

A scenic landscape featuring a stone monument with four pillars in the foreground. The monument is set on a circular stone base. In the background, there are green mountains, a forest of evergreen trees, and a bright sun shining through the trees on the right side. A person in a long, light-colored robe is visible on the right, looking towards the monument. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# FOUR PILLARS OF UNITY WITH CHRIST

Elder Benji Pedersen



## Benji Pedersen:

Melissa, Elijah, Noah,  
Isabella, Jonah, and Micah.

Married 20 years.

Elder at Outreach  
Restoration Branch  
in Independence, MO.

**I LOVE JESUS!**

**I LOVE GOD!**

**I LOVE ZION!**

**I LOVE God's lambs!**

# THEME of this class:

---

## BEING ONE WITH CHRIST

(a true disciple of Christ)

- Kirtland 2024 messages given by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT.
- 4 Statements of Agreement
- Theme for this Conference
- Beginning with Jesus Christ

# THEME SCRIPTURE for today:

---

## Mosiah 11:186,188

For, said he, I have repented of my sins, and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold, I am born of the Spirit. And the Lord said unto me, Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men, and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; Yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; and thus they become new creatures; and unless they do this, they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God.

# EVALUATION:

---

CHANGE IS  
NECESSARY

Time to CHANGE or DIE.

# GOAL:

---

If we leave here unchanged, we have failed.

I challenge you to let the Lord's Spirit speak into your heart and mind and write down the thoughts that you are given.

Please write down the things that you are prompted to change in your life and this week, start making those changes.

# THEME of this class:

---

## BEING ONE WITH CHRIST

- Please get out your pen and papers
- There are four parts to this class, called PILLARS
- Please write down something that you need to work on pertaining to each section



1

2

3

4

**MAKE & KEEP COVENANT WITH HIM**

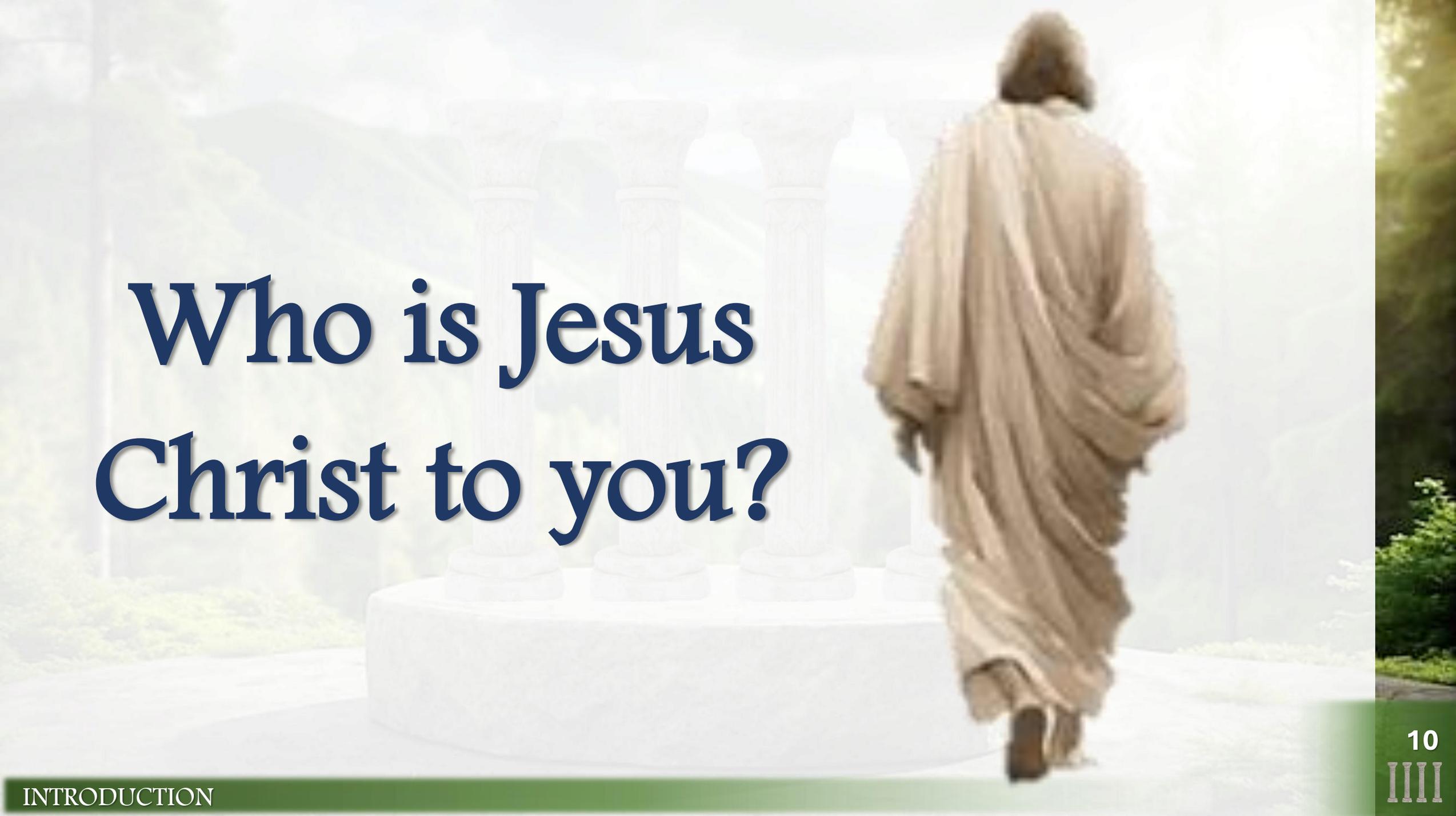
**KNOW HOW HE THINKS & FEELS**

**BECOME LIKE HIM**

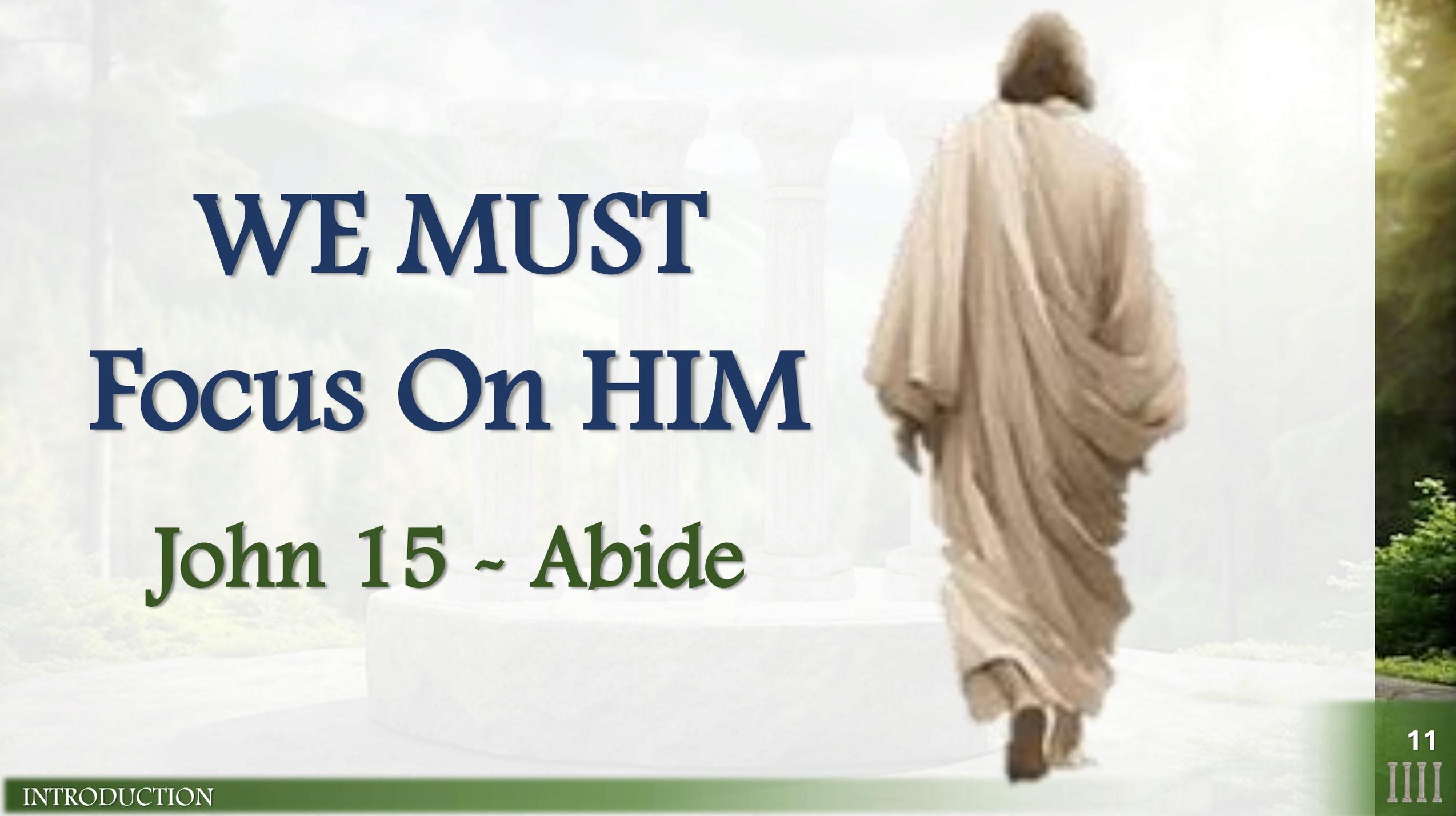
**UNITED IN PURPOSE, WORK, & MINISTRY**

A scenic landscape featuring a stone monument with four classical columns on a circular base. The monument is set on a paved area with greenery. In the background, there are lush green mountains, a dense forest of evergreen trees, and a bright sun shining through the trees on the right side, creating a hazy, golden light. A person in a long, light-colored robe is visible on the right, looking towards the monument. A dark horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word "INTRODUCTION" in white, serif, all-caps font.

# INTRODUCTION

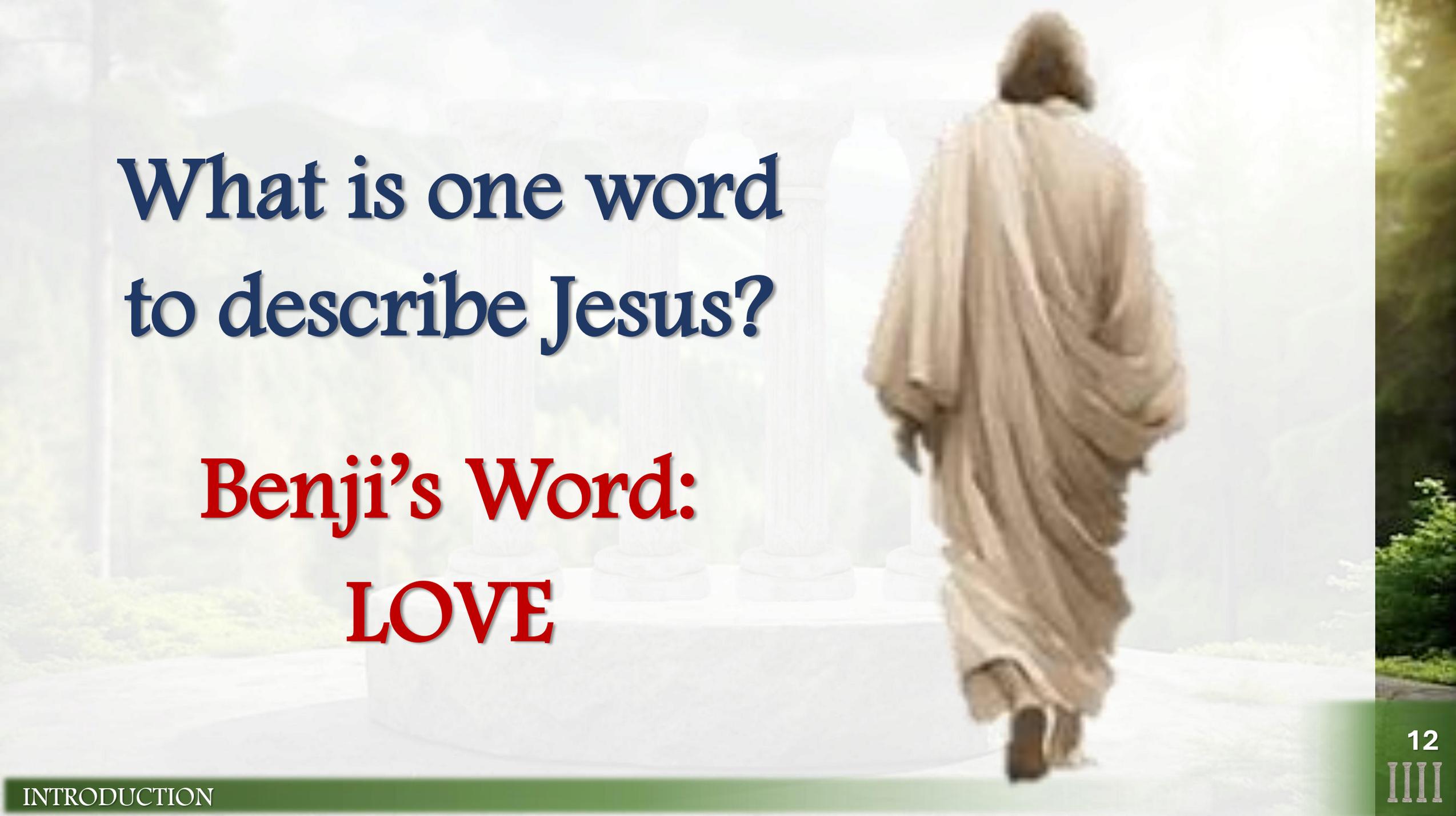


# Who is Jesus Christ to you?



# WE MUST Focus On HIM

John 15 ~ Abide



**What is one word  
to describe Jesus?**

**Benji's Word:  
LOVE**



# Come Unto Me

## Know the heart of God

### Oh, HOW much He LOVES US!

## Matthew 5:10

And blessed are all the pure in heart; for  
they shall see God.

# John 14:1~6

1 Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And when I go, I will prepare a place for you, and come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know; and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and **how can we know the way?**

6 Jesus saith unto him,

**I AM THE WAY,**

the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

# 2 Nephi 11:48

And we talk of Christ,

we rejoice in Christ,

we preach of Christ,

we prophecy of Christ,

and we write according to our prophecies,

that our children may know to

what source they may look for

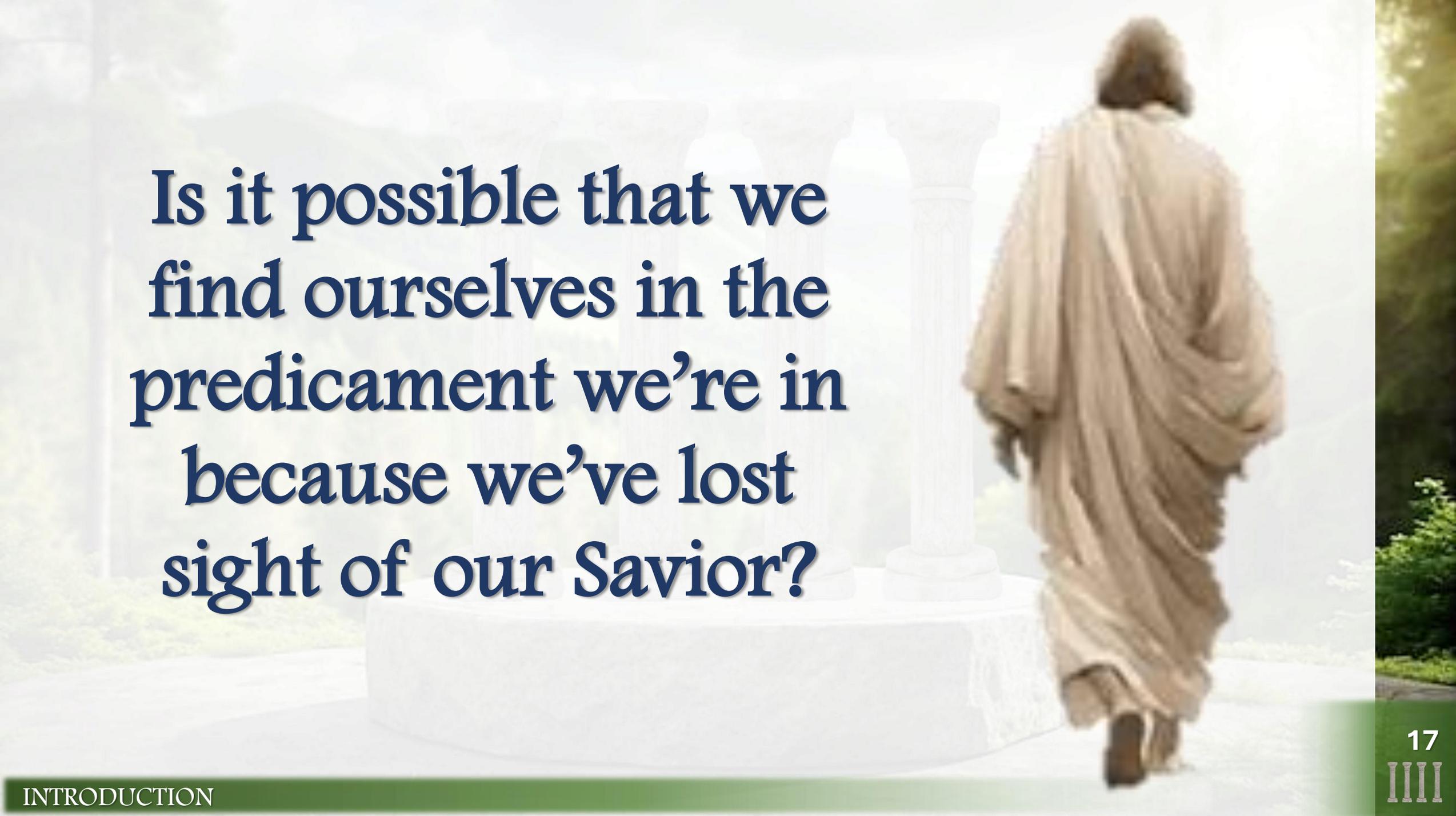
a remission of their sins.



**JESUS CHRIST → GOD**  
the **EXCLUSIVE WAY** to the Father

## Worship God & God ALONE

- In my lifetime, it has felt that we worshipped the church, our history, and our past high points more than Jesus Christ and the Father in Heaven

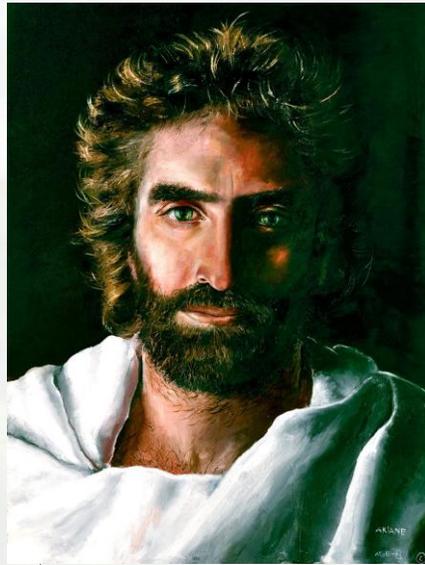
A person wearing a long, flowing brown robe is walking away from the viewer on a light-colored stone path. In the background, there is a large, white, circular stone structure with several tall, white columns rising from it. The scene is set outdoors with greenery and a bright sky.

**Is it possible that we  
find ourselves in the  
predicament we're in  
because we've lost  
sight of our Savior?**

# Colossians 1:25~28

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations**, but now is made manifest to his saints;

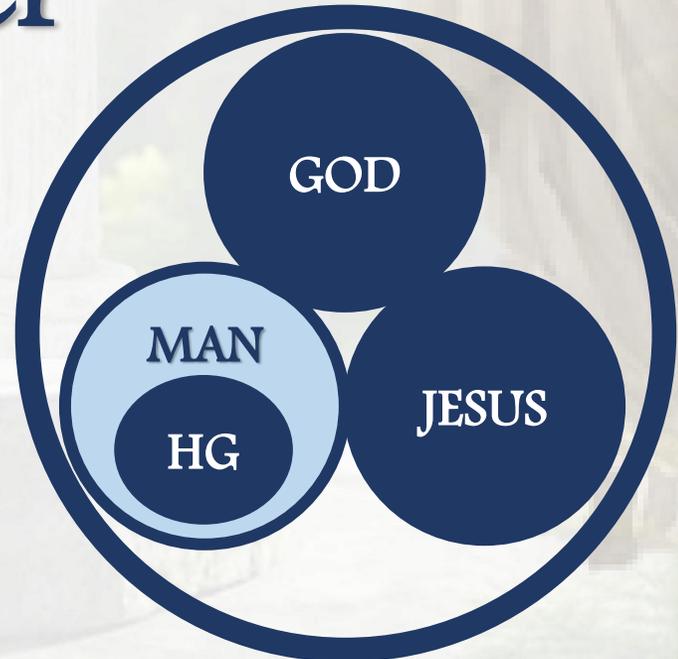
To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus;



Godhead

Holy Ghost → Son → Father

The Mystery of Christ IN YOU



# Jacob 3:7~8

7 Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea;

8 Nevertheless, the Lord God sheweth us our weakness, that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things.



**We are called to:  
UNITY WITH CHRIST  
& GREAT POWER**

# 1 Nephi 3:187

And blessed are they who shall seek to  
bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the  
POWER of the Holy  
Ghost;



**Please get your  
papers ready.**



1

**MAKE & KEEP COVENANT WITH HIM**



# Mosiah 1:16

And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.



# What is our identity?

In the RLDS church of the  
1950s, institutions,  
traditions, churches, or is  
in Jesus Christ?



# Mosiah 3:11~15

There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And now, it shall come to pass that whosoever shall not take upon them the name of Christ, must be called by some other name; therefore, he findeth himself on the left hand of God. And I would that ye should remember also, that this is the name that I said I should give unto you, that never should be blotted out, except it be through transgression; Therefore, take heed that ye do not transgress, that the name be not blotted out of your hearts.

# D&C 16:4e~g

Take upon you the name of Christ, and speak the truth in soberness; and as many as repent, and are baptized in my name, which is Jesus Christ, and endure to the end, the same shall be saved. Behold, Jesus Christ is the name which is given of the Father, and there is none other name given whereby man can be saved; wherefore, all men must take upon them the name which is given of the Father, for in that name shall they be called at the last day; wherefore, if they know not the name by which they are called, they can not have place in the kingdom of my Father.

# 3 Nephi 12:33

Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day.

## D&C 34:6a

Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time.

# ANALOGY

## D&C 32:3e



**Christ Church**

(bridegroom)

(bride)

Wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for, behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen.

# ANALOGY

## The Bridegroom (Jesus):

- His attendants (priesthood) are to bring others to the covenant
- Like marriage, there must be covenant and a deep relationship
- Making covenant with Jesus requires complete submission to Him as Lord and Savior.



I don't think  
there is much  
confusion about  
having Jesus as  
our Savior.



# Is Jesus truly my Lord?

## Definition of “Lord”:

1 : one having power and authority over others:

A : a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due

B : one of whom a fee or estate is held in feudal tenure

F : one that has achieved mastery or that exercises leadership or great power in some area

3 : a man of rank or high position: such as

A : a feudal tenant whose right or title comes directly from the king

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lord>

# Who sits on the throne?



**of your  
life**



**of the  
Church**



**of Zion**

# It's time to put Jesus Christ BACK ON HIS THRONE



# QUESTION:

In what ways do I need to give authority back to Jesus Christ in:

1. My life,
2. My ministry, and
3. The church



2

KNOW HOW HE THINKS & FEELS



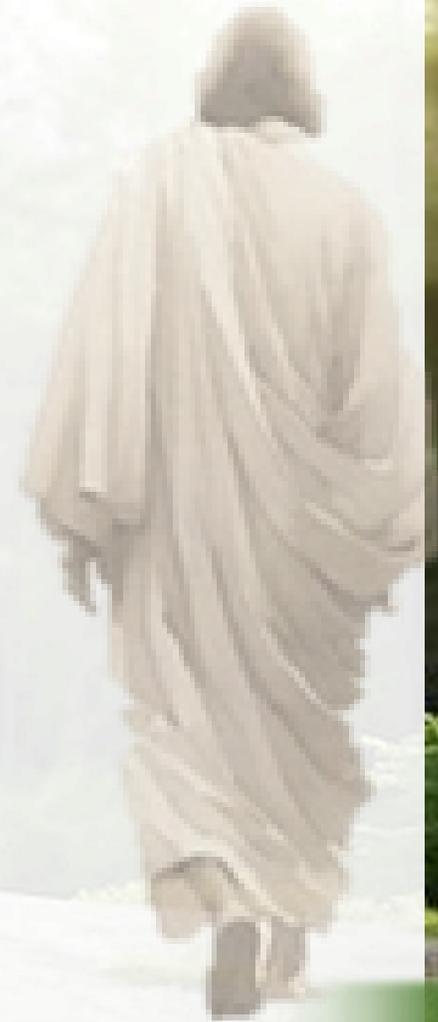
## D&C 1:3

...but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

# QUESTION:

## How are we to know Jesus?

1. Pray and commune with God
2. Read about Jesus' life and ministry
3. Meditate over His life and words
4. Praise and worship Him
5. Seek His direction, by the Holy Spirit in your life
6. Seek experiences with Him
7. Go to work with Him

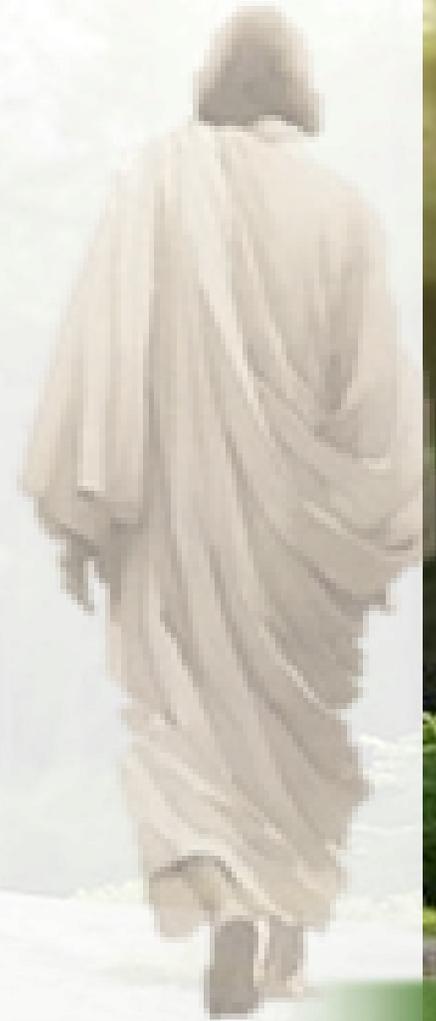


# Psalms 100

- 1 **Make a joyful noise** unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- 2 **Serve** the Lord with gladness; **come before his presence with singing.**
- 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving**, and **into his courts with praise**; be thankful unto him, and **bless his name.**

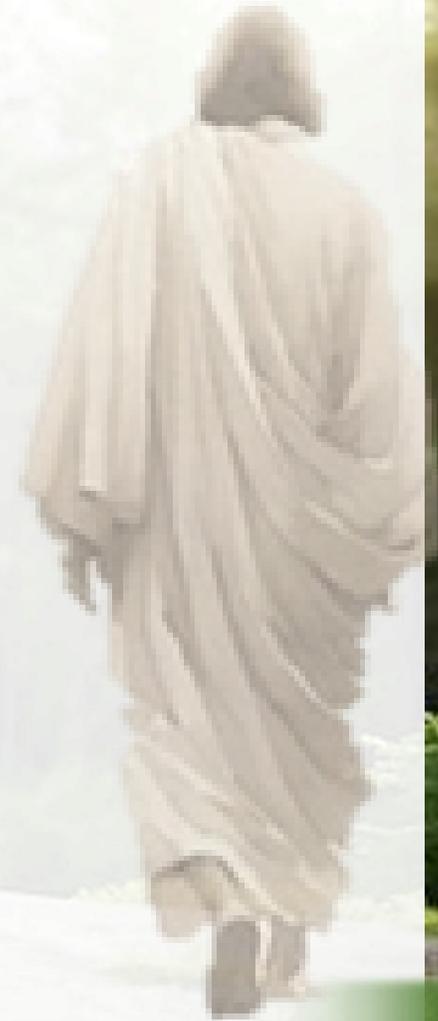
# QUESTION:

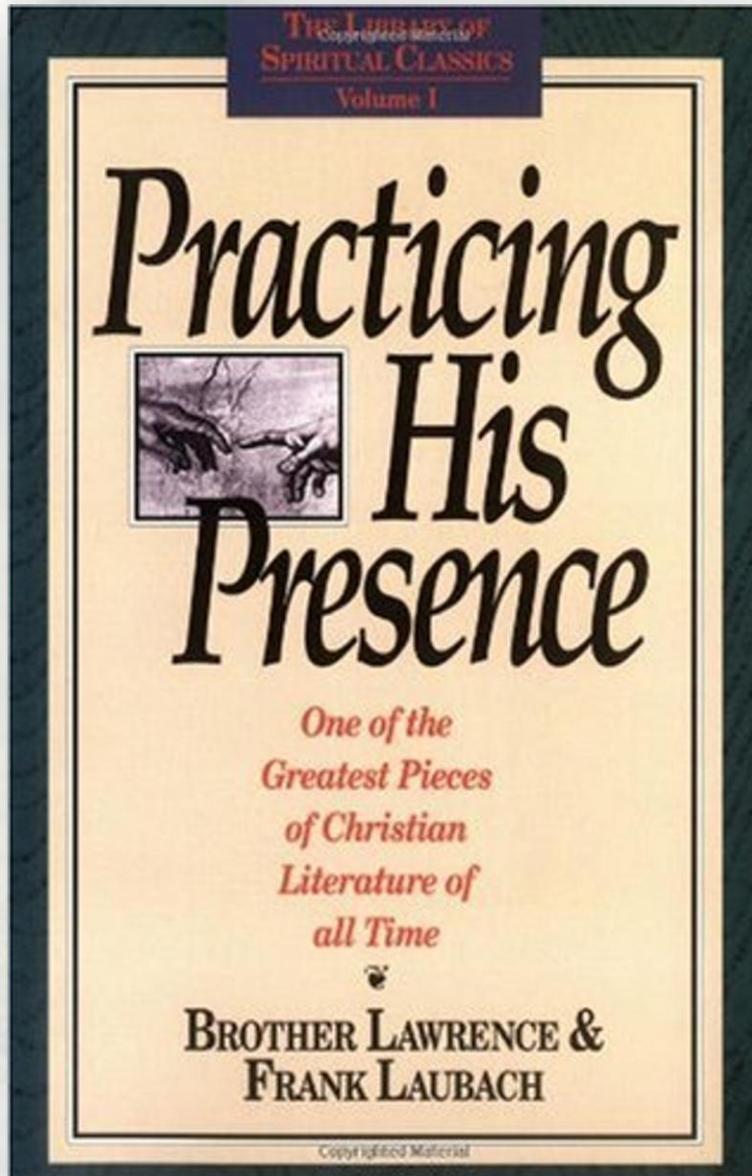
**Is there a difference  
between knowing of Him  
and knowing Him?**



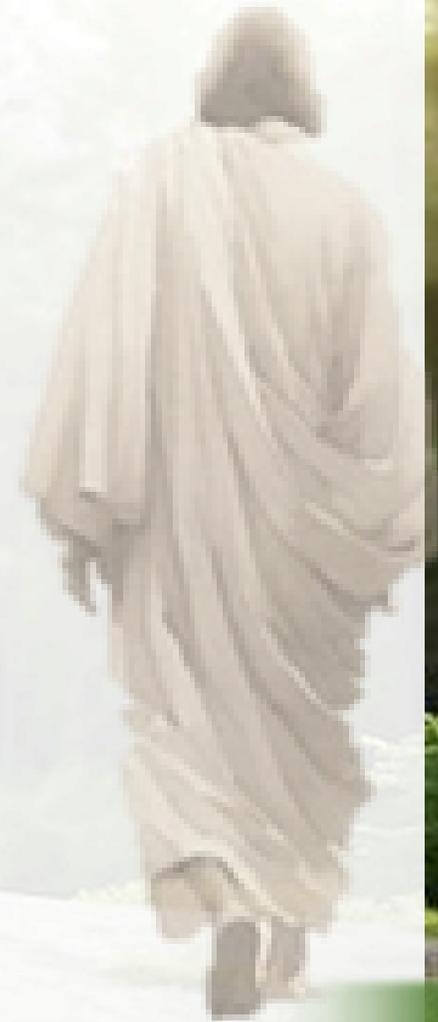
# Jeremiah 24:7

And I will give them a heart to know me, that **I am the Lord**; and **they shall be my people**, and I will be their God; for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.





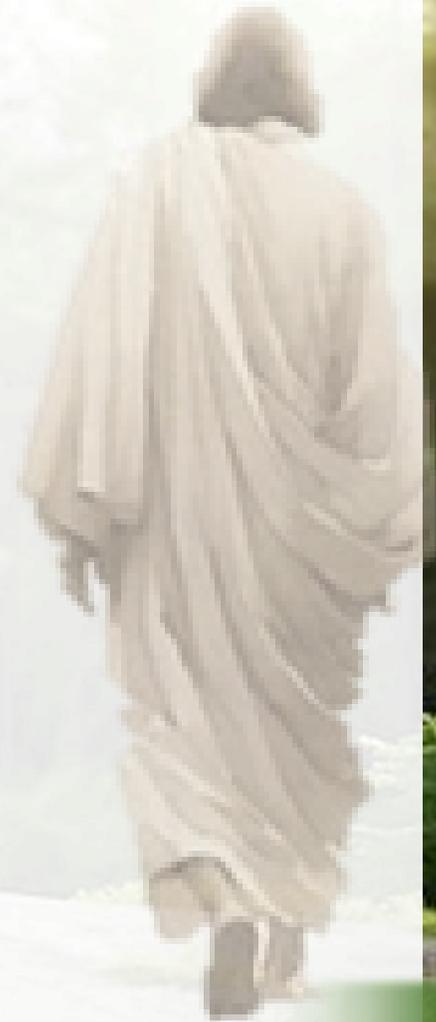
Learning to  
commune with  
God's presence all  
day long, no  
matter where, no  
matter when,  
through every  
experience.



# 1 Corinthians 2:11-14

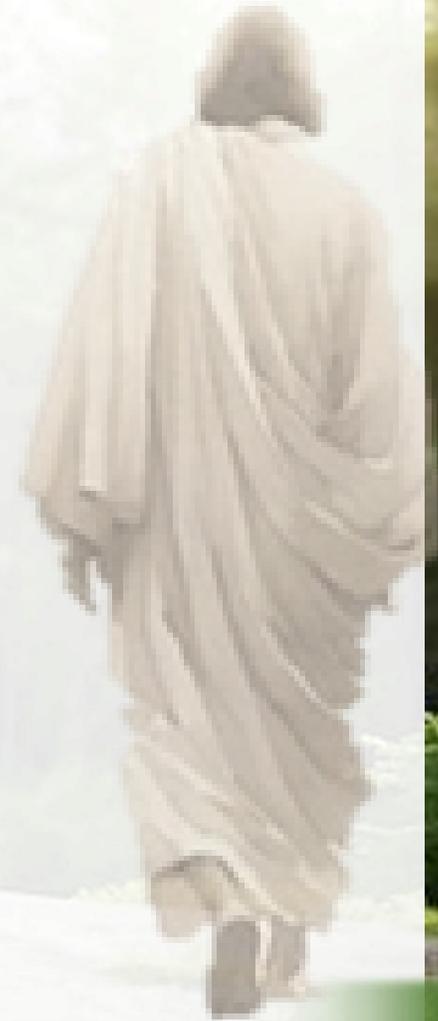
For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, except he has the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.



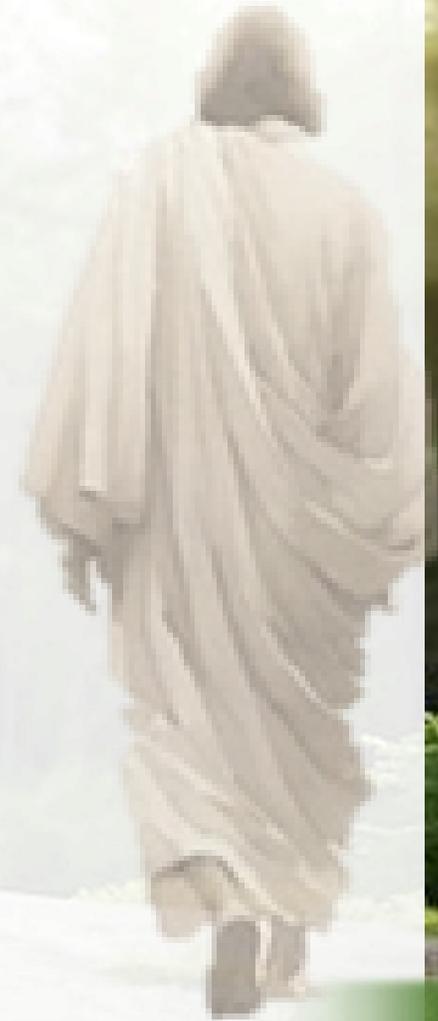
# Matthew 11:29-30

Then spake Jesus, saying, Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.



# To “KNOW HOW JESUS THINKS AND FEELS” is to:

1. Know the heart of God
2. Love what He loves
3. Hate what He hates
4. See the world how He sees it



# QUESTIONS:

In what area(s) do I need to focus?

1. Pray and commune with God
2. Read about Jesus' life and ministry
3. Meditate over His life and words
4. Praise and worship Him
5. Seek His direction, by the Holy Spirit in your life
6. Seek experiences with Him
7. Go to work with Him



3

BECOME LIKE HIM



## 3 Nephi 13:5

Therefore what manner of men  
[women] ought ye to be?

Verily I say unto you, Even as I am.

And now I go unto the Father.



3 Nephi 13:5

Even as I am

**POWERFUL !!!**

Take upon ourselves His character, His nature, to act, think, and feel as He would.



**Pharisee**

**Which do  
I look like?**

**Which do  
I act like?**



**Jesus**

# QUESTIONS:

## Do I act like a Pharisee?

1. How do I respond when people are wrong?
2. How do I respond when people sin?
3. How do I view other factions/fractions of the Restoration movement?
4. Am I willing to sacrifice when it hurts?
5. Do I truly seek the Father's will?
6. Am I willing to do what Jesus does?



# What is Zion?

## Genesis 7:23

And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of **one heart** and of **one mind**, and **dwelt in righteousness**; and there were **no poor among them**.

**Unity of heart, mind,  
and with one-another**

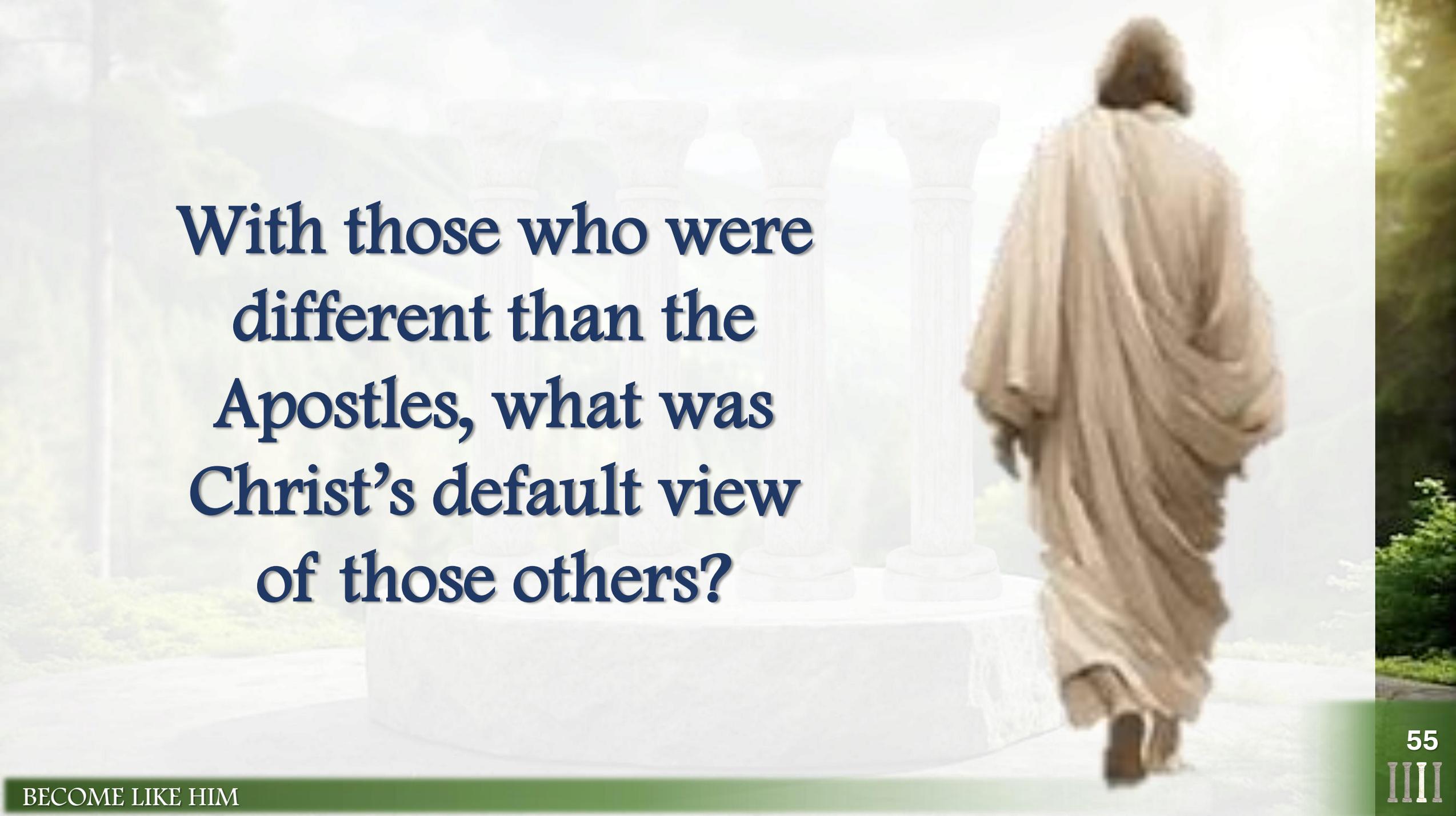
# Is it possible that I fight against Zion?

## 1 Nephi 7:42

For the time surely must come, that all they who  
fight against Zion, shall be cut off.

**Is it possible that contention is  
fighting against Zion?**



A person wearing a long, brown, draped robe is walking away from the viewer on a light-colored stone path. In the background, there is a row of white, classical-style columns. The scene is set outdoors with a bright, hazy sky and some greenery visible on the right side.

**With those who were  
different than the  
Apostles, what was  
Christ's default view  
of those others?**

## Mark 9:36-38

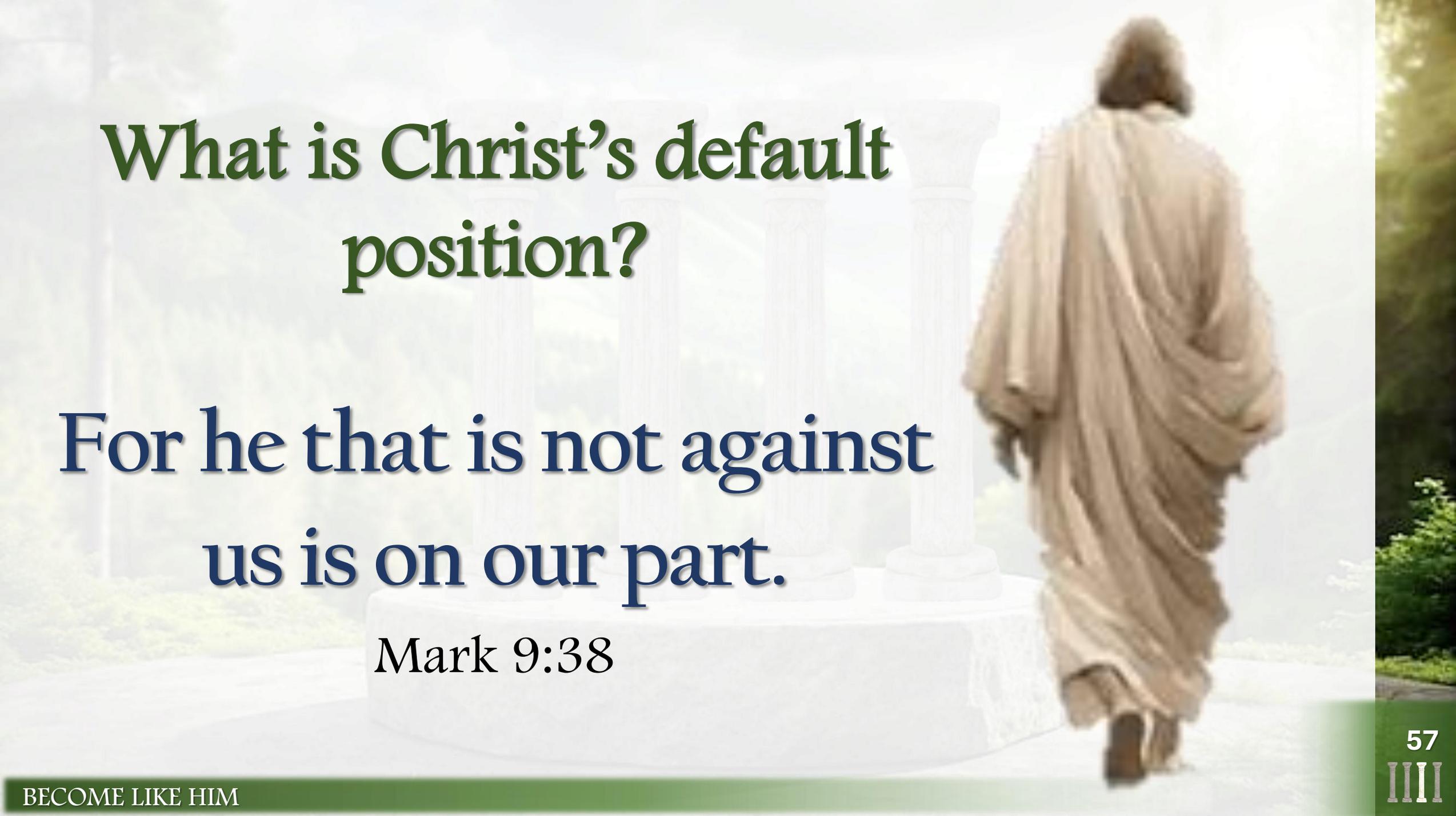
And John spake unto him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followed not us; and we forbade him, because he followed not us.

But Jesus said, Forbid him not; for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can speak evil of me.

For he that is not against us is on our part.

And whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink, in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, He shall not lose his reward.





**What is Christ's default  
position?**

**For he that is not against  
us is on our part.**

Mark 9:38

## Matthew 5:27

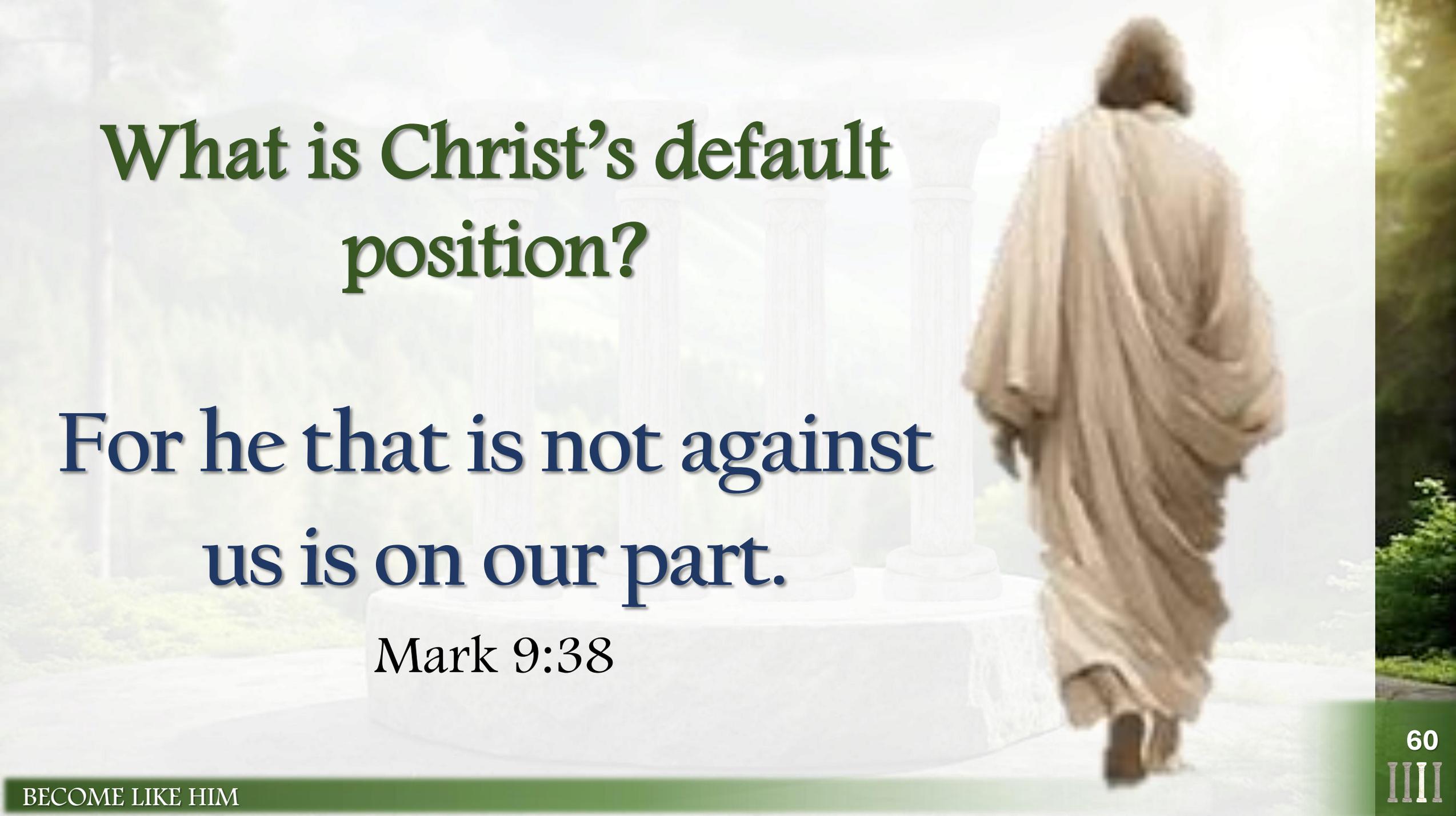
Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time thine adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.



**Is it possible that we do  
not see each other as  
Christ does?**

**Is it possible that my heart  
might be hard, that there  
might be unforgiveness?**





**What is Christ's default  
position?**

**For he that is not against  
us is on our part.**

Mark 9:38

## Ezekiel 11:19~20

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh; That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

# Capacity to LOVE

## 1 Corinthians 13:11~13

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is CHARITY.



## D&C 85:6c~d

...for, notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again a spiritual body: they who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body, which was a natural body: even ye shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened [made alive]. Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness;



If there was only one thing of the celestial  
that I could focus on, it would be LOVE.

Love People to  
**JESUS**

Converting sinners to Jesus Christ by HIS love.



## Moroni 7:52~53

Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure.

Amen.



# QUESTIONS:

In what area(s) do I need to focus?

1. BE LIKE JESUS
2. Show His love
3. See the souls of men and not their sin
4. Be reconciled with brothers and sisters



4

UNITED IN PURPOSE, WORK, & MINISTRY



# Where is Jesus?

- Sinful
- Sick
- Hurting
- Lonely
- In prison
- Broken

**If you want to find Him,  
you need to go where  
He is working. Go work  
with Him.**



# What is Jesus' work?

## D&C 22:23b

...and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.



**Are any of my works not in line  
with Jesus' work?**

**Am I laboring for Zion?**

**2 Nephi 11:109**

**But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion;  
for if they labor for money, they shall perish.**



# D&C 16:3e~4a

And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth. Wherefore you are called to cry repentance unto this people. And if it so be that you should labor all your days, in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy, if you should bring many souls unto me!



**We've done a whole lot of squabbling  
and forgot to go do the work of our  
Savior, the work of the Kingdom –  
winning souls to God.**

# Mark 16:14

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.

## The Great Commission



# D&C 105:11

Therefore, see to it that ye trouble not yourselves concerning the affairs of my church in this place, saith the Lord;

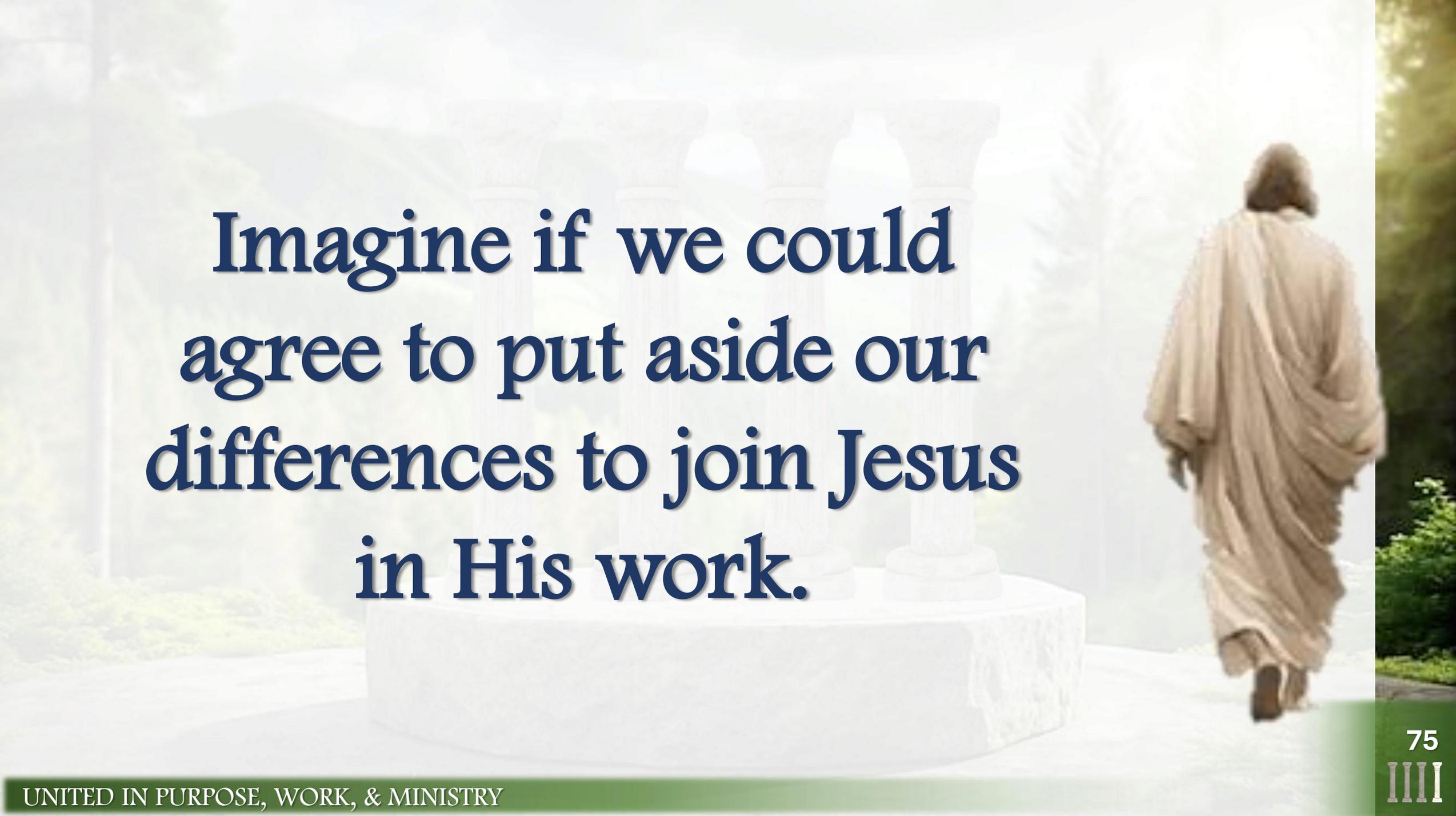
but purify your hearts before me,

and then go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel unto every creature who has not received it;

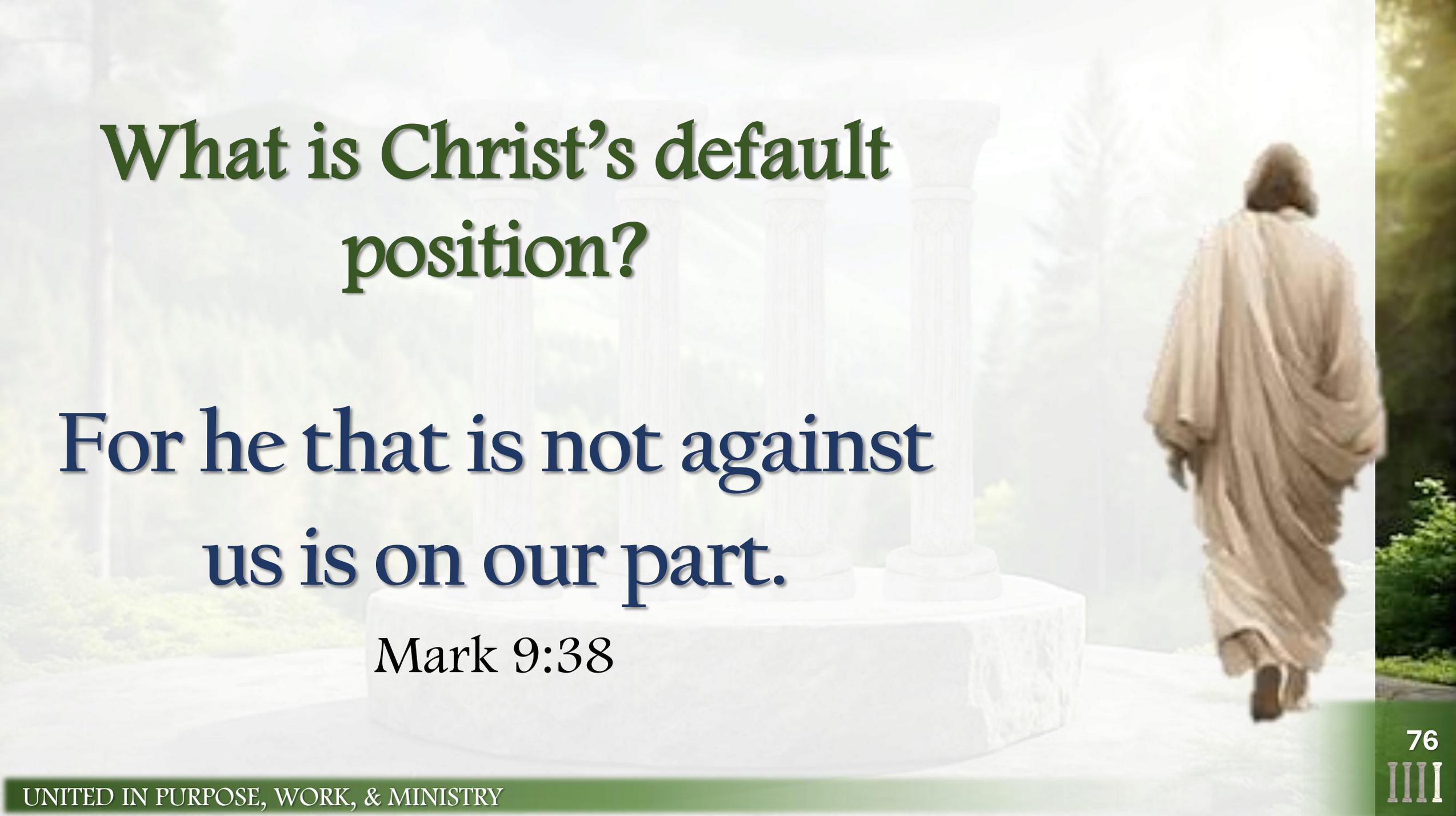
and he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

## The Great Commission



A person wearing a brown robe is walking away from the viewer on a stone path. In the background, there is a large stone structure with several columns. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a bright sky.

**Imagine if we could  
agree to put aside our  
differences to join Jesus  
in His work.**

A person wearing a brown robe is walking away from the viewer on a stone path. In the background, there is a large stone structure with several columns, possibly a monument or a church entrance. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a bright sky.

**What is Christ's default  
position?**

**For he that is not against  
us is on our part.**

Mark 9:38

# BE ONE John 17:11, 21~23 WHY?

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

# John 17:11, 21~23

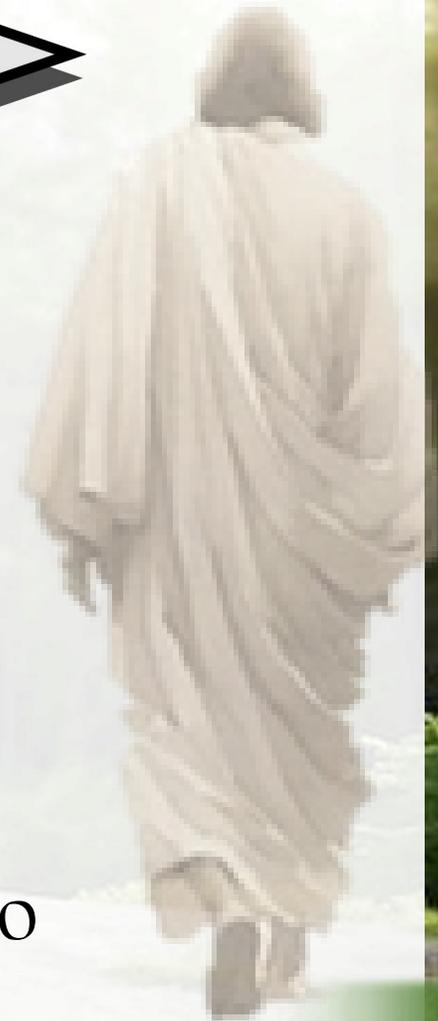
And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

# QUESTIONS:

In what area(s) do I need to focus?

1. If I can't go, can I send?
2. Does everyone around already know Jesus?
3. Do your neighbors know Christ?
4. Are any of your family not converted?
5. Are any of our church members not converted?
6. Am I truly converted?
7. If winning souls is so important, do I need to change anything?





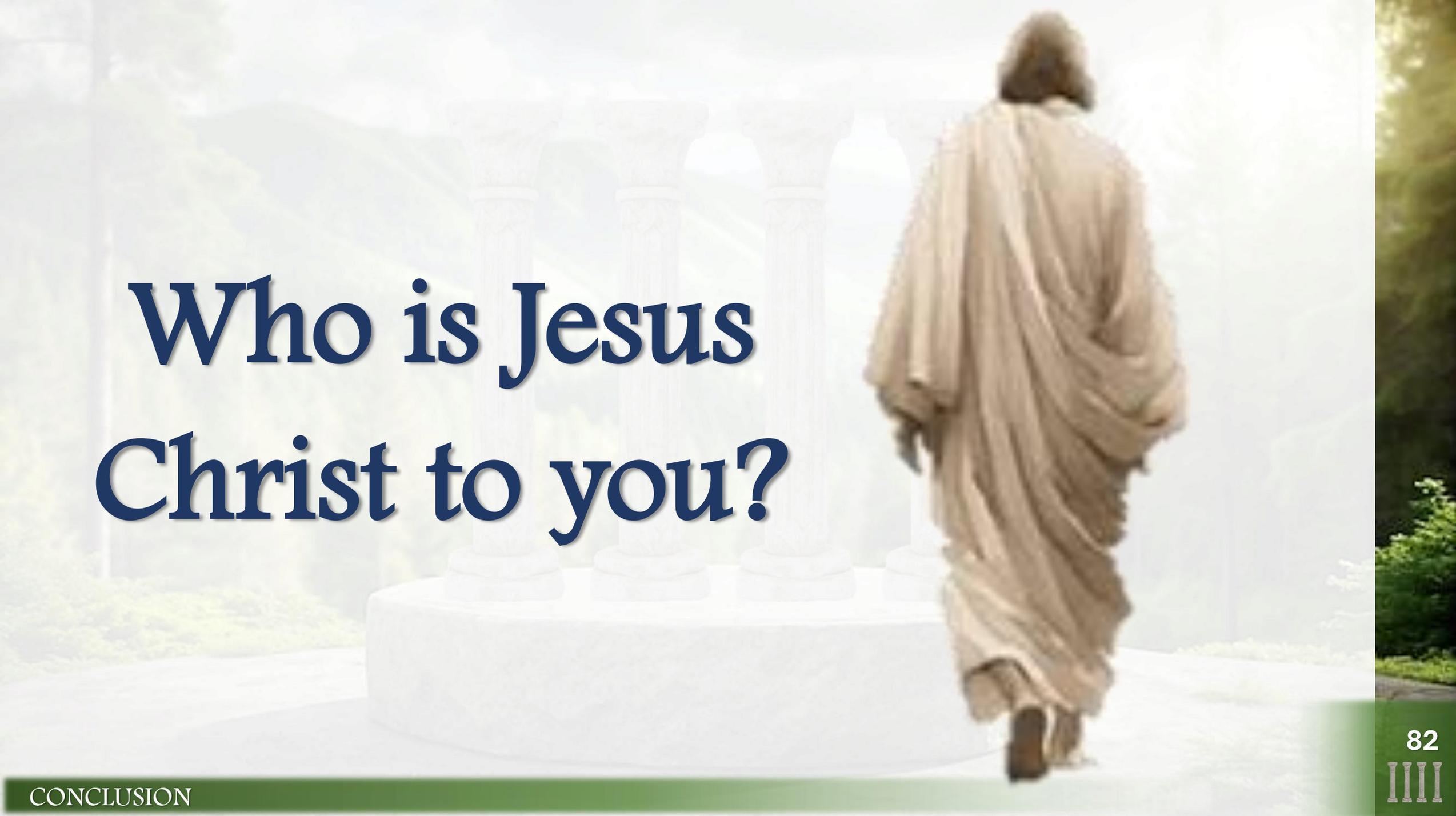
# CONCLUSION

# EVALUATION:

---

CHANGE IS  
NECESSARY

Time to CHANGE or DIE.



# Who is Jesus Christ to you?



# WE MUST Focus On HIM



# Come Unto Me

## Know the heart of God

### Oh, HOW much He LOVES US!

## Matthew 5:10

And blessed are all the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

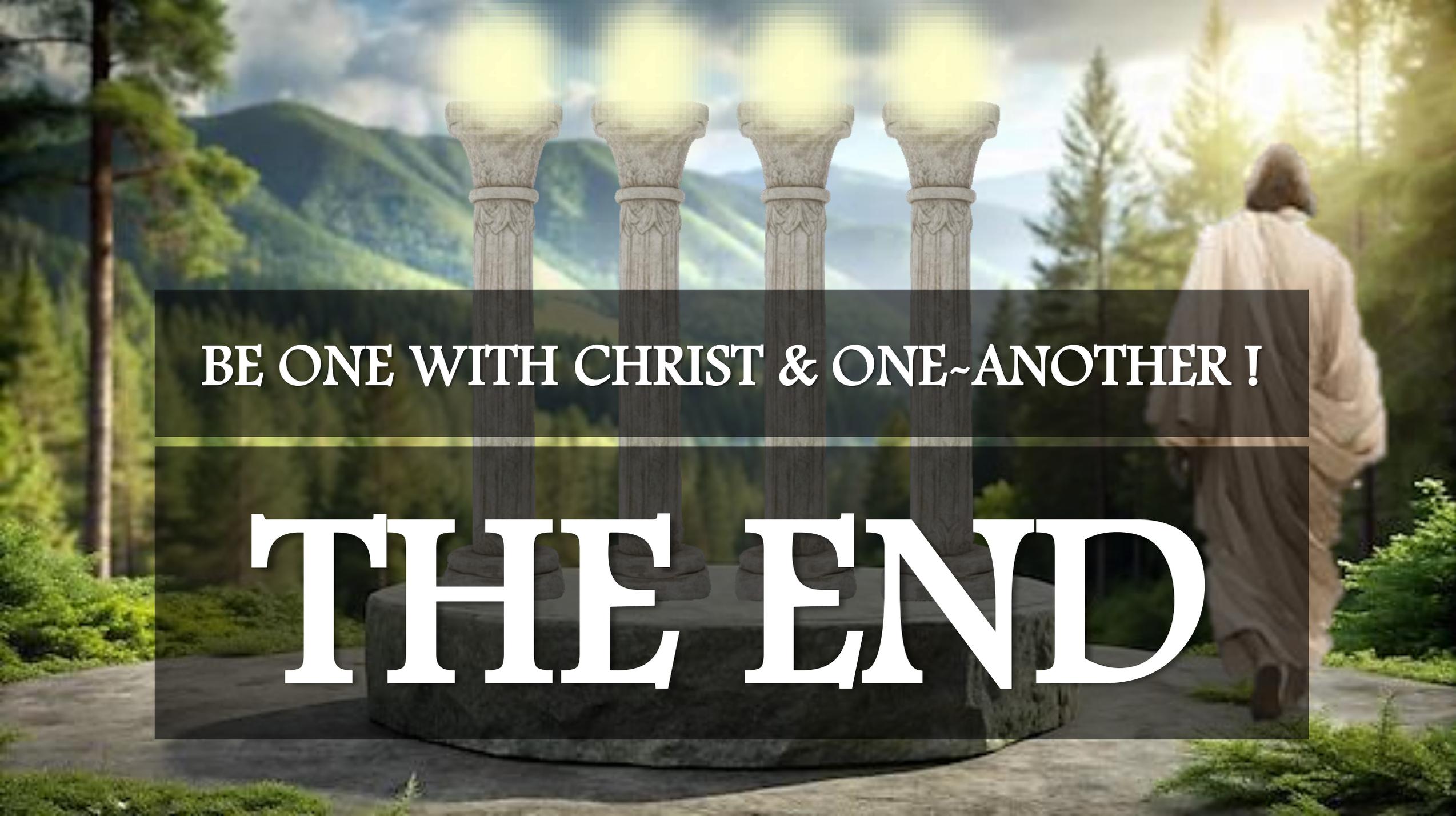
## 3 Nephi 13:5

Therefore what manner of men  
[women] ought ye to be?

Verily I say unto you, Even as I am.

And now I go unto the Father.



A religious scene featuring four tall, fluted stone columns with glowing yellow light emanating from their capitals. The columns stand on a dark, circular stone base. In the background, a figure with long hair, wearing a light-colored robe, is seen from behind, walking away on a path. The setting is a lush, green landscape with mountains and trees under a cloudy sky.

BE ONE WITH CHRIST & ONE~ANOTHER !

THE END