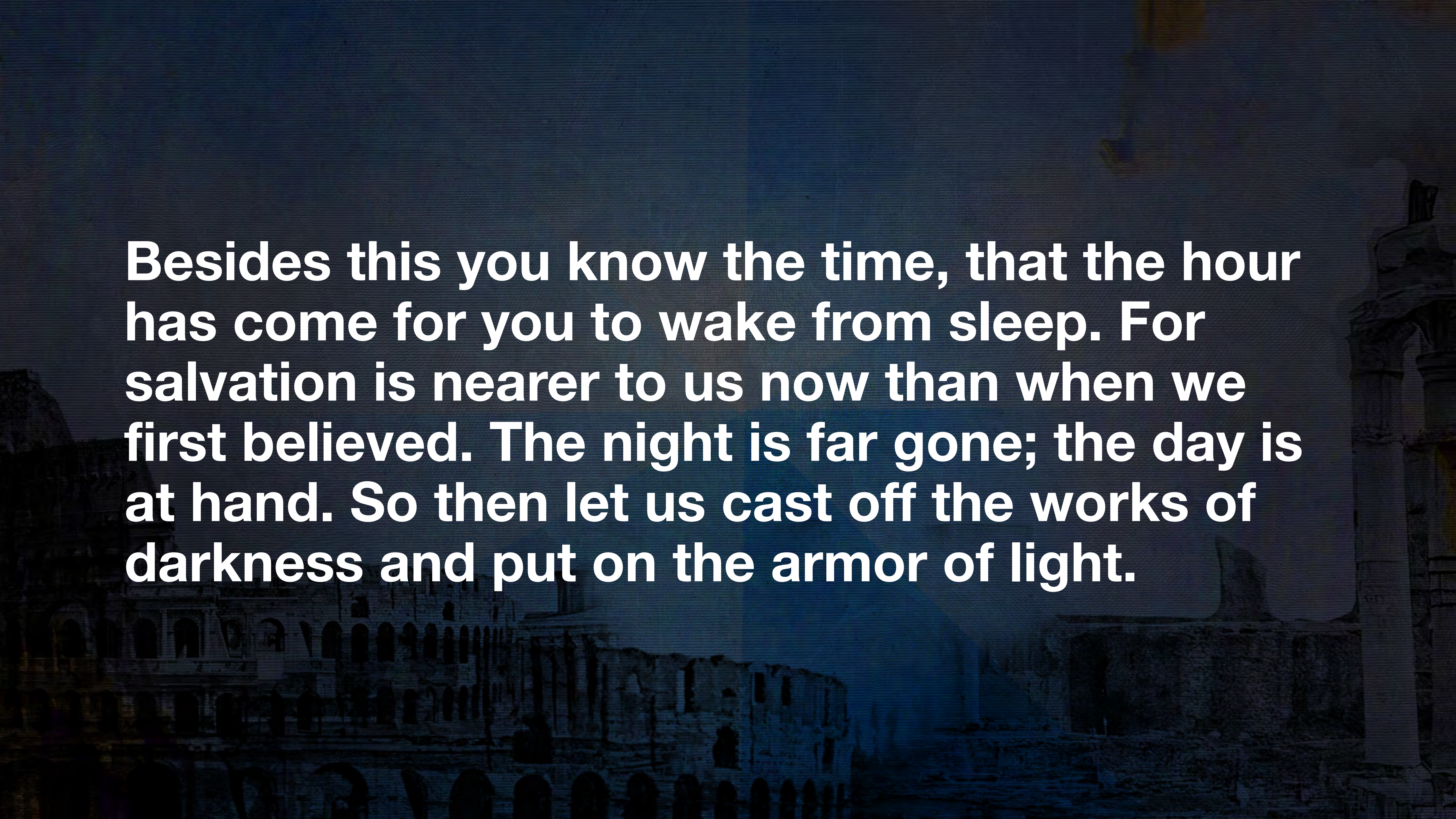
Richard Lenski

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

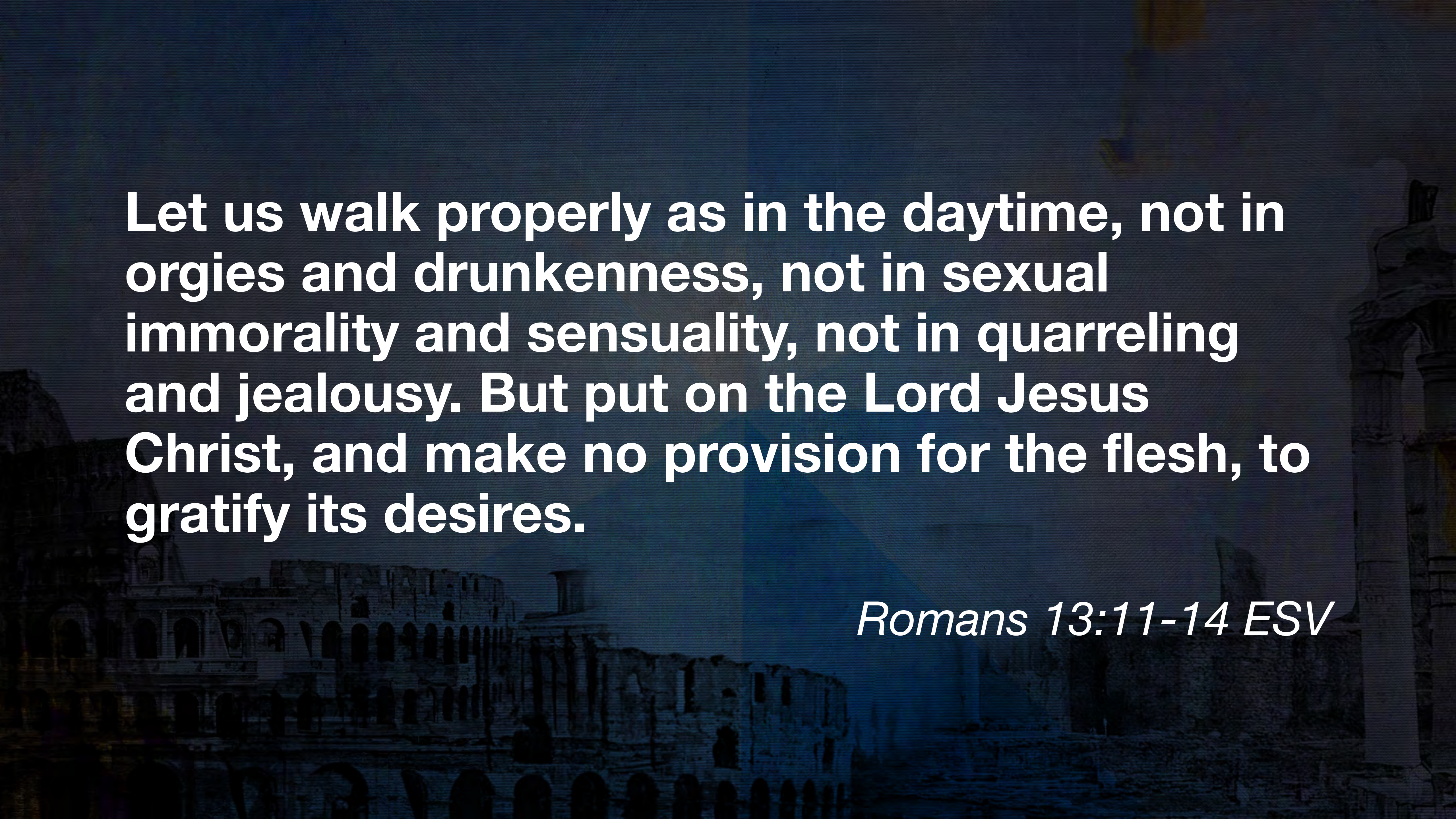
Galatians 5:13-14 ESV

What You Owe To God - Eternal Debt

The background of the image is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of the Colosseum in Rome. The structure's iconic arches and tiered seating are visible, though dimly lit. The overall mood is somber and reflective, which complements the title's theme of 'Eternal Debt'.

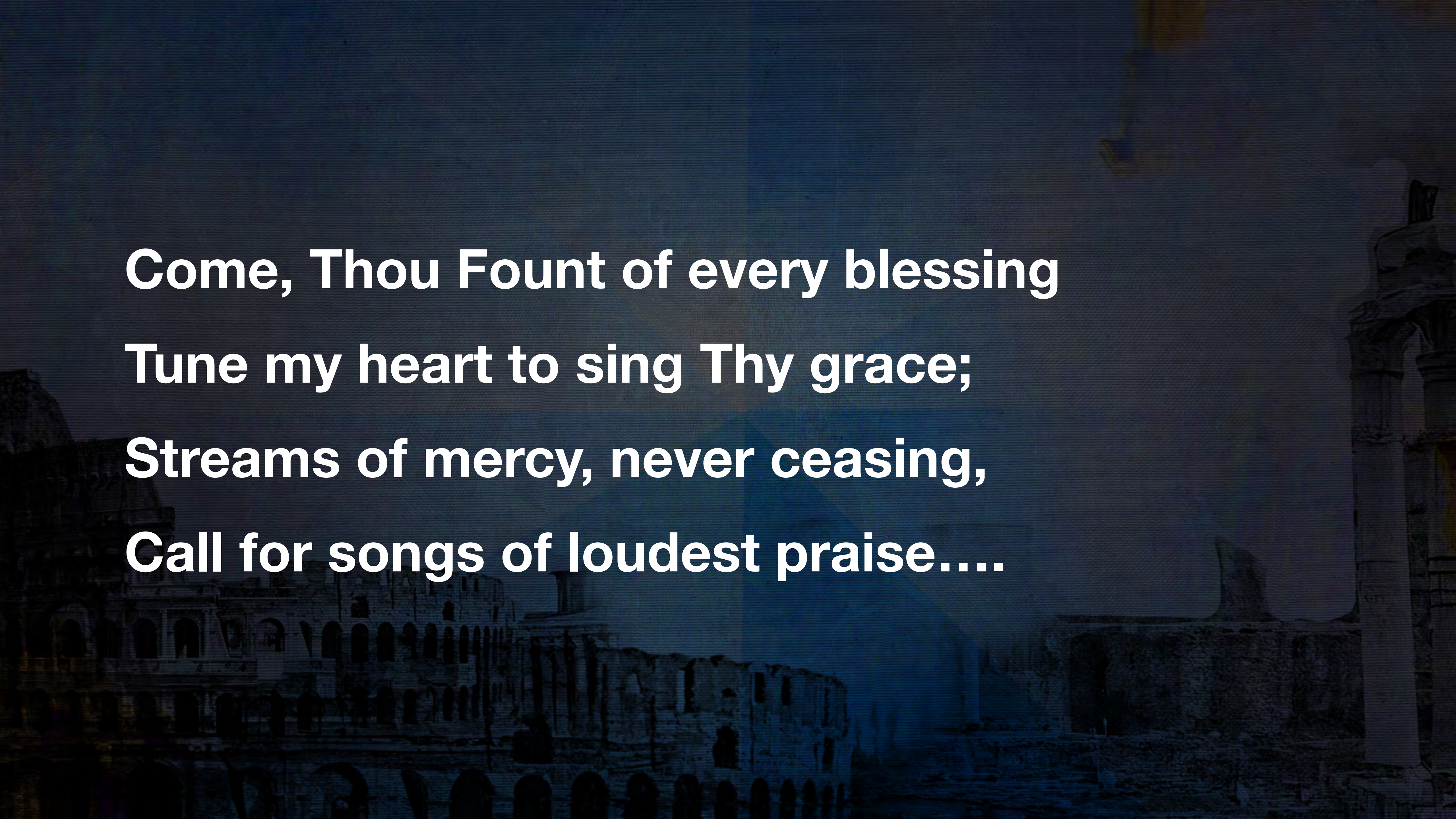


Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

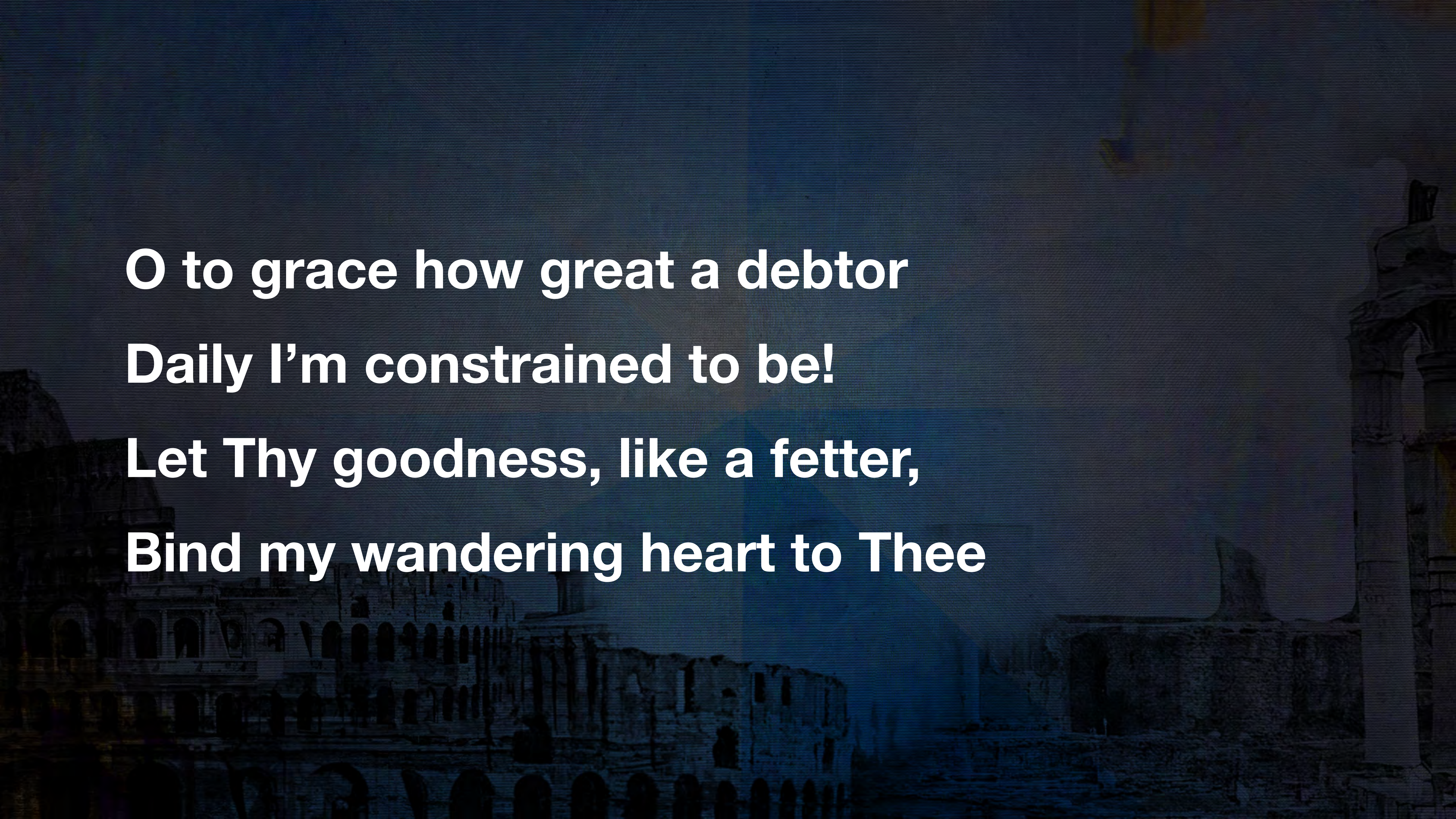


Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

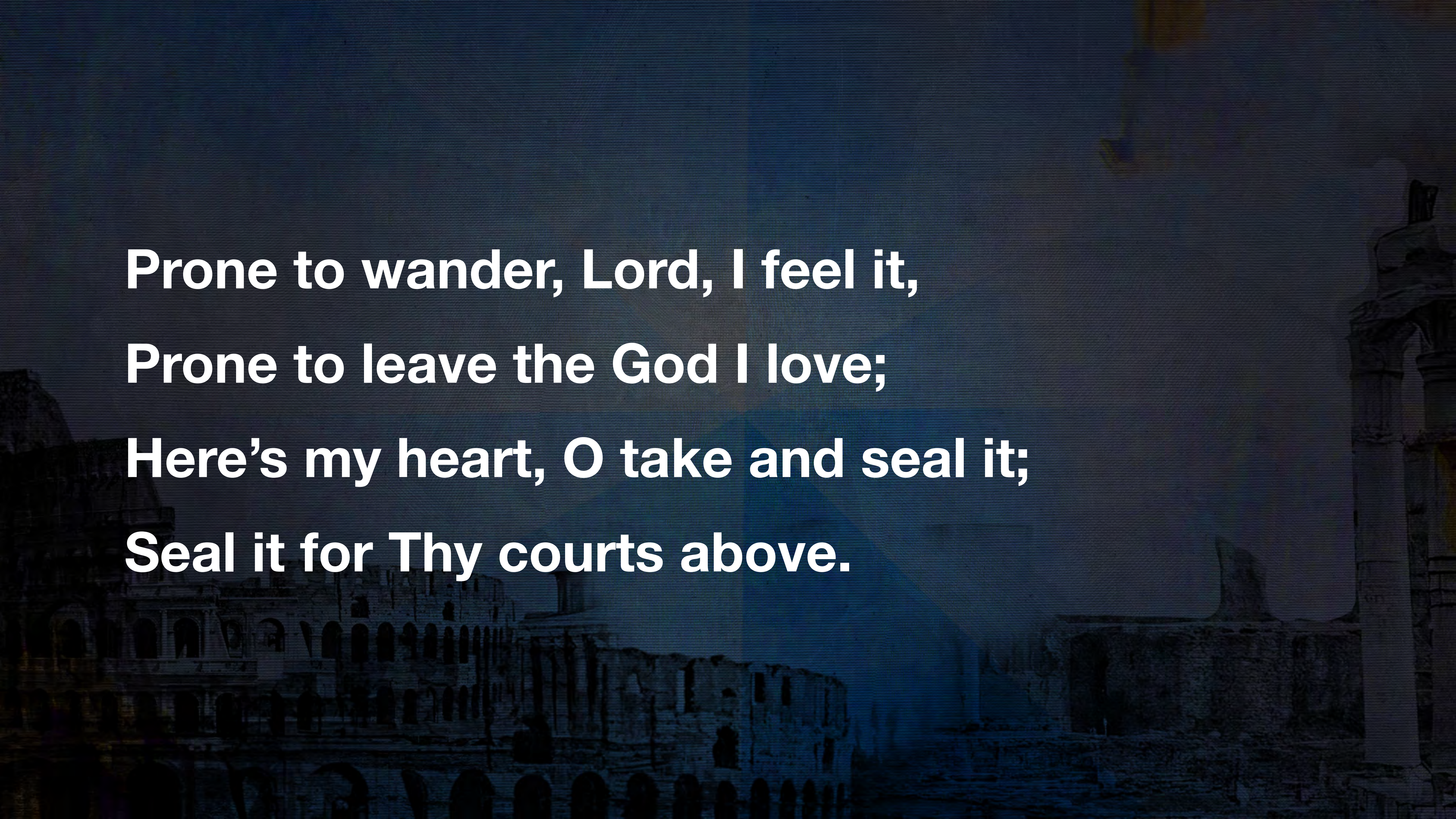
Romans 13:11-14 ESV



**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise....**



**O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee**



**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

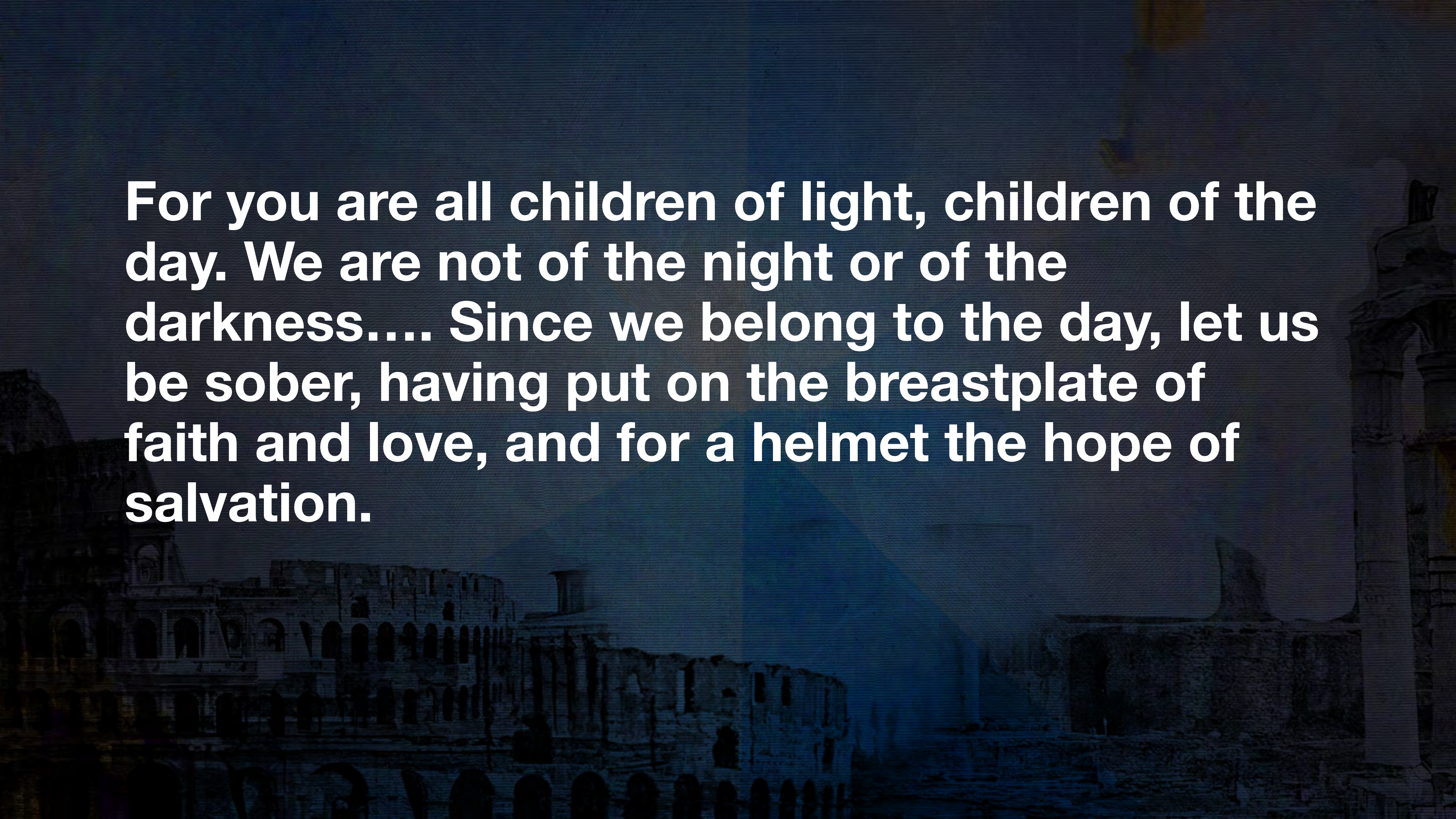
... you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator...

Colossians 3:8-10 ESV

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:12-14 ESV

For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.... Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.



For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep (that is, dead) we might live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8-10 ESV

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

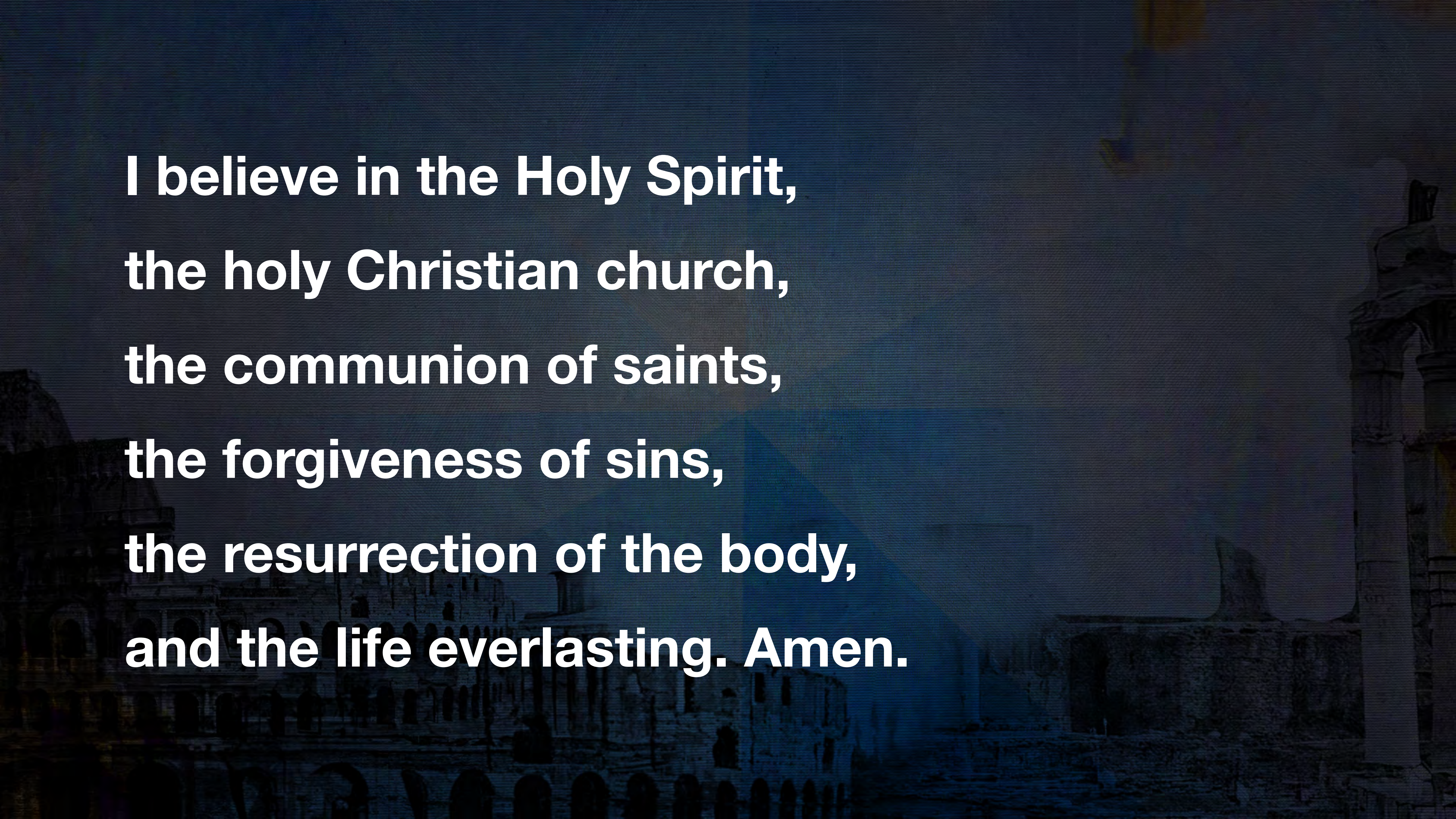
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**