

Is Teaching One MUST
Obey The Lord In Order
To Be Saved

LEGALISM?

(Luke 6:39-49)

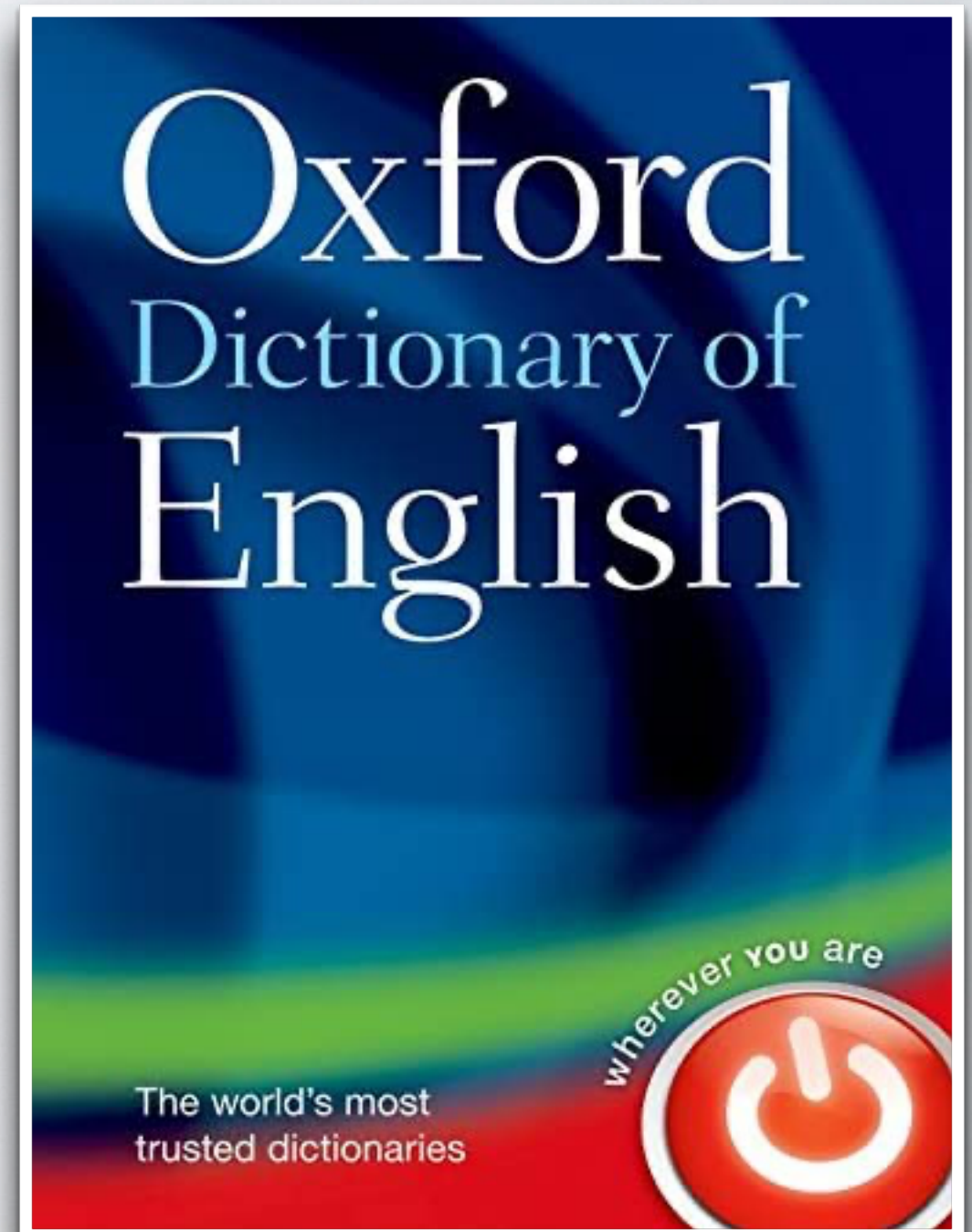


LEGALISM?

“LEGALISM” is a complaint or accusation often made against faithful members of the Lord’s church.

■ What Is Legalism?

- ▶ noun: excessive adherence to law or formula."
- ▶ THEOLOGY
dependence on moral law rather than on personal religious faith."stress obedience apart from faith and you produce legalism"



LEGALISM?

“LEGALISM” is a complaint or accusation often made against faithful members of the Lord’s church.

■ STRICTLY SPEAKING:

- ▶ **LEGALISM** — “the attempt to be justified strictly according to a system of law, without God’s grace.”
- ▶ **LEGALIST** — “One is RIGHT because he has NEVER been WRONG - therefore the right standing is deserved or earned - it is not of grace but of merit - Romans 4:4; 11:6



LEGALISM?

“LEGALISM” is a complaint or accusation often made against faithful members of the Lord’s church.

■ We are accused of legalism when:

- ▶ We attempt to defend our teaching & practices from the scriptures.
- ▶ We appeal to the scriptures to show the fallacy of the teaching and practices of others.
- ▶ We teach obedient faith is essential to salvation.



LEGALISM?

“LEGALISM” is a complaint or accusation often made against faithful members of the Lord’s church.

■ We are accused of:

- ▶ Being “too strict.”
- ▶ Denying “grace.”
- ▶ Teaching “works salvation.”
- ▶ Being “Pharisaical.”
- ▶ Being “unloving.”
- ▶ Being “unmerciful.”
- ▶ Being “self-righteous.”
- ▶ Being “a legalist.”

Acts 17:30; 2 Thes. 1:7-9

Rom. 6:1,2; Titus 2:11,12

Phili. 2:12; Jam. 2:14-26

Mt. 15:1-9; 23; Ac. 17:11,12

Ep. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2-4

Mt. 28:19,20; Ep. 5:6-13

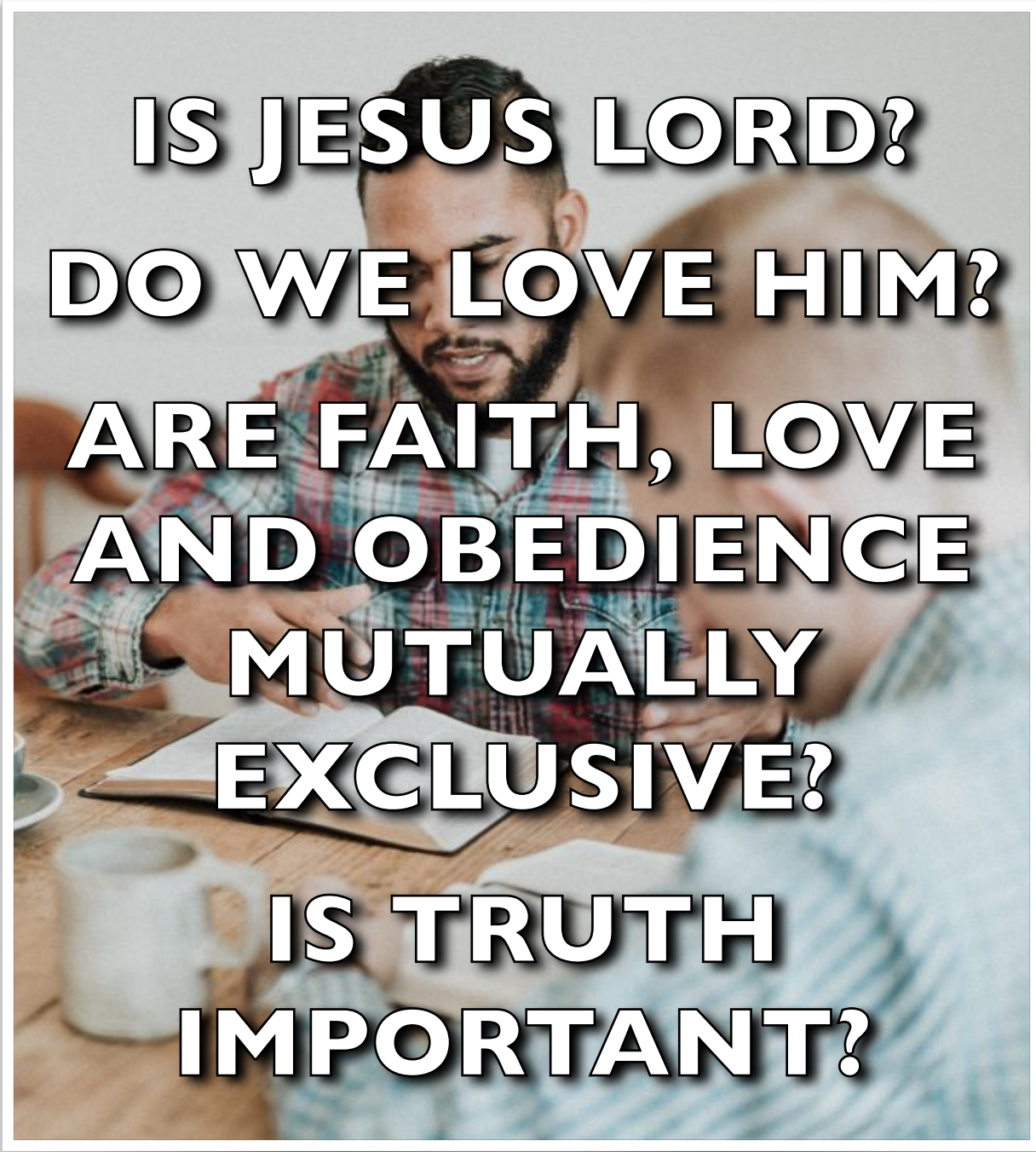
Mt. 7:21-27; Luke 6:37-49

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Luke 6:39–49 (NKJV)

³⁹ And He spoke a parable to them: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?”

⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹

And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?

⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that *is* in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that *is* in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

Luke 6:39–49 (NKJV)

43 “For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:39–49 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



- Disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them (1-5)
- Jesus healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath (6-11)
- Apostles selected (12-19)
- The beatitudes (20-26)
- Love your enemies (27-36)
- Purify your own heart first / Blind guides / Good trees produce good fruit (37-45)
- A life that will endure (46-49)

LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



Luke 6:46–49 (NKJV)

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LEGALISM?

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LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



- Is “legalism” to be equated with a genuine concern for obedience? — NO!
- Is “legalism” equivalent to ardent determination to keeping God’s commandments? — NO!
- One who possesses such a view would naturally tend to gloss over “details” of N.T. teaching, relegating them to the realm of minimal importance - i.e., “*We don’t sweat the small stuff.*”

LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



- Denominationalism & Those of the liberal persuasion have redefined “legalism” in such a fashion as to shift the meaning from the attitude of being self righteous, to the ACTION of humble, conscientious obedience to all of God’s word. (Eccl. 12:13; Micah 6:8)
- God has always commended those who maintain fidelity to the specifics of His commands (e.g., John 14:15; Romans 2:6-7,13; 6:16; Hebrews 5:9; 10:24-31).

LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



- Legalism does not pertain to the propriety of the practices themselves, but the attitude with which one perceives his practice!
- How presumptuous it is for one “Christian” to denounce another Christian simply on the basis that the latter exhibits meticulous loyalty to God’s Word—as if the former is able to automatically know his brother’s motive!
- It is absurd for one professed Christian to criticize another because he wants to do RIGHT!

LEGALISM?

LUKE 6 - THE CONTEXT



- We CANNOT know the motives another has in their heart - we are not mind readers!
- We can know however the condition of ones heart by the fruit they bear! — If they produce disobedience, and have no desire to examine God's word to examine the correctness of their practices — what do their actions reveal about their heart? (Luke 6:44,45; Mat. 12:35)
- An honest heart will seek truth (Acts 17:11,12; 2 Thes. 2:10-12)

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



- God has always condemned the person who is proud of his obedient actions, who trusts in his own goodness, and who expects to receive God's approval on the **BASIS** of those actions (cf. Luke 17:10; 18:9ff.; Ro 9:31ff.; 10:1-3).
- The **SELF-RIGHTEOUS** were the recipients of Jesus's **HARSHEST** criticism ...
Matthew 23

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



- “If You TEACH we HAVE to OBEY - Aren’t you a Pharisee?”
 - ▶ They were hypocrites – (Mat. 23:4-7,25-28)
 - ▶ They gave attention to “SOME” of God’s law and overlooked other aspects of it – (Mat. 23:23,24; Luke 11:42)
 - ▶ They went about binding & enforcing human traditions, laws and doctrines beyond the actual teachings of the Law – (Mat. 15:7-9; Mk 7:1-13)

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



- “If You TEACH we HAVE to OBEY - Aren’t you a Pharisee?”
- ▶ They anticipated receiving God’s favor BASED upon who they were and The amount of Law they kept (John 8:33; Gal. 2:16; 3:10,11)
- ▶ But they were guilty of the same sins as the people they condemned (Rom 2:1-11; 17-24; Luke 18:9-14)

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



- “If You TEACH we HAVE to OBEY - Aren’t you a Pharisee?”
- ▶ They were NEVER condemned because they were too zealous about strict obedience to God’s revealed will (Mat 5:20ff; 23:23,24)
- ▶ Their problem was a HEART problem (Mat 12:1-12; 23:23,24)

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



■ Examples of SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS -

- ▶ “I do all this religious stuff - therefore I am better than others & RIGHT (Luke 18:9-14; Mat 15:1-9)
- ▶ “I have kept the Law - I’m good!” (Luke 18:18-23)
- ▶ “I am sincere and zealous for God” (Rom. 10:1-3)
- ▶ “I am in the right group ...” (John 8:33-47)

LEGALISM?

GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS



■ We can be guilty of SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ▶ Some wish to return to the Law of Moses – (Romans, Galatians, Hebrews)
- ▶ Some want to make their own rules! – (Mat. 15:7-9)
- ▶ Some like to trust in their own goodness - (Lk 18:11,12, 21)
- ▶ Even the commands of Christ “can be” approached from a self-righteous perspective - (Luke 18:9-14, 18-23)

LEGALISM?

GOD DEMANDS HUMILITY & FIDELITY

■ For the sinner to be RIGHTEOUS he must be forgiven (Rom 3:23; 4:5.6; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Jn 1:9,10)

■ We MUST hunger and thirst after RIGHTEOUSNESS (Mat. 5:6; 2 Thes. 2:10-12)

■ We are to be RIGHTEOUS (Mat 5:20; Rom. 1:16,17; 10:3; 6:1-23; 1 Jn 2:29)

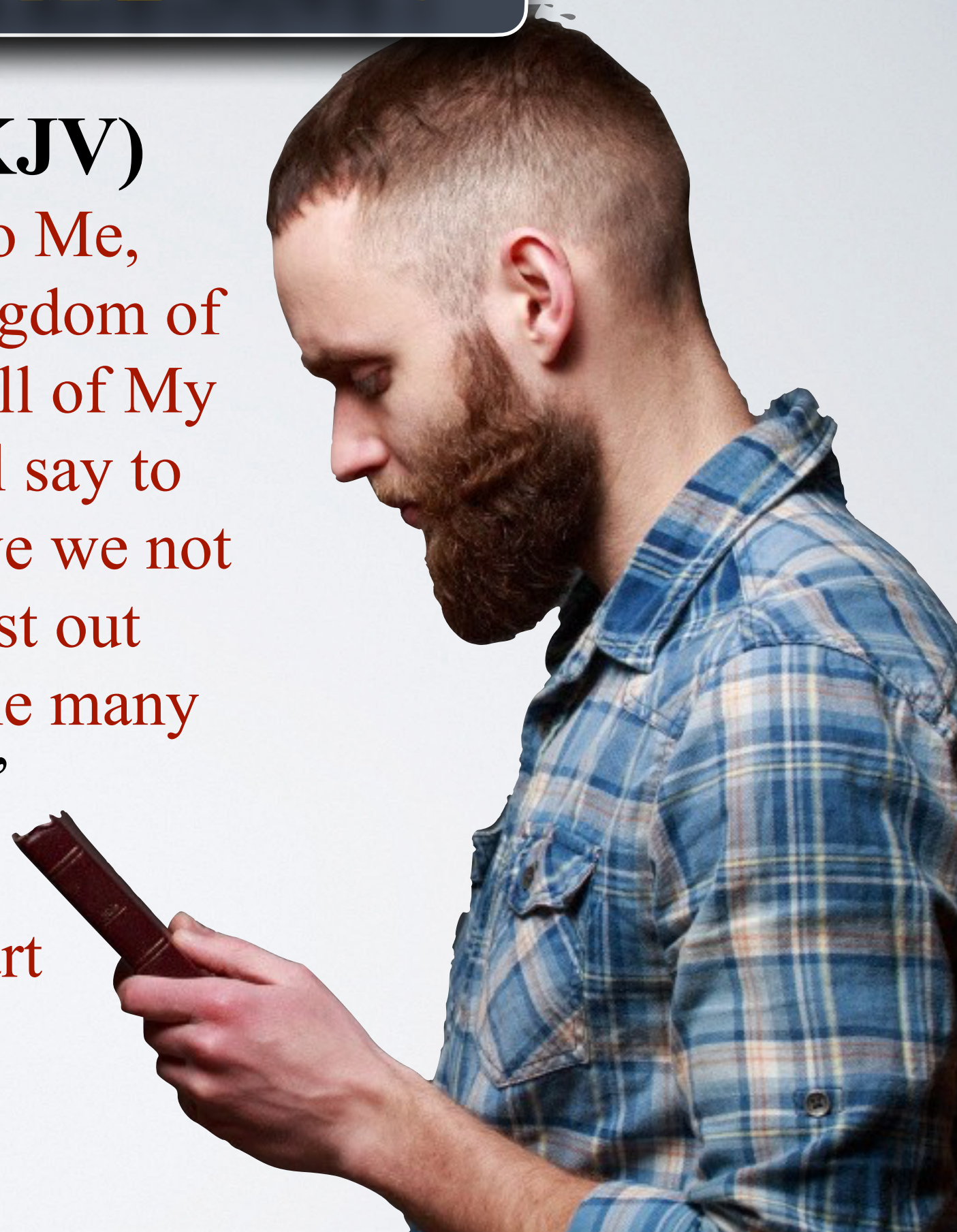


LEGALISM?

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’



LEGALISM?

John 14:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Jesus answered and said to him,
“If anyone loves Me, he will keep
My word; and My Father will love
him, and We will come to him and
make Our home with him.

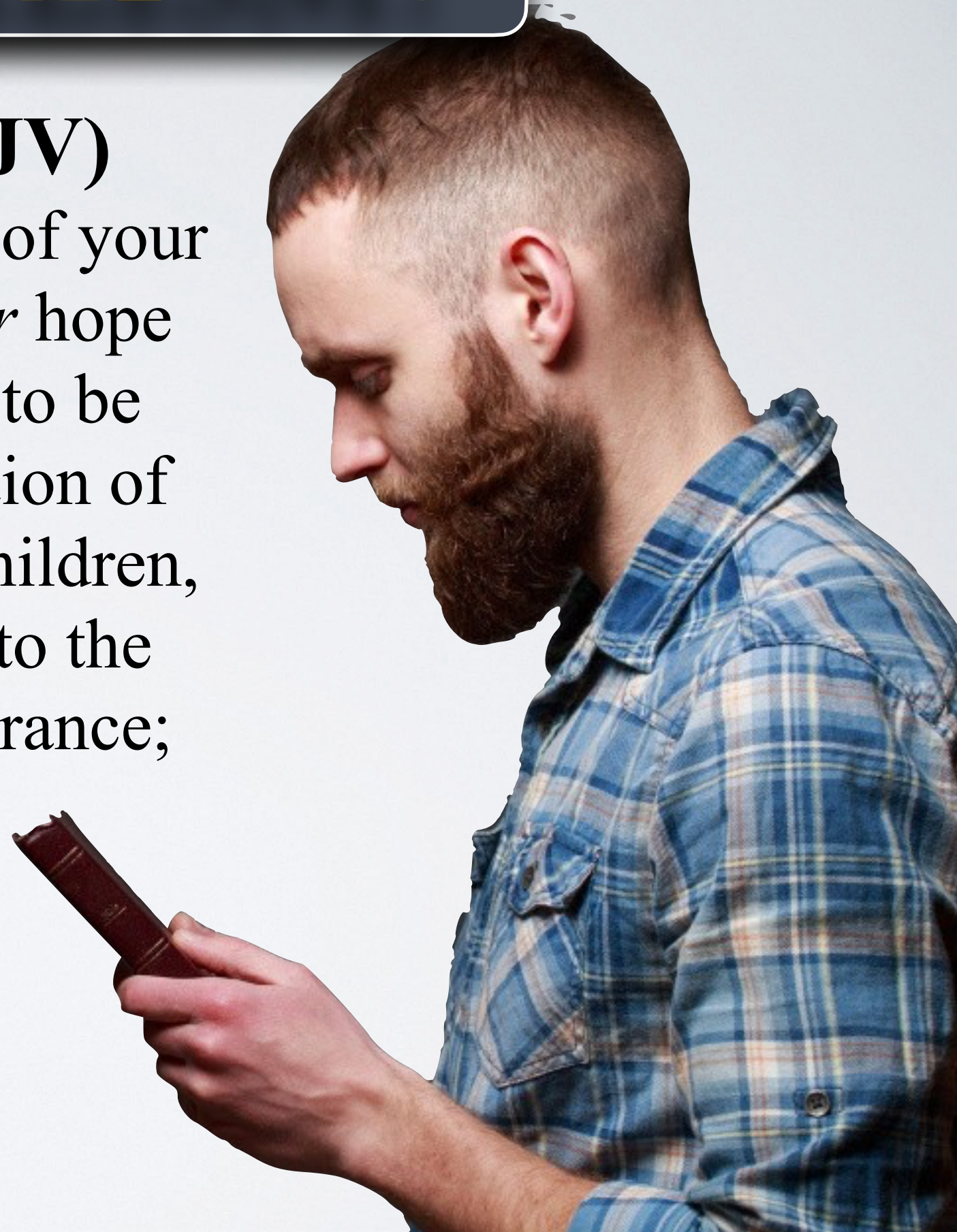
²⁴ He who does not love Me
does not keep My words;
and the word which you
hear is not Mine but the
Father’s who sent Me.



LEGALISM?

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”



LEGALISM?

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,



LEGALISM?

1 John 2:3–6 (NKJV)

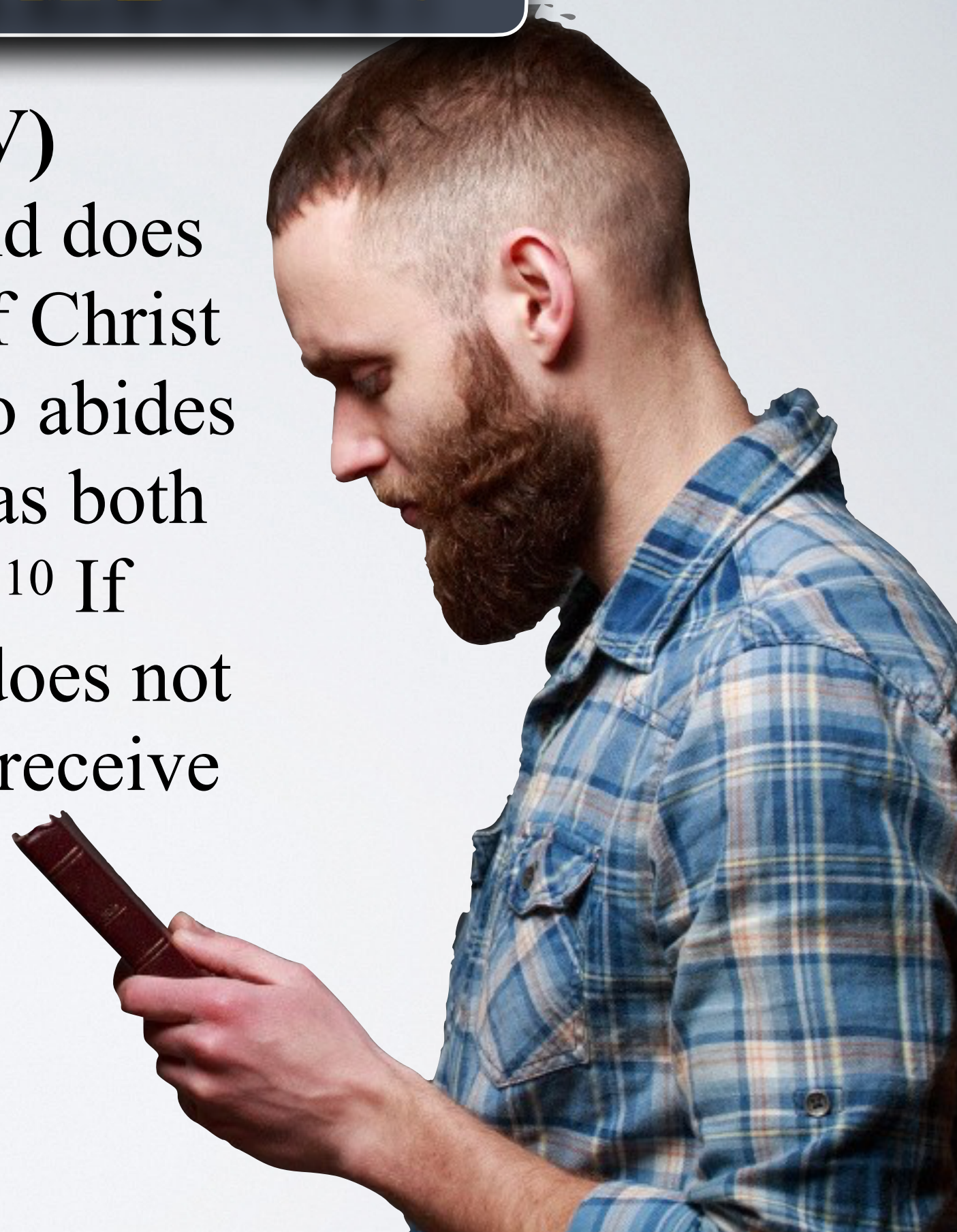
³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.



LEGALISM?

2 John 9–11 (NKJV)

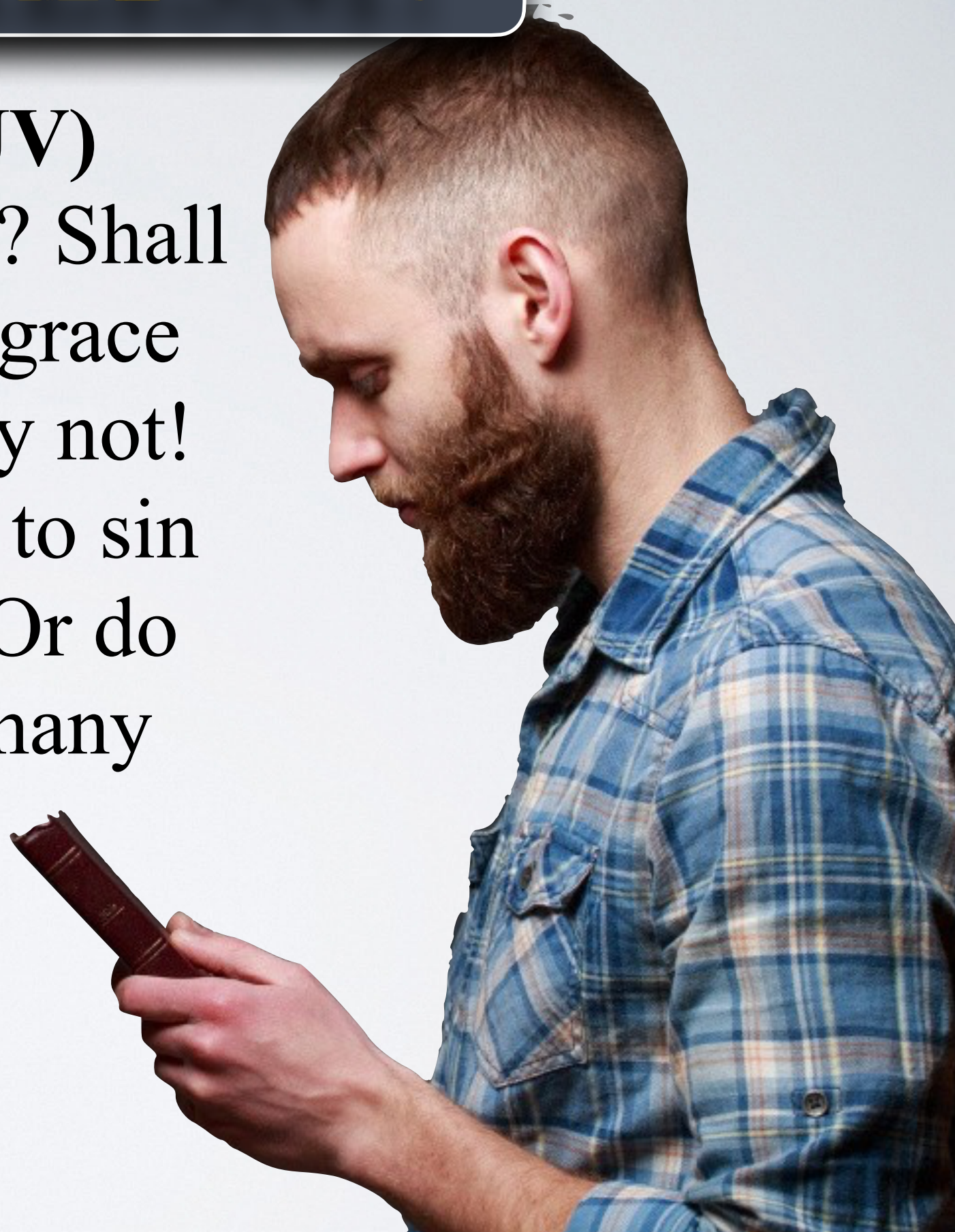
⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹ for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.



LEGALISM?

Romans 6:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?



LEGALISM?

Romans 6:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not



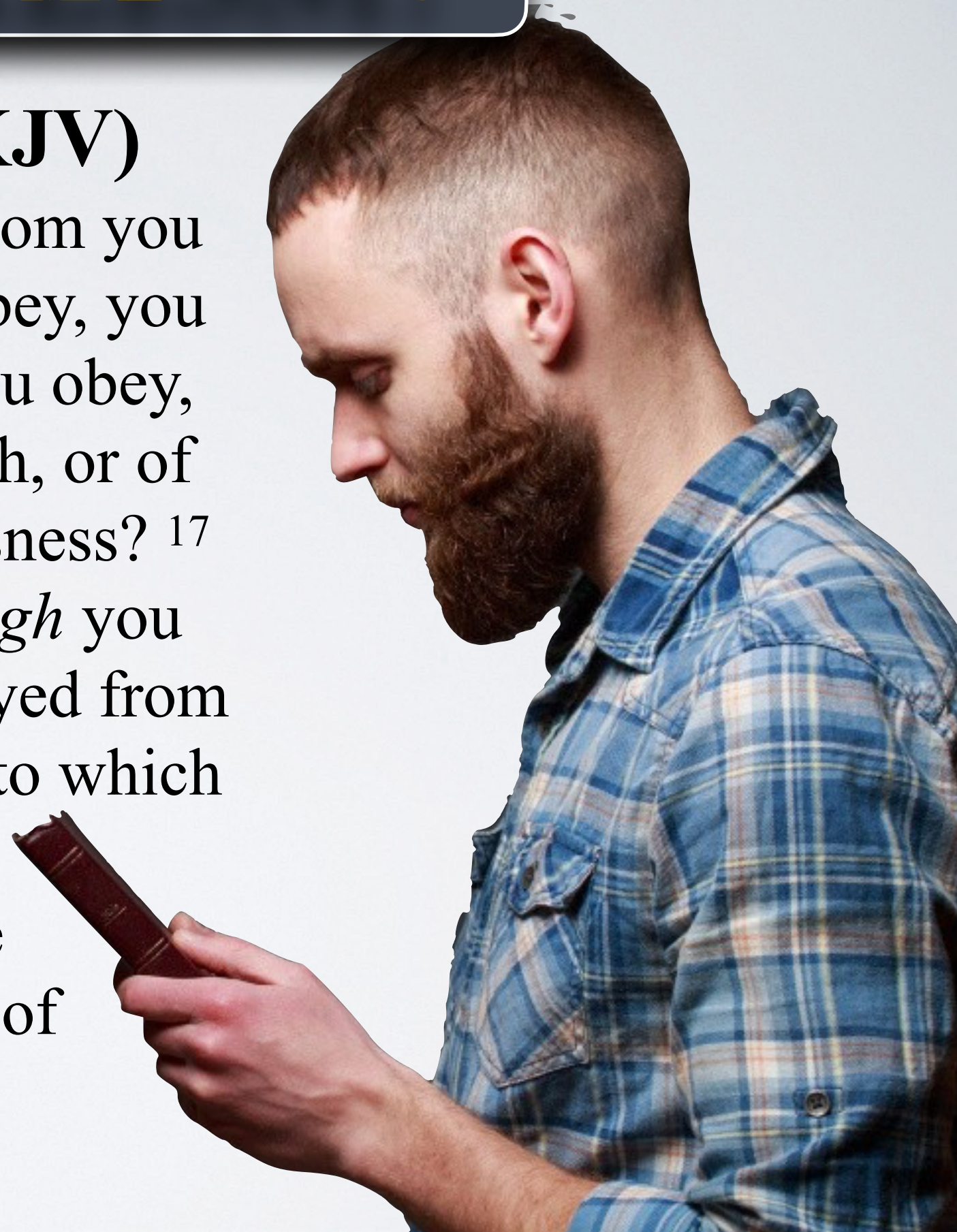
LEGALISM?

Romans 6:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? ¹⁷

But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.



Legalist

One who obeys God...
as viewed by someone
.... who doesn't.

Teaching One MUST Obey The
Lord In Order To Be Saved IS NOT

LEGALISM?

True LOVE & Humility
ALWAYS SEEKS to OBEY!

Let Us Be Compelled To Obey
Out of LOVE & Gratitude!

MAY WE NEVER BE
ASHAMED OF LOVING
THE LORD, LOVING HIS
WORD, AND SEEKING TO
FOLLOW IT!



Teaching One MUST Obey The
Lord In Order To Be Saved IS NOT

LEGALISM?

HEAR

BELIEVE

REPENT

CONFESS

BE BAPTIZED

**LIVE ACCORDING TO
JESUS'S TEACHING ...**

REPENT, CONFESS & PRAY



LEGALISM?

“WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT IN ALL THINGS”
Or We Will Face The Consequences

The way of trust & Submission ...

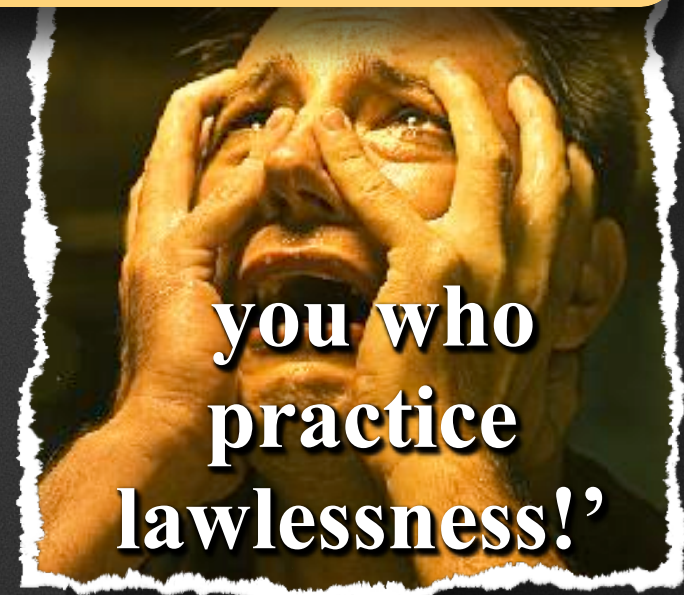
‘Well done, ...
Enter into the joy
of your lord.’

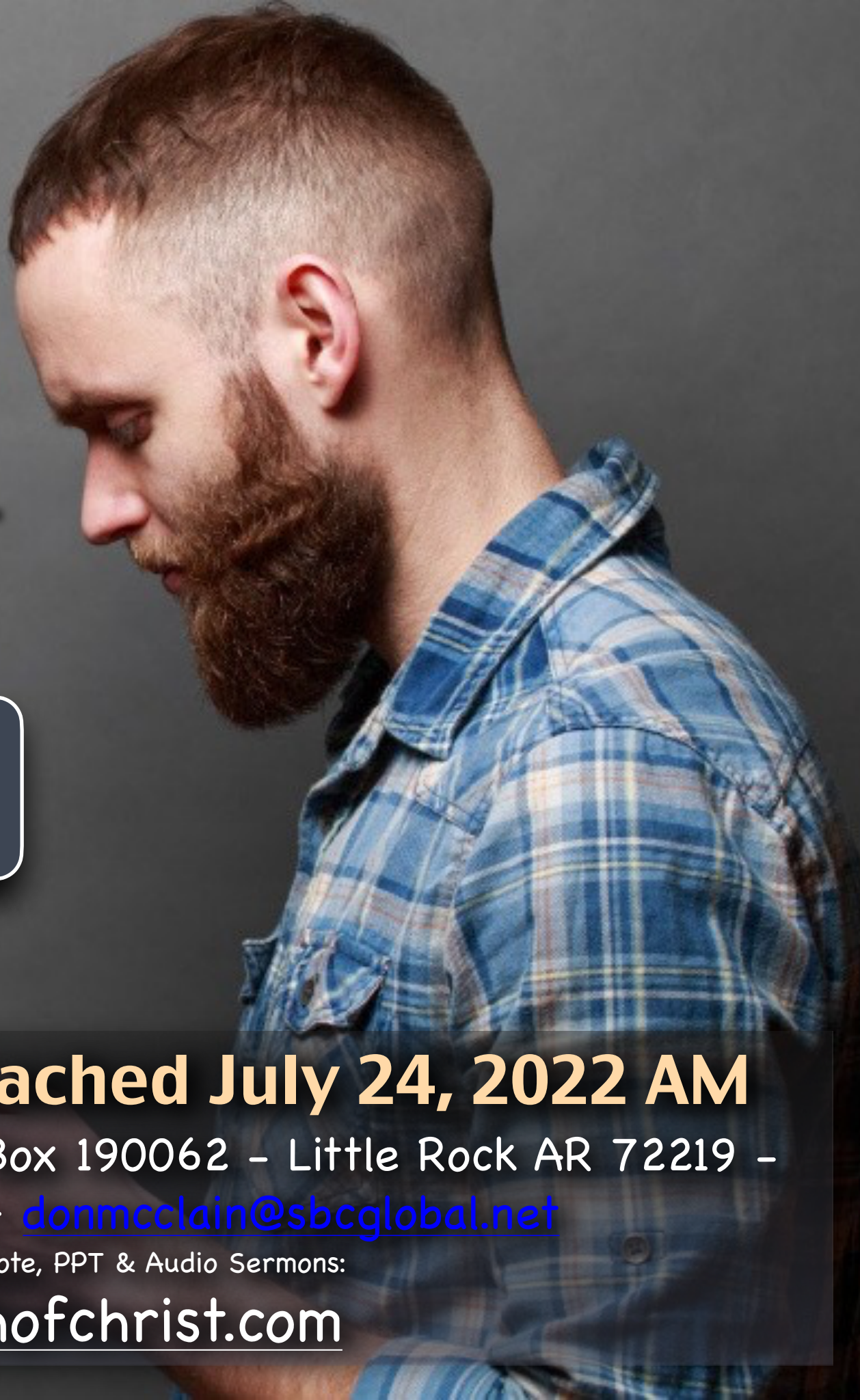


What would you hear the
Lord say to you if
“THAT DAY” was TODAY?

The way of sin & rebellion ...

‘I never knew you;
depart from Me,





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To Be Saved

LEGALISM?

(Luke 6:39-49)

Charts by Don McClain / Preached July 24, 2022 AM

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John 5:39–47 (NKJV)

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. ⁴¹ “I do not receive honor from men. ⁴² But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. ⁴³ I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

9 Signs Your Church is a Breeding Ground for Legalism

By Laura Petherbridge

<https://research.lifeway.com/2019/05/28/9-signs-your-church-is-a-breeding-ground-for-legalism/>

1. The people in your church have an “Us vs. Them” mentality: *Those who believe in Jesus are good. Those who don't believe in Him are bad.*
2. There's talk about the church extending “too much grace” when it comes to a less-than-desirable person in the pew.
3. You notice there seem to be many people who never believe they're doing enough for God. They say things like “I should pray more often” rather than “I love to pray.”
4. Outsiders don't visit often (perhaps because the church is known for its legalism). People who are deeply hurting due to their sins or poor choices feel humiliated and embarrassed around you or people in your congregation.
5. Congregants actively avoid people who have a different worldview from them or who struggle with an outwardly visible sin.
6. There's a general attitude among church members that being right is more important than being kind.
7. People are smug about their Bible knowledge and feel superior to those less educated about Scripture.
8. People who are deeply hurting due to their sins/poor choices feel humiliated and embarrassed around you.
9. This list has made you very uncomfortable, angry or indignant and you want to start defending yourself or your congregation—with Bible verses.

At this point you might be thinking I'm suggesting preachers and teachers water down the gospel to please people and culture. That's not it at all.