

- text



- 1 Kings 18:24-29 (ESV) 24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” 25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.”



- 26 And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and
 - called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying,
 - "O Baal, answer us!"
 - But there was no voice, and no one answered.
 - And they limped around the altar that they had made.



- 27 And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying,
 - “Cry aloud, for he is a god.
 - Either he is musing,
 - or he is relieving himself,
 - or he is on a journey,
 - or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”



- 28 And they cried aloud
- and **cut themselves** after their custom
 - with swords and lances,
 - until the **blood gushed** out upon them.
- 29 And as midday passed, they **raved** on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice.
 - No one answered; no one paid attention.



- A look at

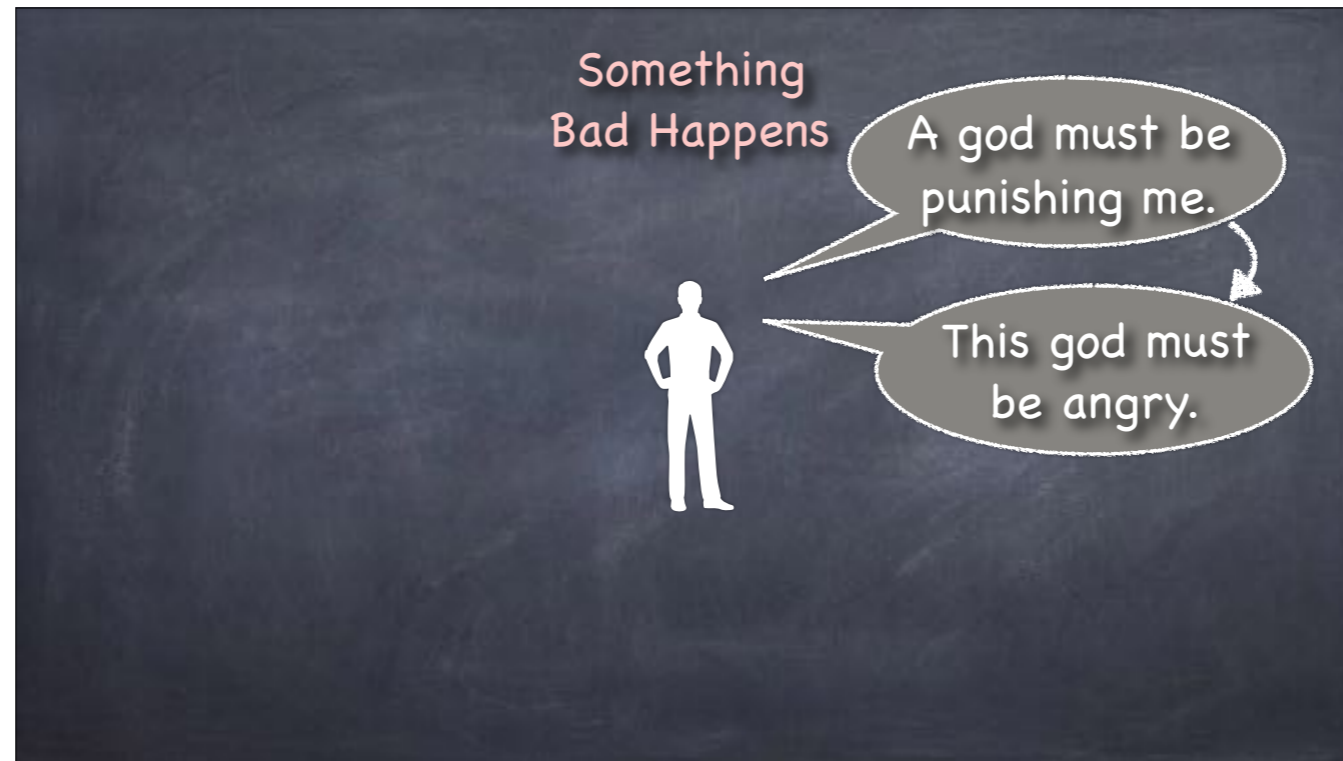
Something Bad Happens



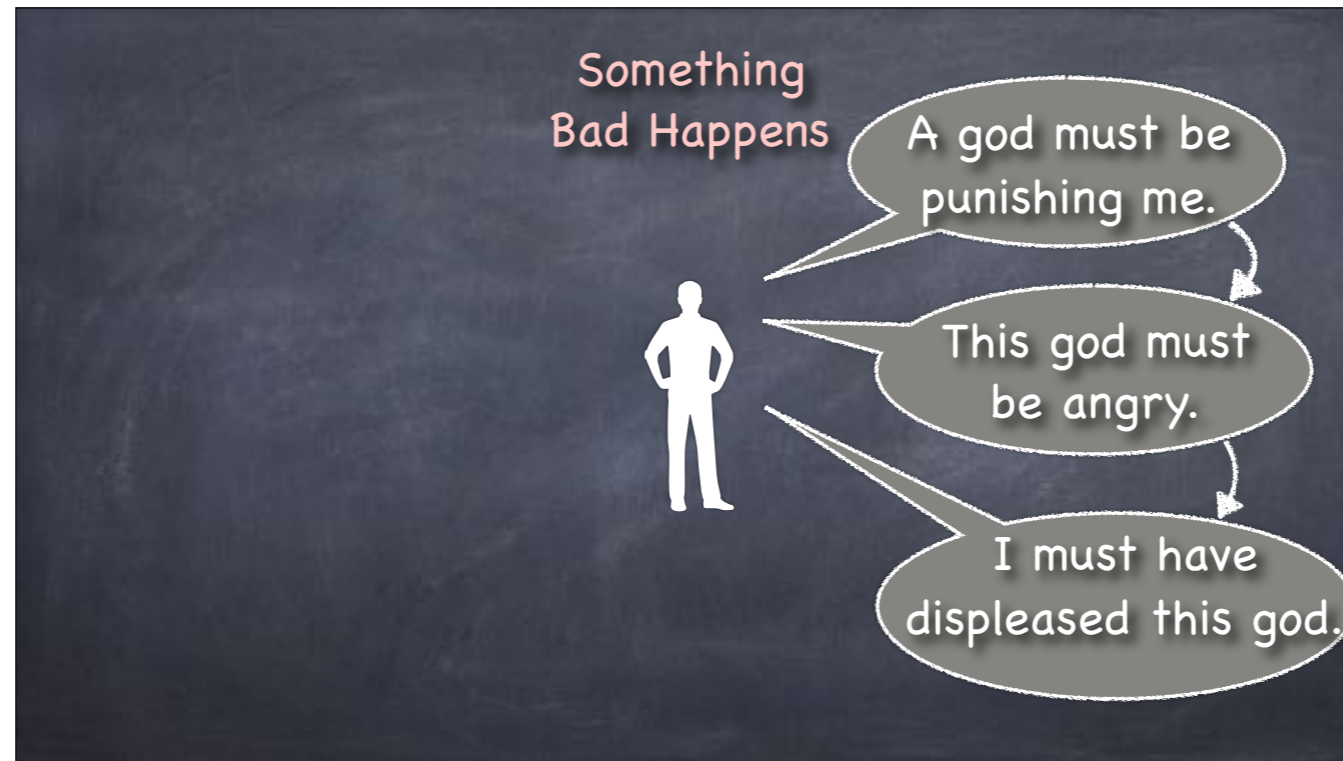
- Speculation on the reasoning.... (oversimplified, of course)
- Something bad happens to me, so what do I think?
- What is this bad thing?
 - natural disaster
 - health
 - wealth
 - I didn't get what I wanted.



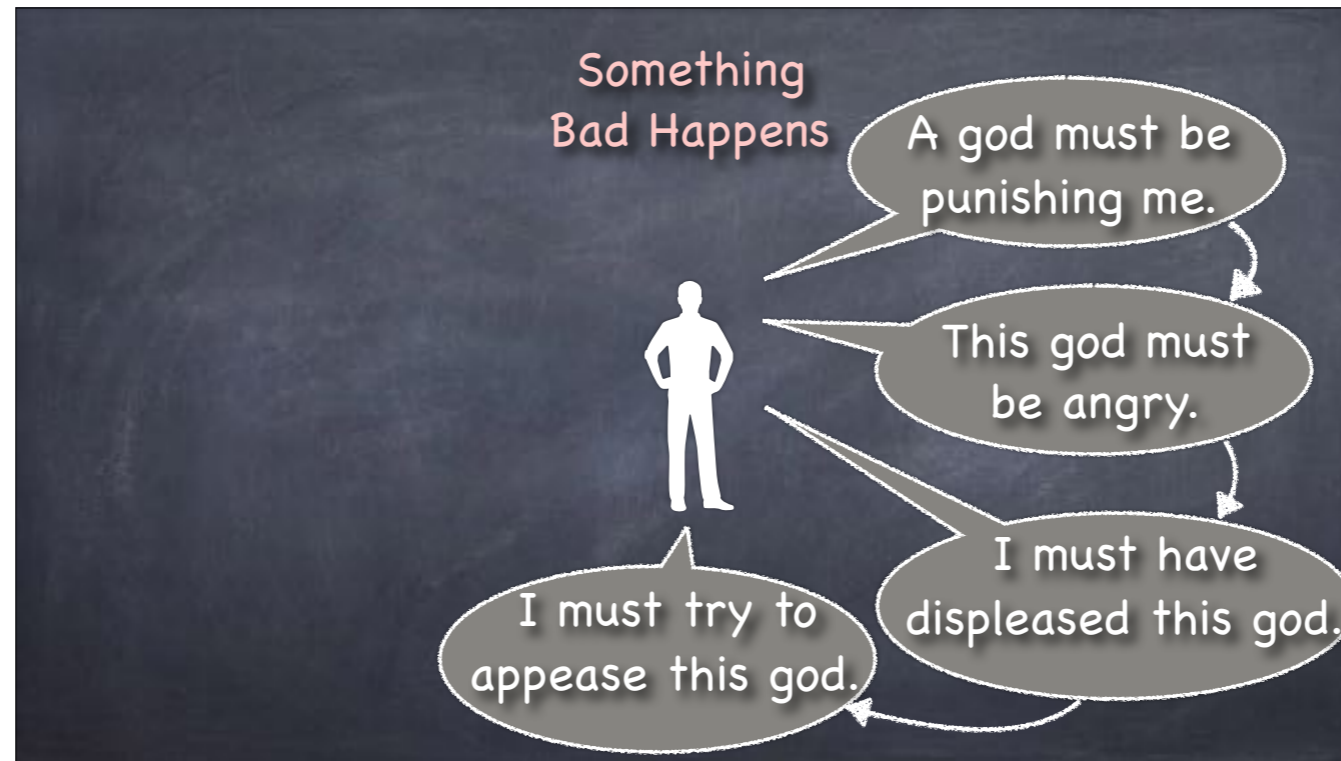
- A god must be punishing me.



- This god is punishing me because it is angry with me.



- Why is it angry? I must have done something to displease this god.
 - I didn't properly honor?
 - I did something prohibited?
 - I didn't do something I should have done?



- Since I've done something wrong, I need to do something to change this god's attitude toward me so the bad things will stop happening.
- How can I appease the god's anger?
- What will placate the god?



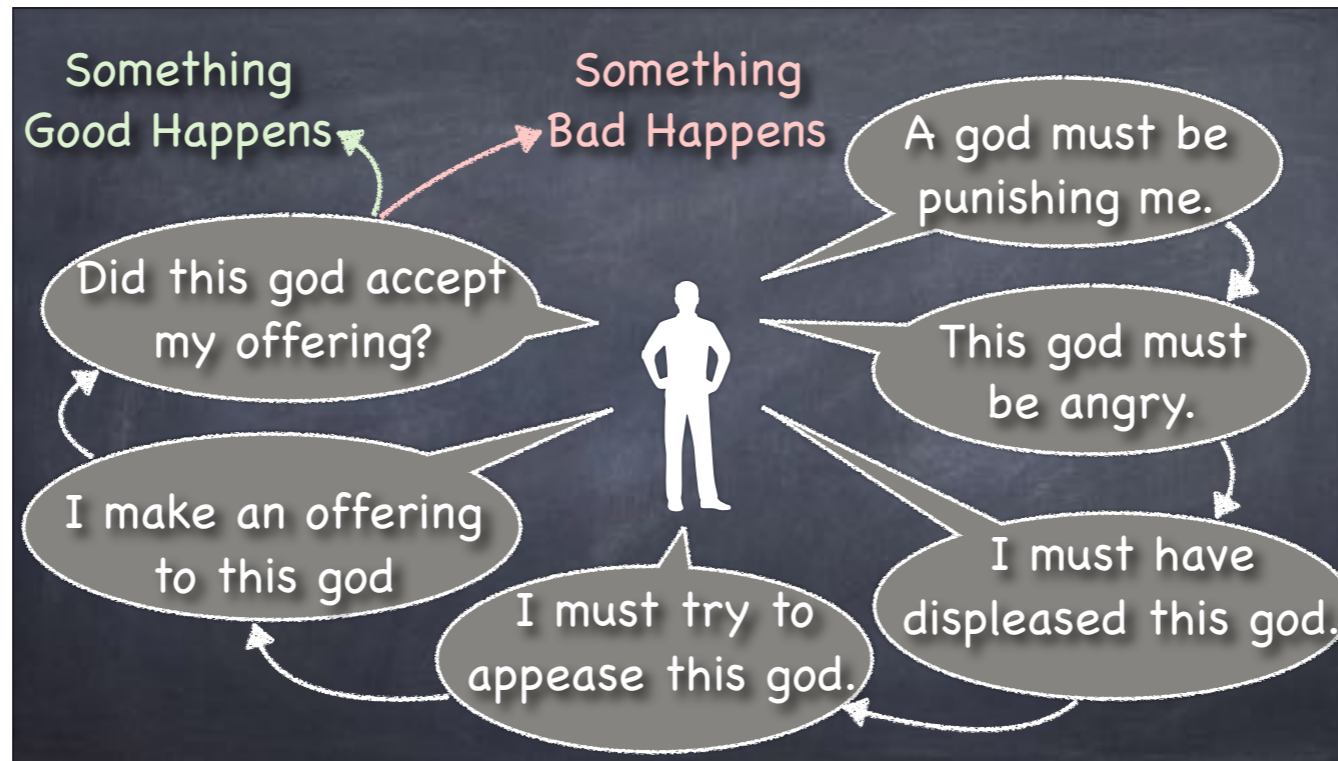
- I make an offering, I sacrifice something of value, to this god.
- My hope is that the offering will demonstrate my sorrow for my oversight/sin.
- And this god will relent from his anger and punishment.



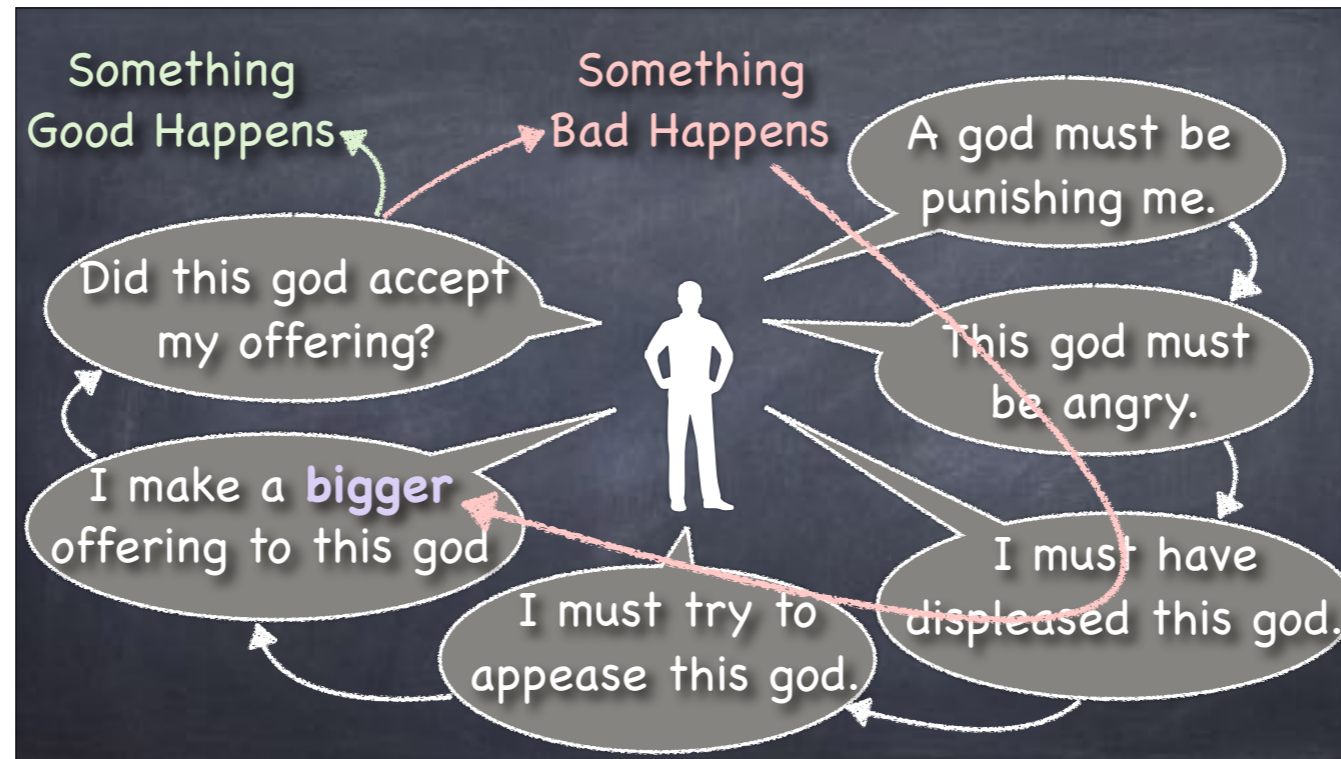
- Having made the offering, how do I know if this god accepts my offering?



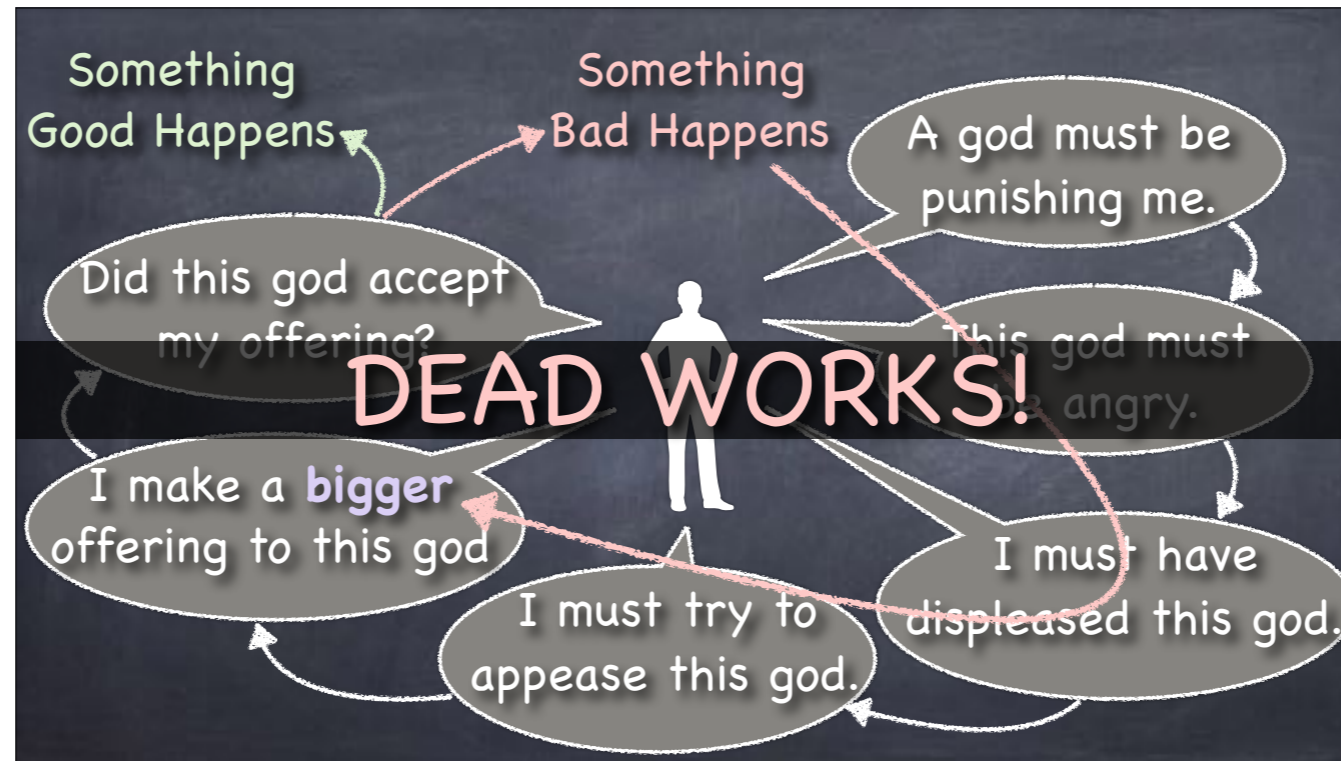
- If the bad things stop, and especially if something good happens then I must assume that this god was pleased with my offering.
- Make note of this for future reference.



- But what if the bad things continue, or get worse, or something else bad happens?



- I must assume my offering was not pleasing to this god
- So maybe the offering was not sufficient.
- So I make a bigger offering...
- If that still doesn't work... bigger and bigger offerings must be made.



- This is what I believe the Hebrew writer means by "dead works".
-



- Cried out: nothing
- Cut themselves, blood gushing: nothing
- Ranting: nothing
- there was no voice.
- No one answered; no one paid attention.

"repentance from dead works" (English Standard Version)

- Hebrews 6:1 (ESV) Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- Hebrews 6:1 (NIV) repentance from acts that lead to death (footnote: from useless rituals)

“repentance from **dead works**”
(English Standard Version)

**acts that
lead to death
(useless rituals)**
(New International Version)

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“repentance from **dead works**”

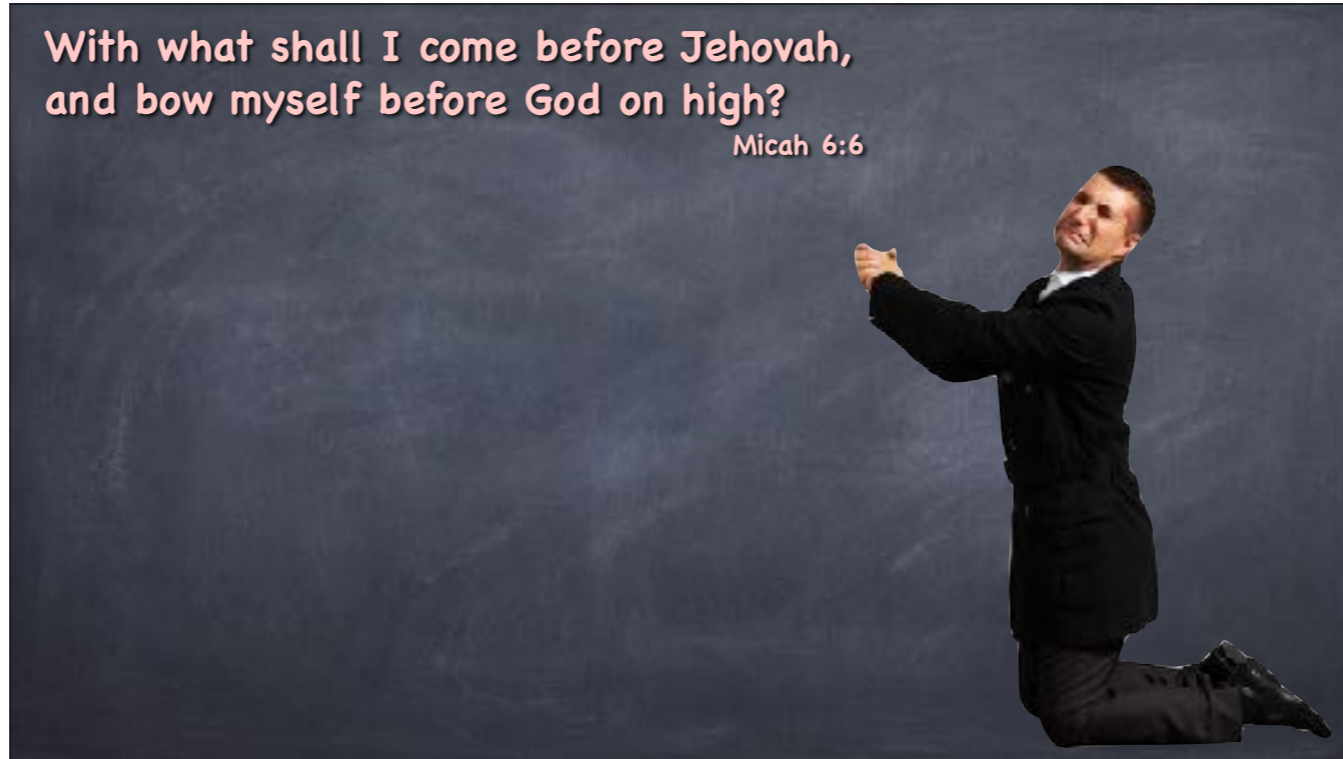
(English Standard Version)

acts that
lead to death
(**useless rituals**)
(New International Version)

- Dead works
 - Good works
 - Evil works
- Sin? certainly
- Earn salvation?
 - cover up our own sins
 - earn gods favor

With what shall I come before Jehovah,
and bow myself before God on high?

Micah 6:6



- Micah 6:6-8:
 - With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

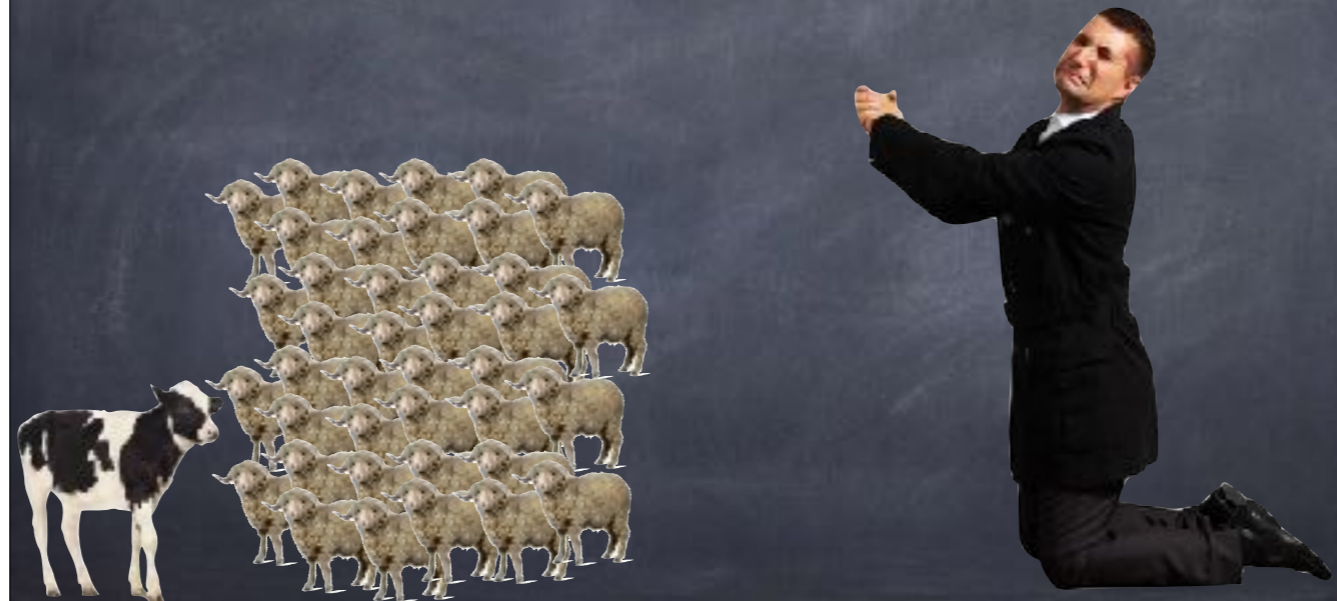
Micah 6:6



- Micah 6:6: Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
- Conforms to old covenant... but misunderstands sacrifice!
- Rhetorical question: answer is NO!

Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams

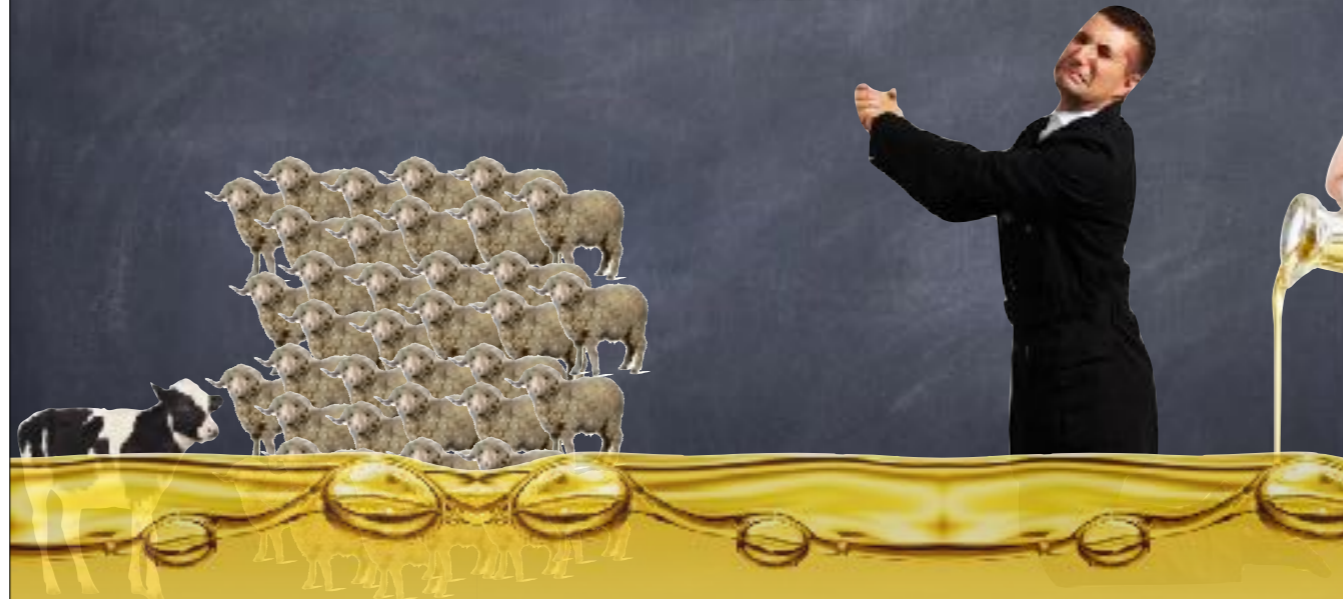
Micah 6:7



- Micah 6:7: Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Will Jehovah be pleased...
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Micah 6:7



- Micah 6:7: Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 - Extravagant, expensive
 - How much will it cost me?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:7



- Micah 6:7: Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
 - Here is the heart of it: sin of my soul!
 - What can I give to God to appease His wrath for MY sin?
 - My firstborn, my most precious thing.
 - What will it take to please God?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:7



- Is this not the same pattern of dead works?
 - Even among those who should know God?

knowing that you were ransomed
from the futile ways inherited
from your forefathers,
not with perishable things such as silver or gold

1 Peter 1:18



- 1 Peter 1:17-19 (ESV) 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

knowing that you were ransomed
from the **futile ways** inherited
from your forefathers,
not with perishable things such as silver or gold

1 Peter 1:18



- Why are these “futile ways”
 - (CWSB Dictionary) to no purpose, in vain. Vain, empty, fruitless, aimless.

"repentance from dead works"

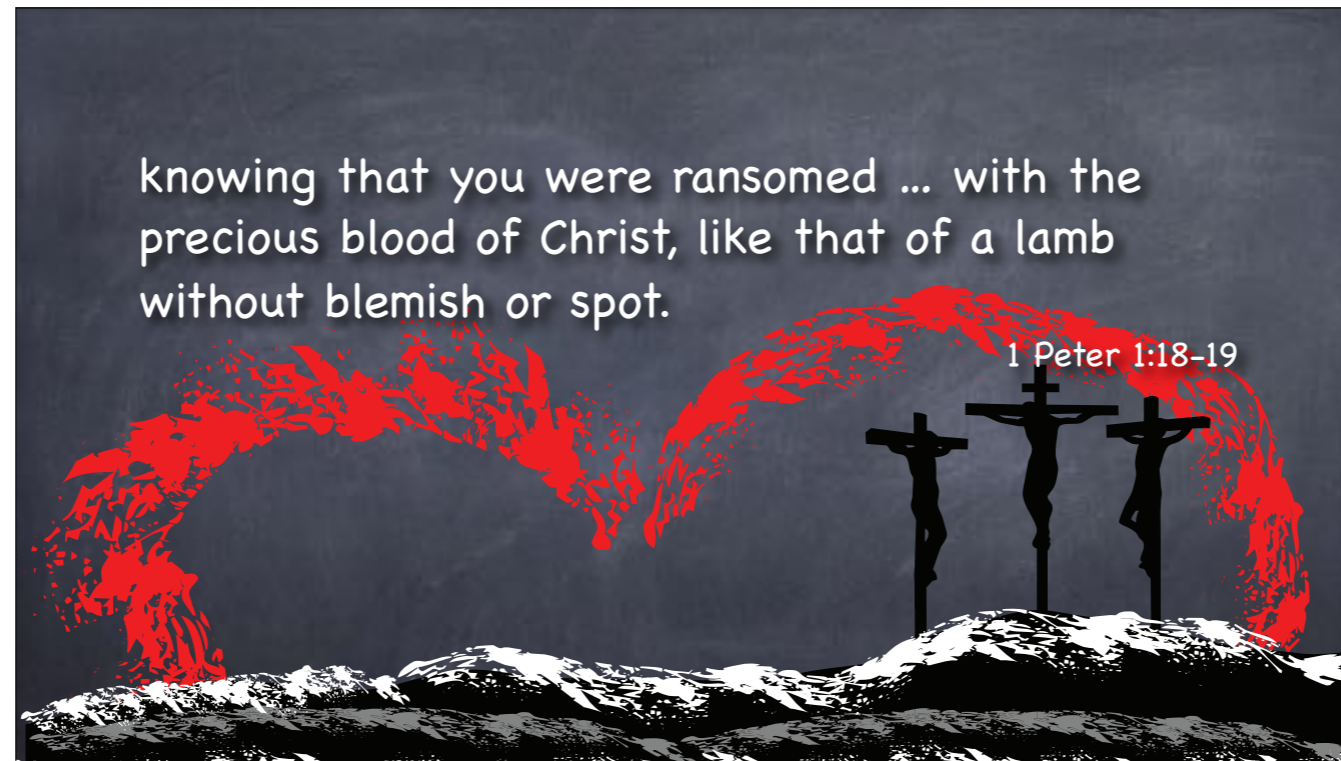
(English Standard Version)

- Dead works are my attempts to be reconciled with God based on my own suppositions.
- Why dead?
 - don't bring life, peace, hope, salvation
 - don't because they come from man, myself, not God

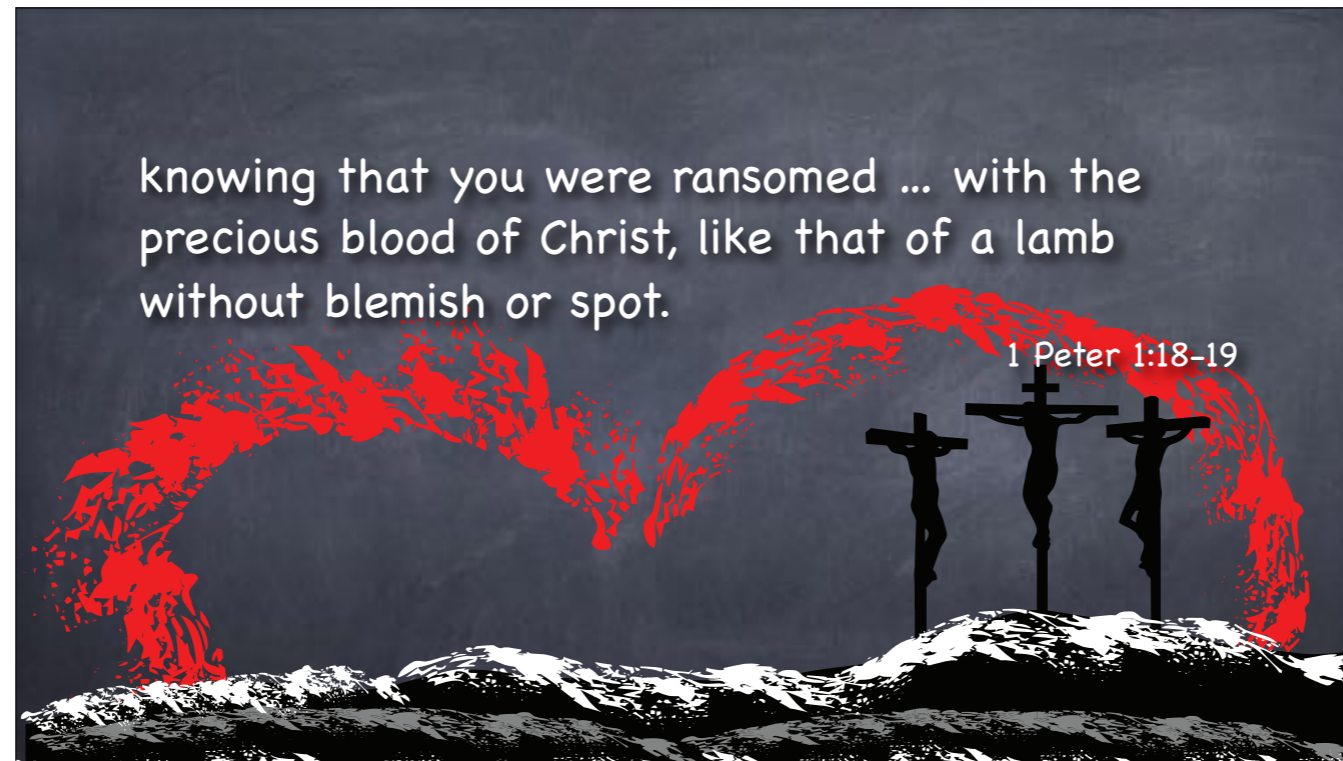
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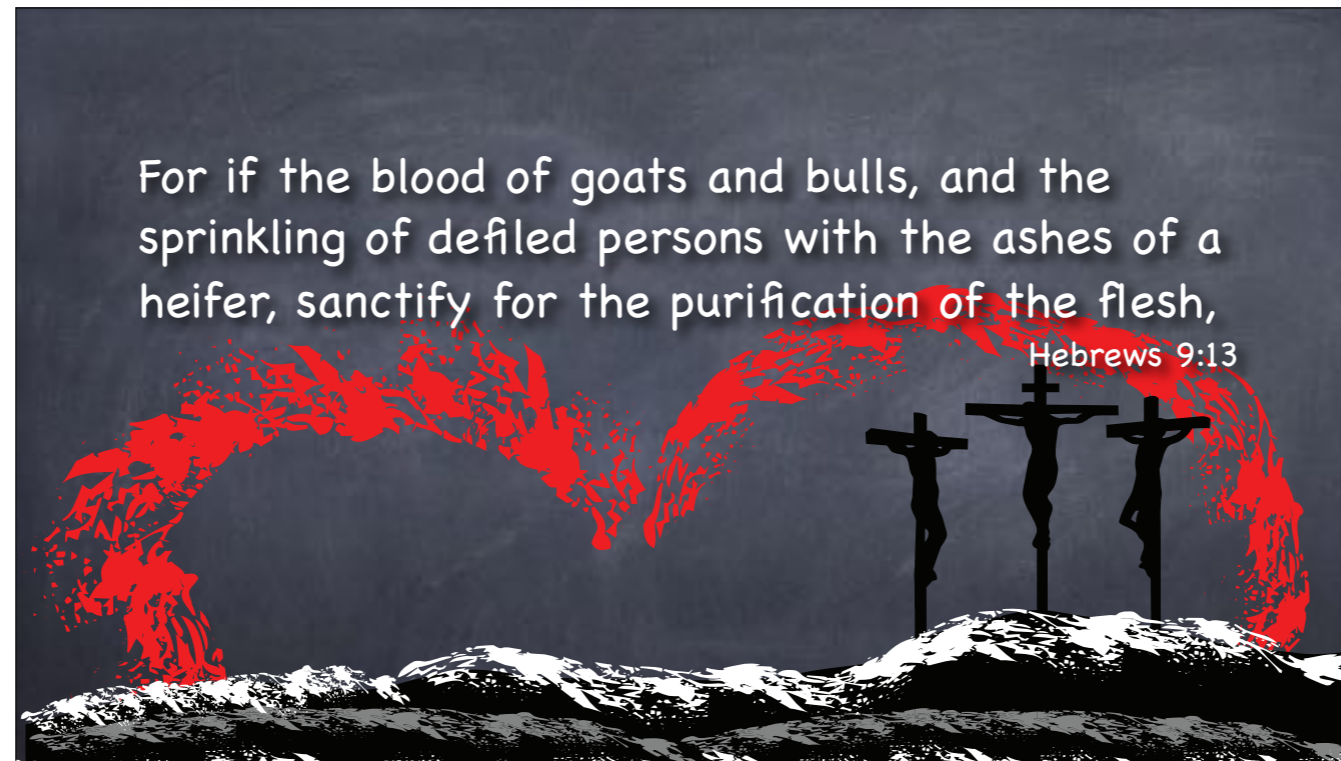
- It is an utter failure to understand Jehovah, our God
 - we think of God as being ruled by emotions like we are
 - we think of God as needing the things that we offer
 - we think of God as capricious, and wrathful
 - we fail to think of God as being loving, gracious, and forgiving



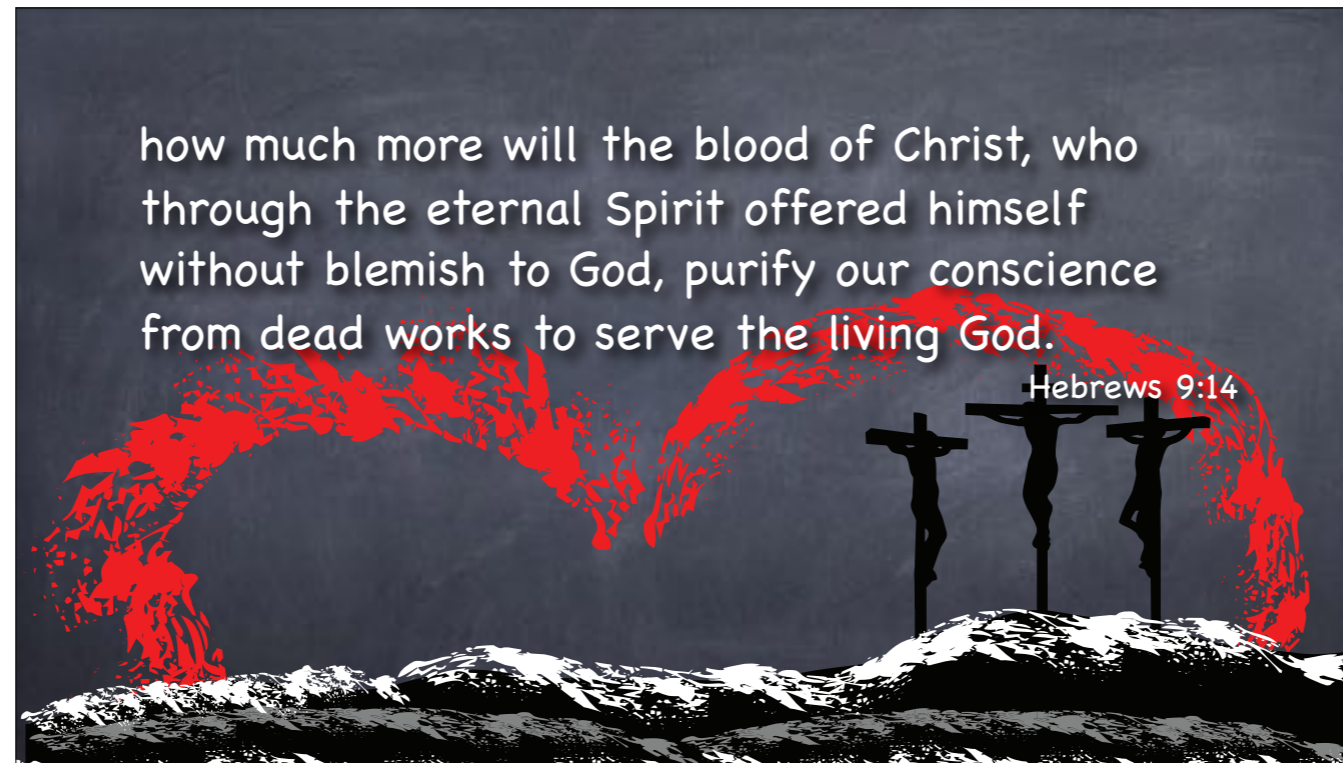
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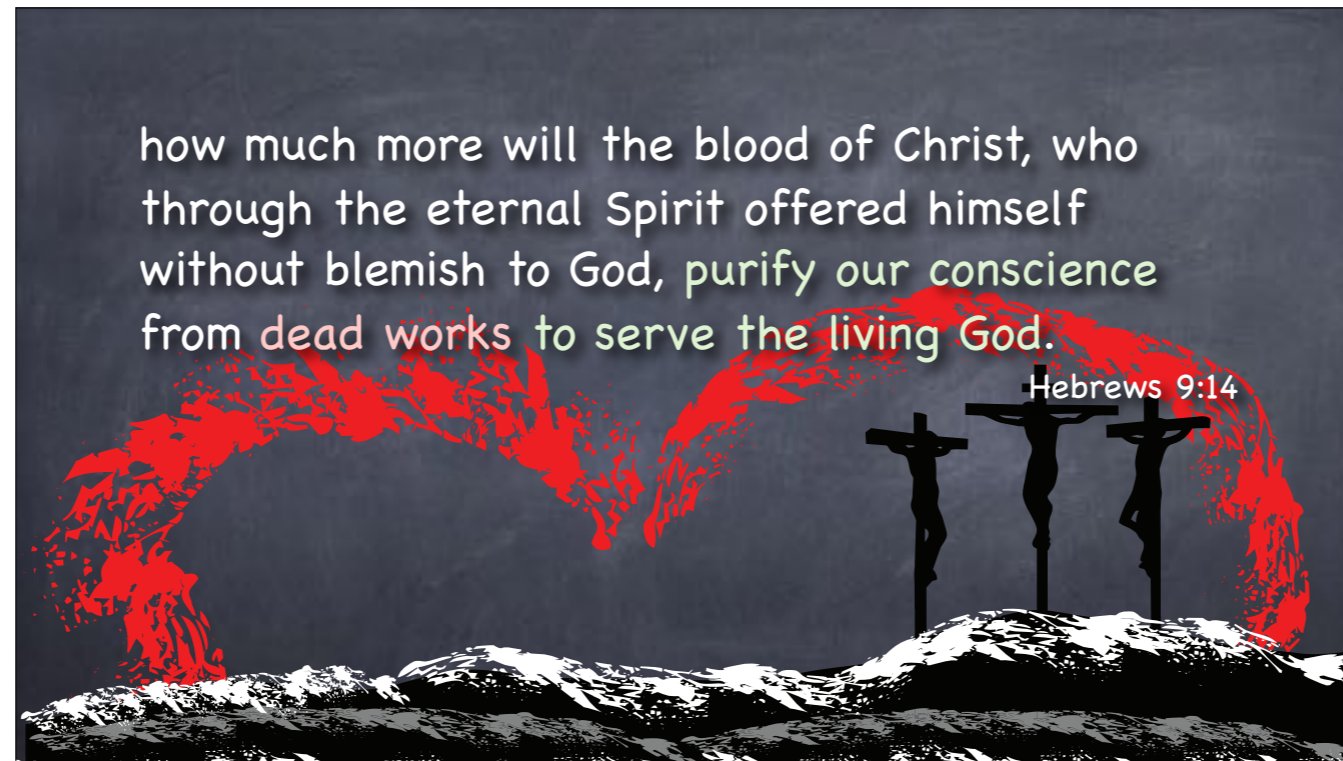
- My salvation depends on the love and sacrifice of Jesus.
 - offered himself to save me



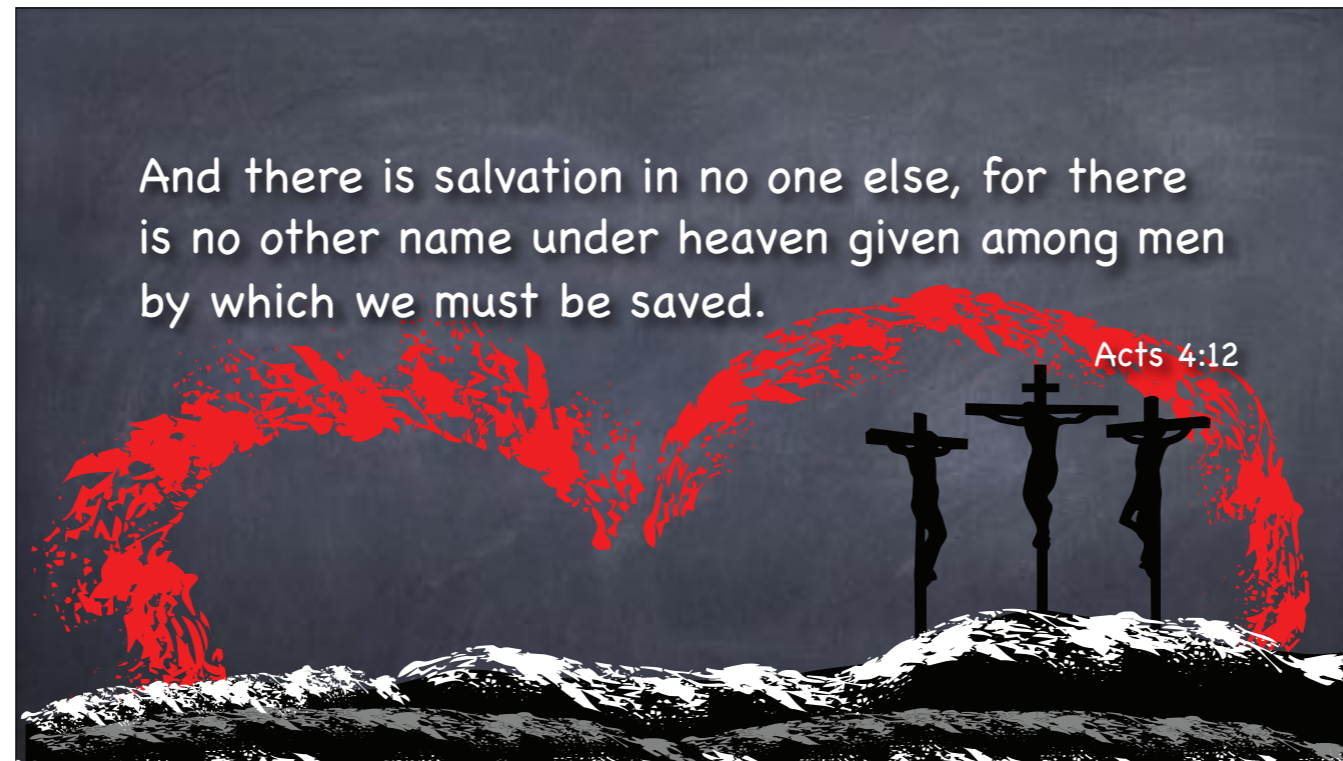
- Hebrews 9:11-14 (ESV) 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh



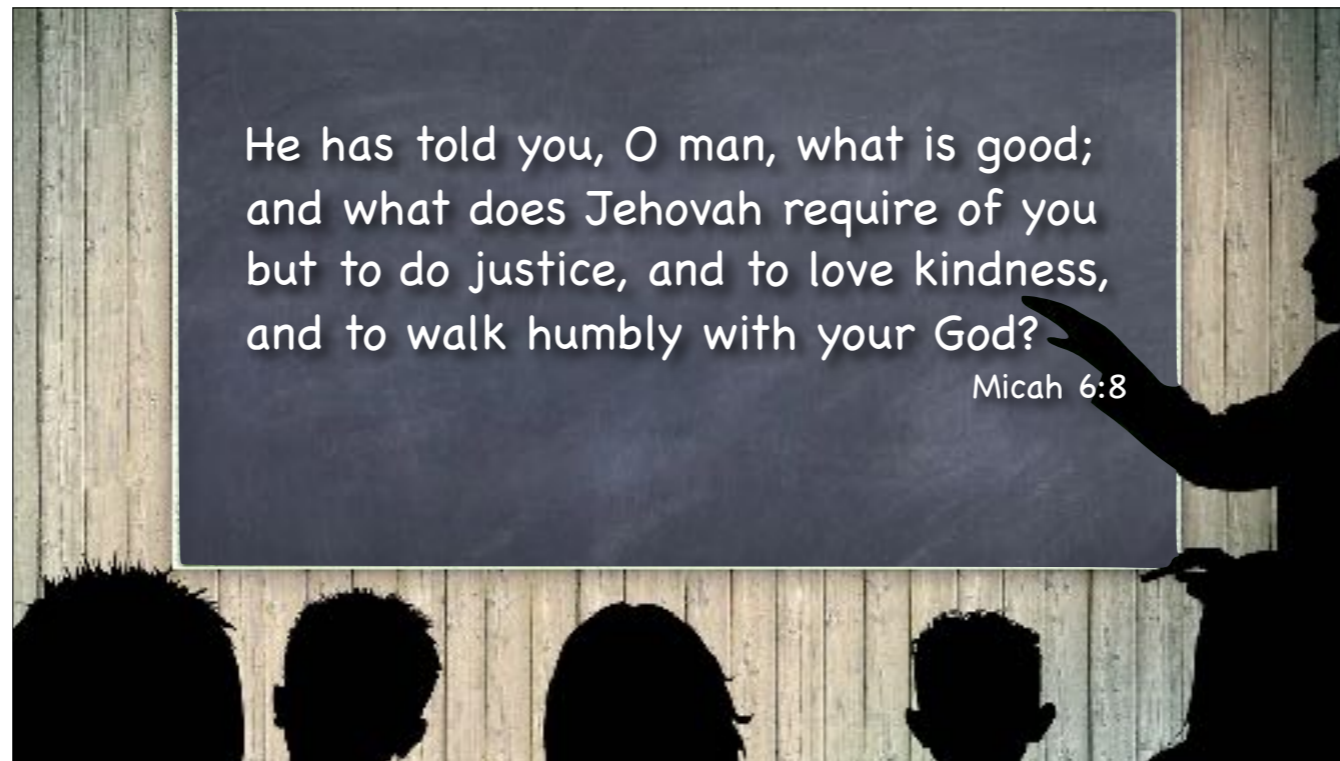
- 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.



- purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- dead works = blood of goats, bulls, sprinkling —> purification of flesh
- purify conscience!
 - serve God
- Blood of Christ



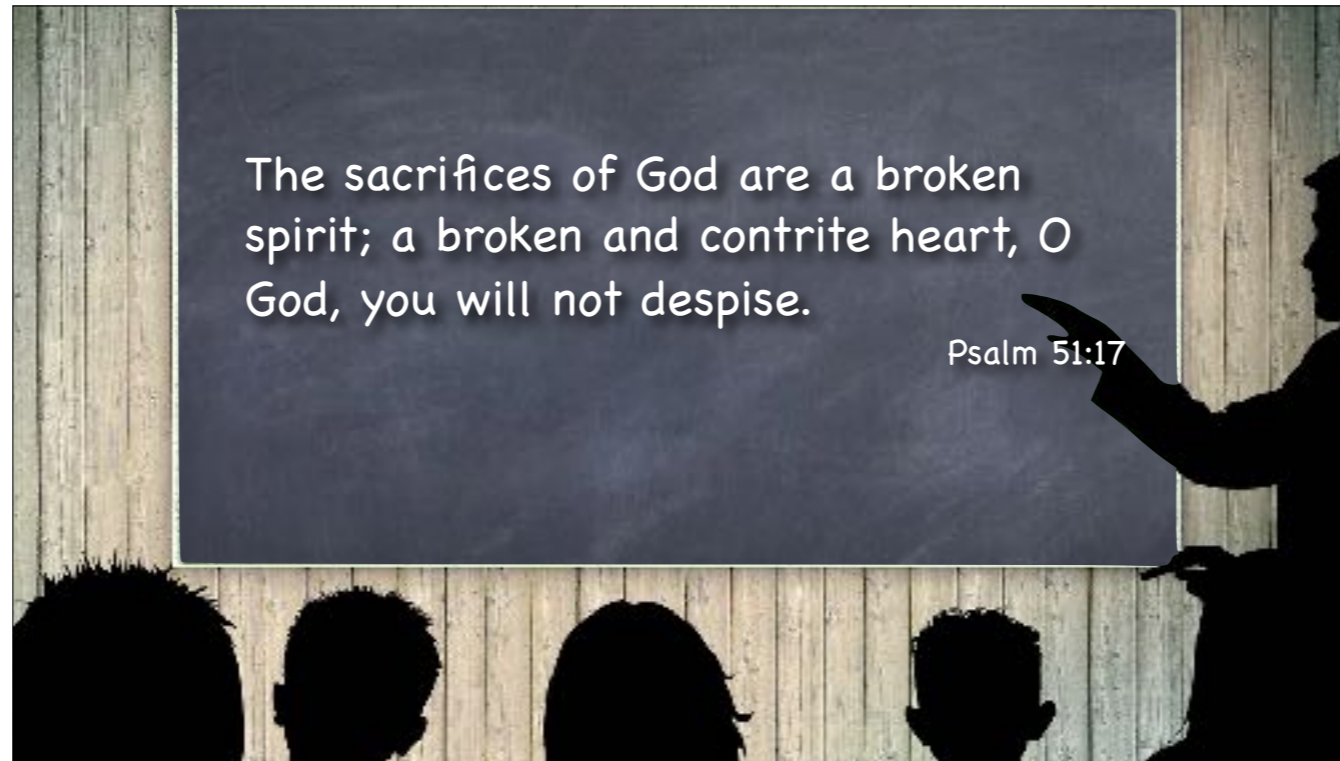
- Acts 4:12: And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



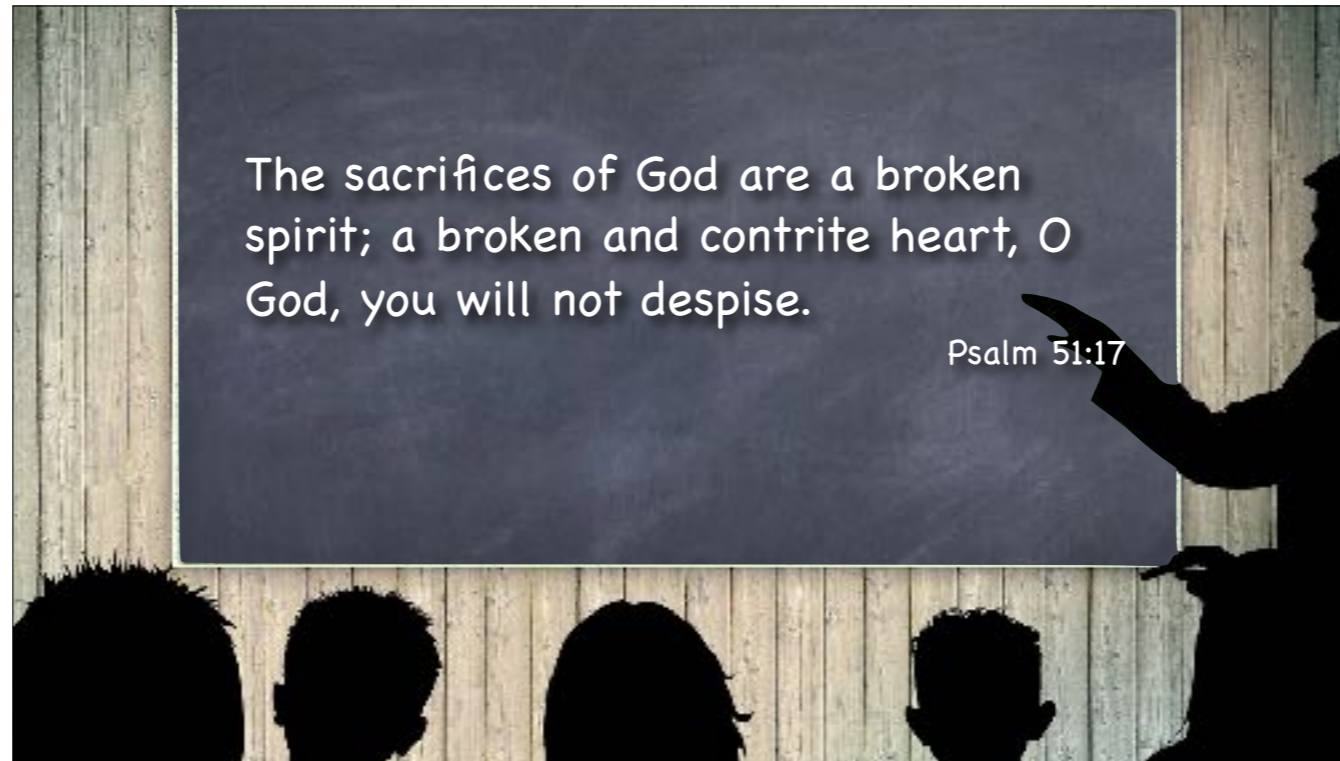
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does Jehovah require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

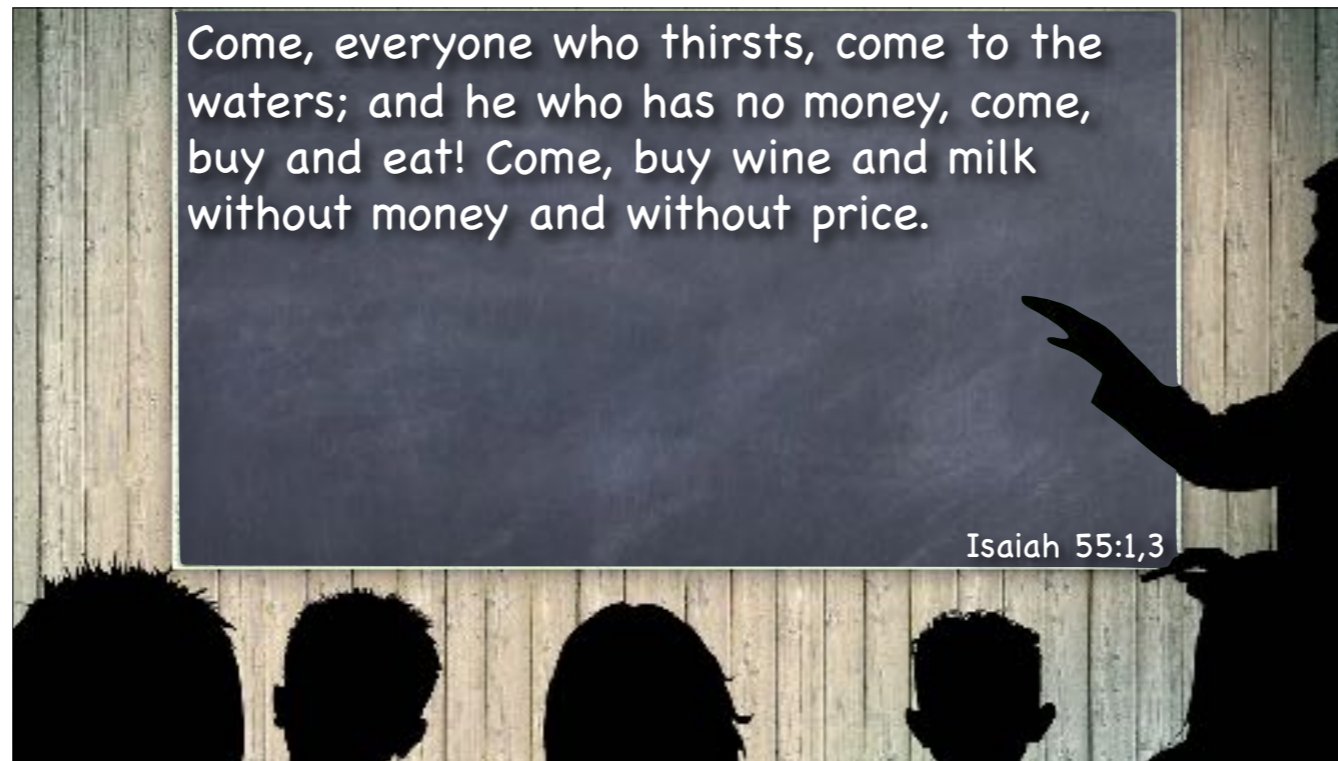
- Micah 6:8 (ESV) 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



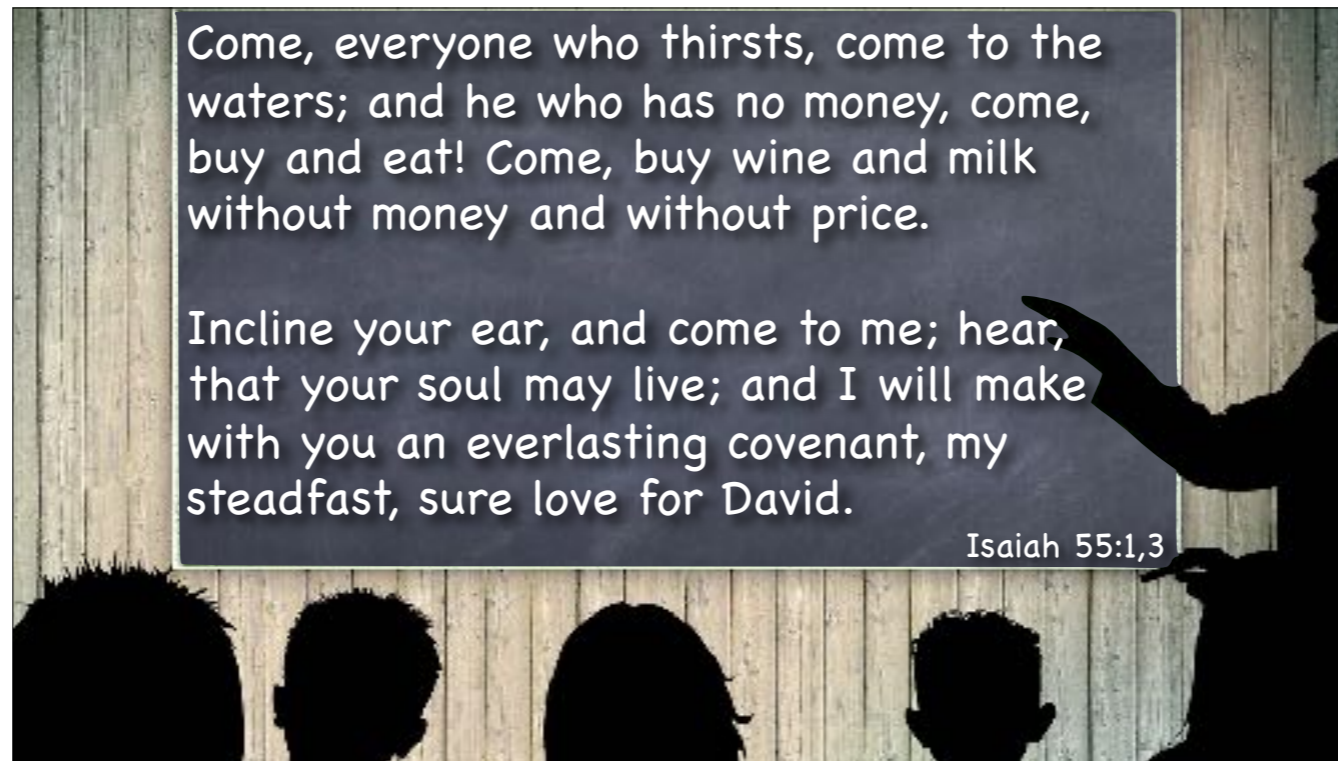
- Psalms 51:16-17 (ESV) 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.



- David was a man after God's own heart
 - not because he was without sin
 - not just because he repented
 - but because he trusted in God for his salvation, and not himself.
 - Psalms 32:1-2 (ESV) 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.



- Isaiah 55:1 (ESV) "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- God offers free salvation, graciously
- no cow to appease wrath
- \$1000 to join his club

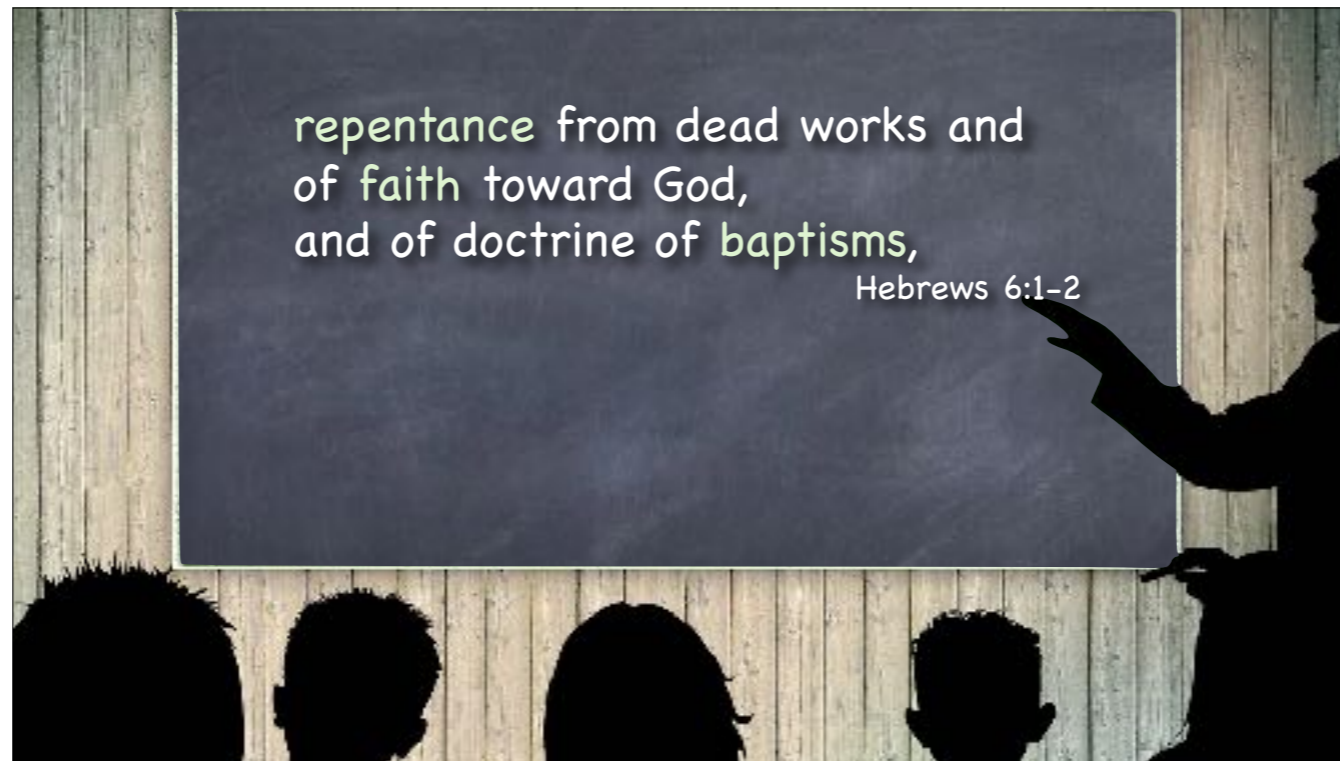


Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Isaiah 55:1,3

- Isaiah 55:3 (ESV) Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- Come
- He doesn't want your things
- He wants you.



- Hebrews 6:1-2 (ESV) repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings,



What are **MY** dead works?

- What are my dead works?
 - anything that I do where I think that I am earning my own salvation by my actions
 - If it's anything that I depend on for salvation other than Jesus and his teachings, then it's a dead work.
 - Even things that we tend to think of as "spiritual" and "right"

What are **MY** dead works?

- Even for those of us in Christ its easy to fall into old ways of thinking and acting.
 - Thinking of our wonderful Savior as if he were as shallow as the gods imagined by man.
- So many books have been written, and debates, about why we suffer.
 - Why did something bad happen to me?

What are **MY** dead works?

- 1 Peter 1:6-9 (ESV) 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

What are **MY** dead works?

- What am I offering to God in order to earn my salvation?
 - Faithfulness?
 - Giving?
 - Bible study, prayer, conversions?
 - Life?

What are **MY** dead works?

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does Jehovah require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

- Micah 6:8 (ESV) 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;
- and what does the Lord require of you
- but to do justice, and to love kindness,
- and to walk humbly with your God?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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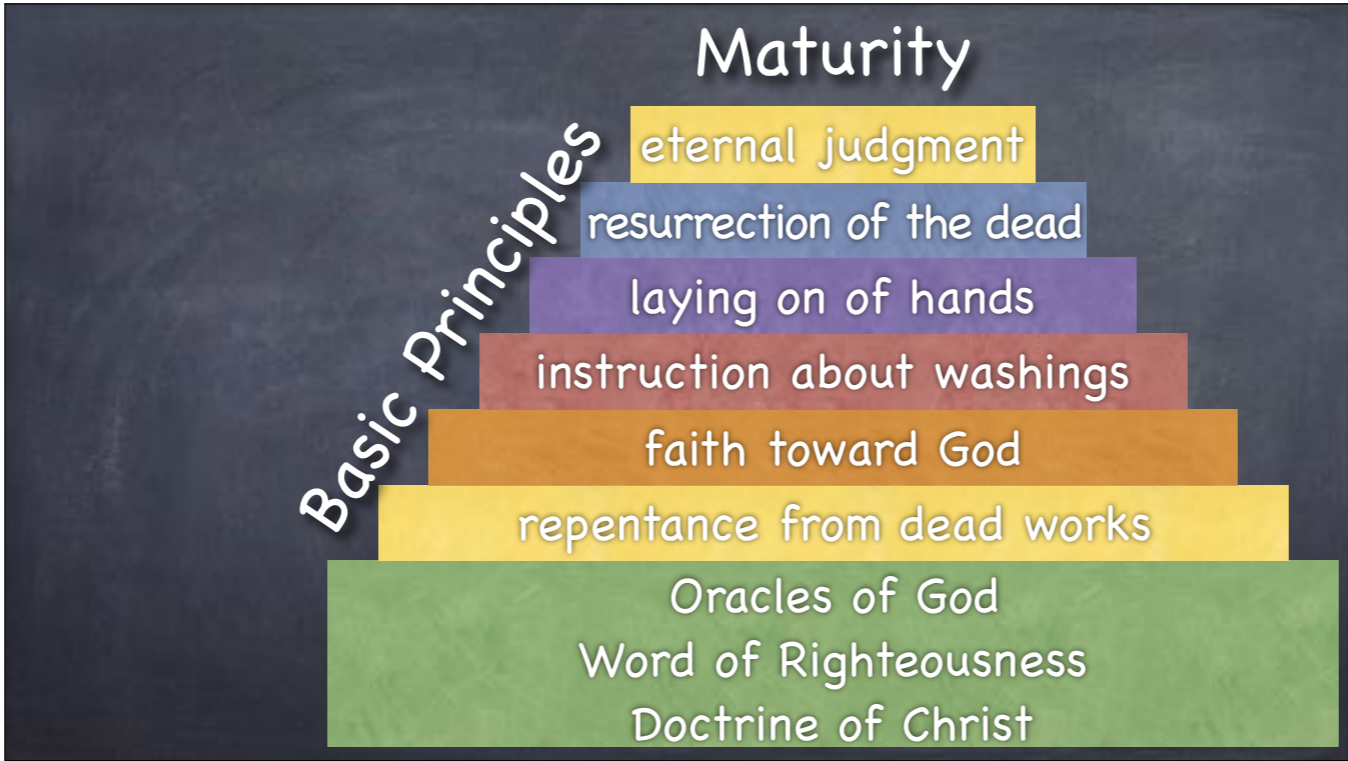
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- text

Dead Works

Hebrews 6:1

Synopsis: Dead works are those actions we take of our own initiative in order to appease the wrath of God (or even gods). These are failures to understand God and salvation. It is only in the free gift of grace through Jesus Christ that we can be saved.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."