A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting on the top of a very tall stack of books. He is looking up towards the sky with a thoughtful expression. The stack of books is composed of many thick, old volumes with worn spines in various colors like brown, green, and red. The background is a soft-focus landscape with rolling hills or mountains under a pale, hazy sky. The overall tone is contemplative and scholarly.

THE POWER & WISDOM OF GOD

Vs. WORLDLY WISDOM

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16

CORINTH

- STRONGHOLD OF WORLDLY WISDOM



- ◆ Roman capital of Achaia – largest city in Greece at the time – Center of trade and commerce -
- ◆ A center of idolatry: **Apollo**, **Poseidon**, **Aphrodite** and others were worshipped in the many pagan temples.
- ◆ Corinth had a reputation as a very wicked city; immorality was rampant.

CORINTH

- STRONGHOLD OF WORLDLY WISDOM



- ◆ Human wisdom, (philosophy of men) was everywhere in Corinth ... (At least four dozen distinct competing philosophical systems)
- ◆ Their carnality was the root of division & every other problem in Corinth / they were philosophically divided ... (1 Cor 3:1-4; etc.)

THE POWER & WISDOM OF GOD Vs. WORLDLY WISDOM

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

THE POWER & WISDOM OF GOD

Vs. WORLDLY WISDOM

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

THE POWER & WISDOM OF GOD

Vs. WORLDLY WISDOM

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 (NKJV)

²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

WISDOM OF GOD

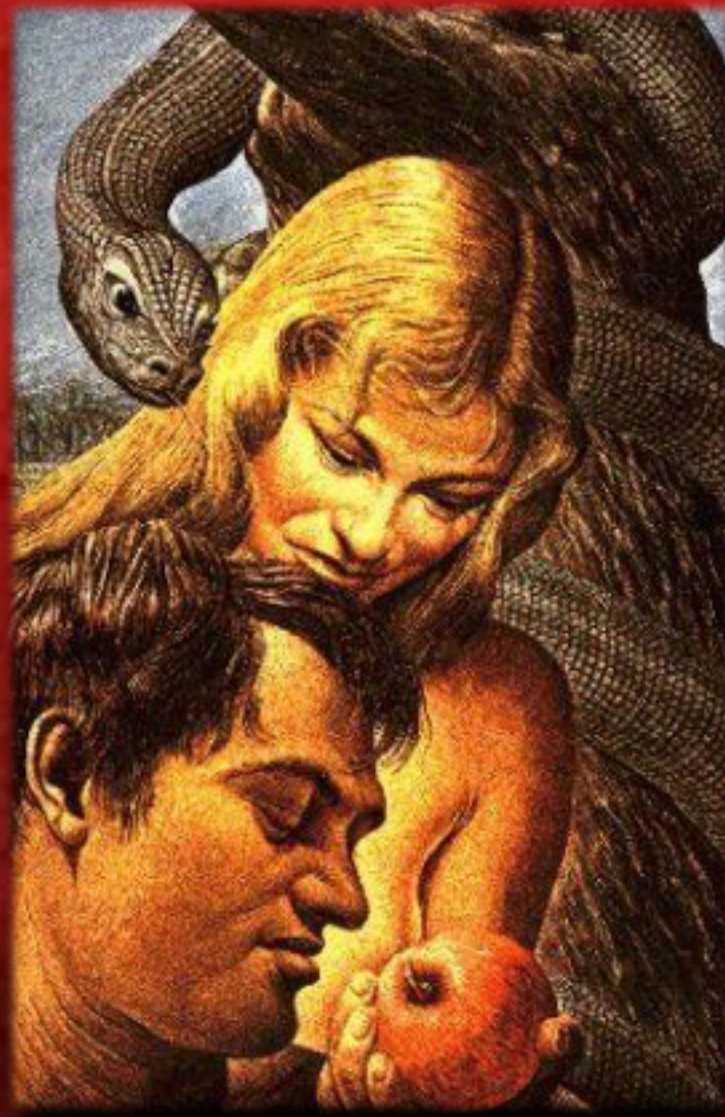
vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN THREATENED WITH WORLDLY
WISDOM / PRIDE / UNBELIEF

Genesis 2:8-25

- Provided every need
- Placed man in the garden to tend it -
- Could eat of every tree ... tree of life
- Had ONLY one CLEAR restriction -



Genesis 3:1-6

- Cast Doubt Upon God's Word
- Misused God's Word
- Impugned Character & Motives of God
- Appealed To The "Here & Now!"

WISDOM OF GOD

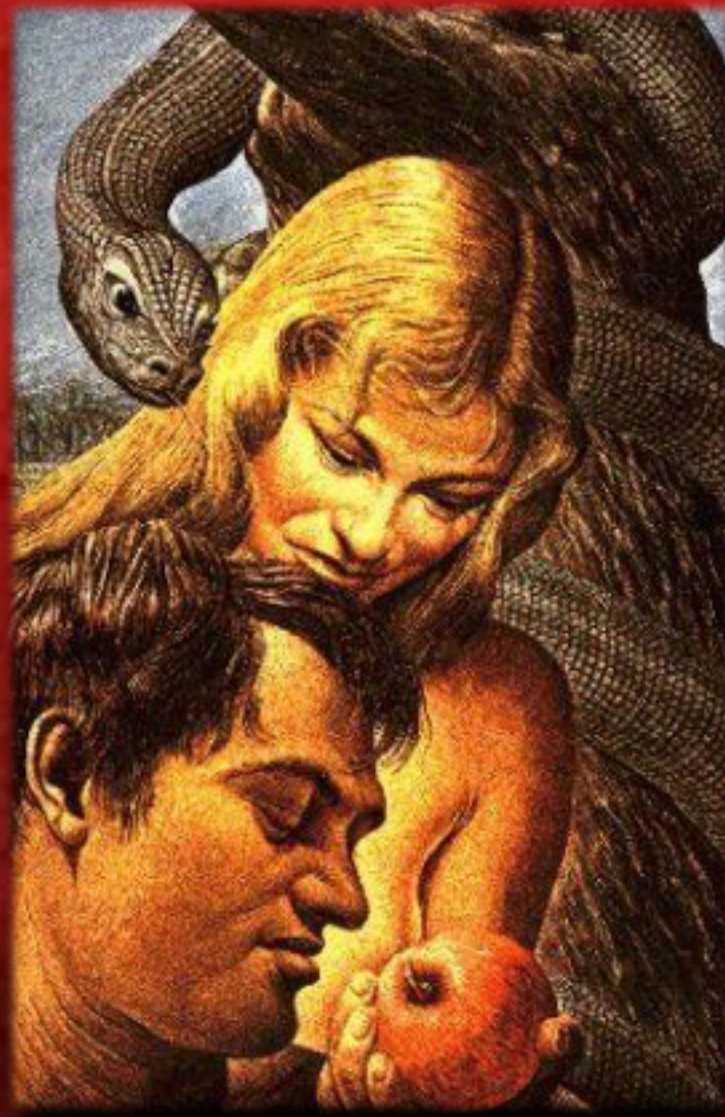
vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN THREATENED WITH WORLDLY
WISDOM / PRIDE / UNBELIEF

Believers

- Divine Creation -
- Bible God's word -
- God's providential care & preservation of His word & plan
- Jesus only savior - His church only saved ...



Unbelievers

- Natural Evolution
- Bible - book of man
- God has not preserved His word - can't know Him ...
- One religion just as good as another ...

WISDOM
OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY
WISDOM

FROM ABOVE OR EARTHLY?

James 3:17-4:3

Only Two Possible Sources

James 3:17,18

pure, peaceable,
gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good
fruits, without
partiality or hypocrisy.
the fruit of
righteousness - peace.

James 3:14-4:3

earthly, sensual,
demonic - envy and
self-seeking -
confusion and every
evil thing ... fightings
& wars ... seek to
satisfy self ...



WISDOM
OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY
WISDOM

FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?

Matthew 21:25-26

Only Two
Possible
Sources

From Heaven

Mt. 21:23-27

1 John 4:4-6

Gal. 1:6-9

Col. 2:6-10

2 Thess. 2:15

From Men

Mt. 15:1-9

1 Cor. 4:6

Gal. 1:10-17

Col. 2:8

2 Thess. 2:2-4



WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WORD VS. WORDS OF MEN

1 COR 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message
of the cross is
foolishness to those
who are perishing,
but to us who are
being saved it is the
power of God.

◆ Divine Wisdom Doesn't Appear Wise
From An Unbelieving human perspective

- Call of Abraham / circumcision / offering Isaac - Gen 12; 15; 22
- Bronze serpent - Numbers 21:4-8; John 3:14,15
- Healing of Naaman - 2 Kings 5:1-19; Acts 22:16
- Capture of Jericho - Jos 6:1-27;
- Our salvation - Jn 3:16; Col 2:11-13

WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WORD VS. WORDS OF MEN

1 Cor 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message
of the cross is
foolishness to those
who are perishing,
but to us who are
being saved it is the
power of God.

- ◆ The preaching of the cross – central message of the gospel – (2:2; Acts 2; 8; 10; Luke 24:46,47; 1 Cor 15)
- ◆ To those perishing- foolishness - (disinterest / ineffectual) – (2 Thes 2:10)
- ◆ To those who are “being saved,” [NKJV; NASB; ESV; NIV] (sozo – denotes linear action), it is the power of God – (Rom. 1:16,17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Jam. 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Heb. 4:12)



WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WORD VS. WORDS OF MEN

1 Cor 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For it is written: "I
will destroy the
wisdom of the wise,
And bring to
nothing the
understanding of
the prudent."

- ◆ Human wisdom incapable of delivering men from destruction – (Isaiah 29:14; 1 Cor. 3:19; Job 5:12,13; Prov. 14:12; Jer. 8:9)
- ◆ God has made foolish the wisdom of this world – (1:20; Isaiah 44:25)
- ◆ Can't know God by human wisdom – (1:21; 2:13,14; Mat. 11:25; Acts 17:18; Rom. 1:21-26)



WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WORD VS. WORDS OF MEN

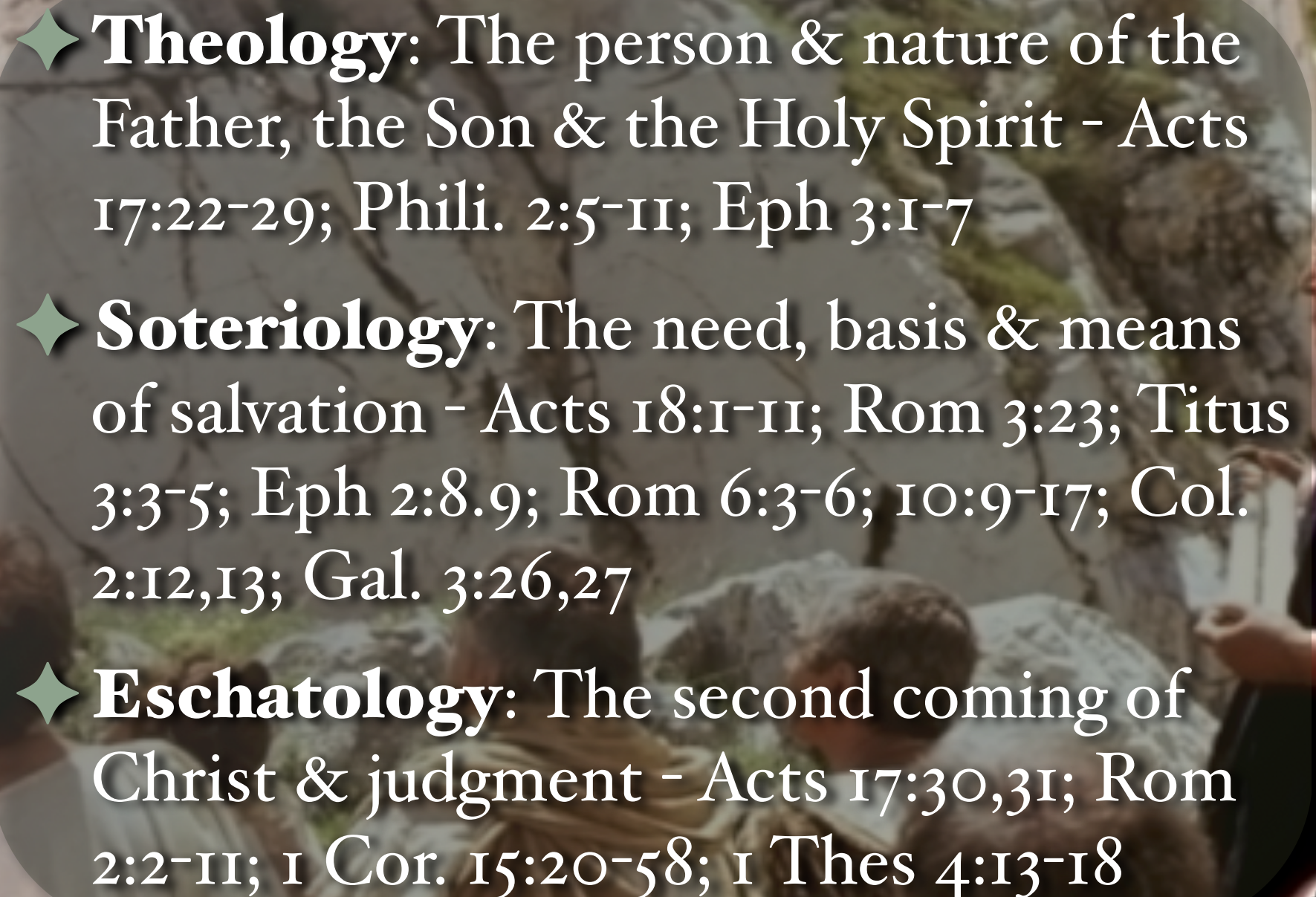
1 Cor 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For it is written: "I
will destroy the
wisdom of the wise,
And bring to
nothing the
understanding of
the prudent."

- ◆ We can ONLY know God through the message preached, (revealed by the apostles & prophets – (1:21; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Thes 2:13)
- ✱ I'm not ashamed - Rom 1:16
- ✱ Preach the word - 2 Tim 4:2
- ✱ Preaching Jesus Christ & Him crucified - 1:18; 2:2

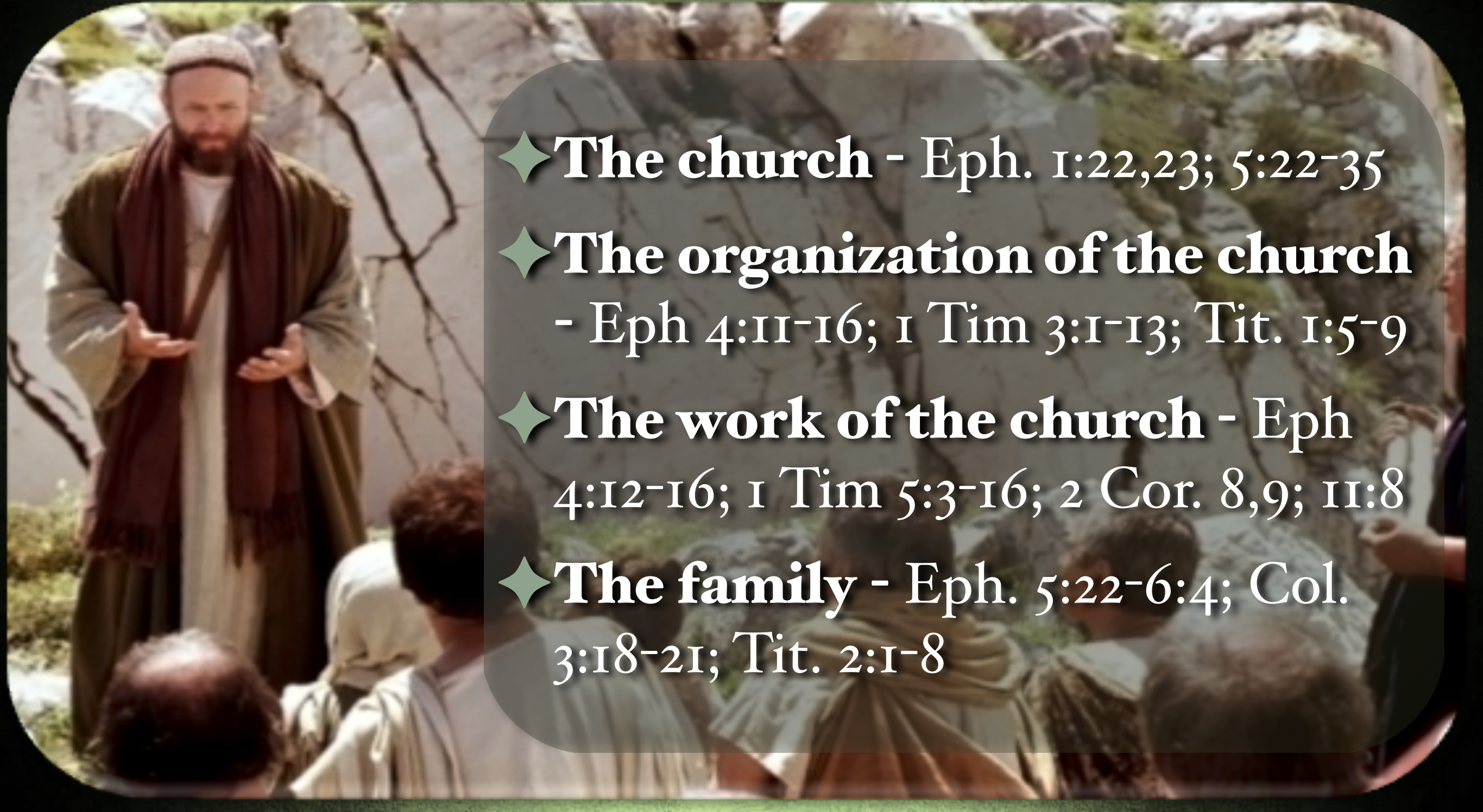
PAUL PREACHED CHRIST & HIM CRUCIFIED

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23; 2:2

- 
- ◆ **Theology:** The person & nature of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit - Acts 17:22-29; Phili. 2:5-11; Eph 3:1-7
 - ◆ **Soteriology:** The need, basis & means of salvation - Acts 18:1-11; Rom 3:23; Titus 3:3-5; Eph 2:8.9; Rom 6:3-6; 10:9-17; Col. 2:12,13; Gal. 3:26,27
 - ◆ **Eschatology:** The second coming of Christ & judgment - Acts 17:30,31; Rom 2:2-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-58; 1 Thes 4:13-18

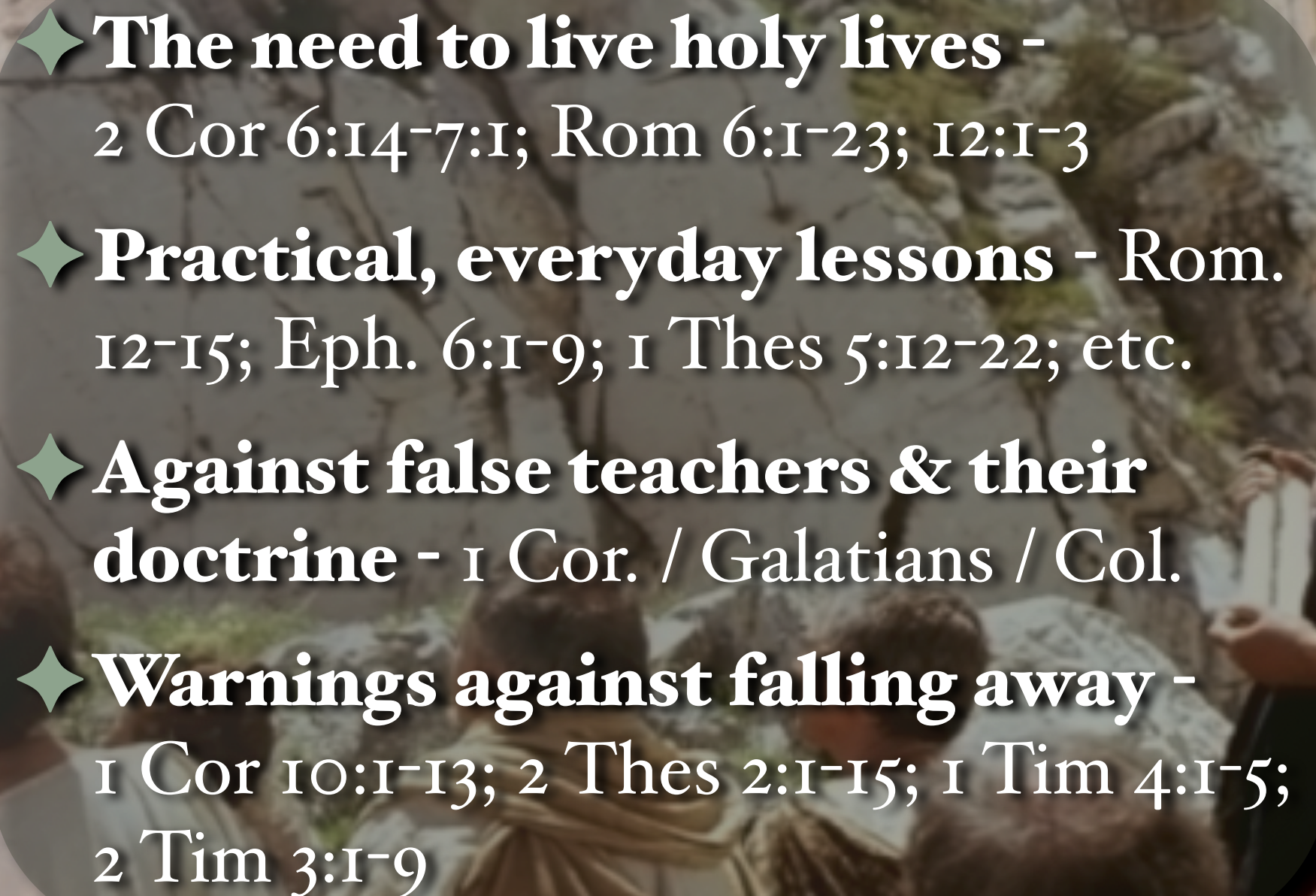
PAUL PREACHED CHRIST & HIM CRUCIFIED

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23; 2:2

- 
- ◆ **The church** - Eph. 1:22,23; 5:22-35
 - ◆ **The organization of the church**
- Eph 4:11-16; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9
 - ◆ **The work of the church** - Eph 4:12-16; 1 Tim 5:3-16; 2 Cor. 8,9; 11:8
 - ◆ **The family** - Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-21; Tit. 2:1-8

PAUL PREACHED CHRIST & HIM CRUCIFIED

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23; 2:2

- 
- ◆ **The need to live holy lives -**
2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Rom 6:1-23; 12:1-3
 - ◆ **Practical, everyday lessons -** Rom.
12-15; Eph. 6:1-9; 1 Thes 5:12-22; etc.
 - ◆ **Against false teachers & their doctrine -** 1 Cor. / Galatians / Col.
 - ◆ **Warnings against falling away -**
1 Cor 10:1-13; 2 Thes 2:1-15; 1 Tim 4:1-5;
2 Tim 3:1-9

WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WORD VS. WORDS OF MEN

1 Cor 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

God's Word

- Saves - 18; Rom 1:16
- Eternal - 1 Pet 1:24ff
- Powerful - Heb 4:12
- For humble - Mat 5:3
- Exalts God - Ro 4:20

1 Cor 1:18

1 Cor 1:19,20

1 Cor 1:21-25

1 Cor 1:26-29

1 Cor 1:30,31

Worldly Wisdom

- Only condemns
- Temporary
- Impotent
- For the proud
- Exalts man

WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WISDOM (THE GOSPEL)
HAS BEEN REVEALED - [CH 2]

1 COR 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

- ◆ The Manner of Paul's Preaching – Not with persuasive words - (2:1-5)
- ◆ The Source of Paul's Preaching – the Holy Spirit revealed - (2:6-13)
- ◆ Many Will Reject God's Wisdom – For It Is Foolishness To Them – (2:14)
- ◆ Paul's preaching equipped believers to judge righteously all things - (2:15,16)

WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

GOD'S WISDOM (THE GOSPEL)
HAS BEEN REVEALED - [CH 2]

1 COR 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

- ✦ The word has the power to save all who believe - (James 1:21-25).
- ✦ The evangelist has the duty to hold up the mirror and call men to behold themselves therein. - (2 Tim 4:2)
- ✦ It is the responsibility of the hearers to receive God's word & act accordingly. - (Jam 1:21; 2 Tim 4:3,4)


WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

- ◆ SOLVING OUR MORAL PROBLEMS
- ◆ VIOLENCE, DRUG ADDICTIONS, CRIME
- ◆ SAME SEX MARRIAGE -
- ◆ RACIAL ISSUES / SOCIETAL ISSUES
- ◆ PRESERVING & SAVING FAMILIES -
- ◆ RAISING CHILDREN -
- ◆ SAVING THE LOST -
- ◆ STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH -
- ◆ WORSHIP & WORK OF THE CHURCH -





WISDOM *The* OF GOD

HEAR THE TRUTH
ROMANS 10:17

BELIEVE THE TRUTH
JOHN 3:16; 8:24

CONFESS THE TRUTH
ACTS 8:37; ROMANS 10:9,10

REPENT UNTO THE TRUTH
LUKE 13:3,5; ACTS 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST
ACTS 2:38; ROM 6:3-6

FAITHFUL TO THE TRUTH
1 COR 15:58; COL. 1:23

*"Preaching Jesus Christ
and Him Crucified"*

WISDOM OF GOD

Vs.

WORLDLY WISDOM

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1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-23 (NKJV)

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.