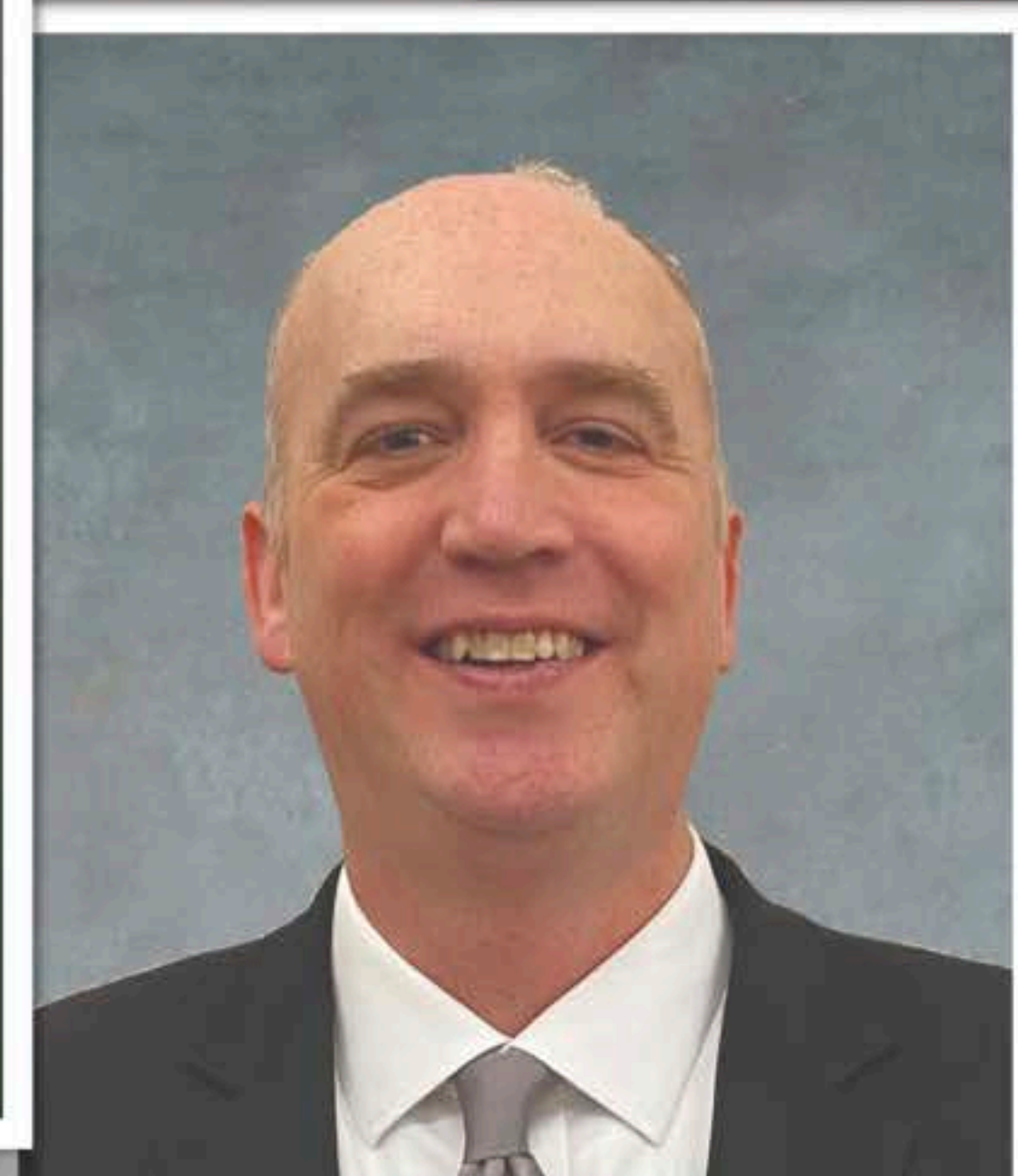


## PROPOSITION

“The Scriptures teach that God chose, from the foundation of the world, a definite number of people to be saved, not on the basis of anything foreseen in them, but solely on the basis of His own purpose and grace.”

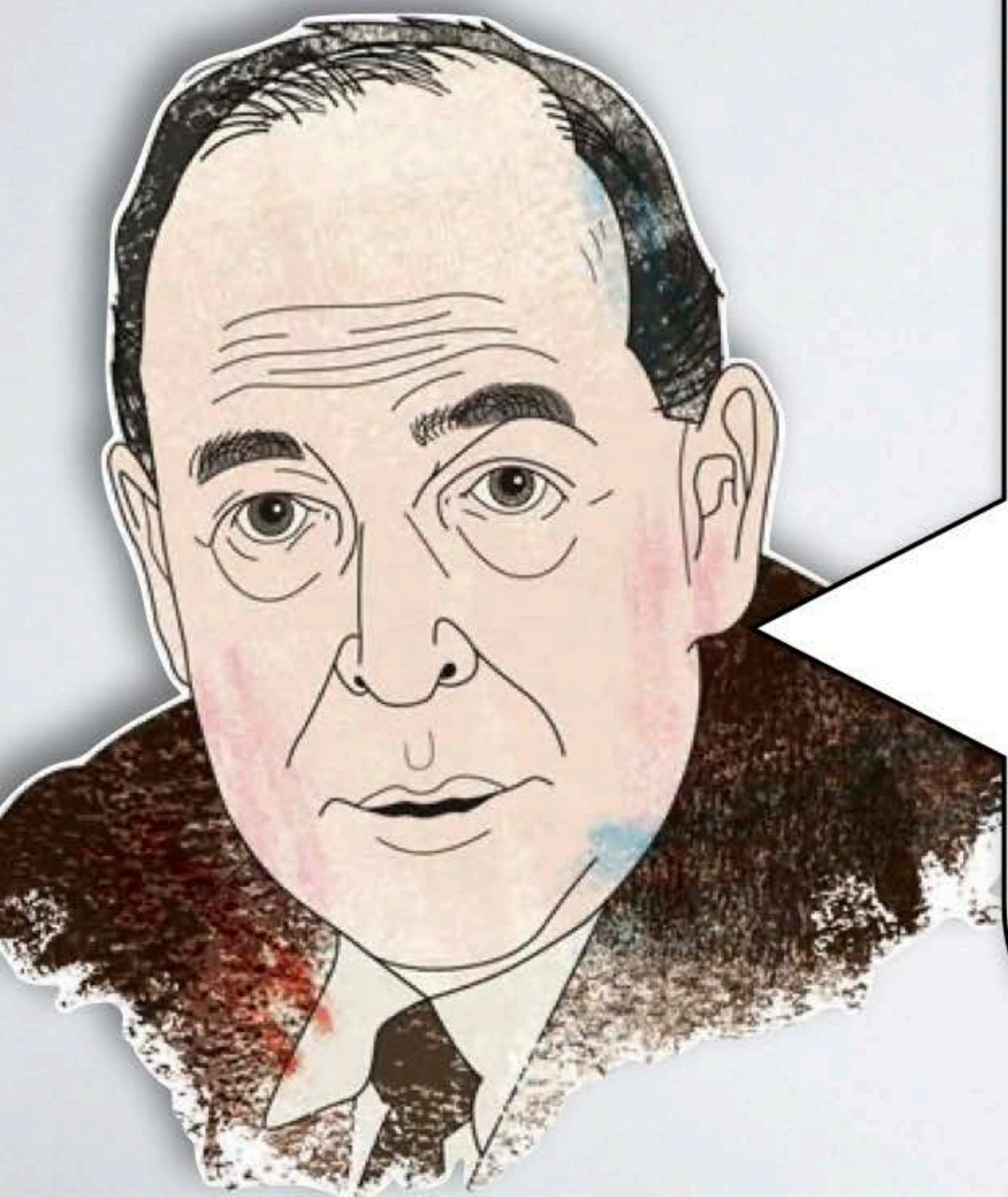


**AFFIRM: JOEL ELLIS**



**DENY: BRUCE REEVES**

# “THY WILL BE DONE”



“There are only two kinds of people in the end; those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says in the end, ‘thy will be done.’ All that are in hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell.”

(C.S. Lewis; *The Great Divorce*, pg. 72)

**FLESH = BONDAGE / SPIRIT = LIBERTY**

## THE MIND SET ON THE FLESH

### **Romans 8:7–8 (NASB95)**

<sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- Mankind is unable to please God while pursuing justification through the flesh.
- This does not mean mankind is unable to respond with faith to the gospel.

# FLESH = BONDAGE / SPIRIT = LIBERTY

<sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7–8 (NASB95)

- To be “in the flesh” is to be in bondage to the law of sin and of death (2)
- They walk according to the flesh (4)
- They set their minds on the flesh, which brings death (5,6)
- The mind SET on the law of sin and death is a mind SET against God. (7)
- They CANNOT please God (8)

- ▶ **The Law of Moses could NOT deliver from the law of sin and of death (3)**
- ▶ **Those seeking justification through the Law and rejecting the gospel are hostile towards God and cannot please God (7,8)**

# FLESH = BONDAGE / SPIRIT = LIBERTY

<sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7–8 (NASB95)

- To be “in Christ” is to be freed from the law of sin and of death (1)
- They walk according to the Spirit (4)
- They set their minds on the Spirit, which brings life and peace (5,6)
- The mind SET on the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus brings life and peace. (6)

- ▶ **The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, (Gospel), sets us free from the law of sin and of death (2)**
- ▶ **We must CHOOSE one or the other (6:16-18; 12:1,2; Col. 3:1,2; Deut. 30:15,19)**

# “PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED”

## Romans 8:28–30 (NASB95)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

### ■ “those whom He foreknew” (29)

- ▶ What God loved from the foundation of the world was the bride of Christ, considered as a corporate whole.
- ▶ In the Bible the election to salvation is spoken of as a class, i.e., not as individuals per se.
- ▶ Our spiritual identity as the elect of God is only experienced as members in Christ's body.

# “PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED”

Romans 8:28-30

All Things Work Together For Good

TO

**THOSE WHO LOVE GOD**  
**(The Foreknown & Predestined Class)**

The CLASS who receive the call according to His purpose to glorify

The CLASS who God foreknew He would glorify (i.e., Those IN CHRIST)

The CLASS predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus

**THE CLASS**  
Predestined  
Called  
Justified  
Glorified

# MAN'S SINFULNESS $\neq$ MAN'S INABILITY

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## WE AGREE

“All have sinned”

“Men have been corrupted by sin”

“Men are in bondage to sin”

“Men are enslaved to sin”

“Men are dead in sin”

“Men can be hardened by sin”

“Men can be blinded by sin”

## WE DENY

Proof that mankind is sinful, is not Biblical evidence of human inability to choose faith in Christ for spiritual deliverance.

# WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE ...

## BASIS / GROUNDS

Jn 3:16; Rom. 5:8-11

**God's Universal  
Kindness, Love & Mercy  
manifested in Christ**



## PROVISION / MEANS

Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim 1:8-12

**The Gracious Gift  
of God's Son & The  
FAITH (Gospel)**

**CONDITIONAL  
via a SUBMISSIVE  
FAITH!**

**RECEPTION**  
Romans 6:16-18

HEARING / BELIEVING  
REPENTING / CONFESSING  
BAPTISM / FAITHFUL



- ▶ **The concept of saving faith is NEVER contrasted with faithful obedience in scripture.**
- ▶ **Abraham was not justified by the Law / boastful works (4:2,4; 11:6; Ep 2:8.9).**
- ▶ **Abraham “believed God” and it was COUNTED to him as righteousness (4:3; Gen. 15:6; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23)**

faith / repentance / confession / baptism / faithfulness

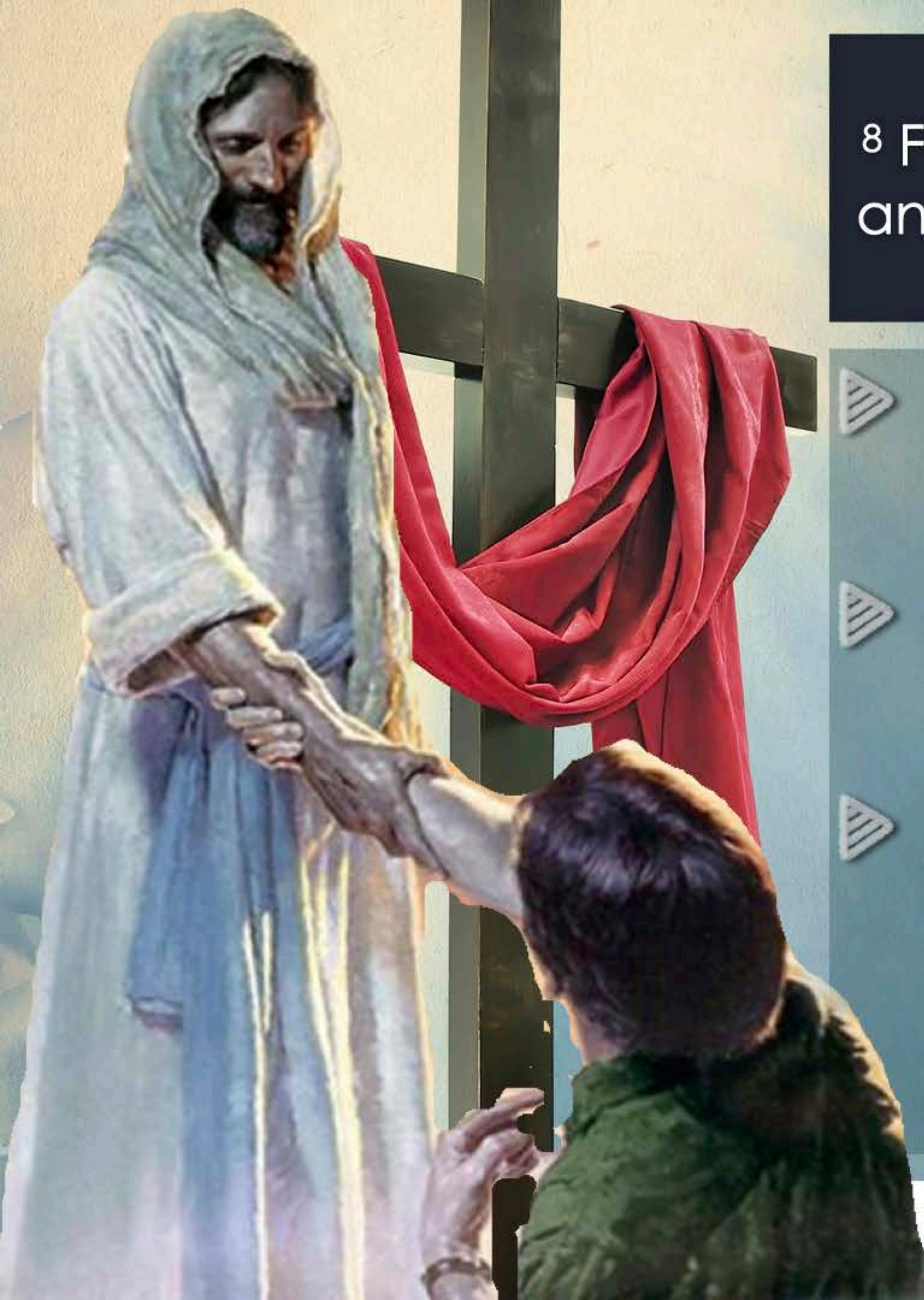


- ▶ The premise that “*if we have to do anything at all to receive salvation we would earn salvation,*” is a premise that despises the value of the sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 10:26-31).
- ▶ Forgiveness is undeserved through Jesus Christ when we, by faith, obey Him (Heb. 5:8,9; Act 2:38; Gal. 3:26,27; Luke 17:10; Eph. 2:8; Titus 3:4,5; Rom. 4:1-12; 5:8,9; 6:3-23; etc.).

faith / repentance / confession / baptism / faithfulness

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- 
- ▶ **Noah saved by grace through faith (Gen. 6:8; Heb 11:7)**
  - ▶ **Walls of Jericho fell by grace through faith (Joshua 6:2,15,16,20; Heb 11:30)**
  - ▶ **The FAITH that obeys does not nullify God's grace or earn it - but receives it! (Mk 16:16; Gal. 2:20; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom 6:3-19; Col. 2:12,13)**

faith / repentance / confession / baptism / faithfulness