

COVENANT SERIES

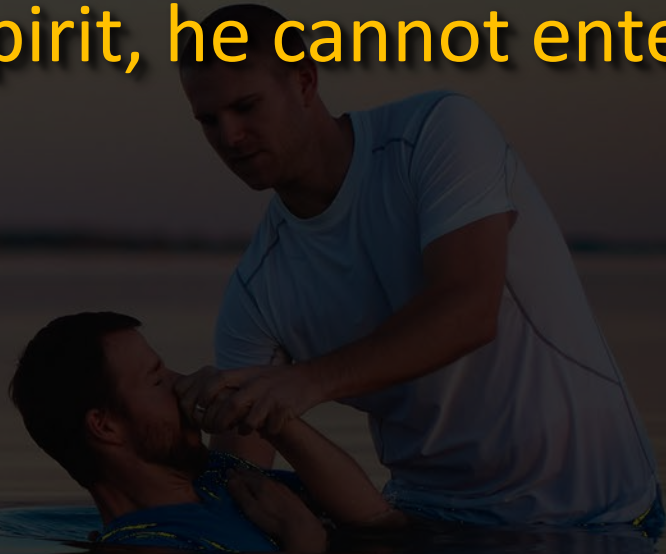
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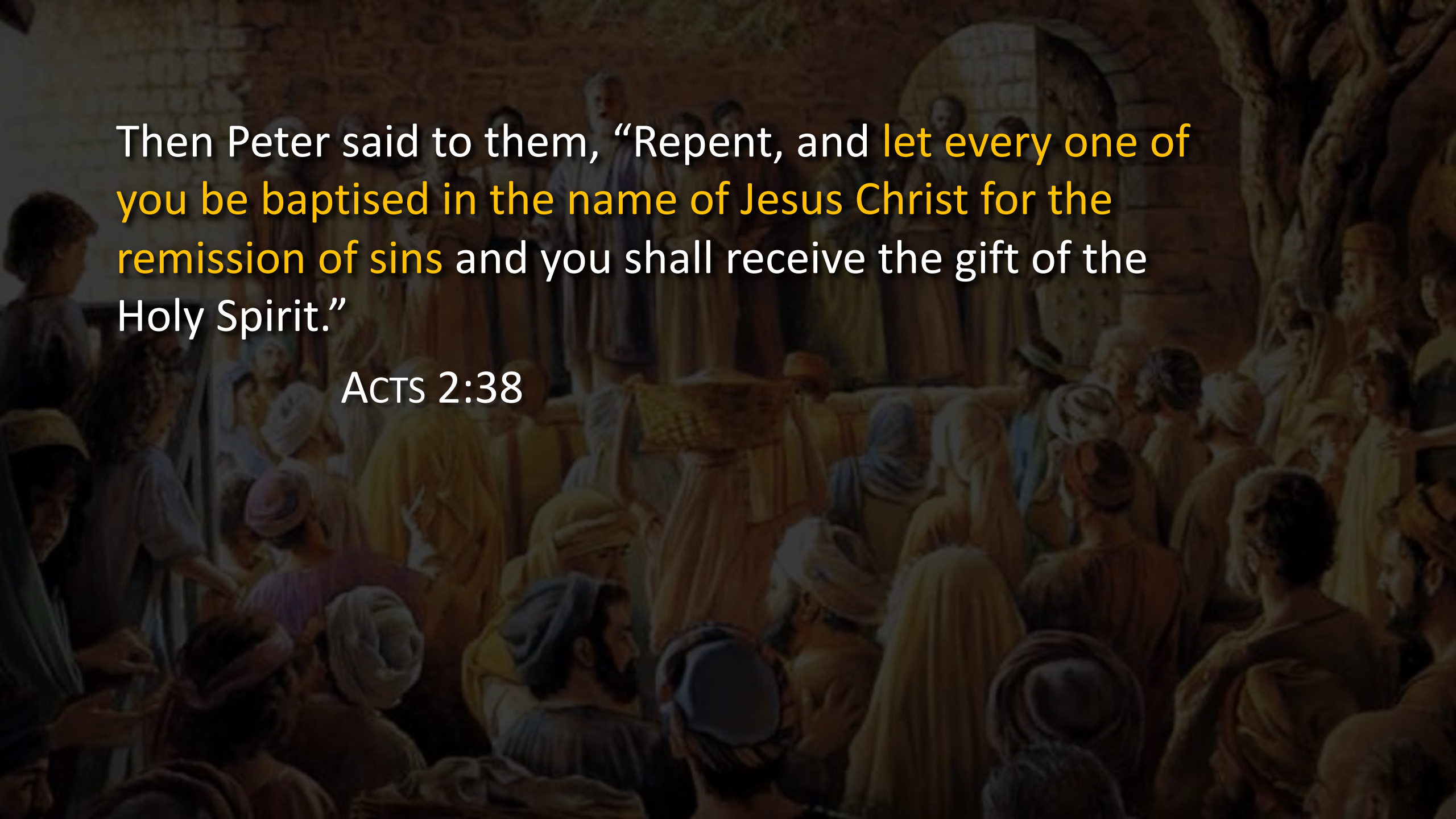
# GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH



Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**”

JOHN 3:5

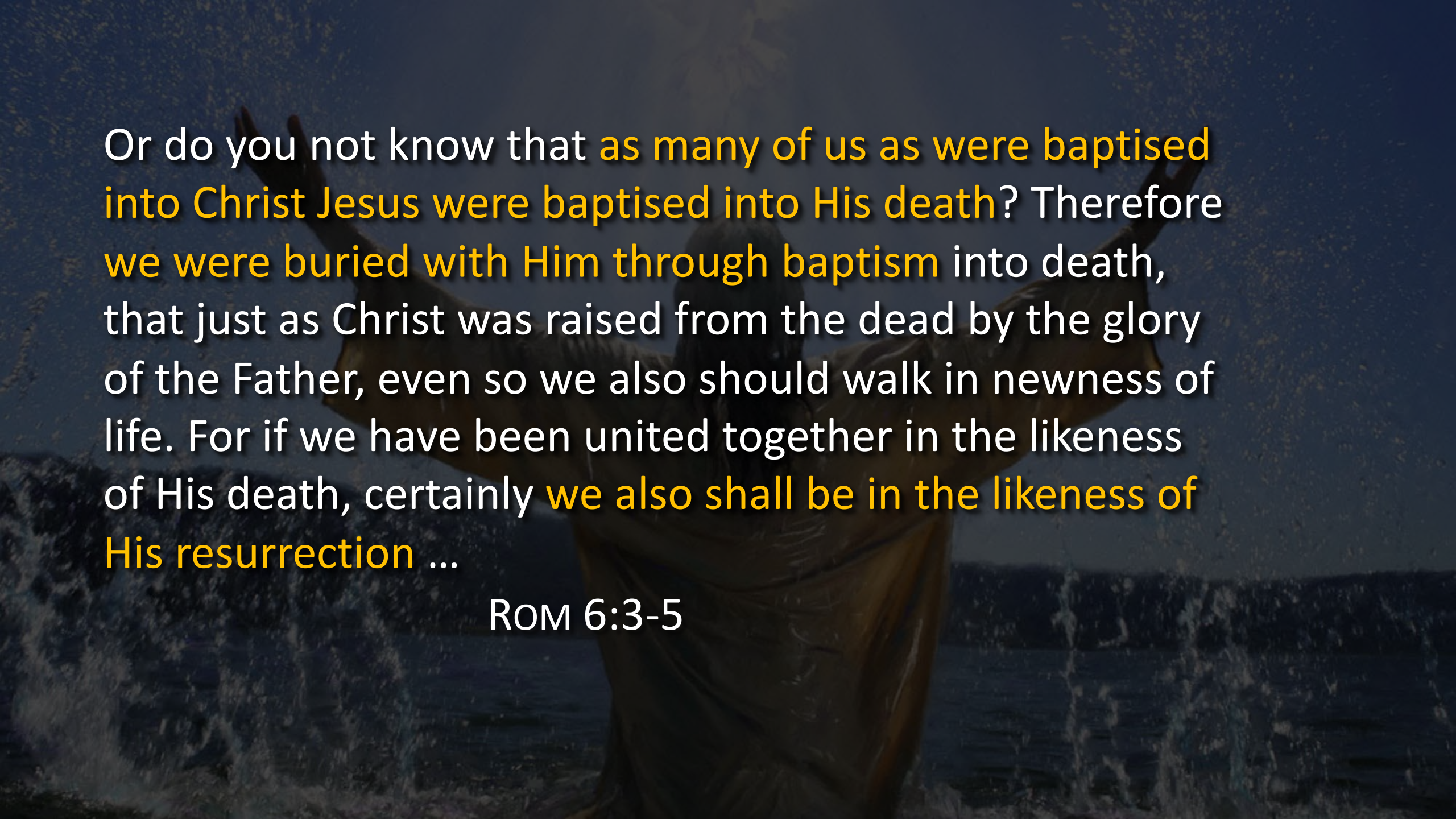


The background of the image is a religious painting. It depicts a large, diverse crowd of people, likely a church service or a public gathering. In the foreground, many people are seen from behind, looking towards the center. They are wearing various head coverings like turbans and hats. In the background, a man in a blue robe stands near a large, arched stone doorway, possibly addressing the crowd. The scene is set in a stone building with a large tree on the right side. The overall tone is solemn and historical.

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and **let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 2:38

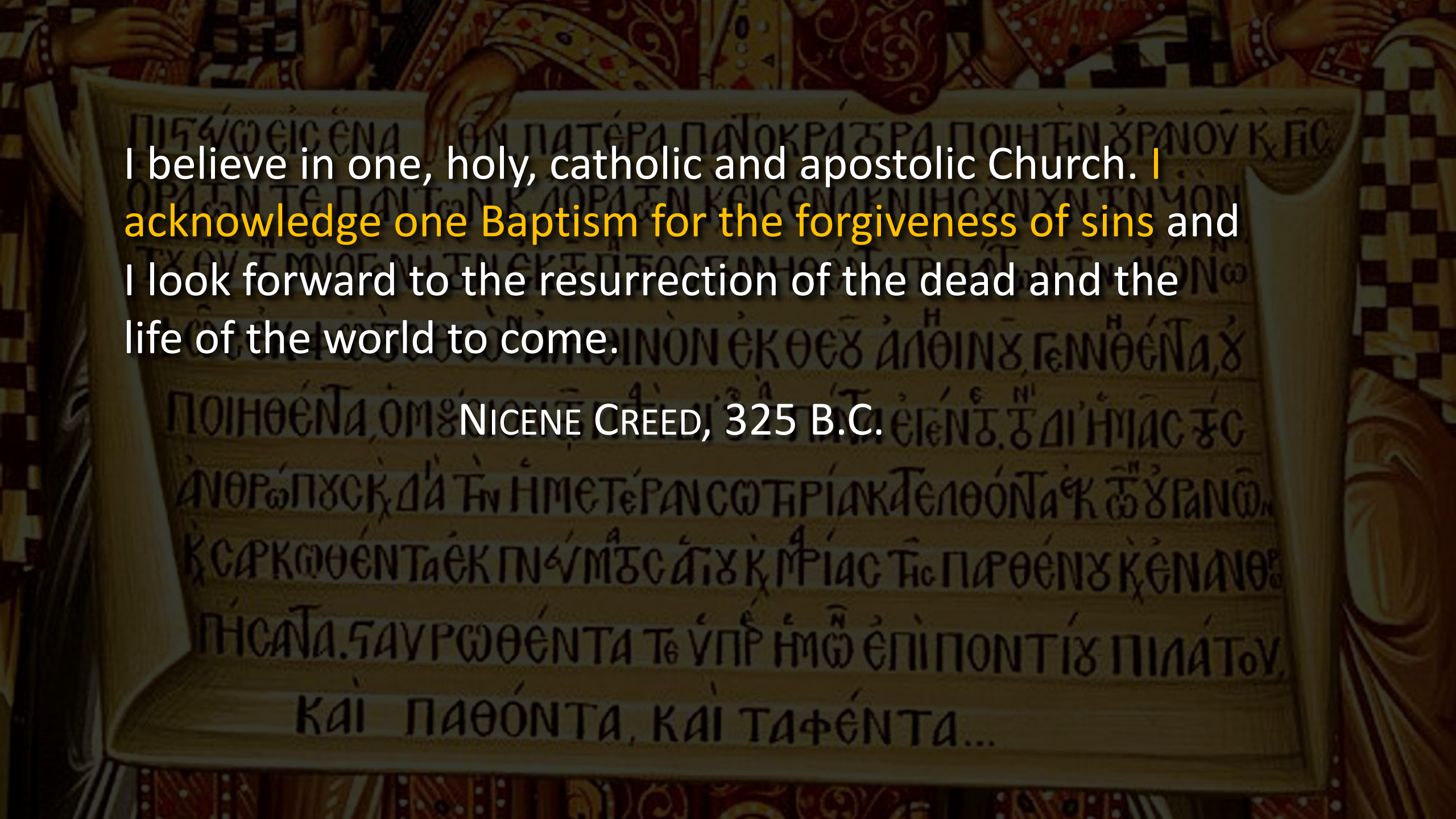


A person wearing a blue robe stands in shallow water, with their arms raised high in the air. Water splashes around their legs and feet. The background is a dark, overcast sky. The scene is dimly lit, with the person's robe and the water's surface catching some light.

Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?** Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism** into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly **we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection ...**

ROM 6:3-5



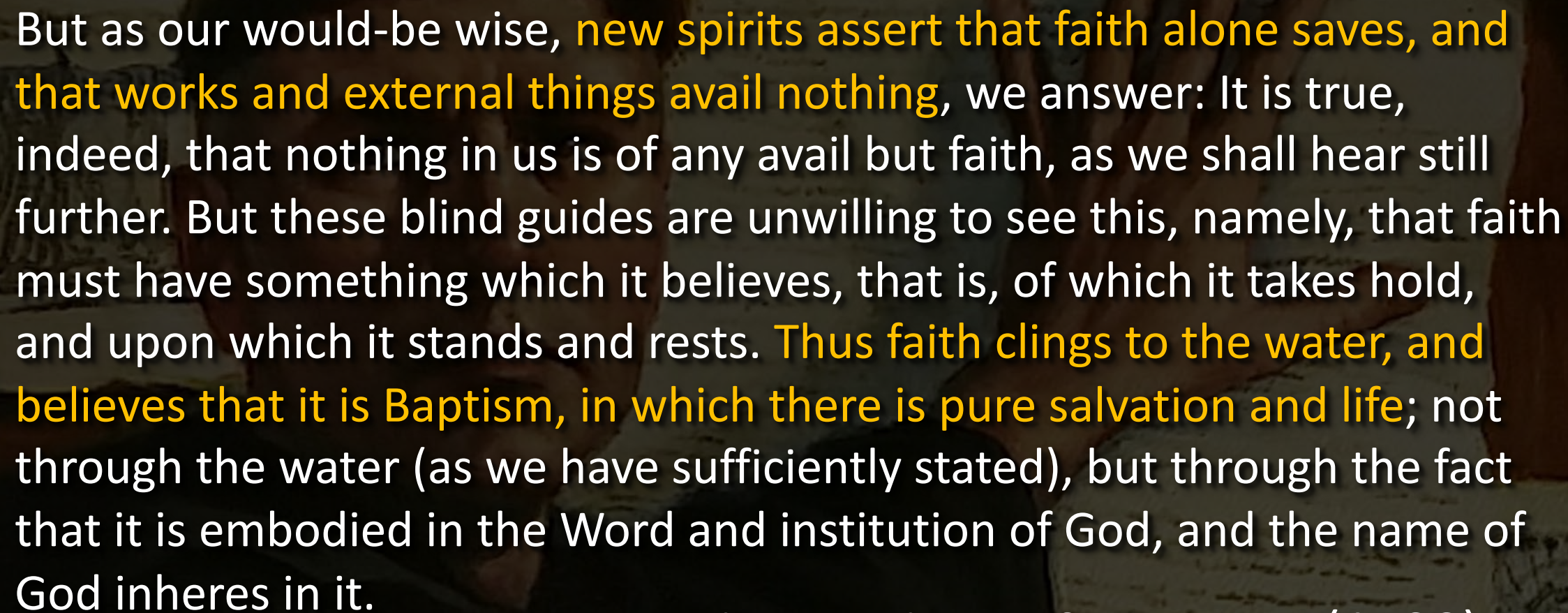


I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I  
acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and  
I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the  
life of the world to come.

NICENE CREED, 325 B.C.

καὶ παθόντα, καὶ ταφέντα...

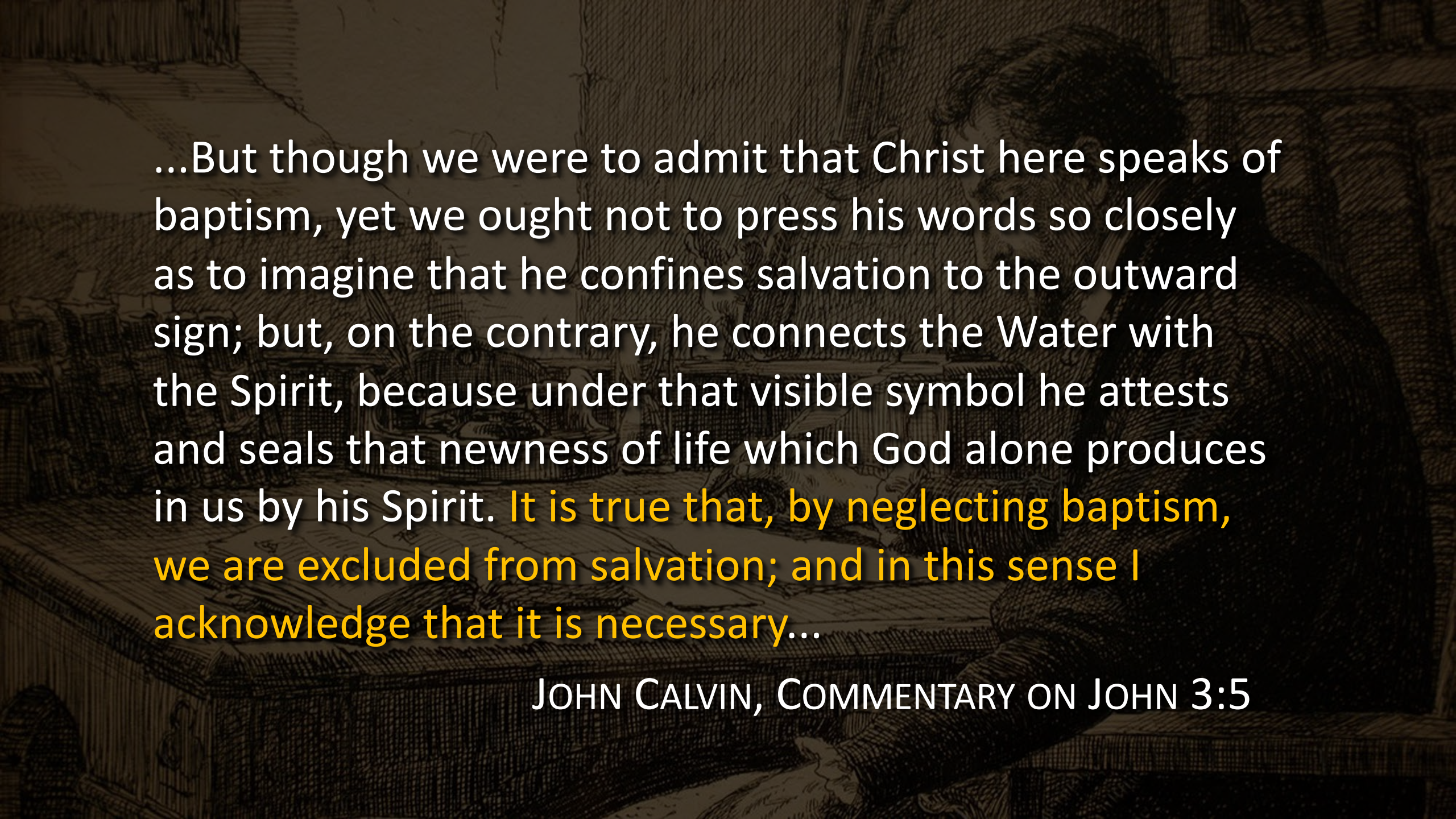




But as our would-be wise, **new spirits assert that faith alone saves, and that works and external things avail nothing**, we answer: It is true, indeed, that nothing in us is of any avail but faith, as we shall hear still further. But these blind guides are unwilling to see this, namely, that faith must have something which it believes, that is, of which it takes hold, and upon which it stands and rests. **Thus faith clings to the water, and believes that it is Baptism, in which there is pure salvation and life**; not through the water (as we have sufficiently stated), but through the fact that it is embodied in the Word and institution of God, and the name of God inheres in it.

MARTIN LUTHER, LARGE CATHECHISM (1529)





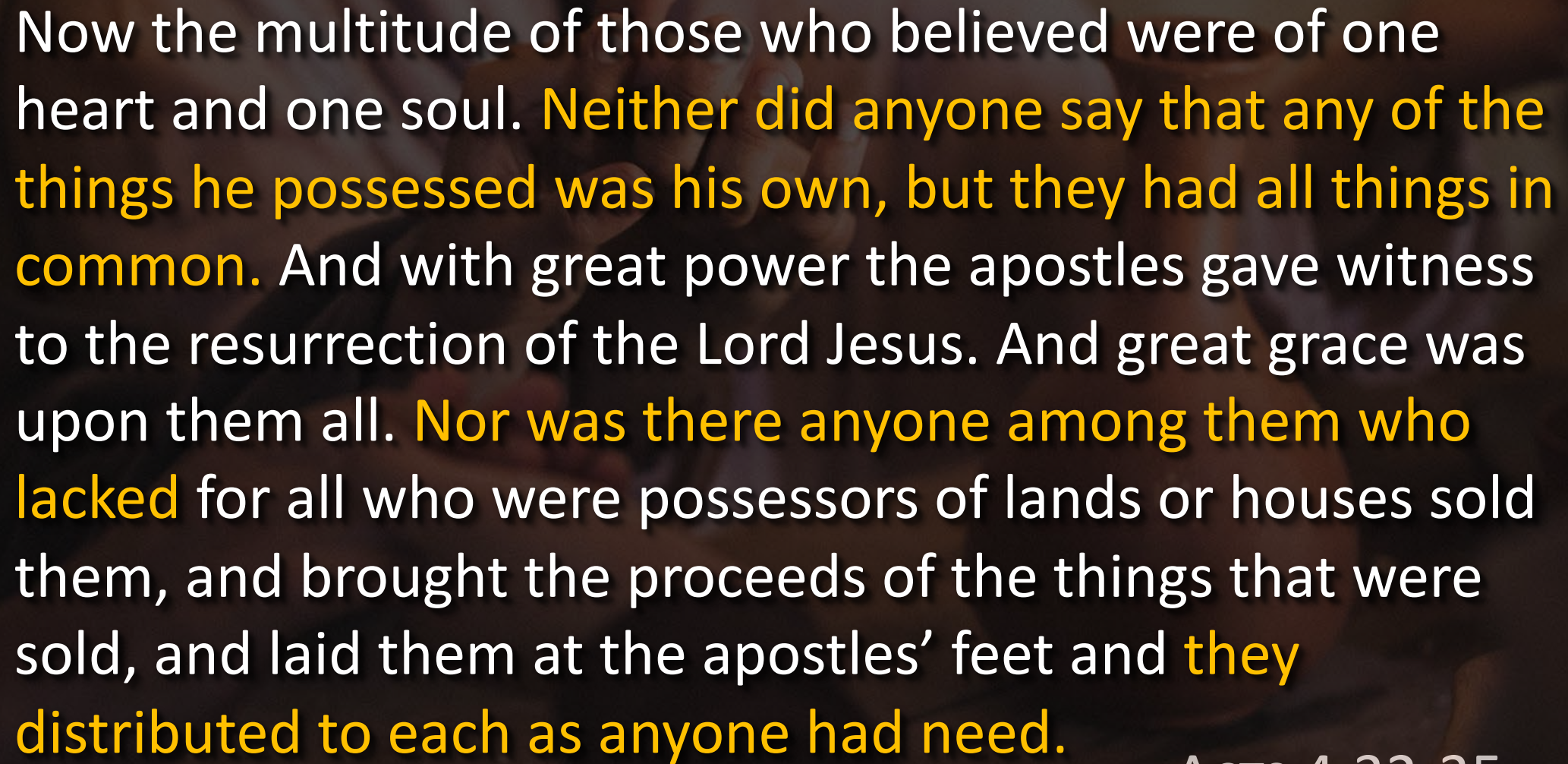
...But though we were to admit that Christ here speaks of baptism, yet we ought not to press his words so closely as to imagine that he confines salvation to the outward sign; but, on the contrary, he connects the Water with the Spirit, because under that visible symbol he attests and seals that newness of life which God alone produces in us by his Spirit. **It is true that, by neglecting baptism, we are excluded from salvation; and in this sense I acknowledge that it is necessary...**

JOHN CALVIN, COMMENTARY ON JOHN 3:5









Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul. **Neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.** And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. **Nor was there anyone among them who lacked** for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet and **they distributed to each as anyone had need.**

ACTS 4:32-35



Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, **there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

ACTS 6:1-4

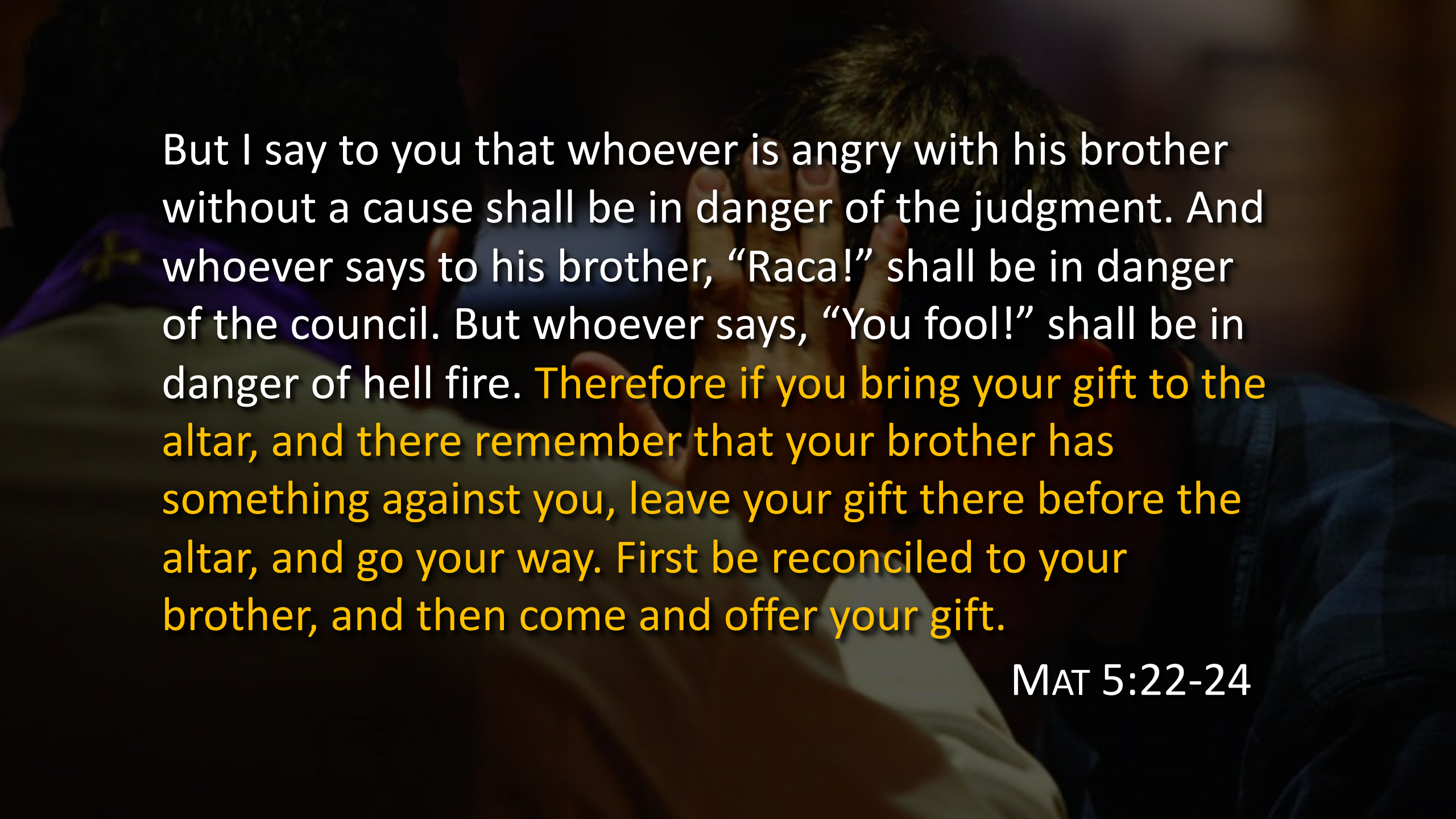


Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ...

MAT 18:15

*forgive*





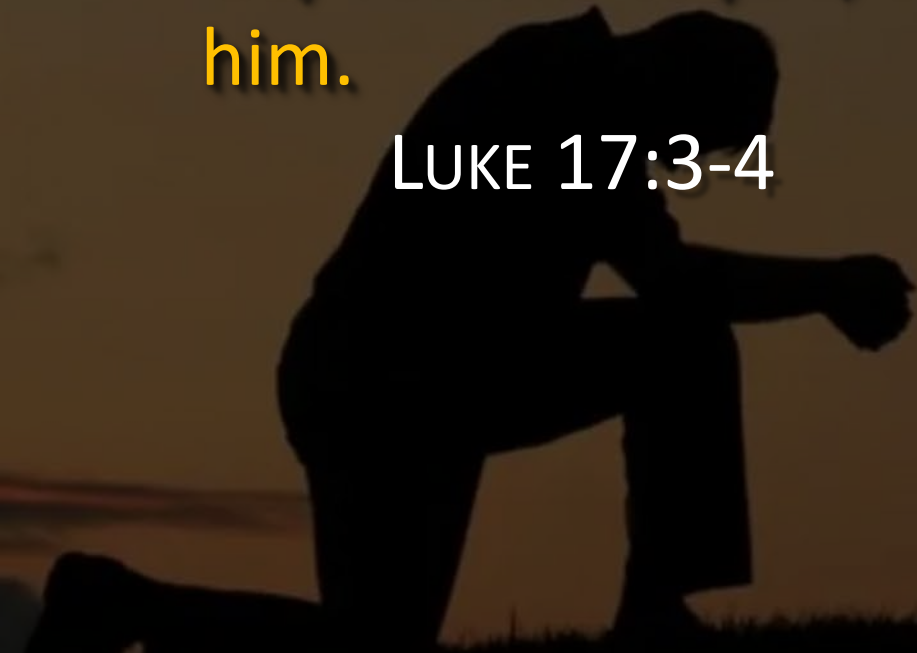
But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, "Raca!" shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, "You fool!" shall be in danger of hell fire. **Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**

MAT 5:22-24



Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, "I repent," **you shall forgive him.**

LUKE 17:3-4





Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

