

A silhouette of a person with their head bowed in prayer, set against a background of a stone wall. The lighting is dramatic, with the person's form dark against the lighter, textured wall.

# BELIEVING

## NO MATTER THE COST

Acts 17-19; 21:26ff  
Philippians 3:1-11

# BELIEVING NO MATTER THE COST

What Being a Christian **COSTS** According To **JESUS**

## **Luke 9:23–26 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and *in His Father's*, and of the holy angels.

**cf. Matt. 16:24–27; Mark 8:34–38**



# BELIEVING NO MATTER THE COST

MANY WERE **NOT** WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE



- Ananias, with Sapphira his wife — Acts 5:1-11
- The Jewish council who stoned Stephen to death — Acts 6:8-60
- Jews who plotted to kill Paul — Acts 9:23-25; 14:19; 23:12-14; etc.
- Jews who opposed the gospel — Acts 13:44-46, 50; 17:5,13; 21:27-22:23; etc



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- Judaizers — (a position of compromise) Acts 15:1-5; Gal. 2:4,5; 5:11,12
- False teachers in Philippi — Acts 16:16-24
- Most in Athens — Acts 17:16-33
- Jews in Corinth — Acts 18:5,6, 12-17
- Demetrius, idolaters in Ephesus — Acts 19:24-34



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## Acts 24:24–25 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. <sup>25</sup> Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”



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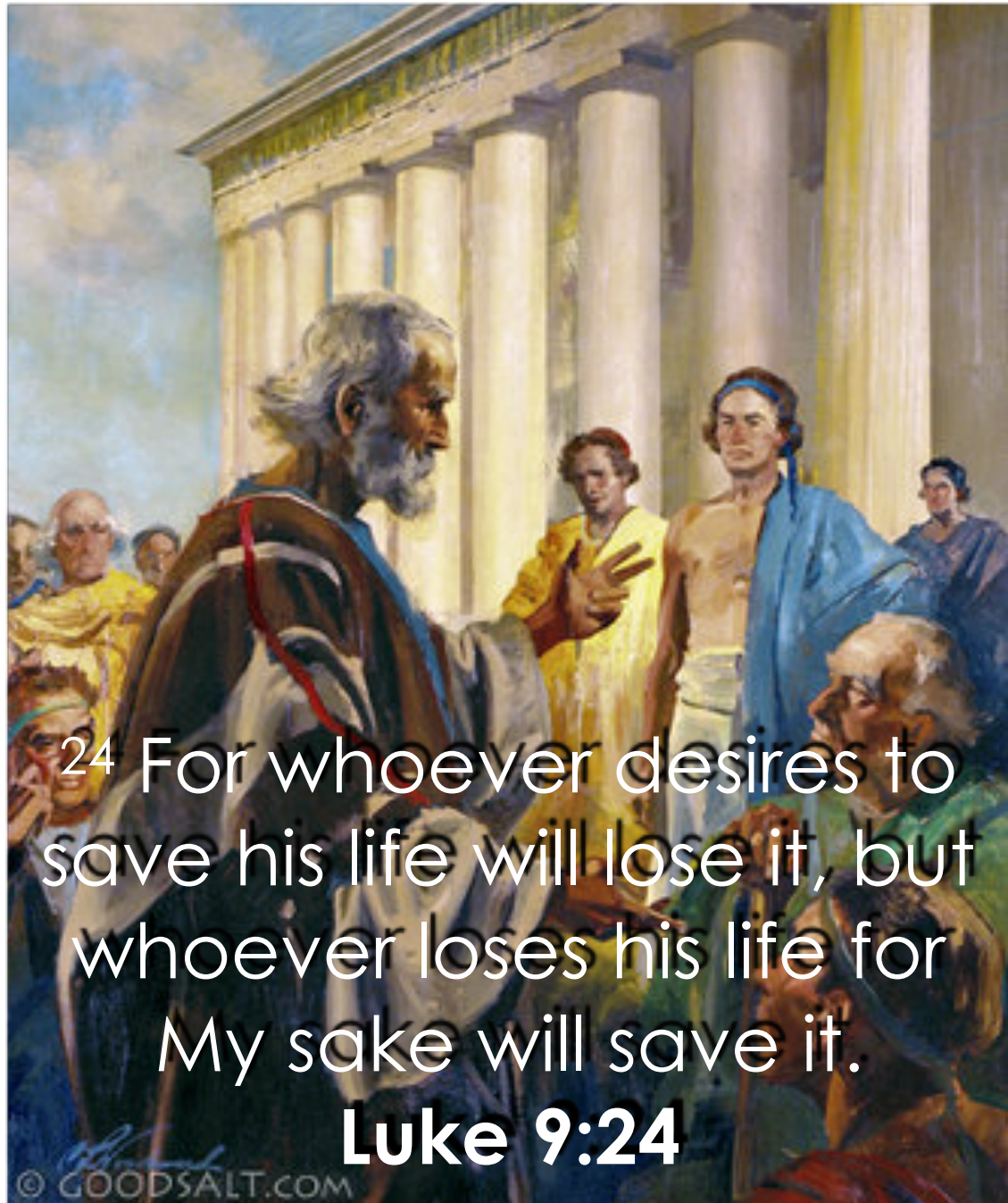
## Acts 26:27–29 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” <sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” <sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”



# BELIEVING NO MATTER THE COST

MANY WERE **NOT** WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE



- MANY were not willing to change their religion! —
- MANY were not willing to choose Jesus over their family and friends! —
- MANY were not willing to suffer financial hardship! —
- MANY were not willing to suffer persecution —
- MANY were not willing to give up their sin —



# BELIEVING NO MATTER THE COST

## MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The jailor in **PHILIPPI** & the church in **PHILIPPI** — (even though persecution was certain) —
  - ▶ Acts 16:30-34;
  - ▶ Phili. 1:3-8, 12-14; 27-30
  - ▶ 2 Tim. 3:12; Mat 5:11,12
  - ▶ 2 Thes. 1:6-12



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## MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- A few in **ATHENS** (even though they were steeped in idolatry and human philosophy)
  - ▶ Acts 17:21,34;
  - ▶ Col. 2:8-10;
  - ▶ 2 Tim. 2:16,17
  - ▶ 1 Thes 1:9,10



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- Many in **CORINTH** (even in the midst of immorality) —
  - ▶ Acts 18:8-11
  - ▶ 1 Cor. 6:9-11
  - ▶ 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
  - ▶ Rom. 6:1-23
  - ▶ Eph. 4:17-5:21
  - ▶ 1 Pet. 1:13-21; 4:1-6



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- Many in **EPHESUS** believed, fearing the Lord, confessed their deeds & repented (even at great financial cost)
  - ▶ Acts 19:18-20
  - ▶ Luke 18:18-27
  - ▶ 1 Tim. 6:5-11,19
  - ▶ Heb 13:5
  - ▶ Mat. 16:26



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...
  - ▶ Risked his life — (preaching the gospel was dangerous) —
  - ▶ Damascus, Ac. 9:22- 25; 1 Cor. 11:32,33;
  - ▶ Jerusalem, Acts 9:29;
  - ▶ Iconium, Acts 14:5,6,
  - ▶ Lystra, Acts 14:19; etc.



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...
  - ▶ Imprisoned several times:
  - ▶ Philippi - Acts 16:16-25;
  - ▶ Arrested in Jerusalem - Acts 21:26-36;
  - ▶ In Caesarea - Acts 23:23-26:32;
  - ▶ Rome — Acts 28:14-31; etc.



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **2 Corinthians 11:22–28 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> ... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; ...



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

**2 Corinthians 11:22–28 (NKJV)**  
a night and a day I have been  
in the deep; <sup>26</sup> in journeys  
often, *in* perils of waters, *in*  
perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my*  
own countrymen, *in* perils of  
the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city,  
*in* perils in the wilderness, *in*  
perils in the sea, *in* perils  
among false brethren;



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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE



- The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **2 Corinthians 11:22–28 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—<sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.



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■ The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **Acts 24:14–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> But this I confess to you, <sup>(Felix)</sup> that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. <sup>15</sup> I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept,





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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE

■ The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **Acts 24:14–16 (NKJV)**

that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust. <sup>16</sup> This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.





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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE

■ The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **Philippians 3:7–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ





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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE

■ The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **Philippians 3:7–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;





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MANY **WERE WILLING** TO PAY THE PRICE

■ The EXAMPLE of the apostle **PAUL** ...

## **Philippians 3:7–11 (NKJV)**

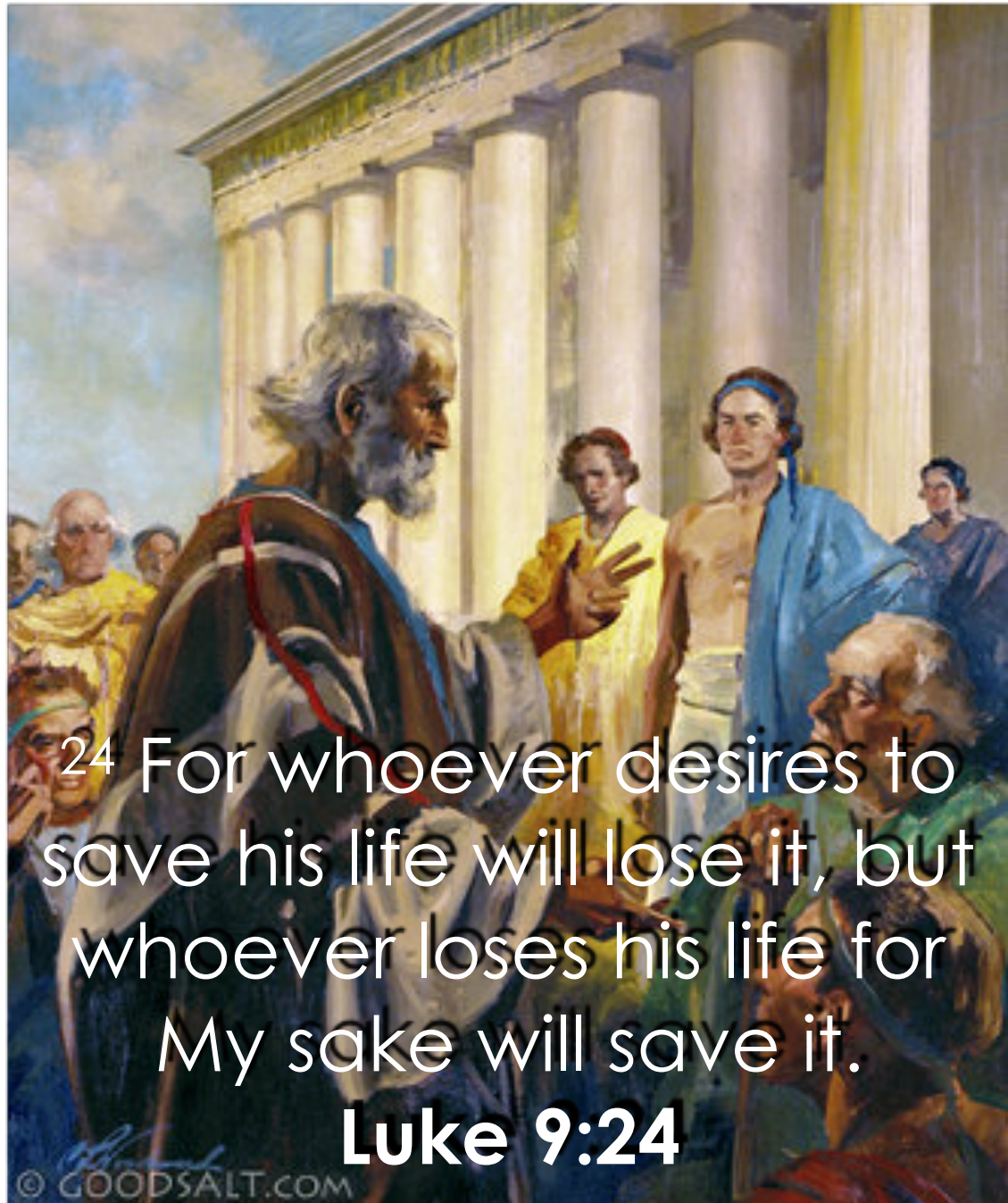
<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and  
the power of His  
resurrection, and the  
fellowship of His sufferings,  
being conformed to His  
death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I  
may attain to the  
resurrection from the dead.





# BELIEVING NO MATTER THE COST

MANY **ARE NOT** WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE



- MANY ARE not willing to change their religion! —
- MANY ARE not willing to choose Jesus over their family and friends! —
- MANY ARE not willing to suffer financial hardship! —
- MANY ARE not willing to suffer persecution —
- MANY ARE not willing to give up their sin —



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MANY **ARE** WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE



- Like those in Philippi, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus. — They hear, believe and are baptized — Acts 16:30-34; 18:8; etc.
- Like Paul - who gave up everything to follow the Lord & gain eternal life! — 2 Cor. 4:16-5:2; Phil 3:11.
- ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE???









# BELIEVING

## NO MATTER THE COST

Acts 17-19; 21:26ff

Philippians 3:1-11

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## Luke 9:23–26 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and *in His Father's*, and of the holy angels.