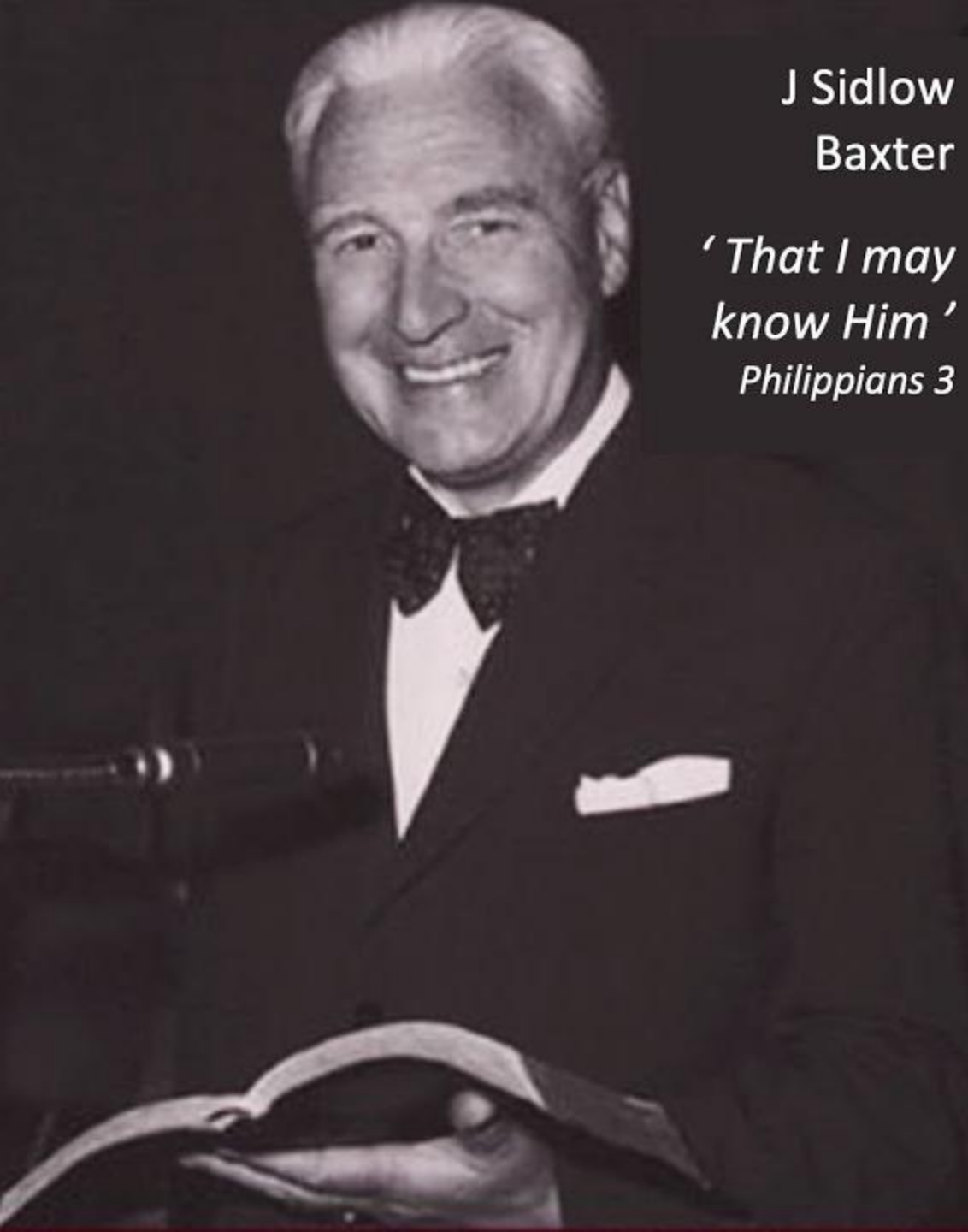


SURRENDER

To Scriptural Authority





J Sidlow
Baxter

*'That I may
know Him'
Philippians 3*

“The Bible is a revelation to be acclaimed. It is not man’s groping discovery of God, but God’s gracious revelation of himself to man.”

Can you handle the Truth?



John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear."

- Herbert Agar

1. The Bible is our authority



Biblical Authority

- Trustworthy
- It is settled forever, unchanging, perfect
- All we need for life and godliness

The New Testament is Trustworthy

1. **Textual evidence** – words we have today are what was originally written

2. **Genres** – gospels are biographies, Paul's letters are not addressed to nonbelievers

3. **Dating** – gospels and Paul's letters written in the lifetimes of the disciples

4. **Authorship** – the 4 gospels always known by 4 names, even skeptics recognize most of Paul's letters as authentic

5. **Creeds** – early traditions summarizing Christian beliefs date to the early 30s.

6. **Historical Criteria** – events recorded in the New Testament are highly probable

7. **Undesigned Coincidences** – puzzle pieces that paint a bigger picture

8. **Archeology** – findings that corroborate scriptural places, practices

9. **Non-Christian Sources** – Josephus, Tacitus

10. **Other Christian Sources** – Early church writers

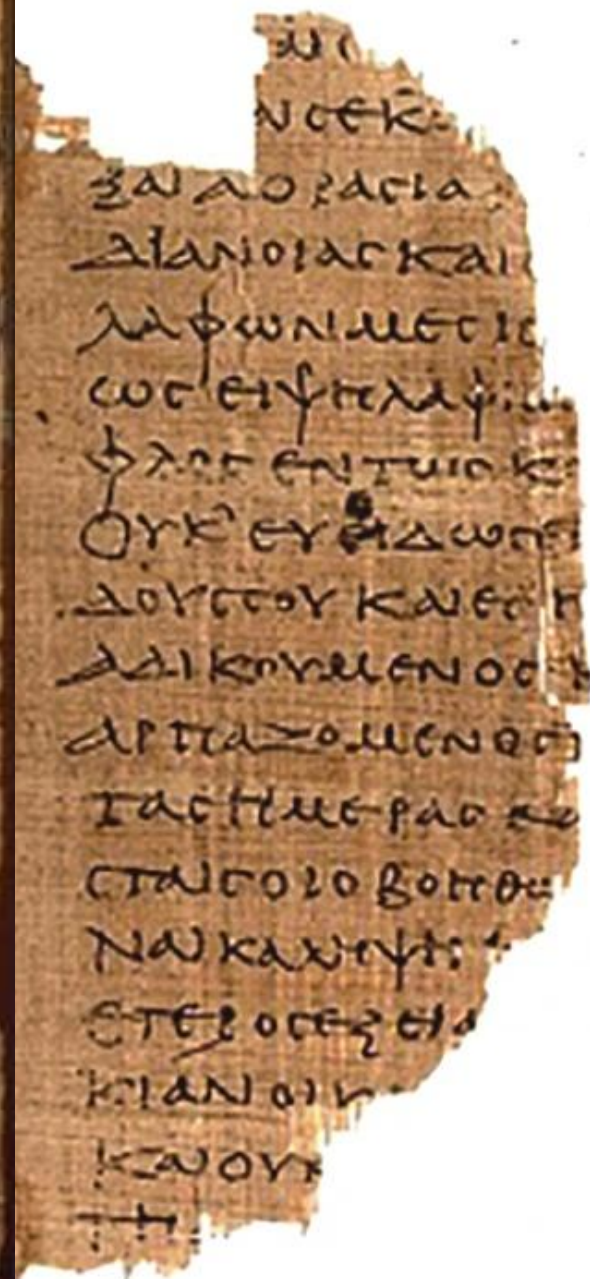
11. **The Canon** – the books we have were respected and protected

12. **Personal Transformation** – from the first apostles to people today

The New Testament is the best attested book of antiquity by far!

Chart from "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" pg 42

| Author | Time Written | Earliest Copy | Time Span | Manuscripts |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Caesar | 100-44 B.C. | A.D. 900 | 1000 | 10 |
| Josephus, | A.D. 80 | A.D. 950 | 870 | |
| Plato (Tetralogies) | A.D. 427-347 | A.D. 900 | 1200 | 7 |
| Tacticus (Annals) | A.D. 100 | A.D. 1000 | 900 | 1 |
| Pliny the Younger (History) | A.D. 61-113 | A.D. 850 | 750 | 1 |
| Sophocles | 496-406 B.C. | A.D. 1000 | 1400 | 193 |
| Euripides | 480-406 B.C. | A.D. 1100 | 1500 | 9 |
| Demosthenes | 383-322 B.C. | A.D. 1100 | 1300 | 200 |
| Aristotle | 384-322 B.C. | A.D. 1100 | 1400 | 49 |
| New Testament | A.D. 45-100 | A.D. 125 | 25-250 | 5300 |



Undesigned coincidences

Mat 14:1-2 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”

How did Matthew know what Herod said to his servants?



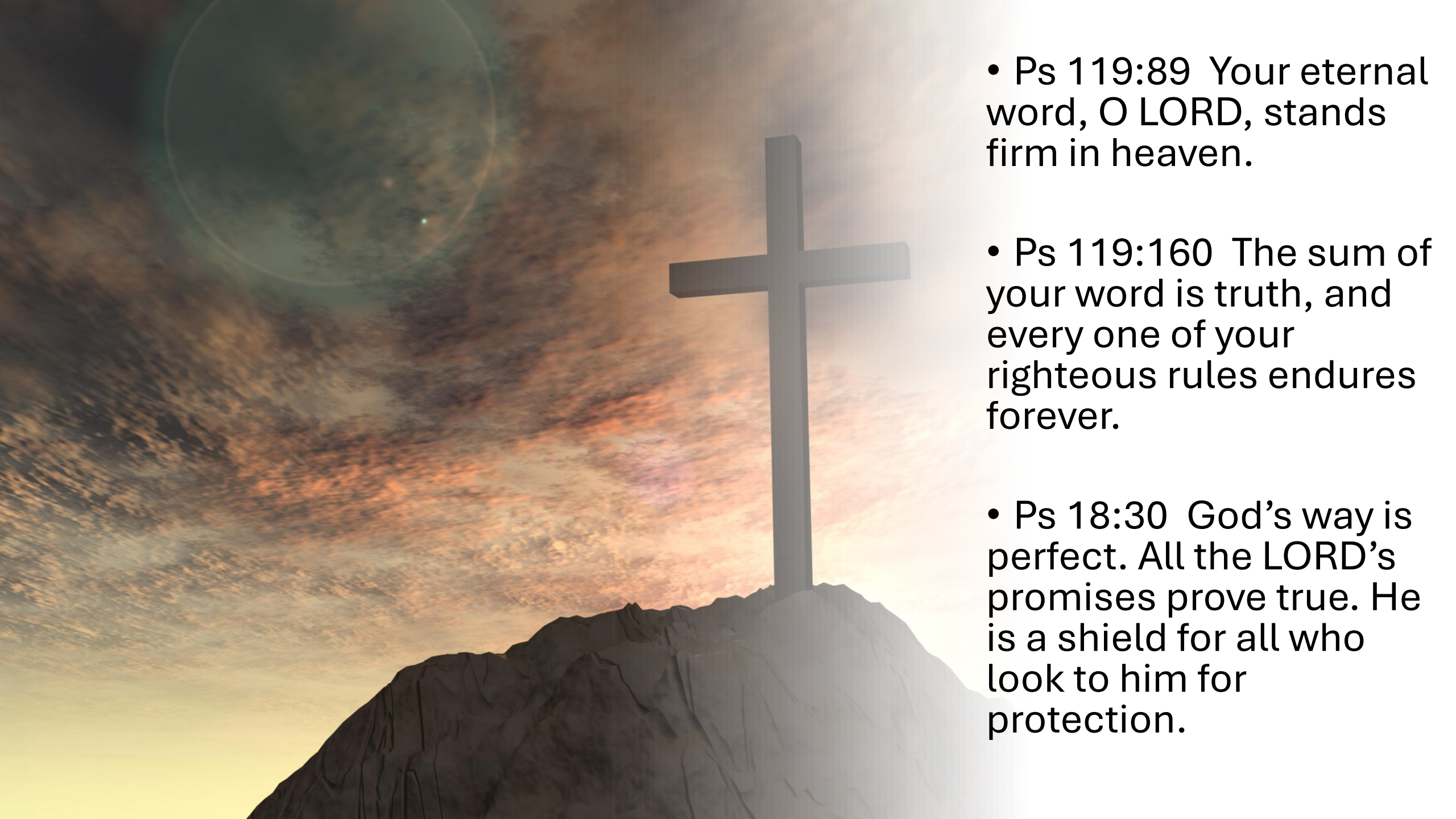
Undesigned coincidences

Luke 8:1-3 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and **Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager**, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.





Archeology



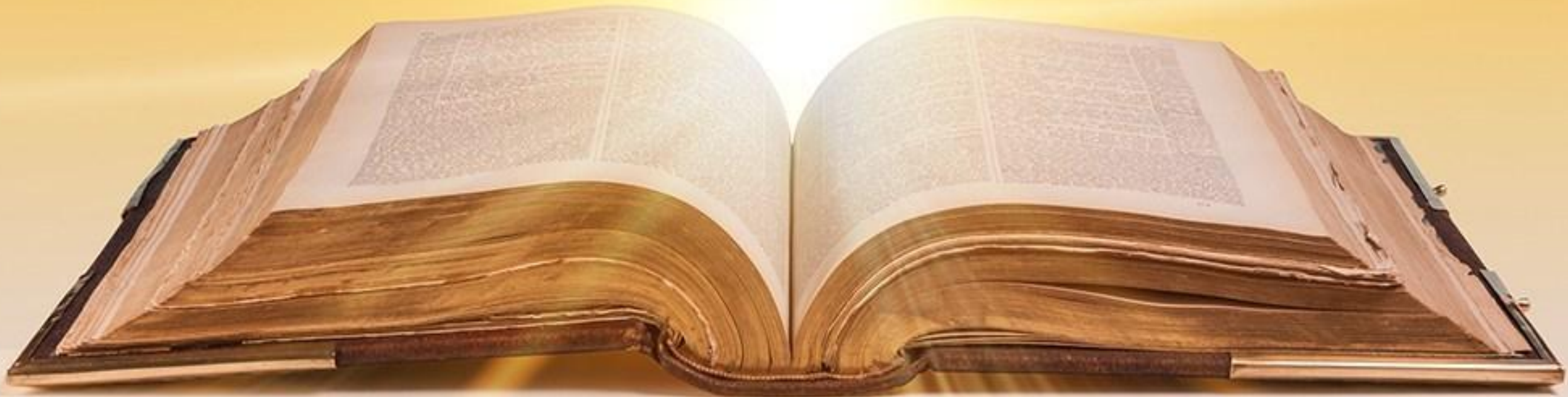
- Ps 119:89 Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven.
- Ps 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
- Ps 18:30 God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

SO WHAT



2. God uses his Word to transform us

2 Tim 3: 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.



Luke 6:47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of



THE POWER OF 4

A key CBE discovery is that the life of someone who engages Scripture four or more times a week looks radically different from the life of someone who does not. In fact, the lives of Christians who do *not* engage with the Bible most days of the week look no different from the lives of non-believers.

Someone who engages with the Bible four or more times a week is:

228%

more likely to
share their faith
with others

407%

more likely to
memorize Scripture

59%

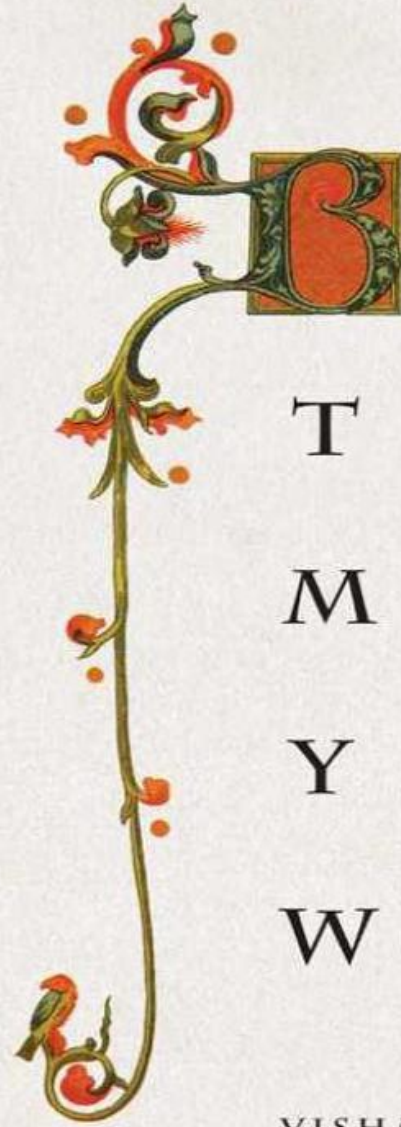
less likely to view
pornography

30%

less likely to
struggle with
loneliness

2 Tim 3:16-17





THE
HOW THE
BOOK
BIBLE
THAT
CREATED
MADE
THE SOUL
YOUR
OF WESTERN
WORLD
CIVILIZATION

VISHAL MANGALWADI

How do we submit to the Bible's authority?



We must read it to renew our minds



We must study it faithfully to understand what it says



We must obey it, whether we like what it says or not

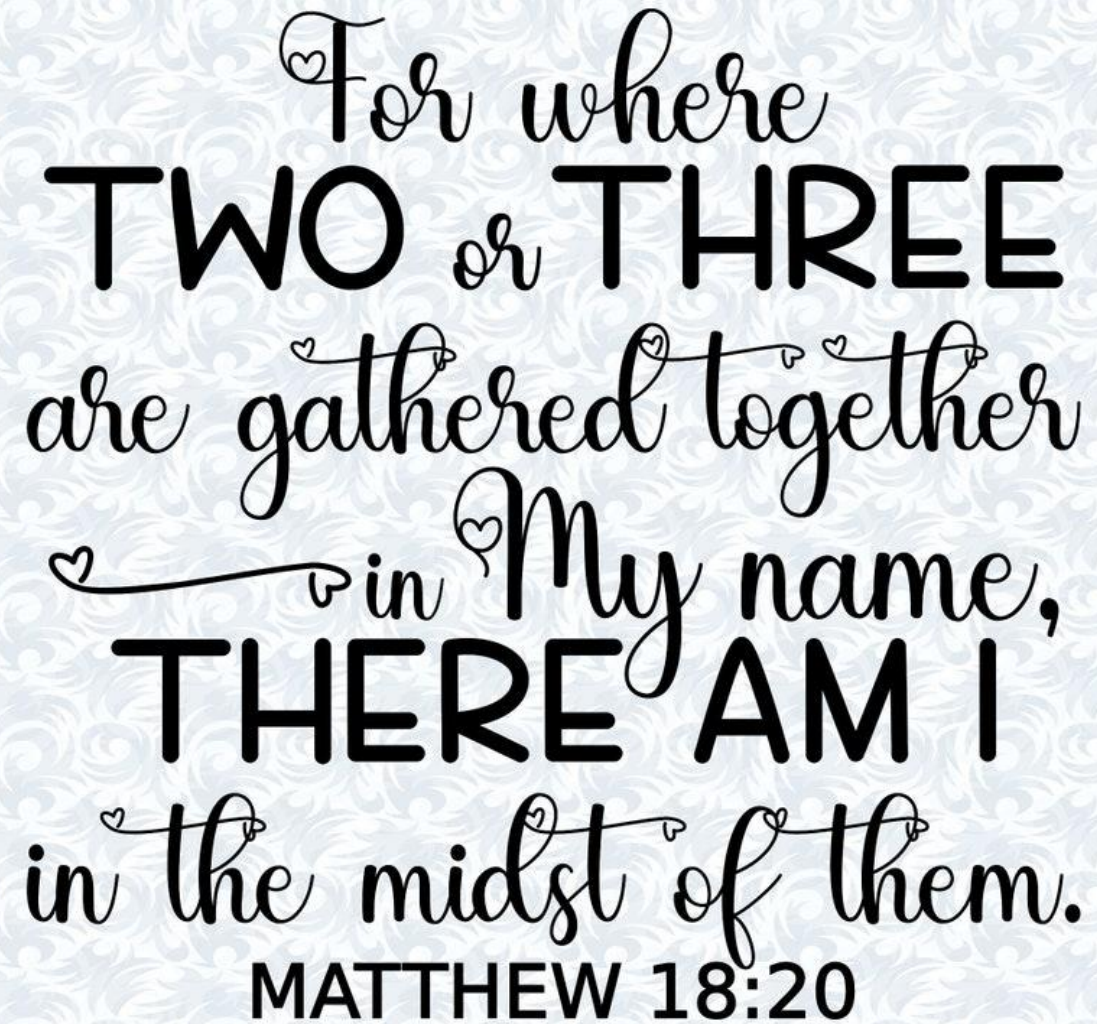
A world map is centered in the background, rendered in a dark brown color against a lighter, textured brown background that resembles aged paper or parchment. The map shows the outlines of the continents. Overlaid on the map is the title text in a large, bold, white font with a slight drop shadow.

The Great Commandment & The Great Commission

How should we study the Bible?



- 1. Be humble.**
- 2. Accept that the text says what it says.**
- 3. We must take scripture in context**
 - What is the genre?
 - Who was it written to? Recognize that while the Bible is written FOR you, it was not written TO you.
 - You must read it in the context of the culture it was written (what did the words used mean to the author)
 - You must interpret a passage inside the bigger story.



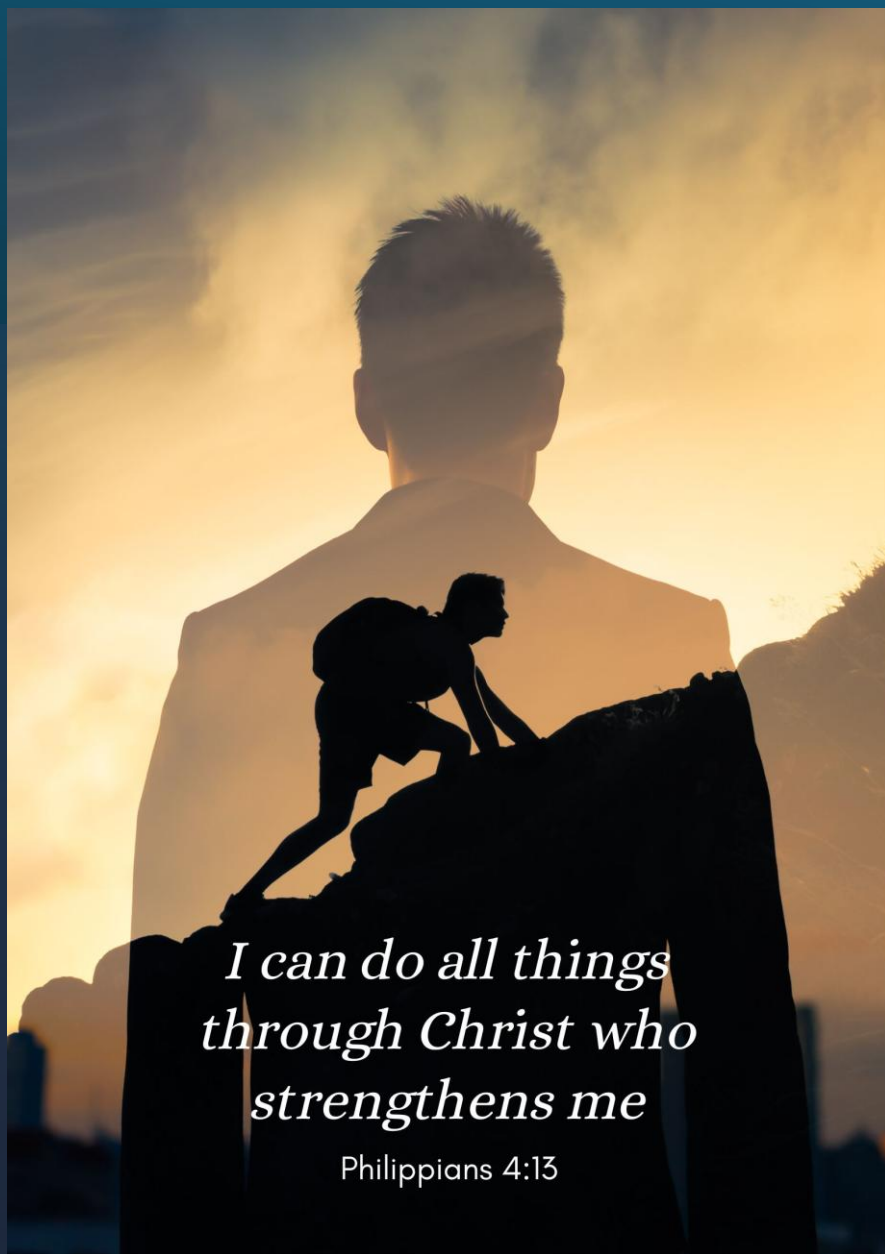
For where
TWO or THREE
are gathered together
in My name,
THERE AM I
in the midst of them.
MATTHEW 18:20

The context of Matt 18:20 is confrontation

15“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. **16**But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. **17**If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

18“I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

19“I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. **20** For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”



*I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me*

Philippians 4:13

The context of Php 4:13 is contentment

10 How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. 11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. 14 Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

How should we study the Bible?



- 1. Be humble.**
- 2. Accept that the text says what it says.**
- 3. We must take scripture in context**
- 4. Use scripture to interpret scripture**
 - How is a word used elsewhere
 - What principles apply from similar scriptures
 - Use the New Testament to illuminate the Old
- 5. Don't get discouraged by confusion.**

SURRENDER

To Scriptural Authority

