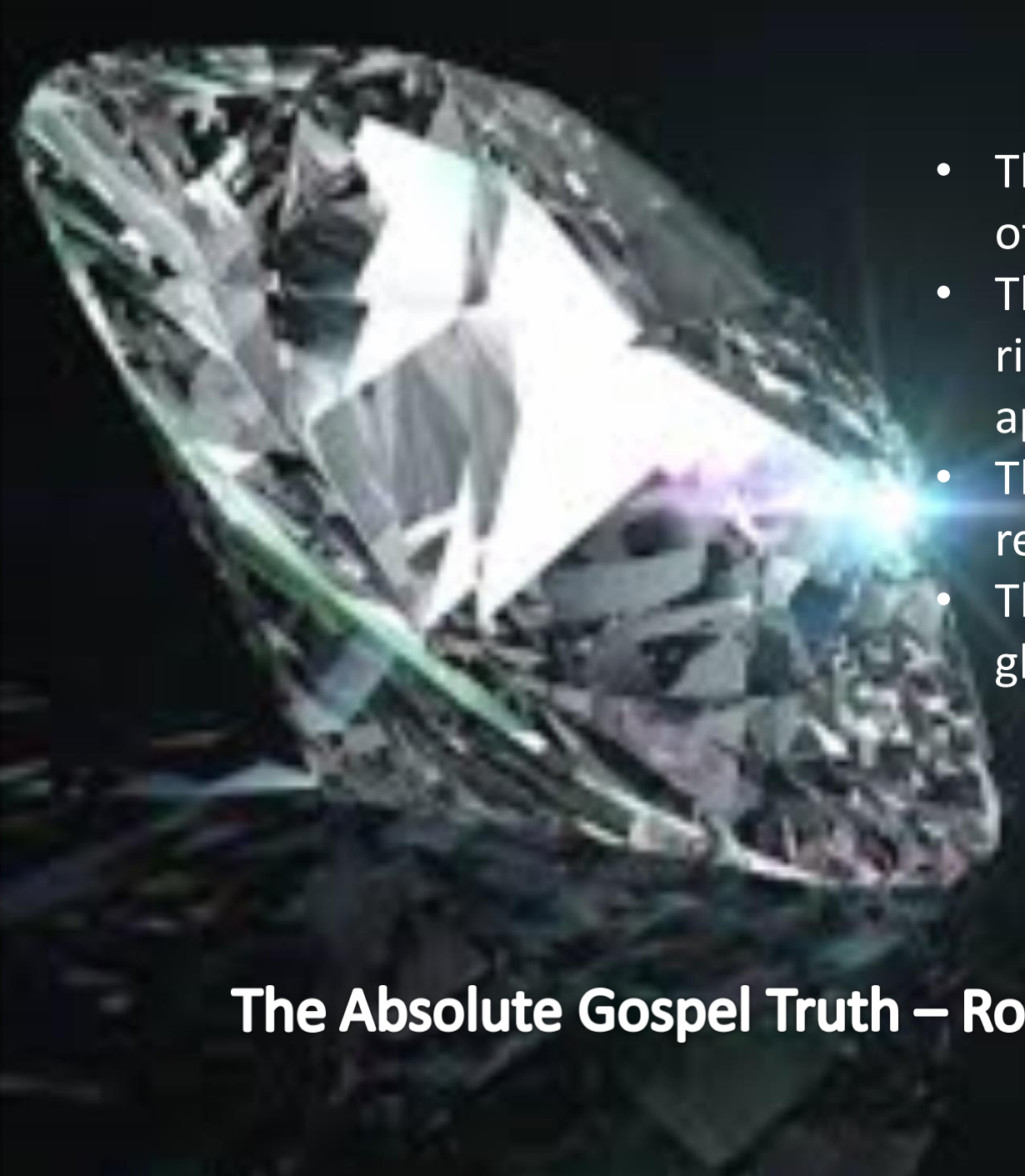




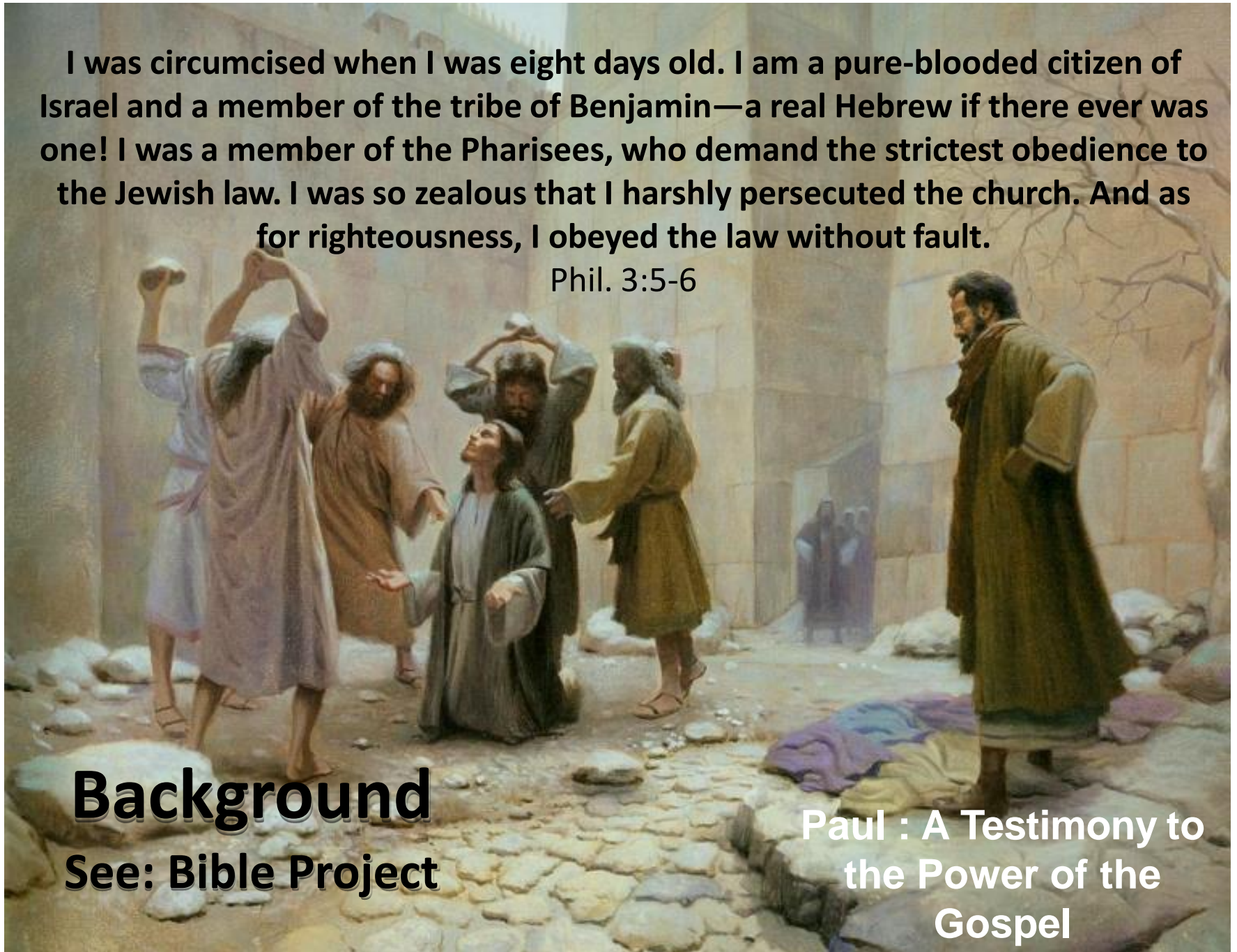
- 
- A large, faceted diamond is shown against a dark background. The diamond is cut in a complex, multi-faceted style, with many flat surfaces that reflect light. A bright, multi-colored light flare (spectrum of colors) emanates from one of the facets, creating a lens flare effect. The overall image has a high-contrast, dramatic feel.
- The Gospel is the power of God for salvation
  - The Gospel gives us God's righteousness-His approval
  - The Gospel brings us into relationship with God
  - The Gospel leads us to glorify and honor God

**The Absolute Gospel Truth – Romans 1 and 2**



**I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.**

**Phil. 3:5-6**



**Background**

**See: Bible Project**

**Paul : A Testimony to  
the Power of the  
Gospel**

**Blame**

**Fault**

**Guilt**

**Shame**

**Accused**

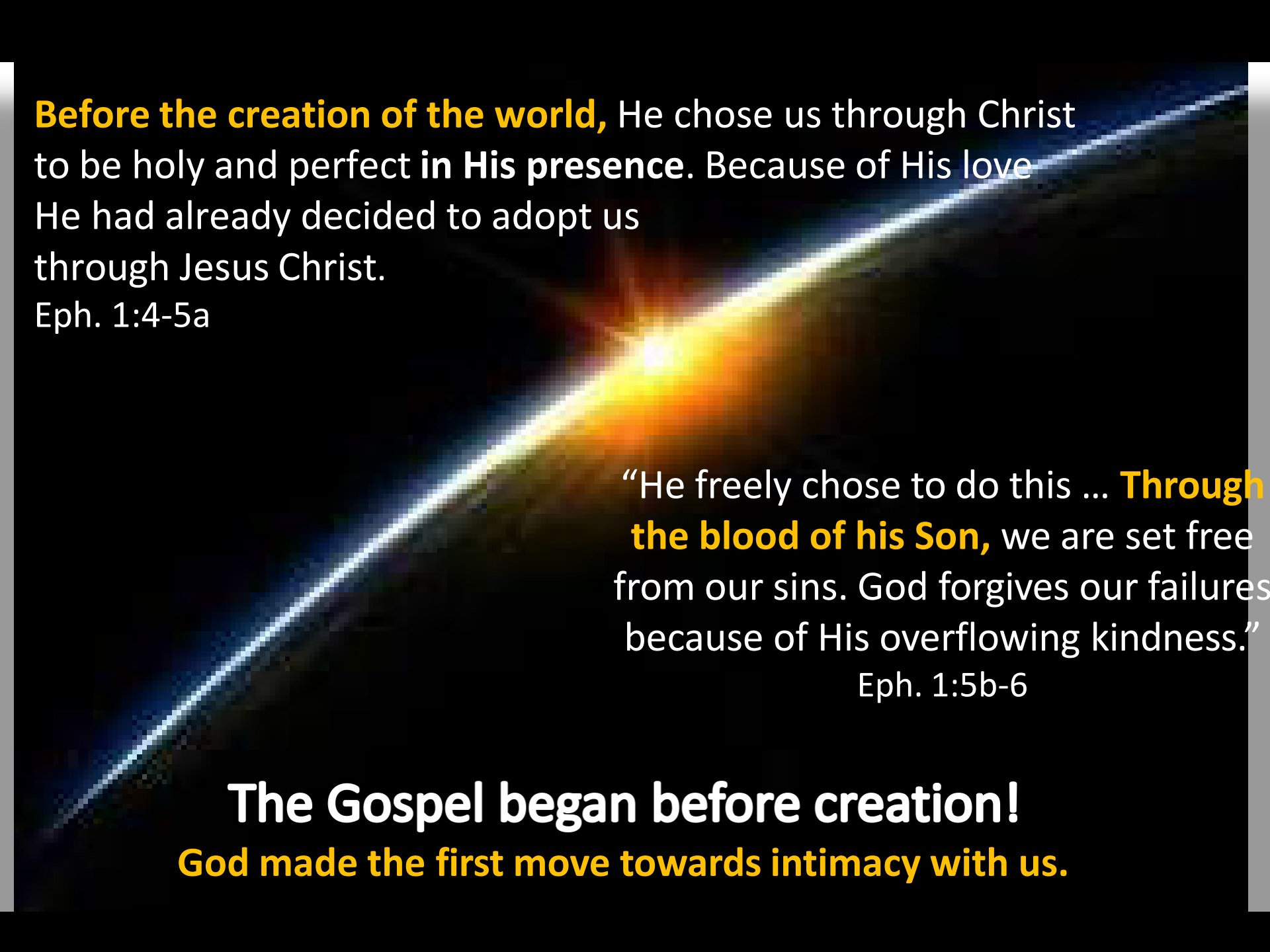
**Forgiven – Freed – Approved  
in Jesus**



## Truths About the Gospel in Rom.1:1-5

- This is the Gospel of God (v. 1)
- It was promised before to His prophets in the Holy Scriptures - v.3
- This gospel involves God becoming man (3).
- The Son was appointed to be the Son of God (v.4) (Messiah)
- He died and was resurrected v.5
- Through whom we receive grace

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... 1 Cor. 15:3-4



**Before the creation of the world,** He chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect **in His presence.** Because of His love He had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ.

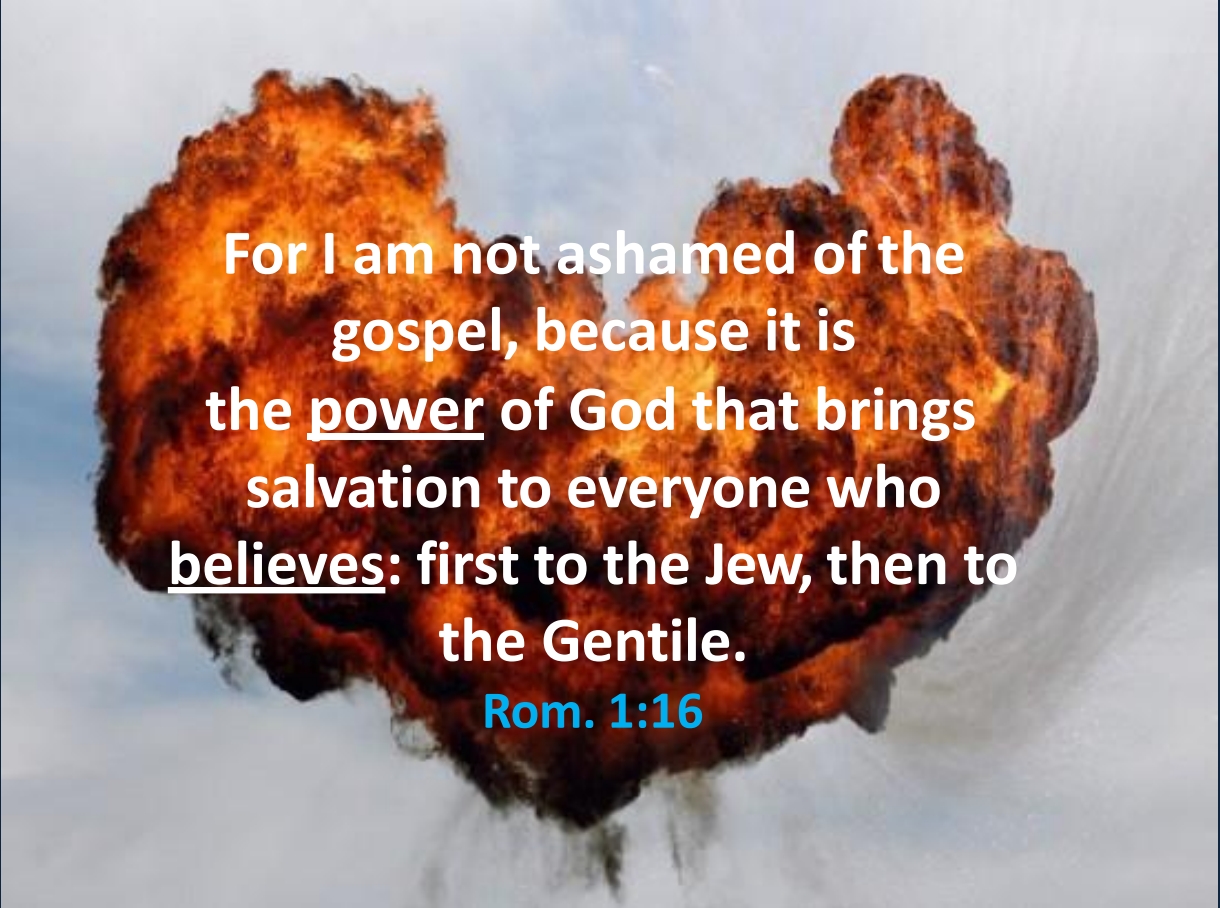
Eph. 1:4-5a

“He freely chose to do this ... **Through the blood of his Son,** we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of His overflowing kindness.”

Eph. 1:5b-6

**The Gospel began before creation!**  
**God made the first move towards intimacy with us.**





For I am not ashamed of the  
gospel, because it is  
the power of God that brings  
salvation to everyone who  
believes: first to the Jew, then to  
the Gentile.

Rom. 1:16

Power – dunamis

- strength
- power; ability
- like an explosive force

\* The **inherent** power residing within a thing by virtue of its nature.

# The Gospel's Power Brings Salvation to Me

# What is this power that resides in the Gospel?

## Power (*dunamis*) in Romans:

- **Rom. 1:4** – resurrection power that raised Jesus
- **Rom. 4:21** – Resurrection power - Abraham believed that God had the power to raise Isaac from the dead
- **Rom. 1:20** – *since creation ... his eternal power ...* clearly seen
- **Rom. 15:18-19** - “by the power of signs and wonders”- produce belief and obedience

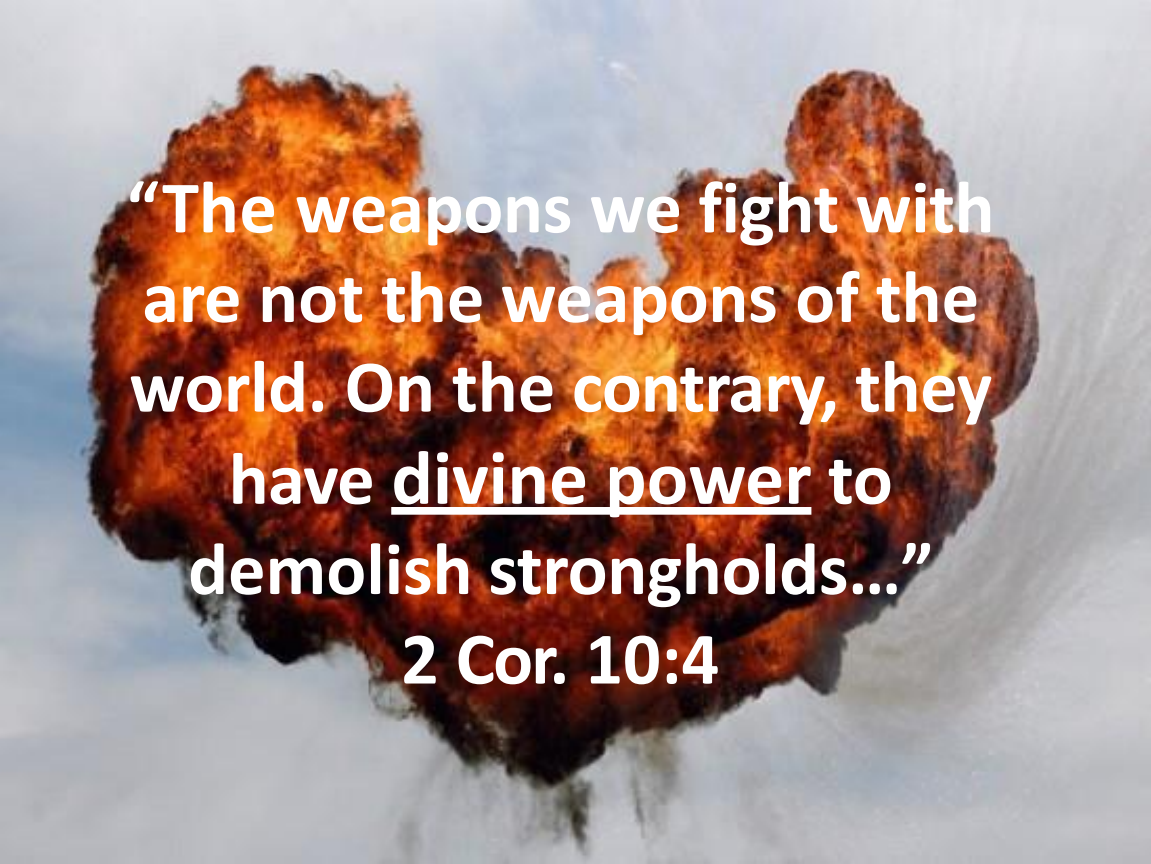
## Power of Jesus – **Inherent Power\***

**Luke 6:19** - “And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them* all.”

**Luke 8:46** - “But Jesus said, “Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me.”

**Luke 4:36** - “And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* talking with one another saying, “What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.”





**“The weapons we fight with  
are not the weapons of the  
world. On the contrary, they  
have divine power to  
demolish strongholds...”**

**2 Cor. 10:4**

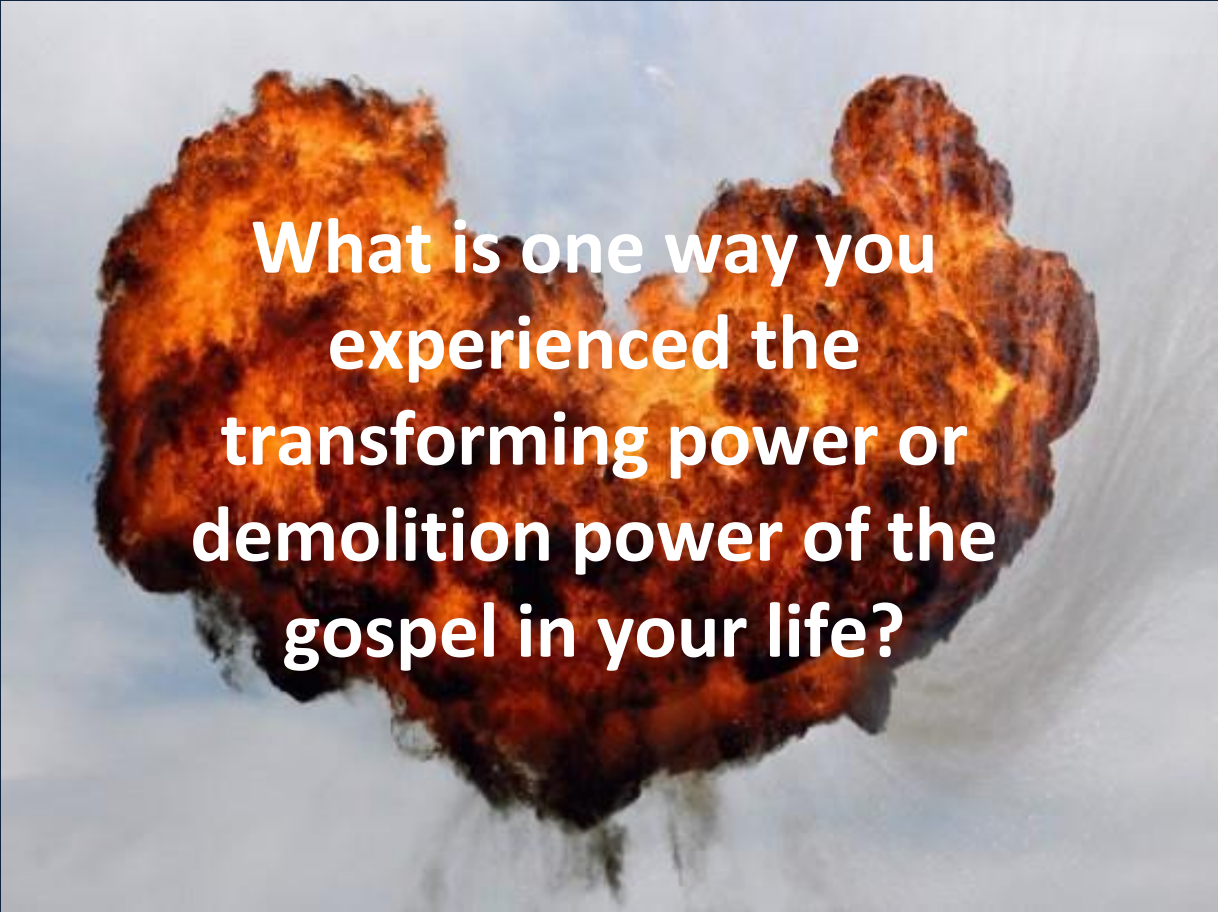
**Demolish:**

smash down;  
pull down - as in  
pulling down altars  
to idols in OT

**Stronghold**

fortress/castle;  
anything one relies  
on;  
Reasoning or  
rationalizations we  
use to support or  
defend our sinful  
thoughts/actions or  
feelings

**The Gospel's Power Demolishes Strongholds in my Heart**



**What is one way you  
experienced the  
transforming power or  
demolition power of the  
gospel in your life?**

**The Gospel's Power Demolishes and Transforms**

# The Gospel Reveals the Righteousness of God

"For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

"The righteous will live by faith." Rom. 1:17

**What is "righteousness?"**

**1.It is the character and nature of God. (El Tsadik)**

- blameless; right in all He does; just;

**2.It is the state of being approved of by God.**

**Dikaiosyne** – righteousness

- the state or condition of being "right" in the sight of God;
- standing in His approval;
- judicially declared blameless and able to stand in the presence of God;
- to have a friendship with God.

## **How** does the Gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

The requirement of the Law met **by** Jesus

- Ezekiel 18:20; Rom. 6:23
- Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22



**Jesus's death meets the requirement of the Law on our behalf!**

- **Romans 8:3-4** – “For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a **sin offering**. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”



# How does the Gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

**Jesus took on the consequences of our sin for us – death,**

- **Isaiah 53: 5** – “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”
- **Heb. 2:9** – “But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God **He might taste death for everyone.**”

**Jesus became our sin so we can be right with God -2 Cor. 5:21**

- “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

# The Gospel Gives Us God's Approval

**Jesus gives us His right standing with God.**

“...He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you have been healed.” ( 1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

“Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you.” ( 1 Peter 2:24 God's Word)

**Being right with God brings us into a right relationship/friendship with God.**

# The Gospel Gives Us God's Friendship

## Psalm 25:14

“The **secret** of the LORD is for those who fear Him (*glorify Him*), and He will make them (*to*) know His covenant.” (NASB)

**Secret-** (coud- couch) - having private conversations with God



## Intimacy: God-You

- Time
- Transparency
- Submission

# Righteousness Is Received by Faith Sustained by Faith

“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a **righteousness** that is by **faith from first to last**, just as it is written:  
“The **righteous will live by faith.**”

## **Faith - Belief - Trust - Dependence On**

- **Belief** in Jesus; His work on the cross and His resurrection
- **Trust** in the sufficiency /completeness of Jesus' sacrifice; it is enough. (It is finished- *paid in full*). Heb. 7:25-26
- **Dependence** on His atoning blood.
- Not dependent on our works, perfect obedience, heritage, or covenant symbols (circumcision).

"This is the work of God (that God wants you to do),  
that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:29



**My Righteous One Will **Live** by Faith**

**Meditate on the Gospel daily!**

**Speak the gospel to yourself and others often!**

**Eph. 1:7** -In Him, I\_\_\_\_\_have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of (**my**) sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

**Rom. 5:9** - Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, I\_\_\_\_\_shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.(Jesus)

**2 Cor. 5:21**- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on my behalf, so that I\_\_\_\_\_might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Make a set of “*truth*” statements to help you  
live by faith each day.**

## Why We Need the Gospel



Romans 1:18-27 - Gentiles

Romans 2:17-23 - Jews



*“All have sinned and fallen  
short of the glory of God ...”  
Rom. 3:23*

# Why We Need the Gospel

Romans 1:18.21-25

## Guilty as Charged - Sin and Wrath

- **ungodliness- lack of reverence for God**; not keeping Him in His place as God; disrespect
- **unrighteousness** (NIV-wickedness) – refusing to be right with God – leading to wickedness

## The Heart Underlying Sin or Dark Exchanges

**1) A heart that refused to acknowledge God** honor Him as God

21.- For although they knew God, they neither **glorified** him as God nor ***gave thanks*** to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

❖ **Glory/honor – proper weight-value- place**

**Question: What does giving thanks to God signify?**  
**Reflect: How frequently do you give thanks God?**

# Why We Need the Gospel

Romans 1:18-27

## The Heart Underlying Sin or Dark Exchanges

**2) A heart that exchanges the glory God for the glory of man.**

v. 23 - *“they exchanged the glory (**value**) of the eternal God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”*

**3) A heart that exchanged the truth for lies.**

v. 25 - *“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and **served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

**Question: What truth(s) about God do I exchange for a lie?**



# Consequences of Refusing to Acknowledge God as God

## 1:26-32

Filled with Unrighteousness

Natural for unnatural

Fulfillment in life is wickedness

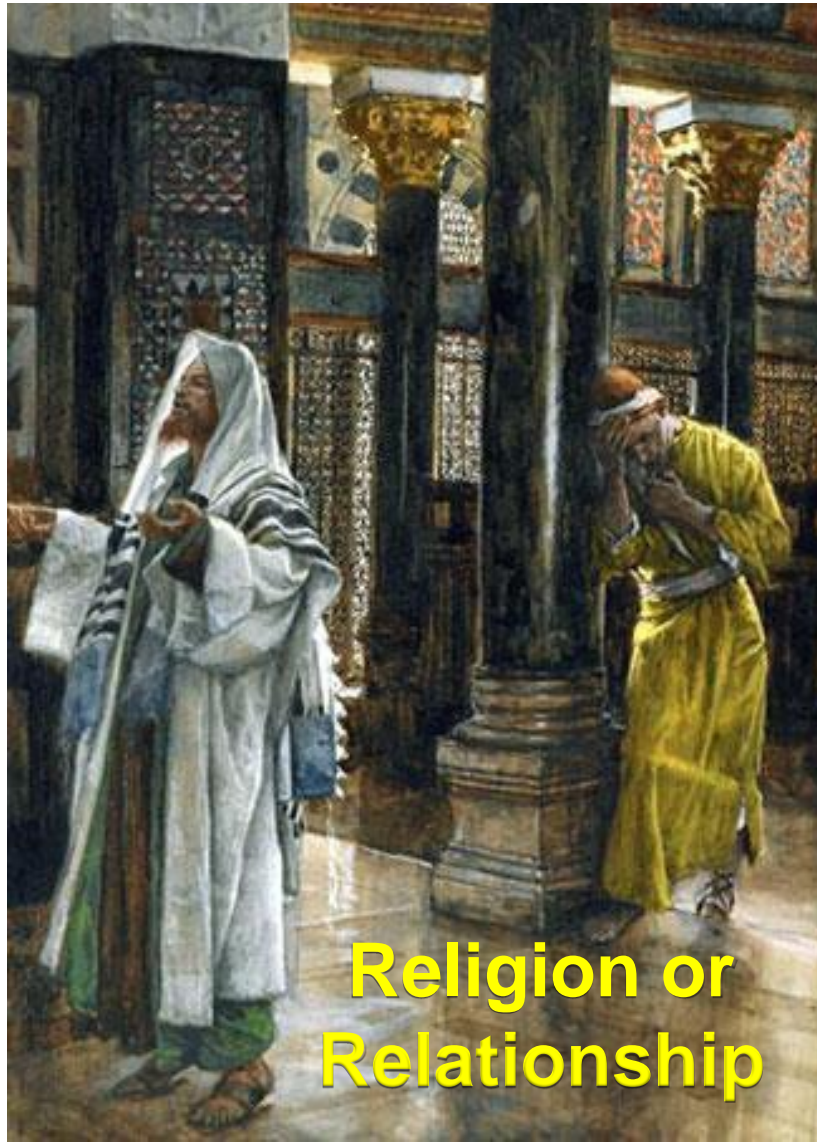
God Haters- Arrogant- Boastful

Without love-no mercy

Unfaithful- not trustworthy  
Covenant breakers

No understanding  
Cannot discern right from  
wrong

Thinking grows darker/duller



## **The Jews Guilty Before God**

Romans 2: 17-23

- ❖ **They trusted in themselves not God.**
- ❖ **They boasted that they knew God,** but did not honor Him as God.
- ❖ **They took pride in teaching** and counseling others, but did not obey God.
- ❖ **They trusted in external** practice of religion, heritage and symbols (circumcision...).

**What is one way I trust in myself, or my practice of religion over God?**



### Take Away!

- ♥ The Gospel gives me salvation.
- ♥ The Gospel gives me God's approval.
- ♥ The Gospel gives me God's friendship.
- ♥ The Gospel leads me to honor God as God.

“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:  
"The righteous will live by faith.." Rom. 1:17

