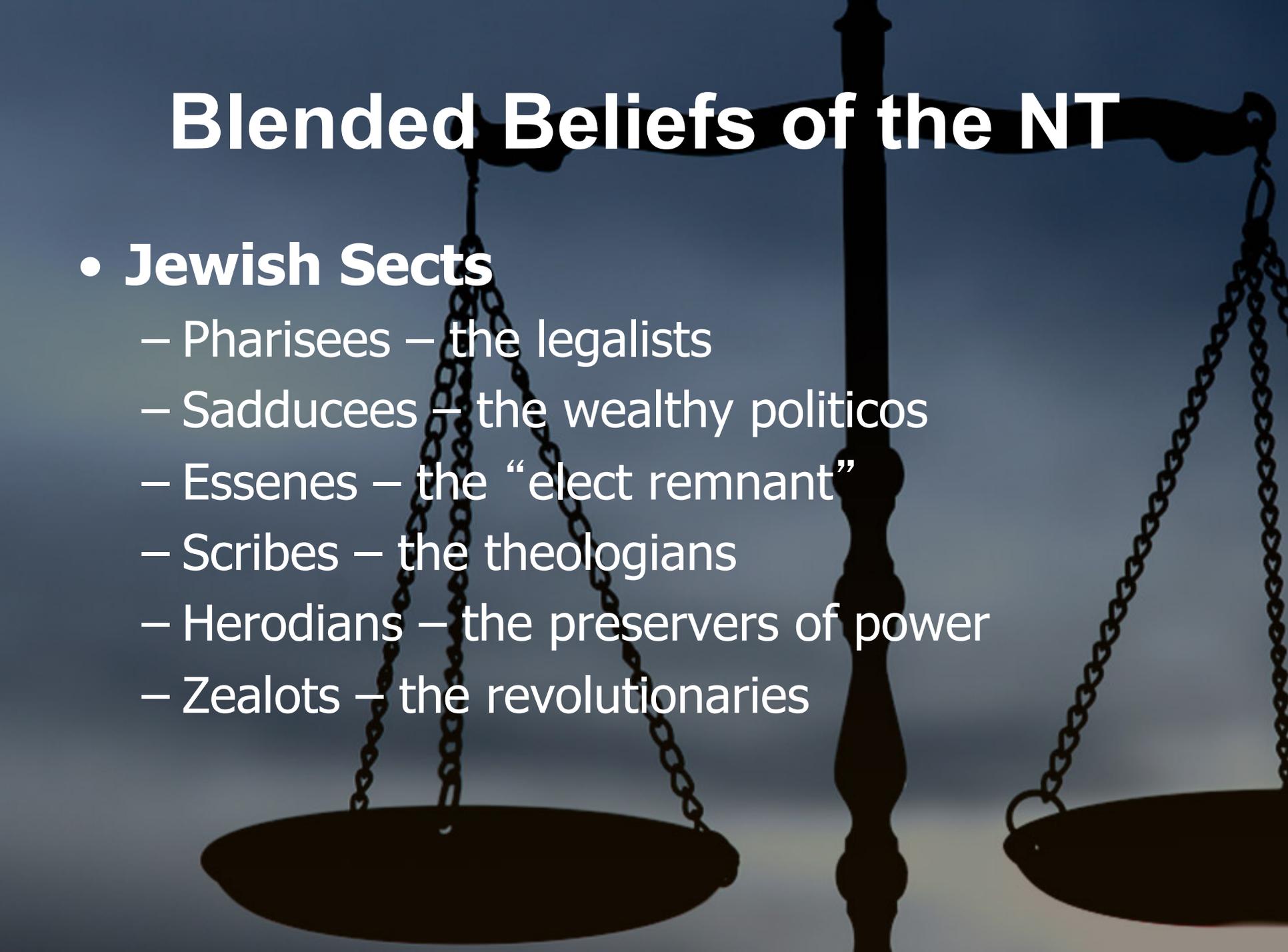


A black silhouette of a pair of scales of justice is centered against a blue gradient background. The scales are perfectly balanced, with both pans hanging at the same level. The background transitions from a darker blue at the top to a lighter, almost white glow behind the pans, suggesting a light source behind the scales.

Righteous Judgment

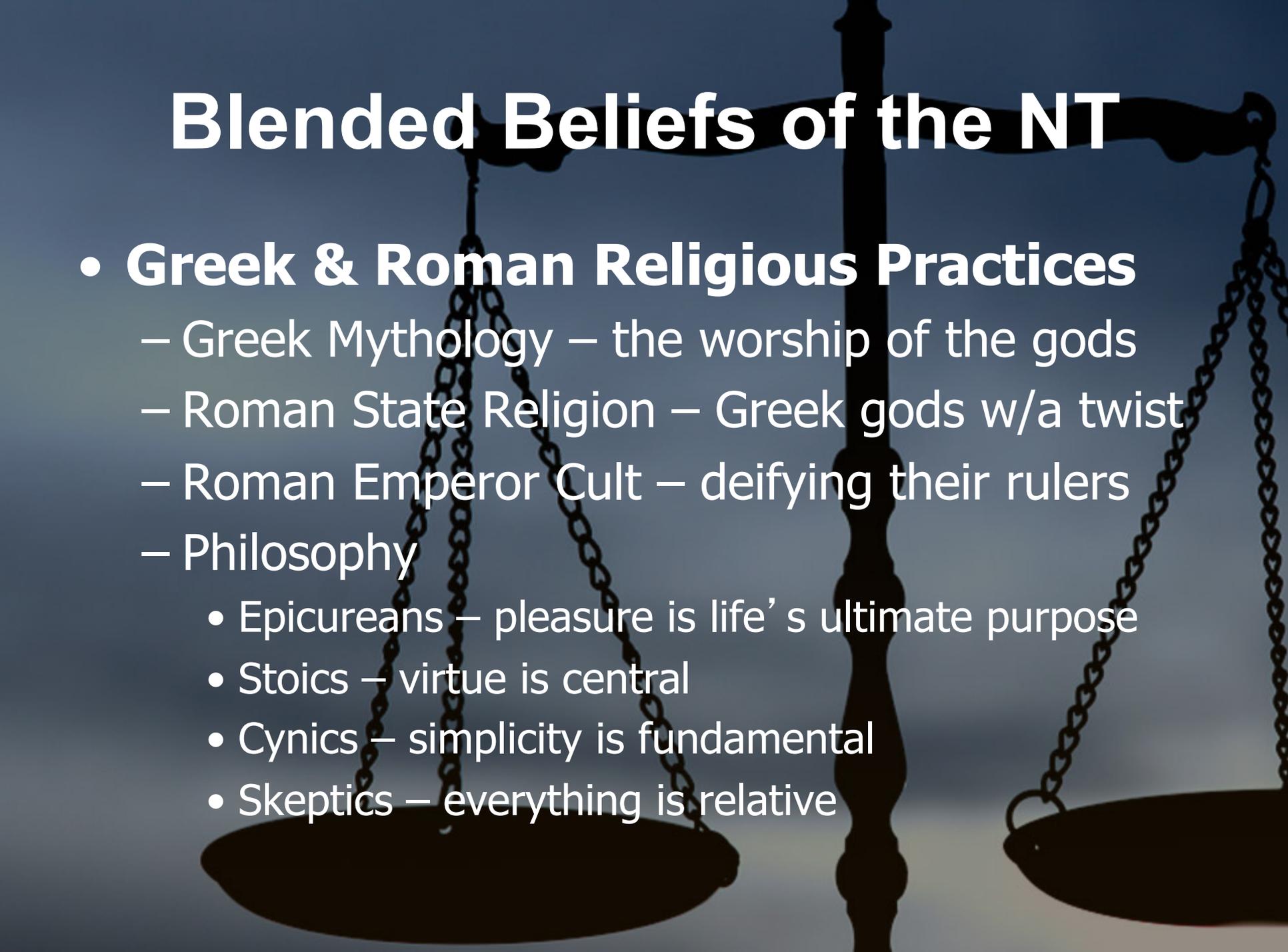
Blended Beliefs of the NT



- **Jewish Sects**

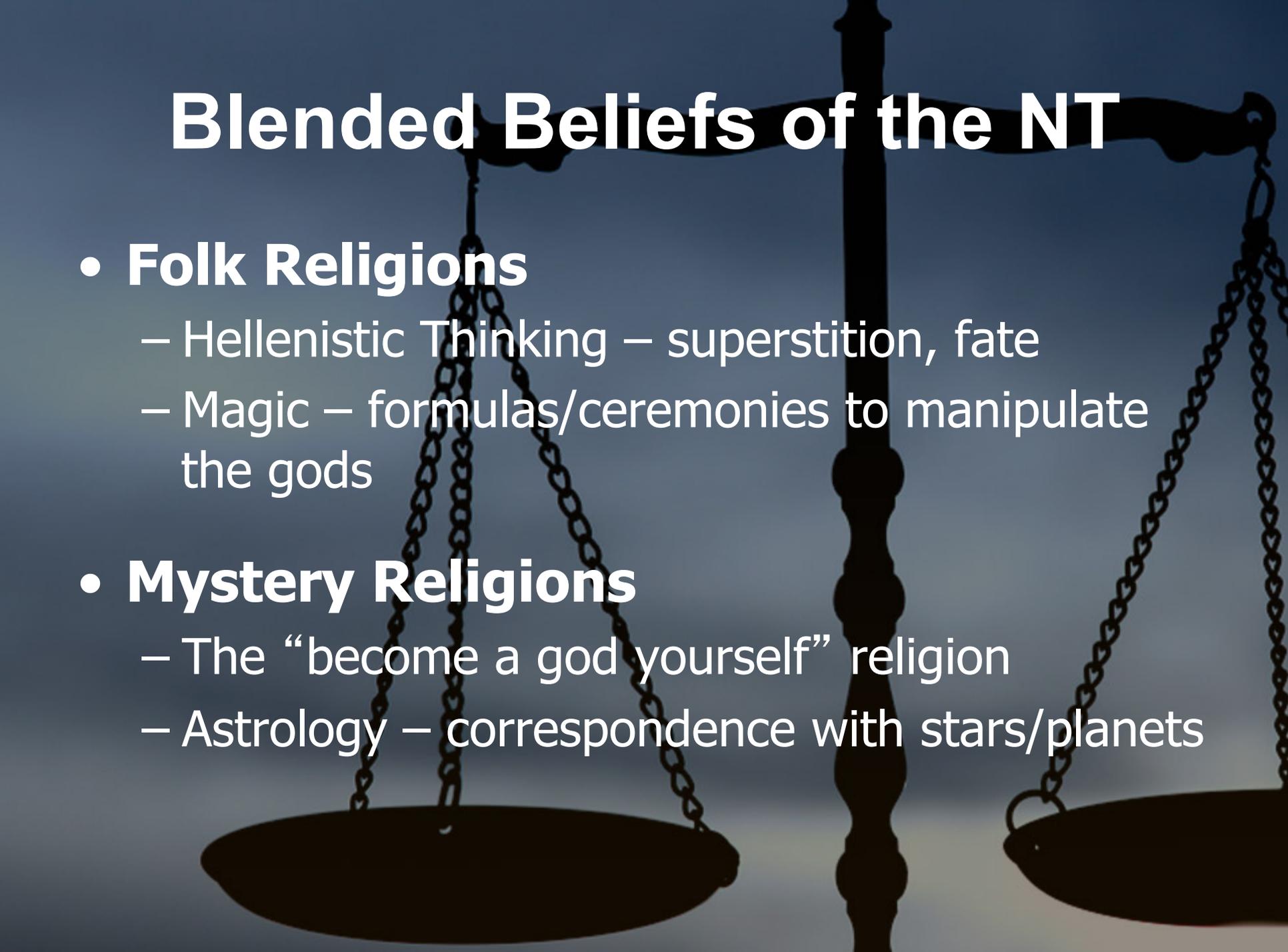
- Pharisees – the legalists
- Sadducees – the wealthy politicians
- Essenes – the “elect remnant”
- Scribes – the theologians
- Herodians – the preservers of power
- Zealots – the revolutionaries

Blended Beliefs of the NT

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale has a vertical post in the middle, with two horizontal arms extending outwards. Each arm has a chain hanging from it, leading to a circular pan. The scale is slightly tilted, with the right pan appearing lower than the left. The background is a dark blue gradient.

- **Greek & Roman Religious Practices**
 - Greek Mythology – the worship of the gods
 - Roman State Religion – Greek gods w/a twist
 - Roman Emperor Cult – deifying their rulers
 - Philosophy
 - Epicureans – pleasure is life's ultimate purpose
 - Stoics – virtue is central
 - Cynics – simplicity is fundamental
 - Sceptics – everything is relative

Blended Beliefs of the NT



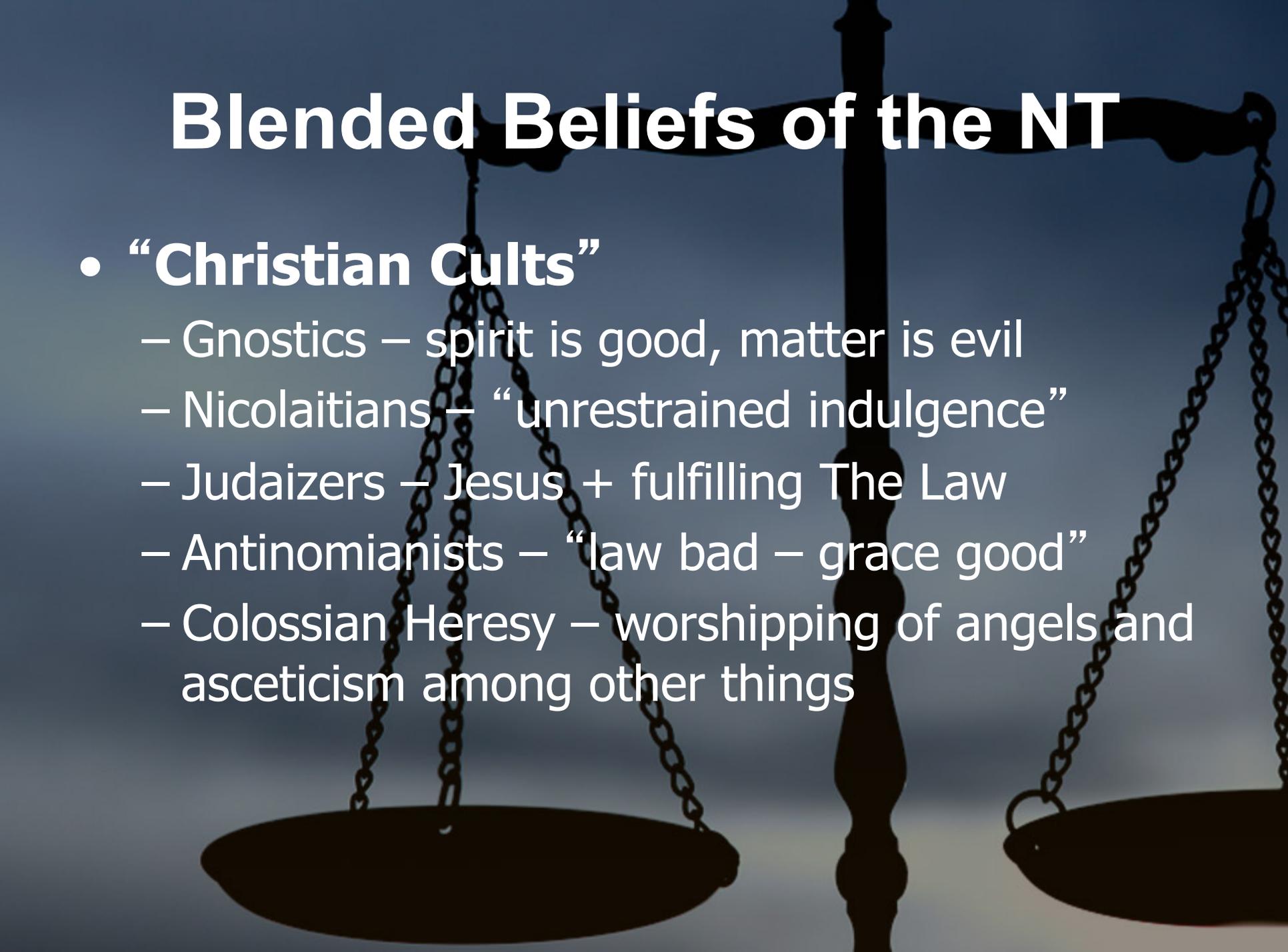
- **Folk Religions**

- Hellenistic Thinking – superstition, fate
- Magic – formulas/ceremonies to manipulate the gods

- **Mystery Religions**

- The “become a god yourself” religion
- Astrology – correspondence with stars/planets

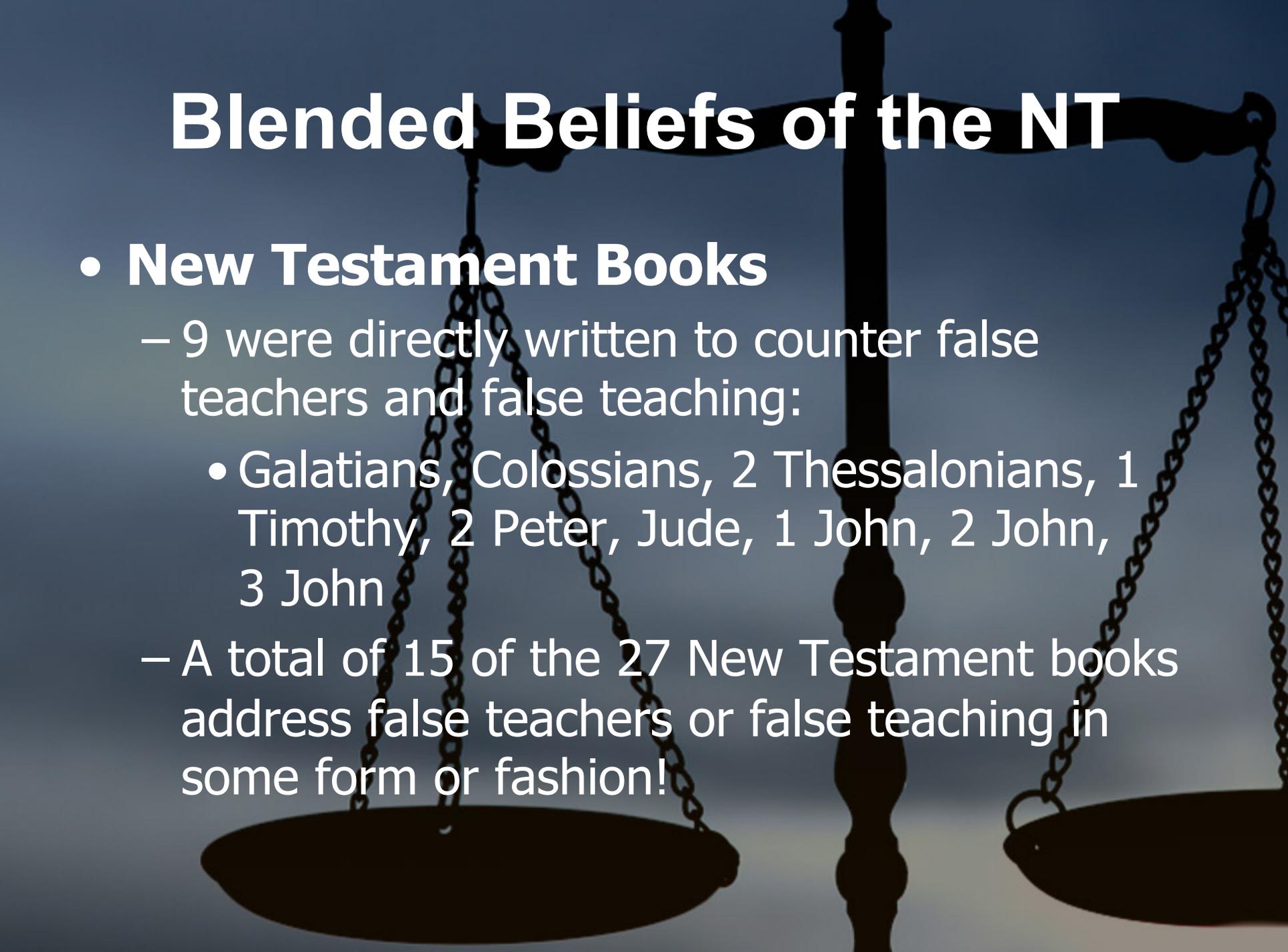
Blended Beliefs of the NT



- **“Christian Cults”**

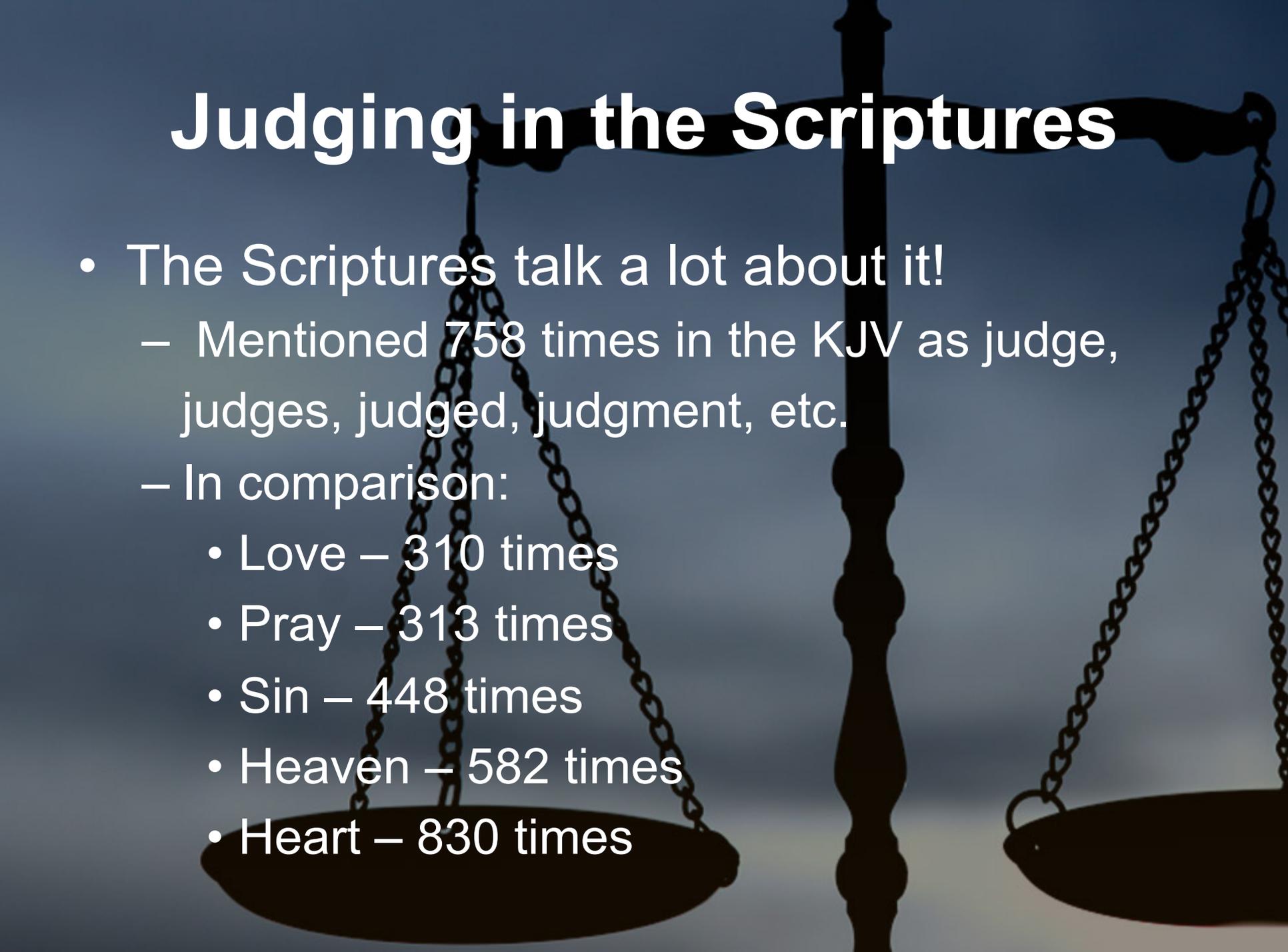
- Gnostics – spirit is good, matter is evil
- Nicolaitians – “unrestrained indulgence”
- Judaizers – Jesus + fulfilling The Law
- Antinomianists – “law bad – grace good”
- Colossian Heresy – worshipping of angels and asceticism among other things

Blended Beliefs of the NT



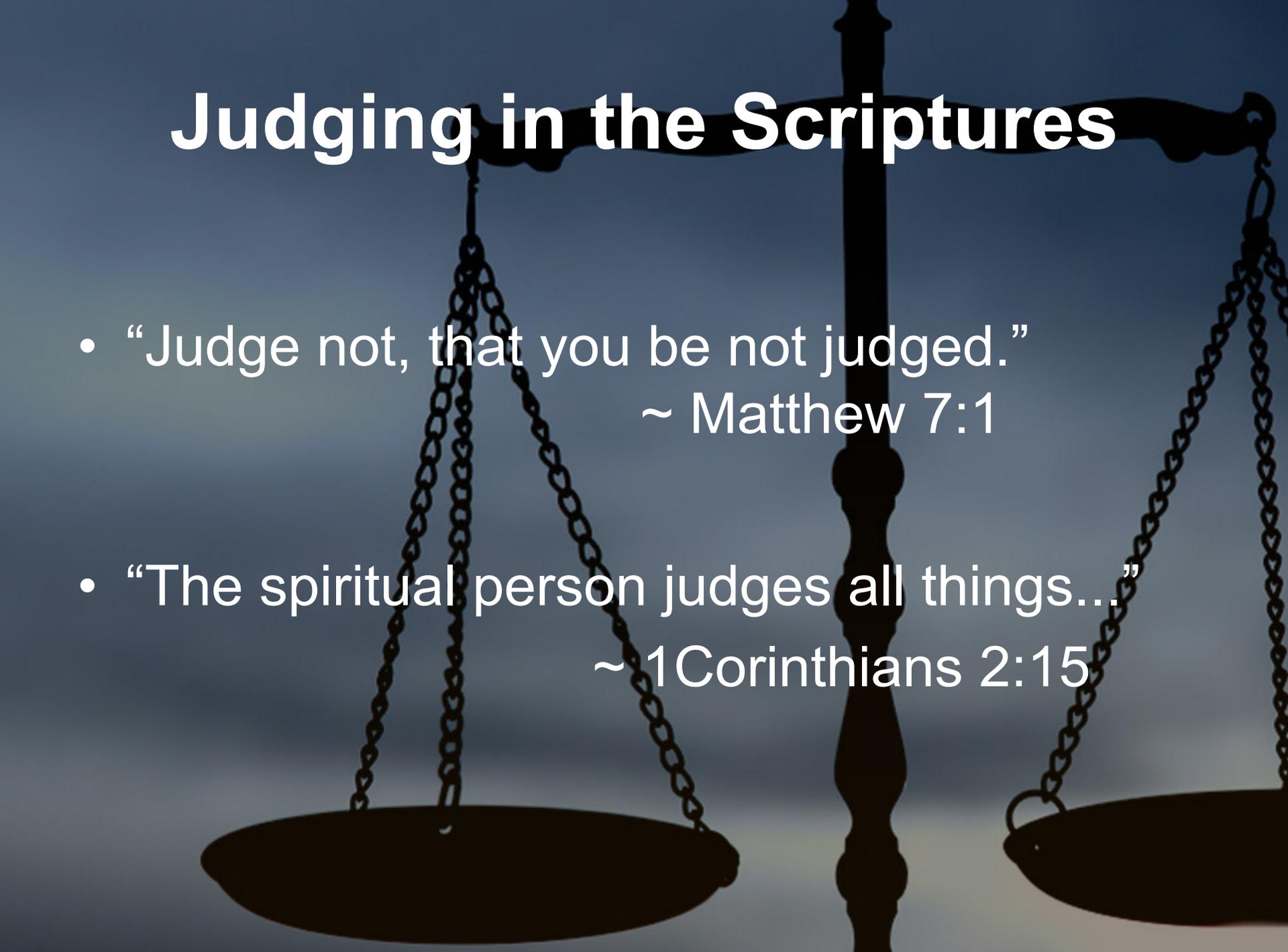
- **New Testament Books**
 - 9 were directly written to counter false teachers and false teaching:
 - Galatians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Peter, Jude, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John
 - A total of 15 of the 27 New Testament books address false teachers or false teaching in some form or fashion!

Judging in the Scriptures



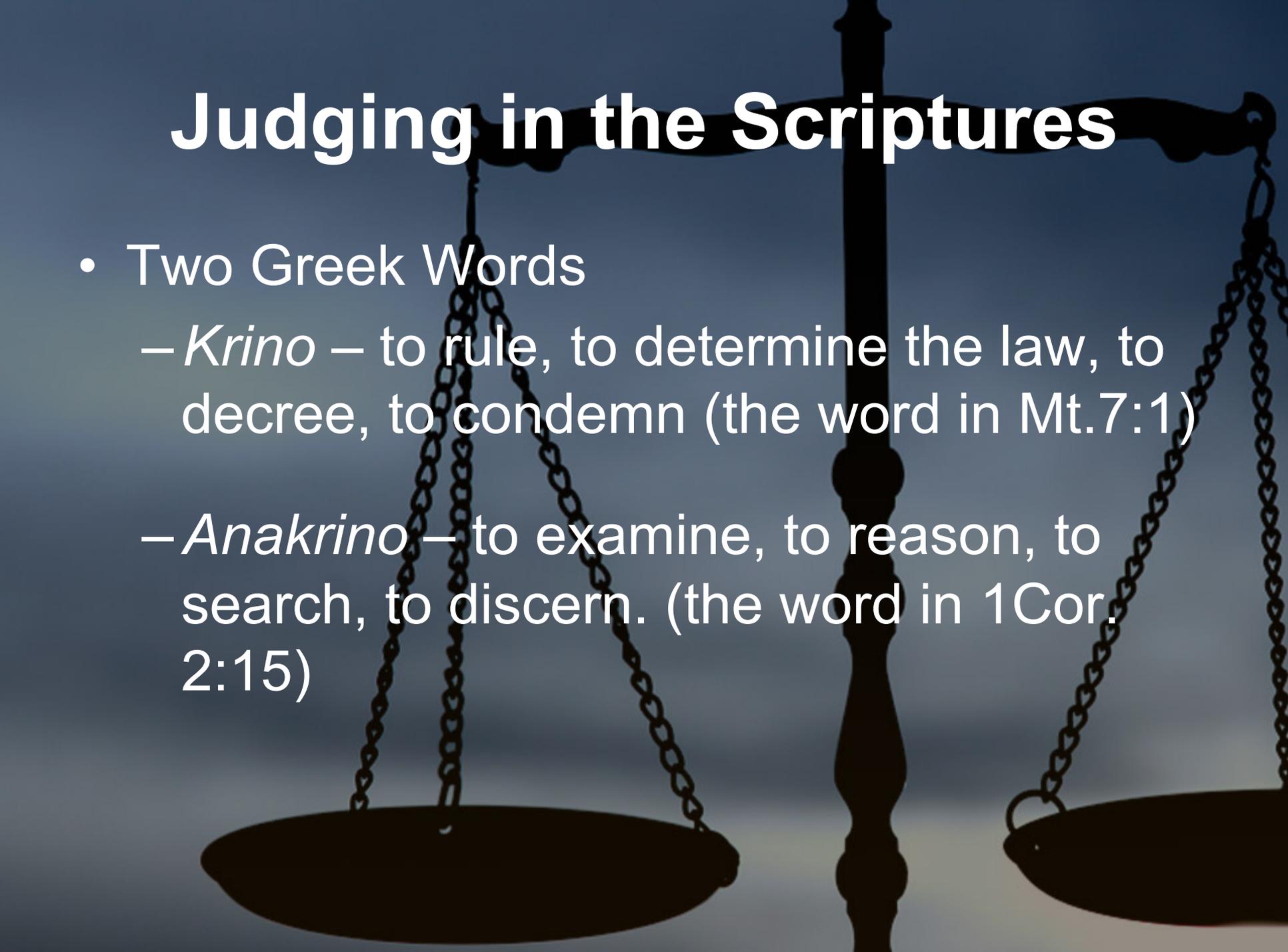
- The Scriptures talk a lot about it!
 - Mentioned 758 times in the KJV as judge, judges, judged, judgment, etc.
 - In comparison:
 - Love – 310 times
 - Pray – 313 times
 - Sin – 448 times
 - Heaven – 582 times
 - Heart – 830 times

Judging in the Scriptures

A silhouette of a pair of scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales have two pans hanging from a horizontal beam, with a central vertical post. The background is a dark blue gradient.

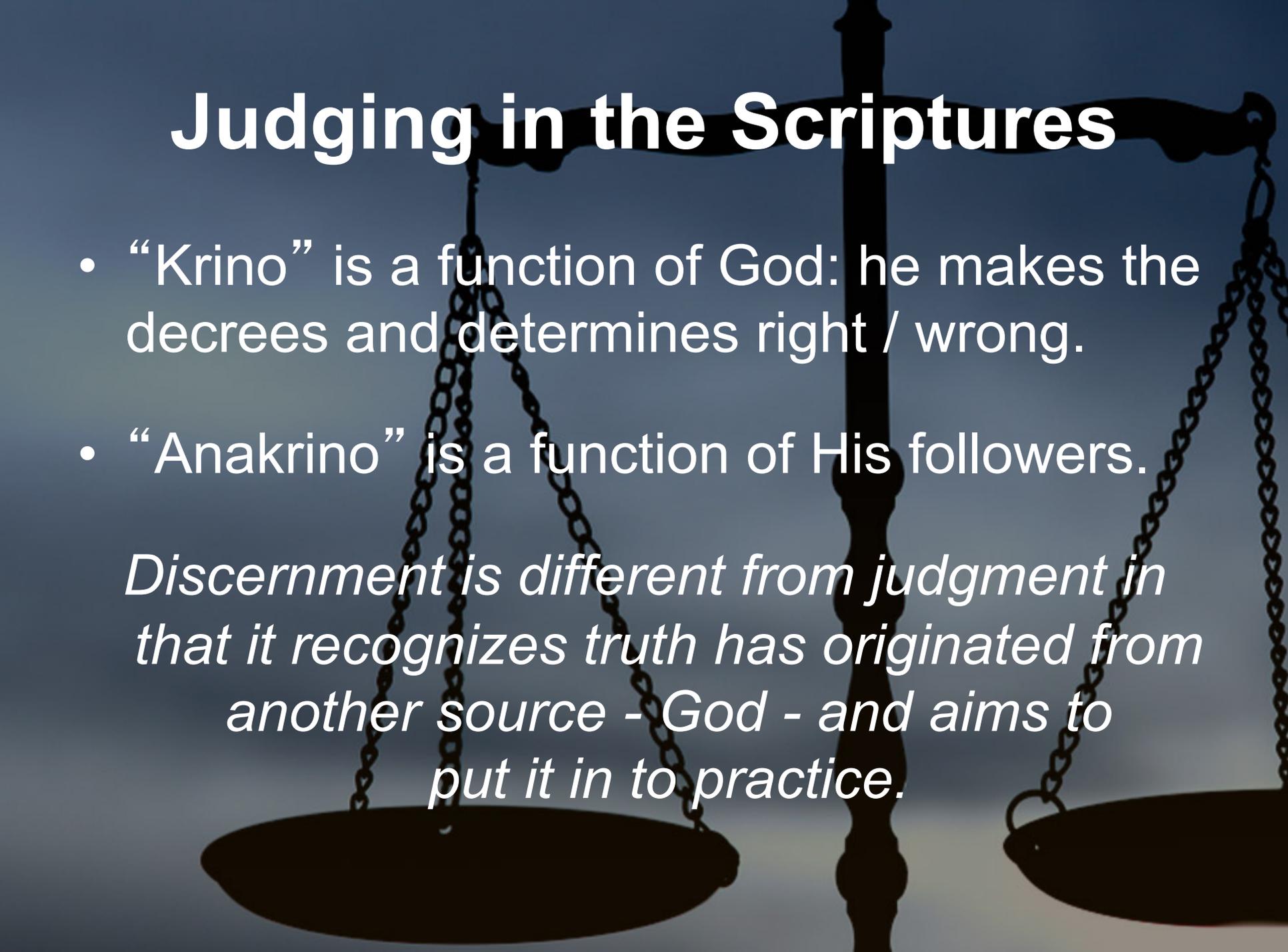
- “Judge not, that you be not judged.”
~ Matthew 7:1
- “The spiritual person judges all things...”
~ 1 Corinthians 2:15

Judging in the Scriptures



- Two Greek Words
 - *Krino* – to rule, to determine the law, to decree, to condemn (the word in Mt.7:1)
 - *Anakrino* – to examine, to reason, to search, to discern. (the word in 1Cor. 2:15)

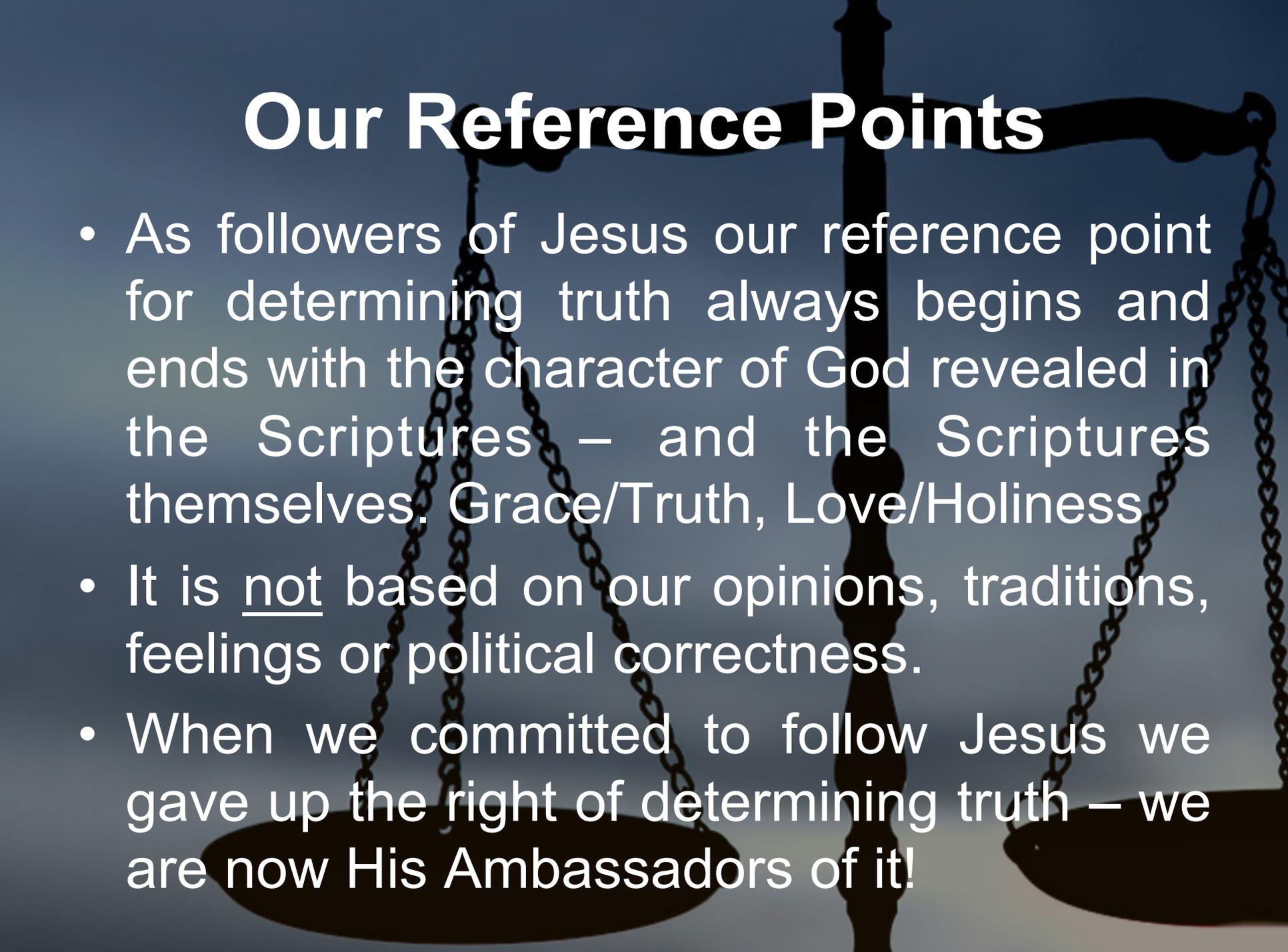
Judging in the Scriptures



- “Krino” is a function of God: he makes the decrees and determines right / wrong.
- “Anakrino” is a function of His followers.

Discernment is different from judgment in that it recognizes truth has originated from another source - God - and aims to put it in to practice.

Our Reference Points



- As followers of Jesus our reference point for determining truth always begins and ends with the character of God revealed in the Scriptures – and the Scriptures themselves. Grace/Truth, Love/Holiness
- It is not based on our opinions, traditions, feelings or political correctness.
- When we committed to follow Jesus we gave up the right of determining truth – we are now His Ambassadors of it!

Losing Discernment

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale has a vertical post with a horizontal beam across the top. Two pans are suspended from the beam by chains. The scale is slightly tilted, with the right pan appearing lower than the left. The background is a dark blue gradient.

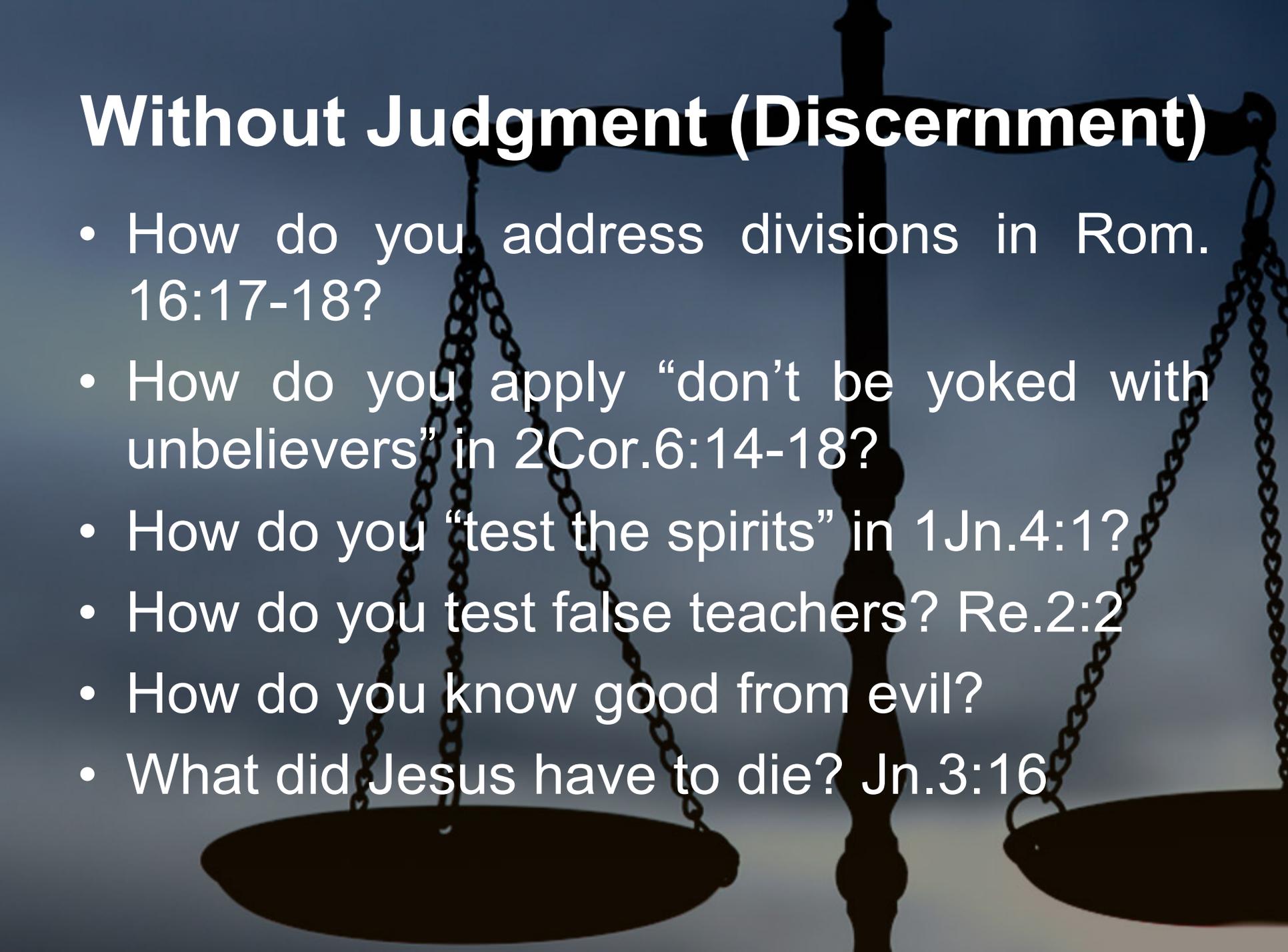
- In an effort to not be judgmental the Church has lost discernment and often lives in cautious silence.
- God expects His people to judge – *be discerning based on His truth* – and if we don't we may actually be sinning.
- If we don't judge – discern – we may actually be giving approval to something that goes against God. Rom. 1:32

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

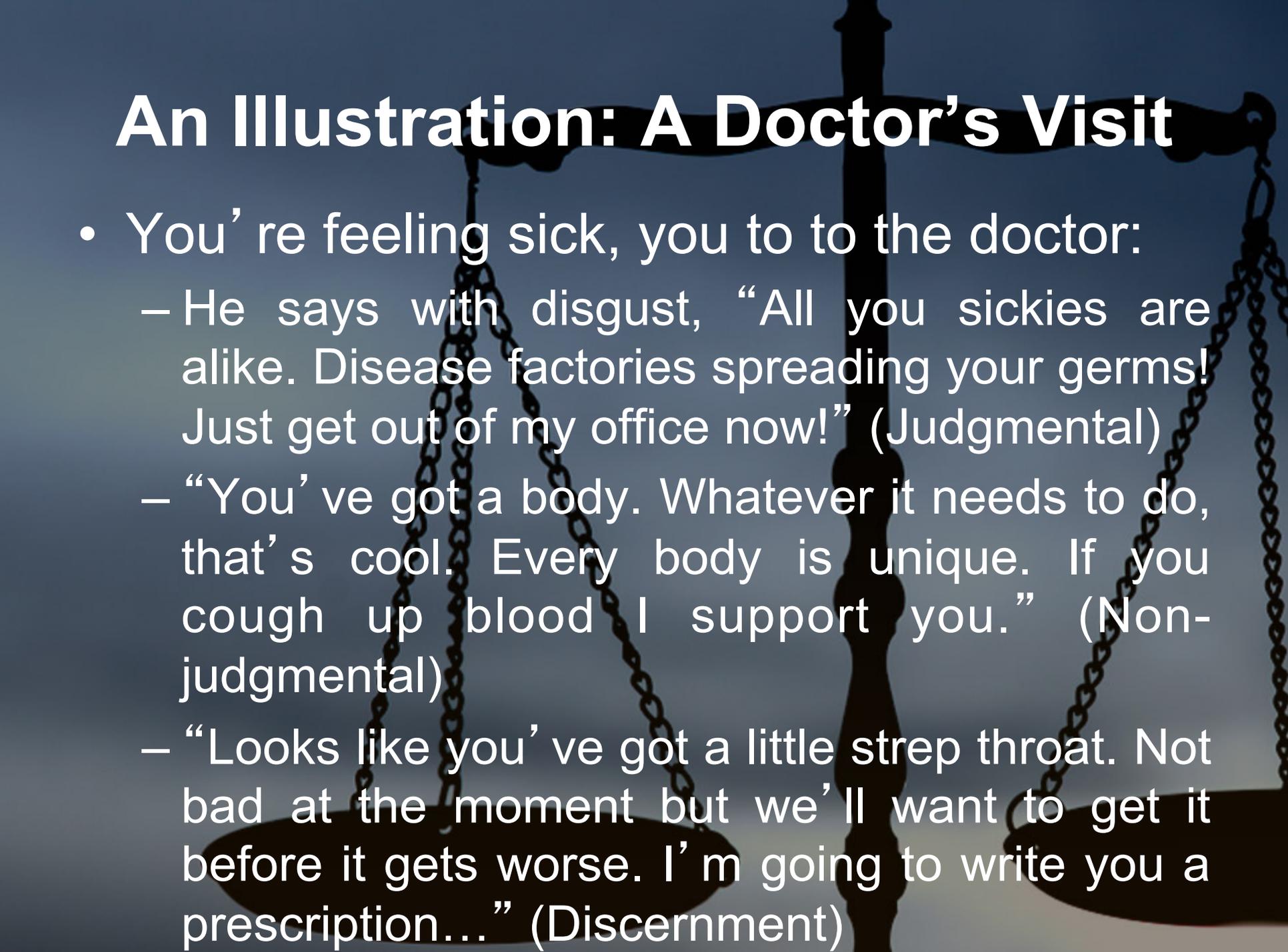
- *Teaching – instruction on God’s precepts*
- *Reproof – bring to light, expose, account*
- *Correction – restoring to upright state*
- *Training in Righteousness – walk rightly*

Without Judgment (Discernment)



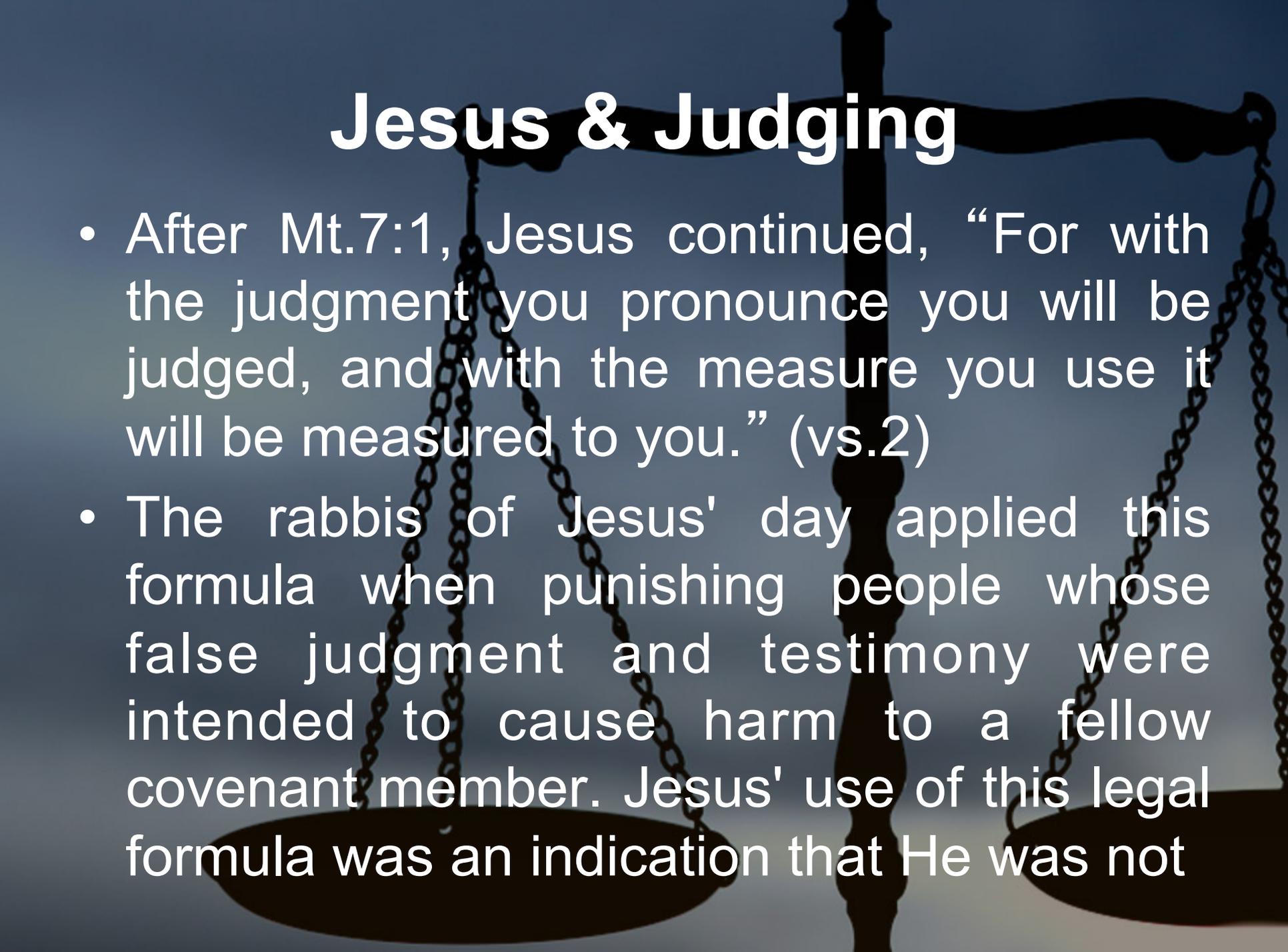
- How do you address divisions in Rom. 16:17-18?
- How do you apply “don’t be yoked with unbelievers” in 2Cor.6:14-18?
- How do you “test the spirits” in 1Jn.4:1?
- How do you test false teachers? Re.2:2
- How do you know good from evil?
- What did Jesus have to die? Jn.3:16

An Illustration: A Doctor's Visit



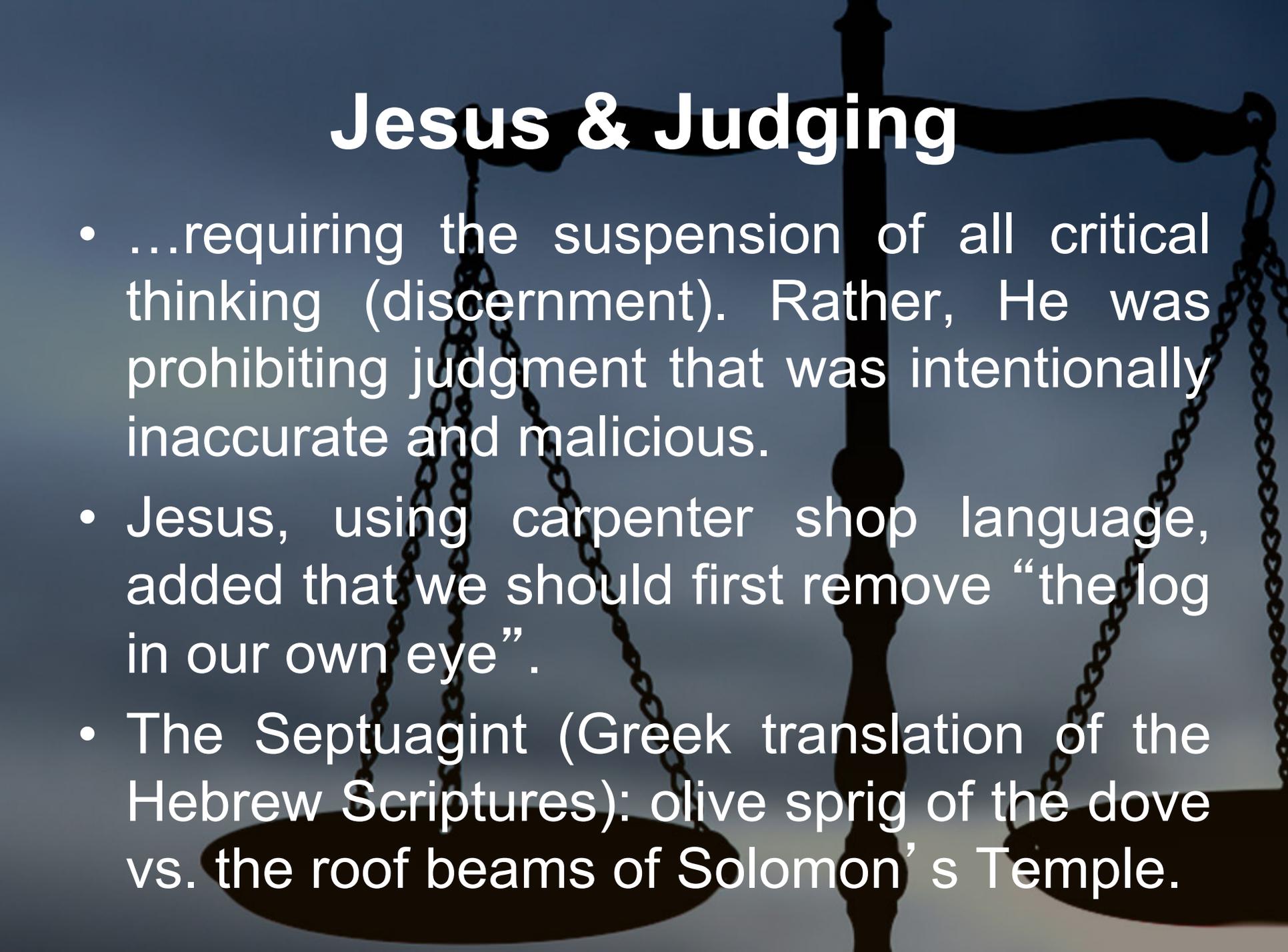
- You're feeling sick, you go to the doctor:
 - He says with disgust, “All you sickies are alike. Disease factories spreading your germs! Just get out of my office now!” (Judgmental)
 - “You've got a body. Whatever it needs to do, that's cool. Every body is unique. If you cough up blood I support you.” (Non-judgmental)
 - “Looks like you've got a little strep throat. Not bad at the moment but we'll want to get it before it gets worse. I'm going to write you a prescription...” (Discernment)

Jesus & Judging



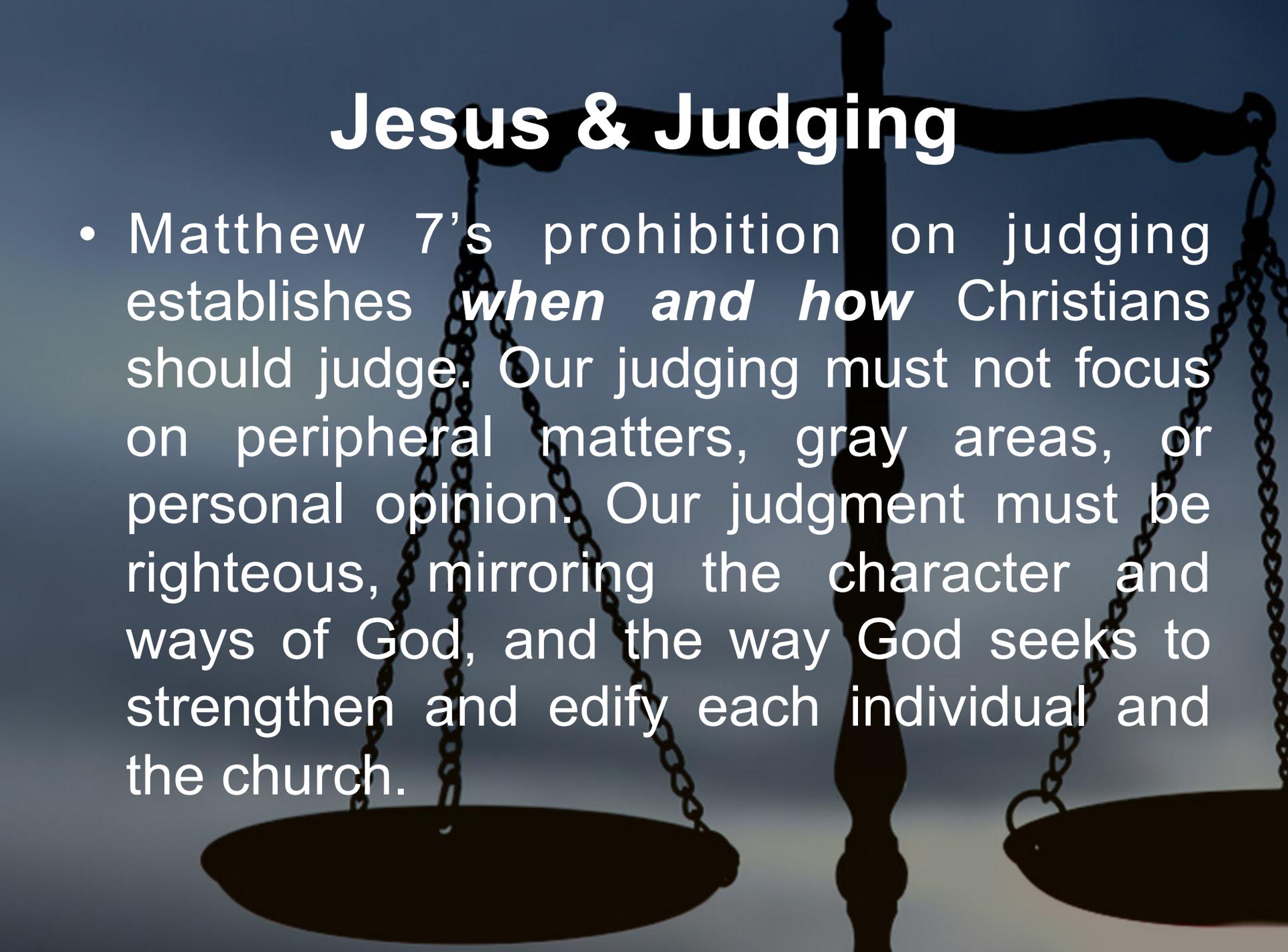
- After Mt.7:1, Jesus continued, “For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.” (vs.2)
- The rabbis of Jesus' day applied this formula when punishing people whose false judgment and testimony were intended to cause harm to a fellow covenant member. Jesus' use of this legal formula was an indication that He was not

Jesus & Judging

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale has a horizontal beam supported by a central vertical post. Two pans are suspended from the beam by chains. The background is a dark blue gradient.

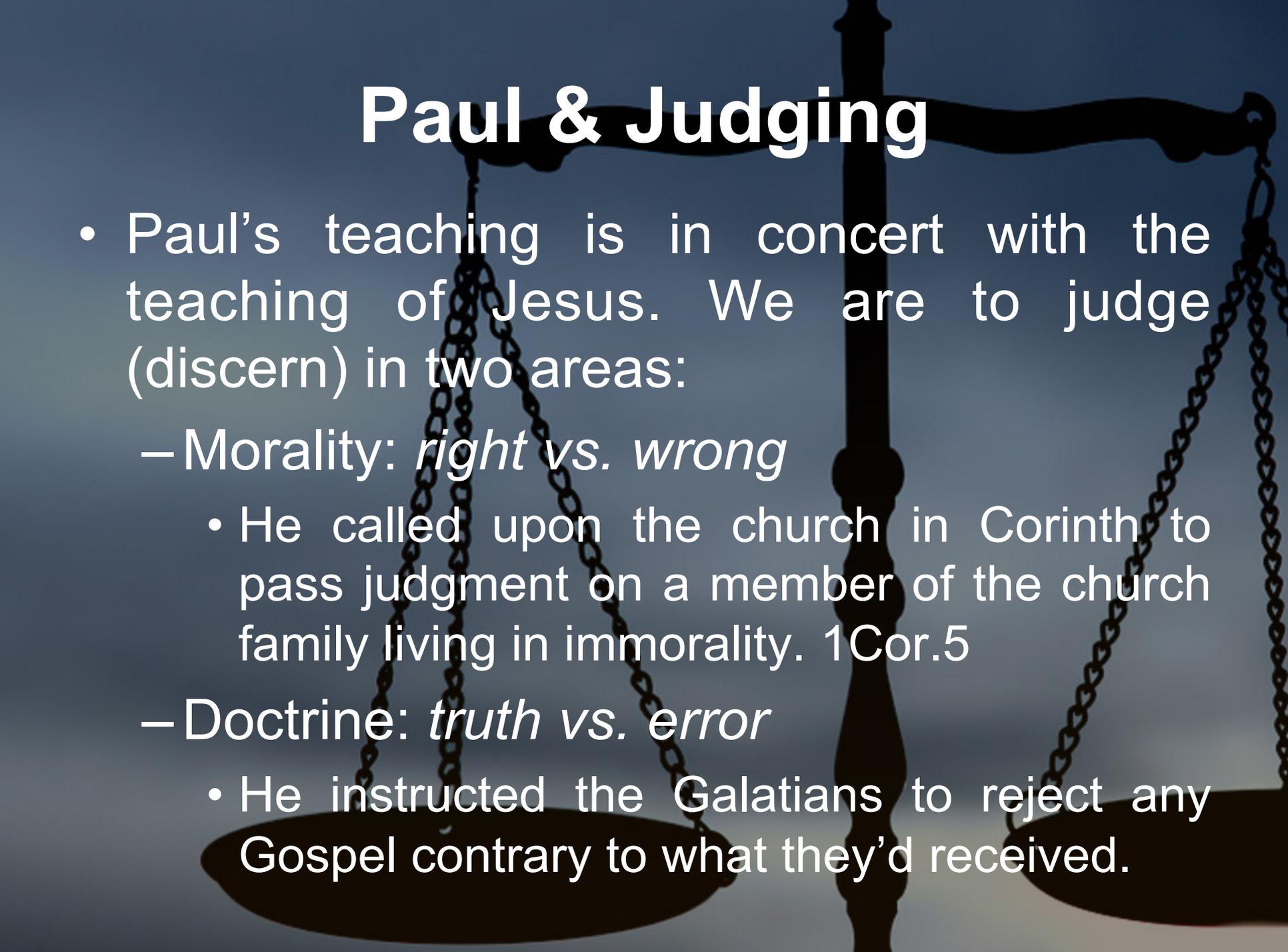
- ...requiring the suspension of all critical thinking (discernment). Rather, He was prohibiting judgment that was intentionally inaccurate and malicious.
- Jesus, using carpenter shop language, added that we should first remove “the log in our own eye”.
- The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures): olive sprig of the dove vs. the roof beams of Solomon’s Temple.

Jesus & Judging



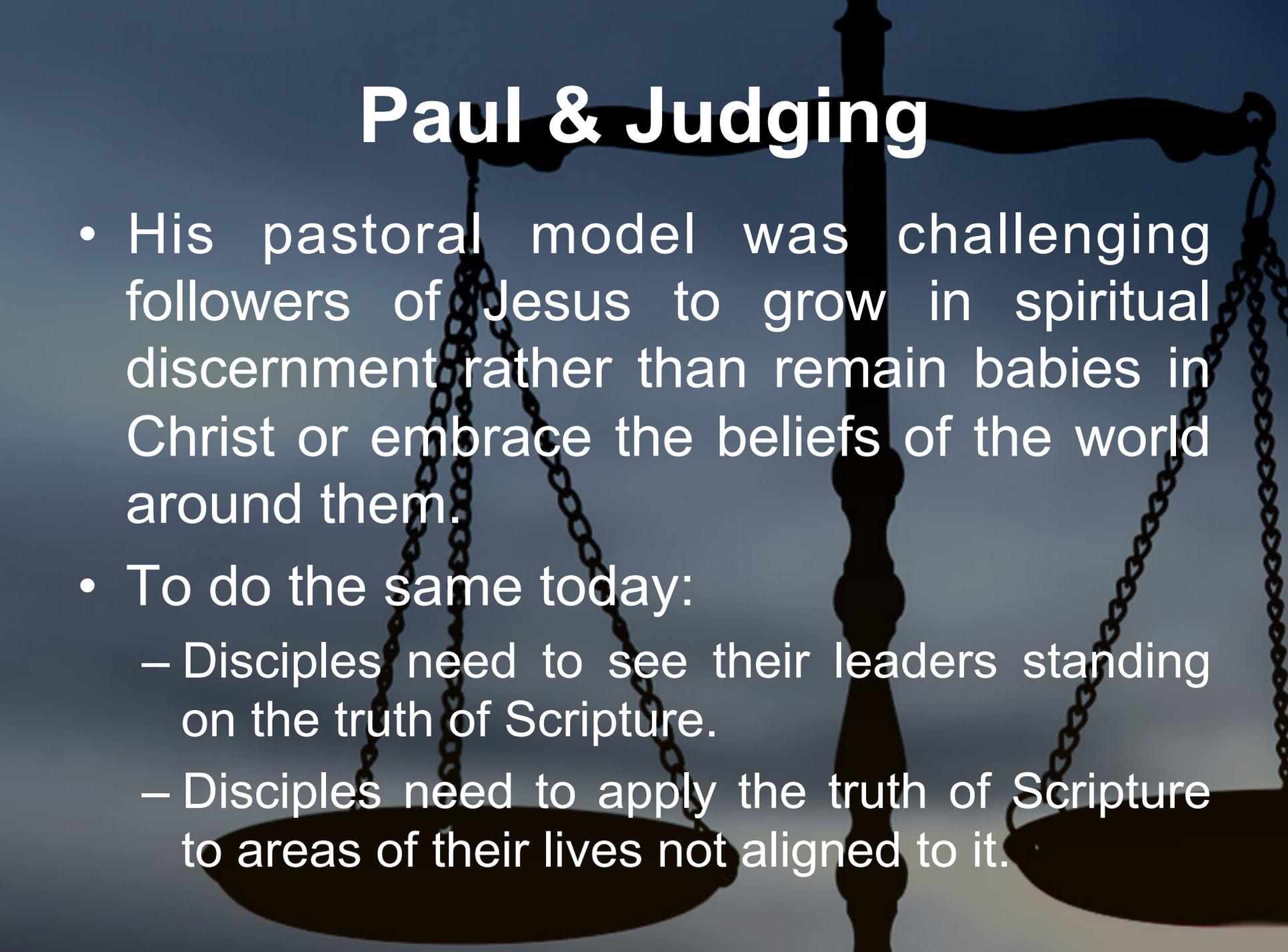
- Matthew 7's prohibition on judging establishes *when and how* Christians should judge. Our judging must not focus on peripheral matters, gray areas, or personal opinion. Our judgment must be righteous, mirroring the character and ways of God, and the way God seeks to strengthen and edify each individual and the church.

Paul & Judging



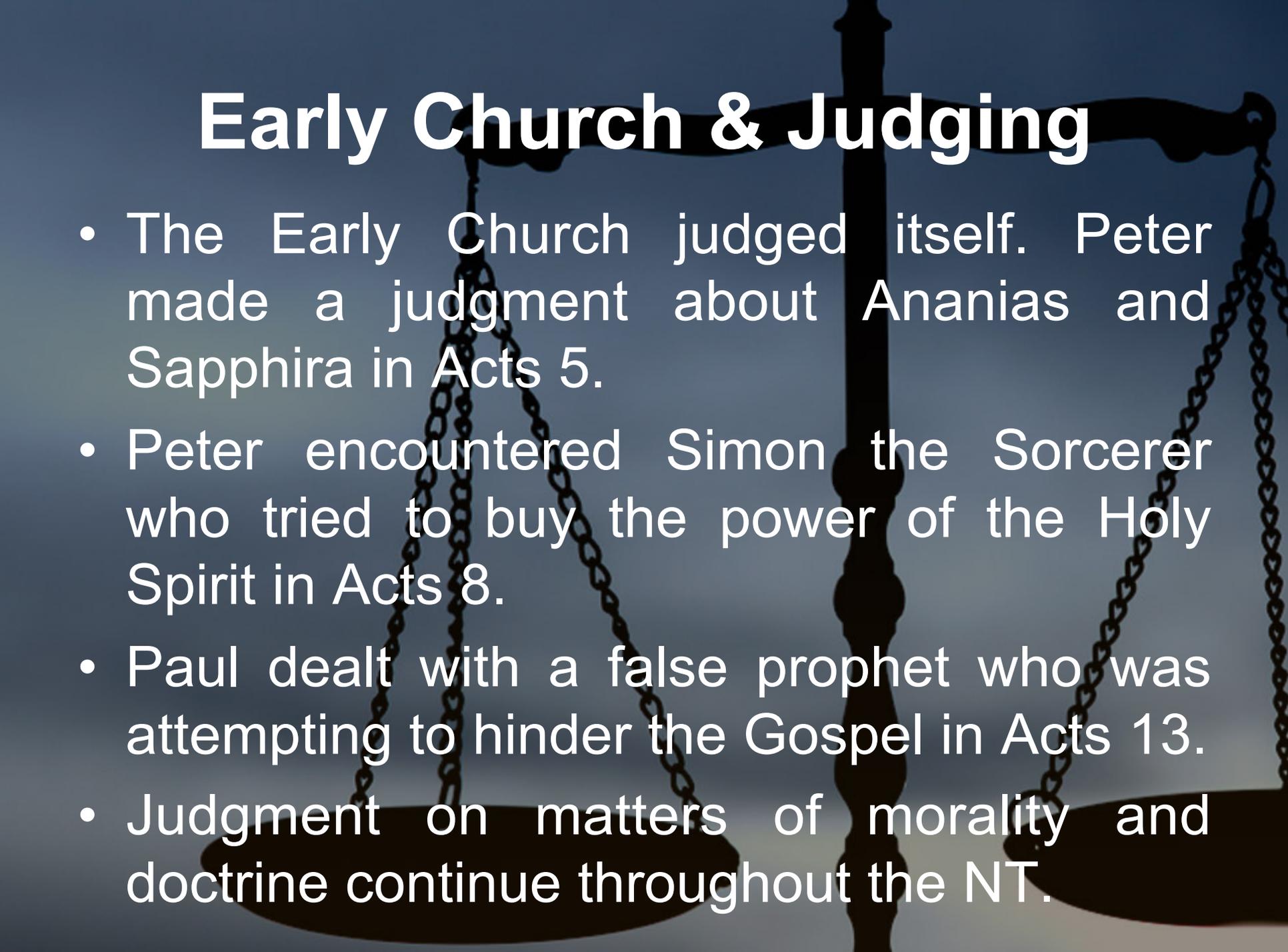
- Paul's teaching is in concert with the teaching of Jesus. We are to judge (discern) in two areas:
 - Morality: *right vs. wrong*
 - He called upon the church in Corinth to pass judgment on a member of the church family living in immorality. 1Cor.5
 - Doctrine: *truth vs. error*
 - He instructed the Galatians to reject any Gospel contrary to what they'd received.

Paul & Judging



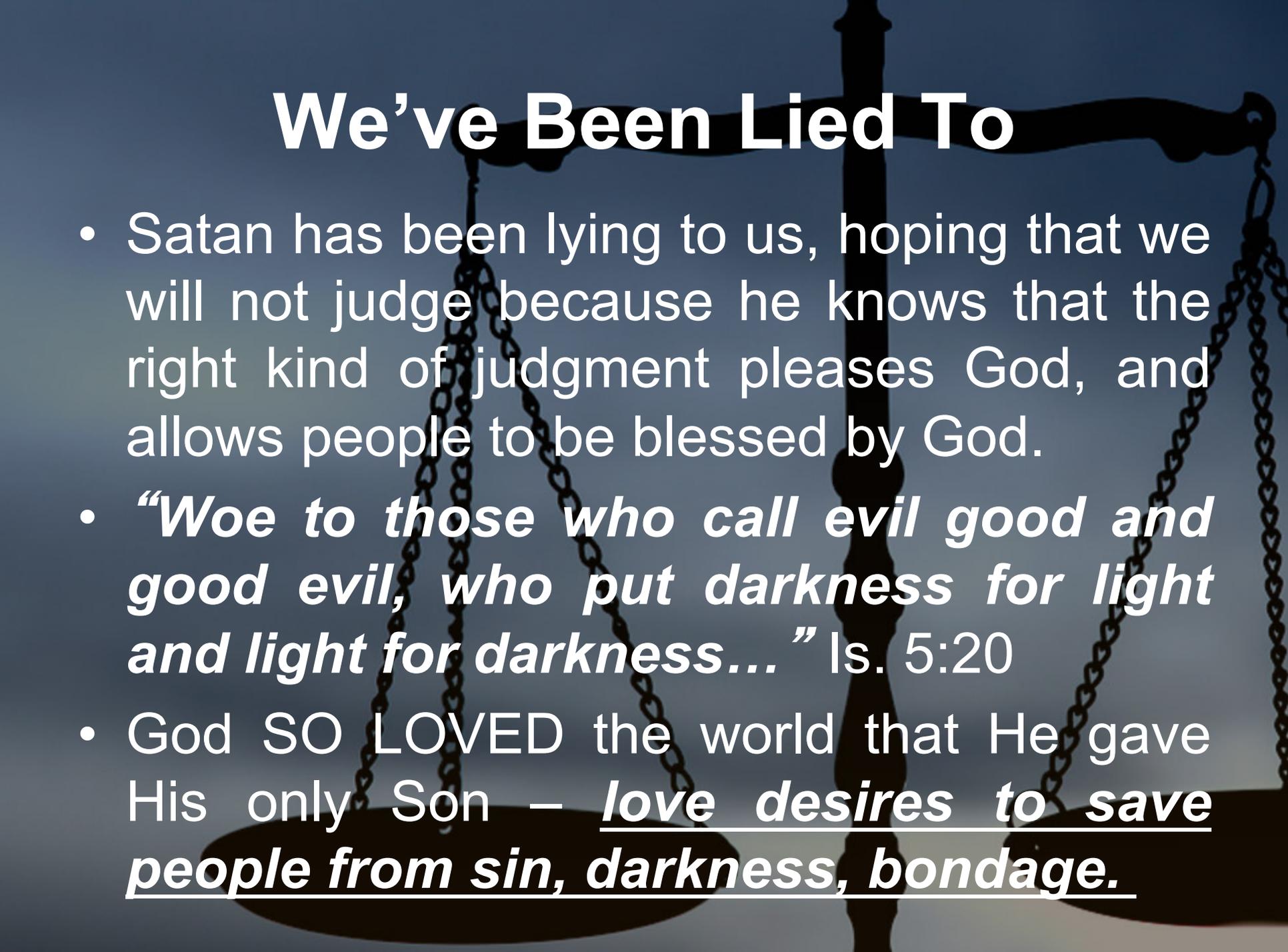
- His pastoral model was challenging followers of Jesus to grow in spiritual discernment rather than remain babies in Christ or embrace the beliefs of the world around them.
- To do the same today:
 - Disciples need to see their leaders standing on the truth of Scripture.
 - Disciples need to apply the truth of Scripture to areas of their lives not aligned to it.

Early Church & Judging

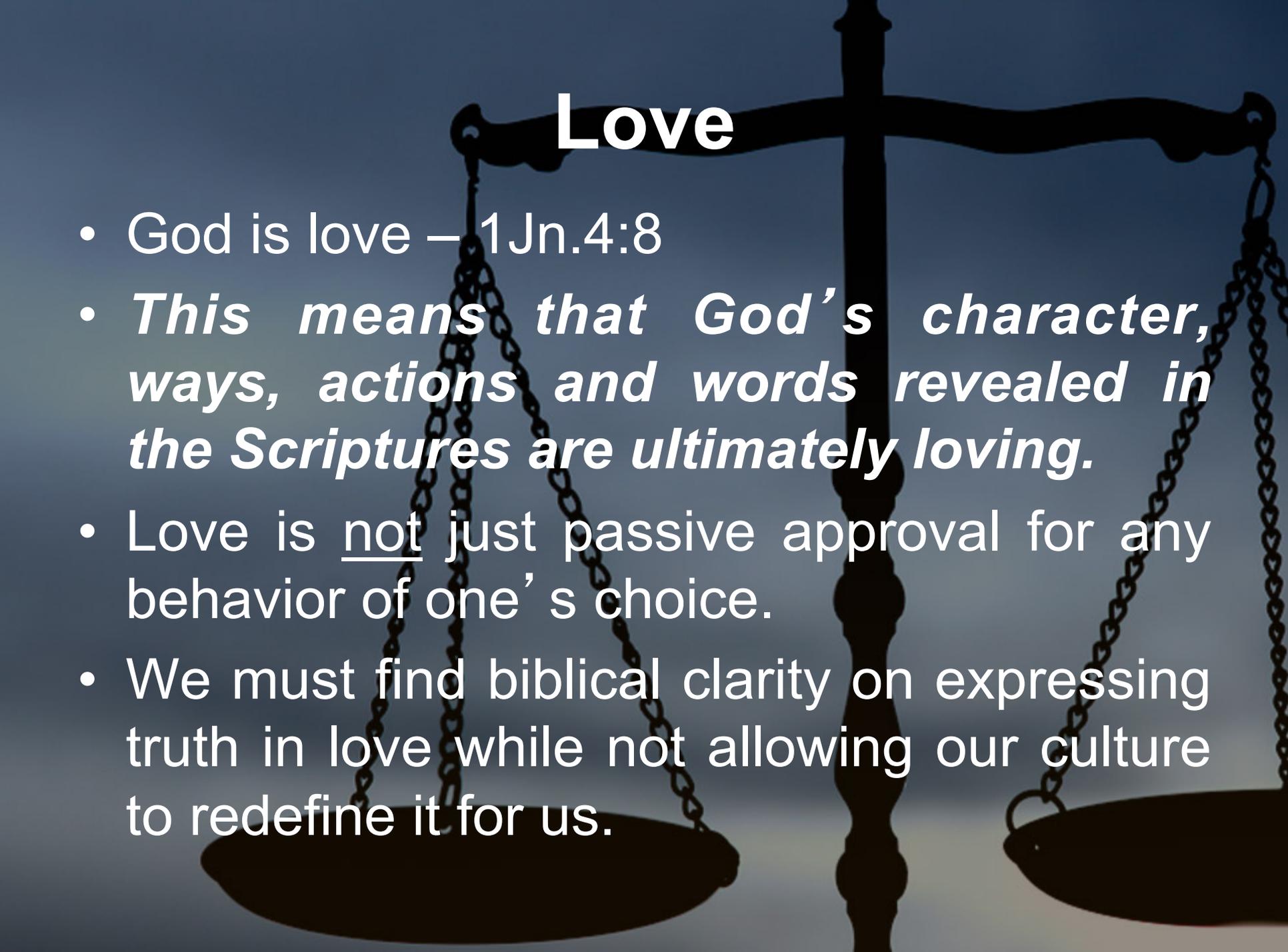


- The Early Church judged itself. Peter made a judgment about Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5.
- Peter encountered Simon the Sorcerer who tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 8.
- Paul dealt with a false prophet who was attempting to hinder the Gospel in Acts 13.
- Judgment on matters of morality and doctrine continue throughout the NT.

We've Been Lied To

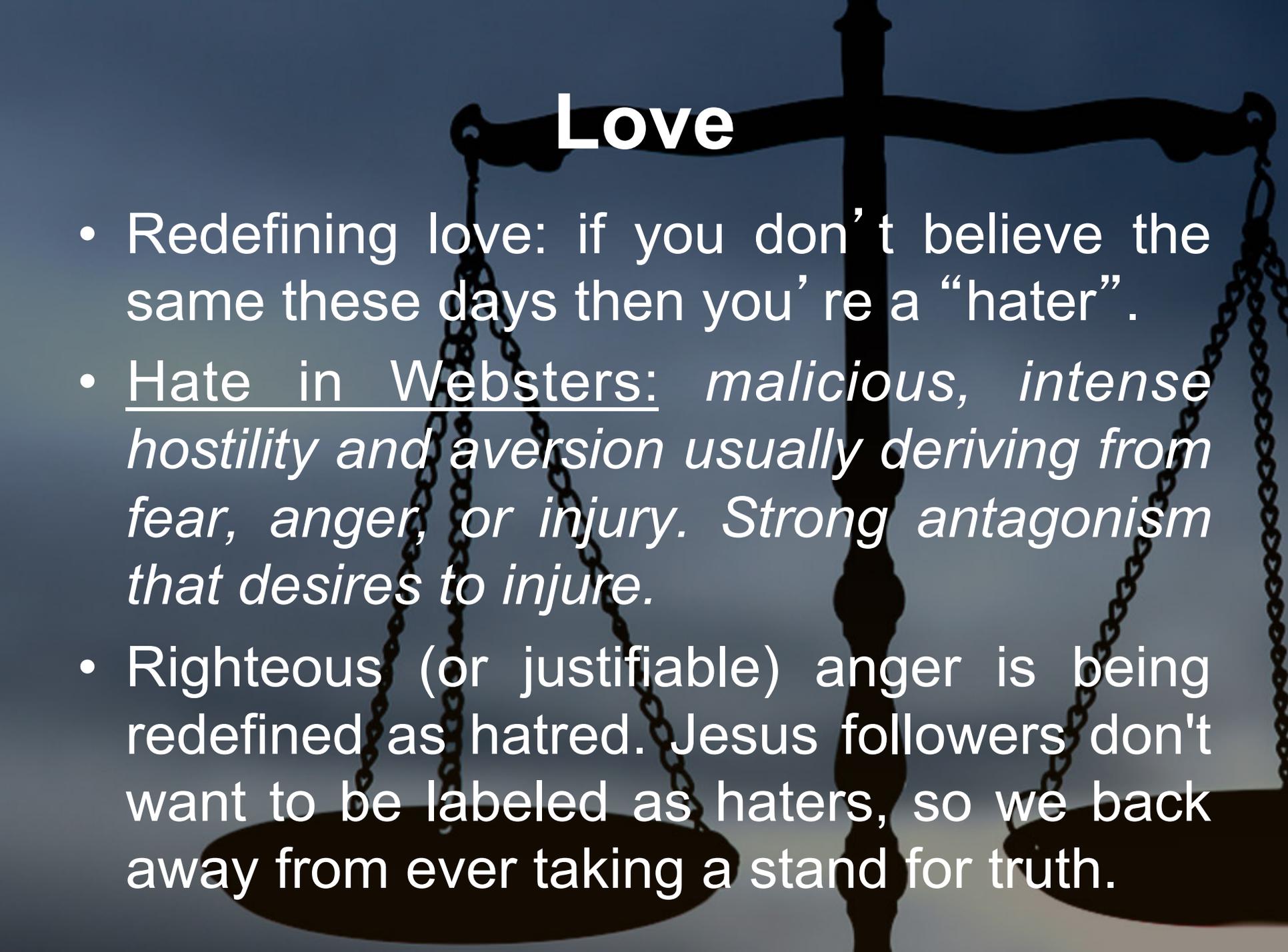


- Satan has been lying to us, hoping that we will not judge because he knows that the right kind of judgment pleases God, and allows people to be blessed by God.
- ***“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness...”*** Is. 5:20
- God SO LOVED the world that He gave His only Son – ***love desires to save people from sin, darkness, bondage.***



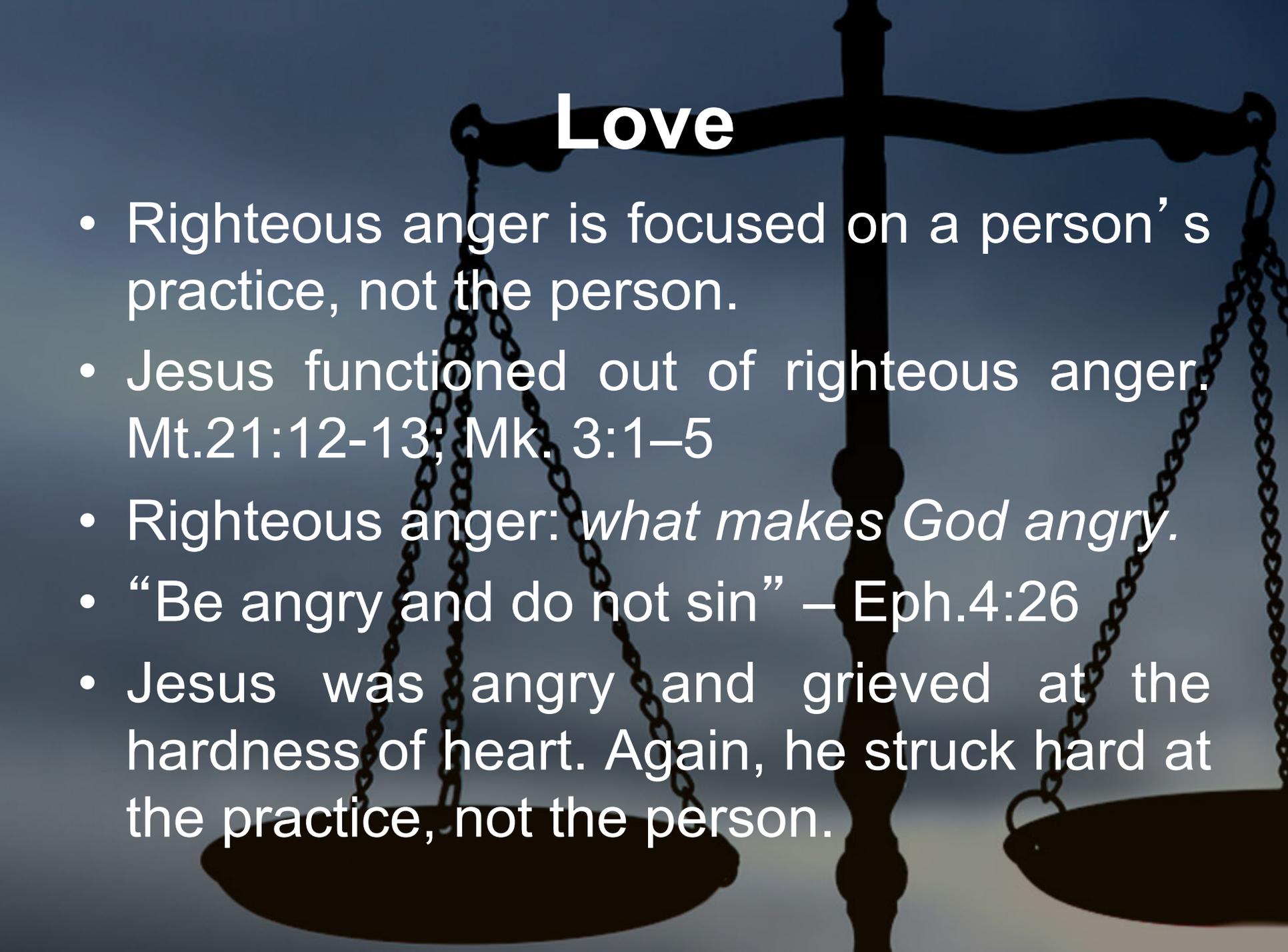
Love

- God is love – 1Jn.4:8
- *This means that God's character, ways, actions and words revealed in the Scriptures are ultimately loving.*
- Love is not just passive approval for any behavior of one's choice.
- We must find biblical clarity on expressing truth in love while not allowing our culture to redefine it for us.



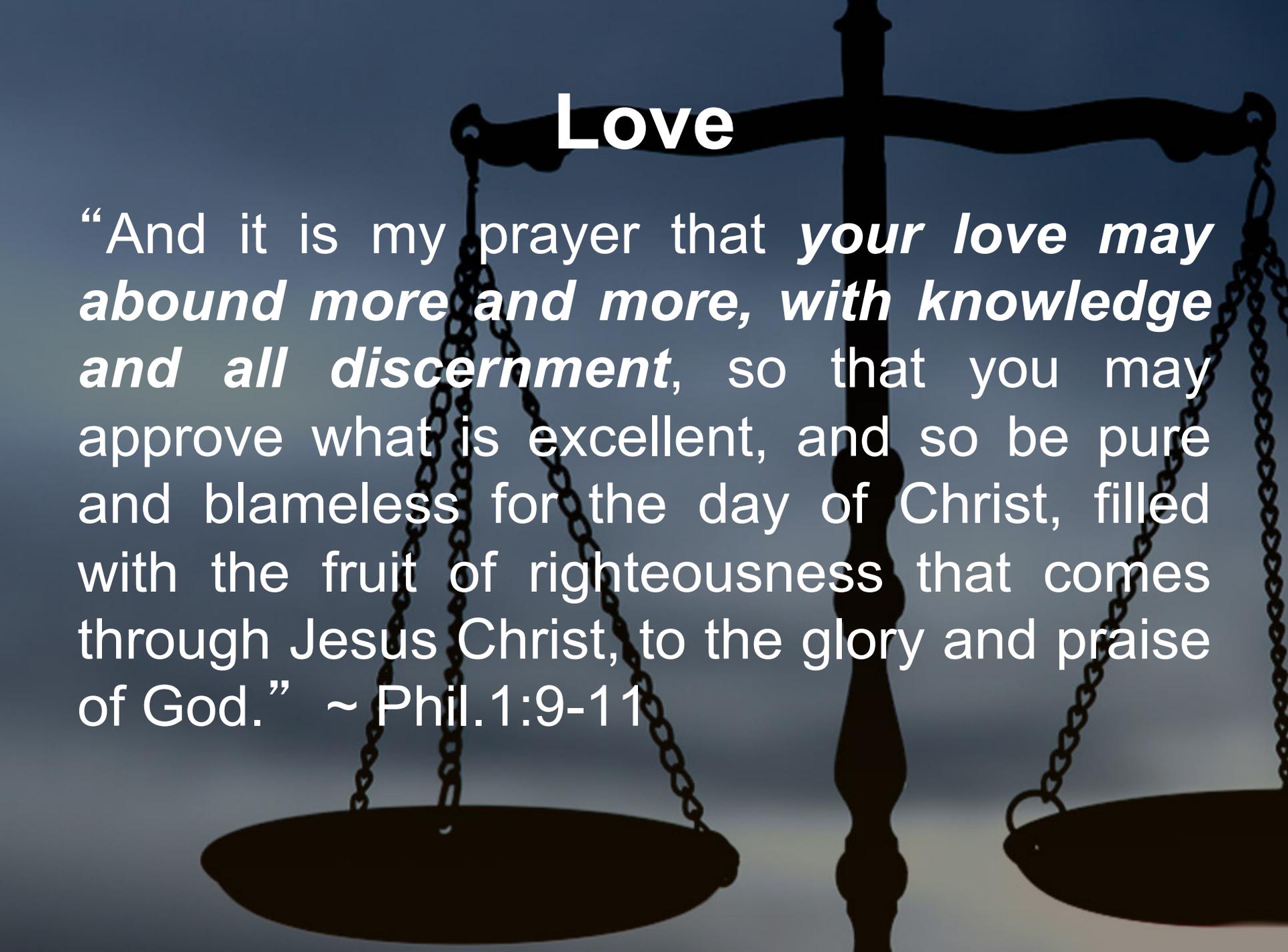
Love

- Redefining love: if you don't believe the same these days then you're a "hater".
- Hate in Webster's: *malicious, intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or injury. Strong antagonism that desires to injure.*
- Righteous (or justifiable) anger is being redefined as hatred. Jesus followers don't want to be labeled as haters, so we back away from ever taking a stand for truth.



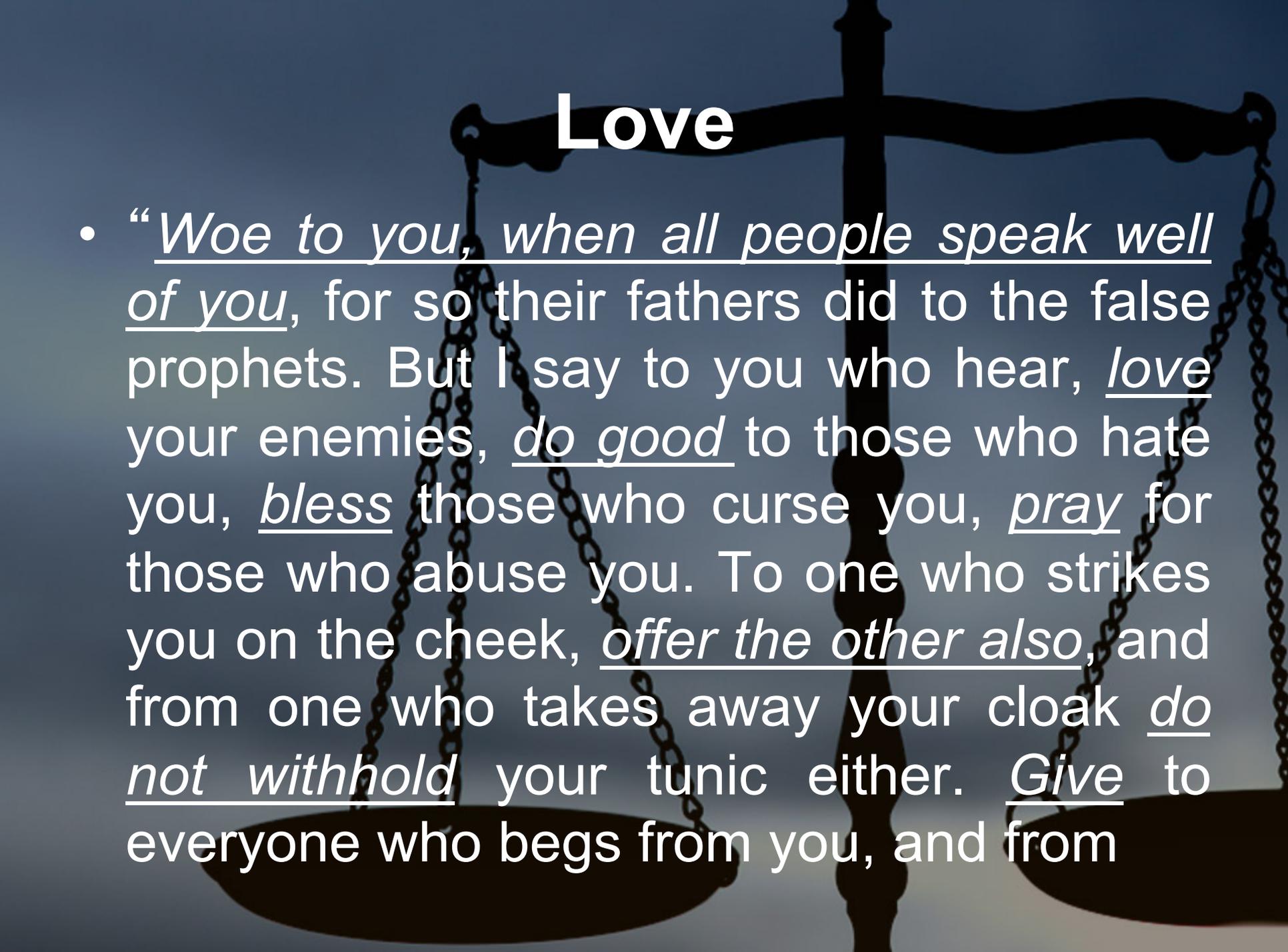
Love

- Righteous anger is focused on a person's practice, not the person.
- Jesus functioned out of righteous anger. Mt.21:12-13; Mk. 3:1–5
- Righteous anger: *what makes God angry.*
- “Be angry and do not sin” – Eph.4:26
- Jesus was angry and grieved at the hardness of heart. Again, he struck hard at the practice, not the person.

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale has a vertical post with a horizontal beam across the top. Two pans are suspended from the beam by chains. The background is a dark blue gradient.

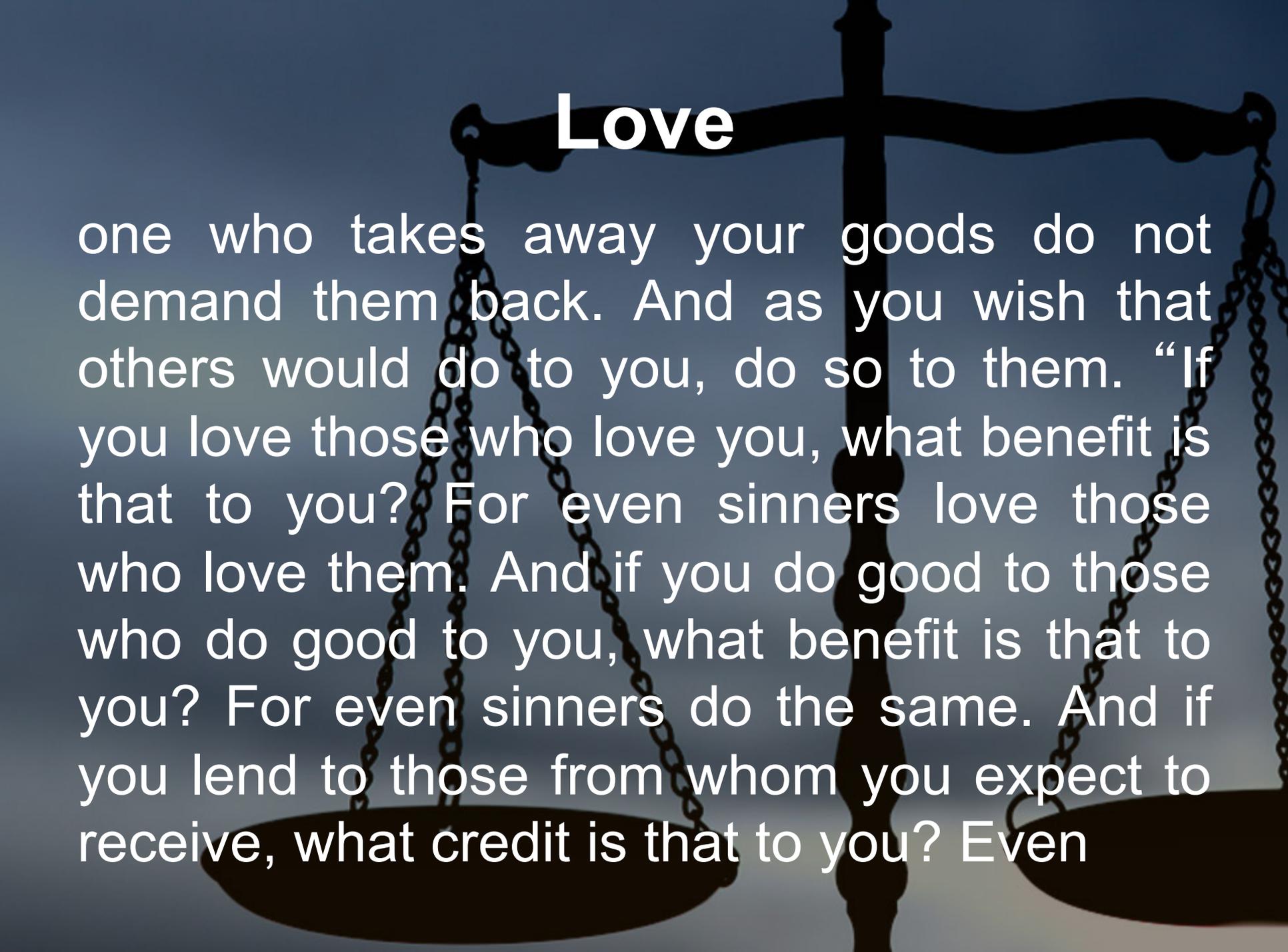
Love

“And it is my prayer that *your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment*, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” ~ Phil.1:9-11



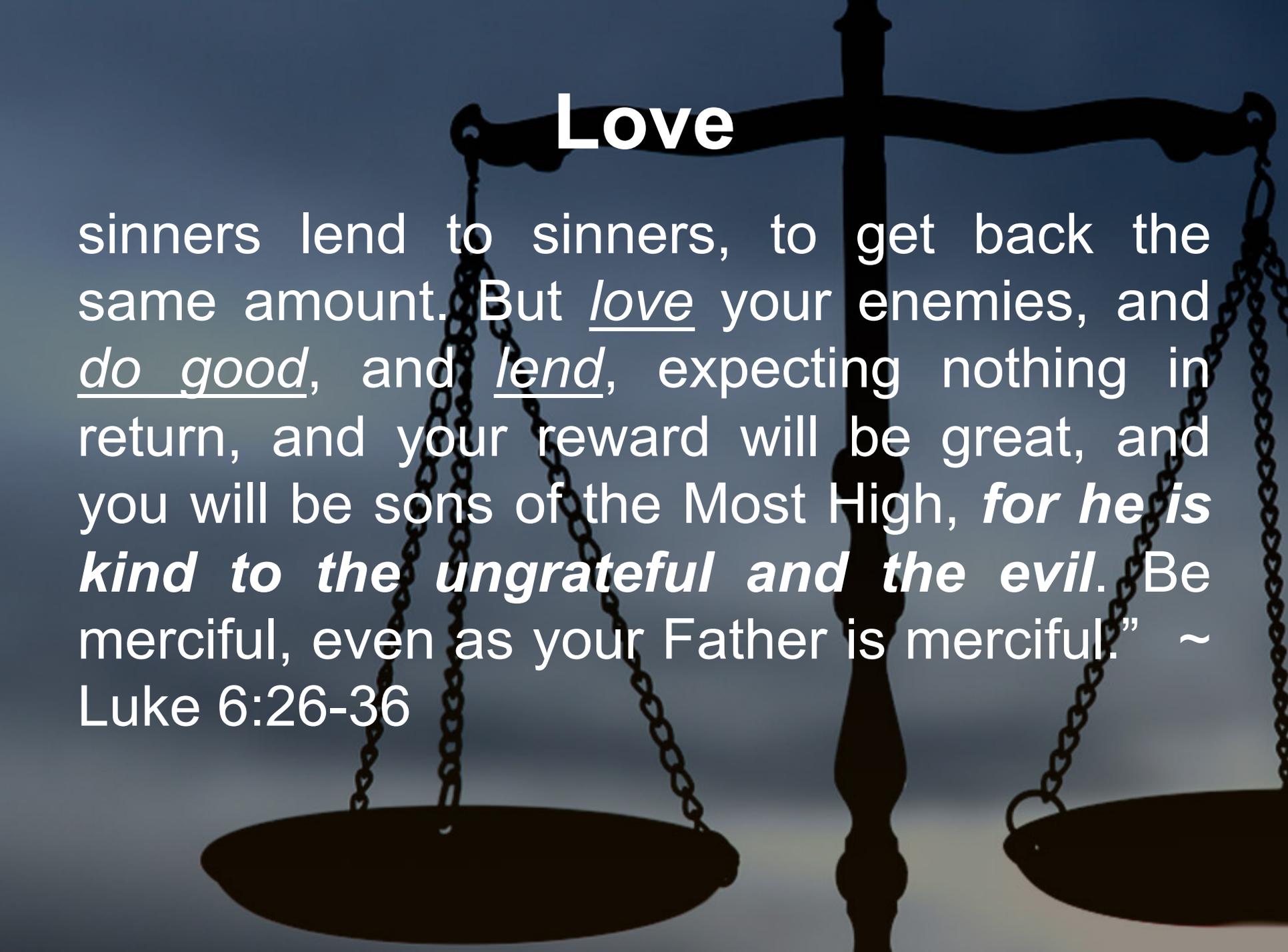
Love

- “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale has a horizontal beam with two pans hanging from it. The background is a dark blue gradient. The word "Love" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the top of the scale's beam.

Love

one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even



Love

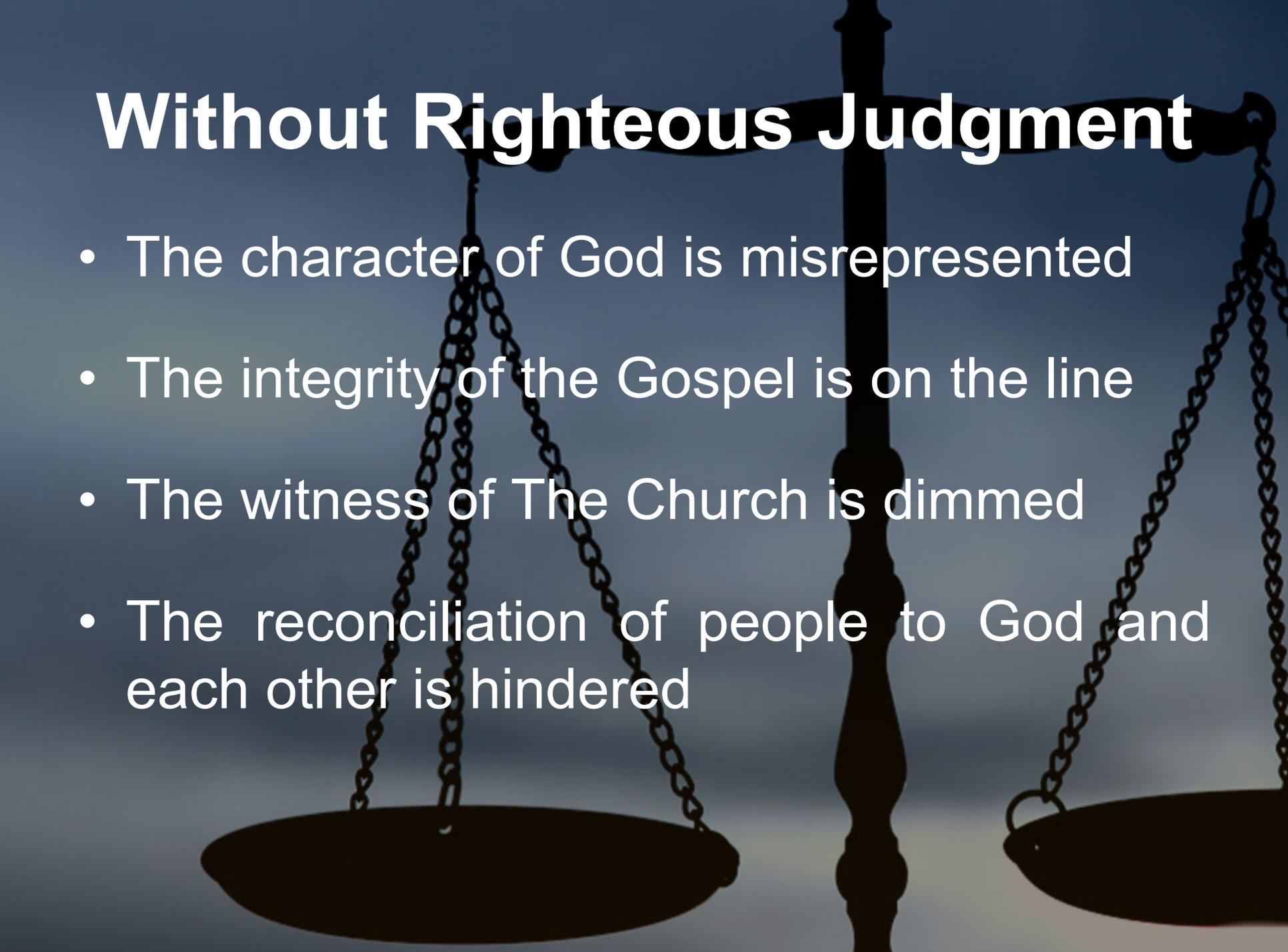
sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, ***for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.*** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” ~

Luke 6:26-36

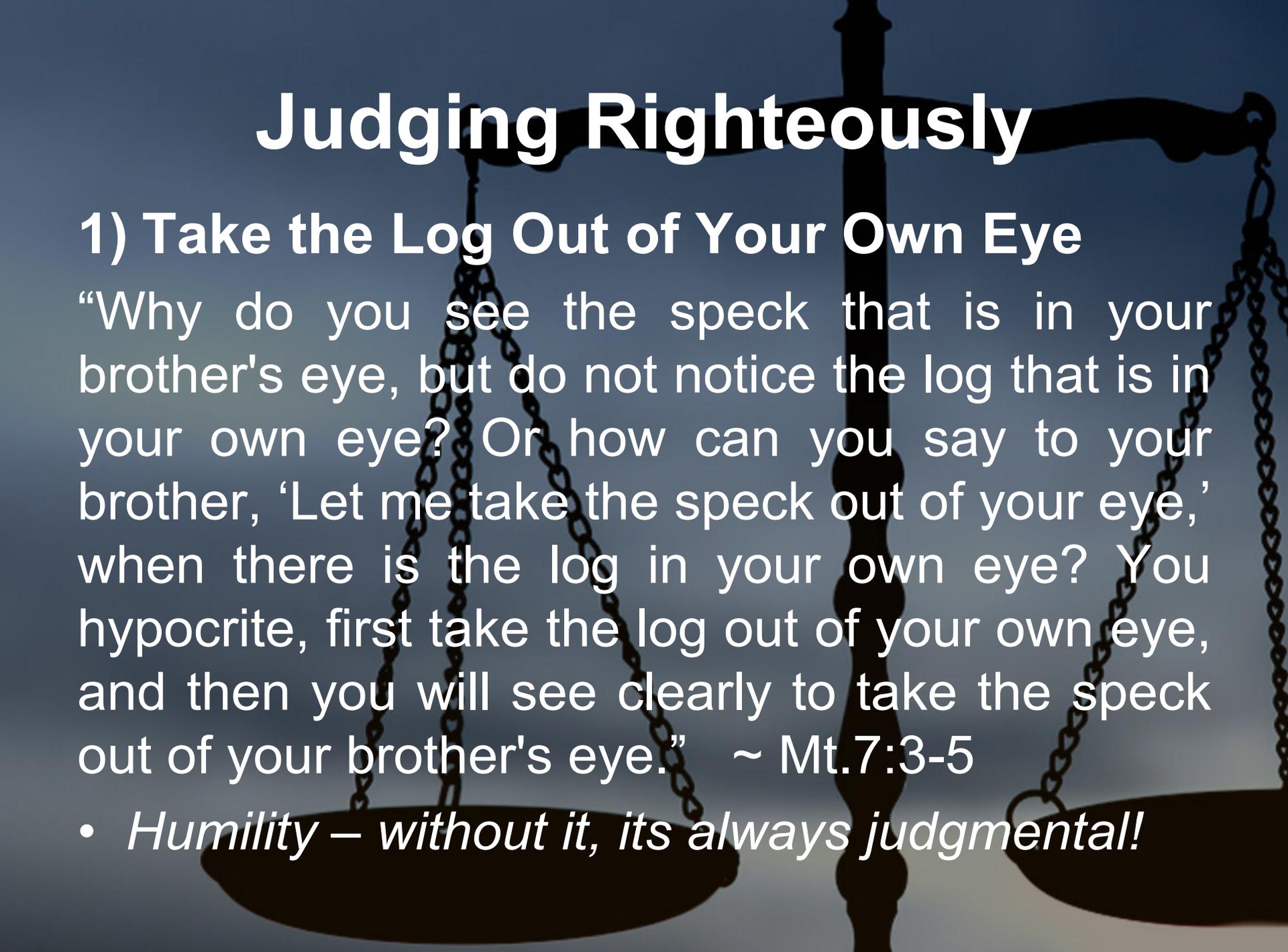
A black silhouette of a pair of scales of justice is centered against a dark blue background with a subtle gradient. The scales are perfectly balanced, with both pans hanging at the same level. The central pillar is ornate, and the pans are simple, flat discs. The text 'Judging Righteously' is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Judging Righteously

Without Righteous Judgment

A silhouette of a balance scale is centered in the background. The scale is unbalanced, with the right pan being significantly lower than the left pan, indicating it is heavier. The scale's beam is horizontal, and the pans are suspended by chains. The background is a dark blue gradient.

- The character of God is misrepresented
- The integrity of the Gospel is on the line
- The witness of The Church is dimmed
- The reconciliation of people to God and each other is hindered



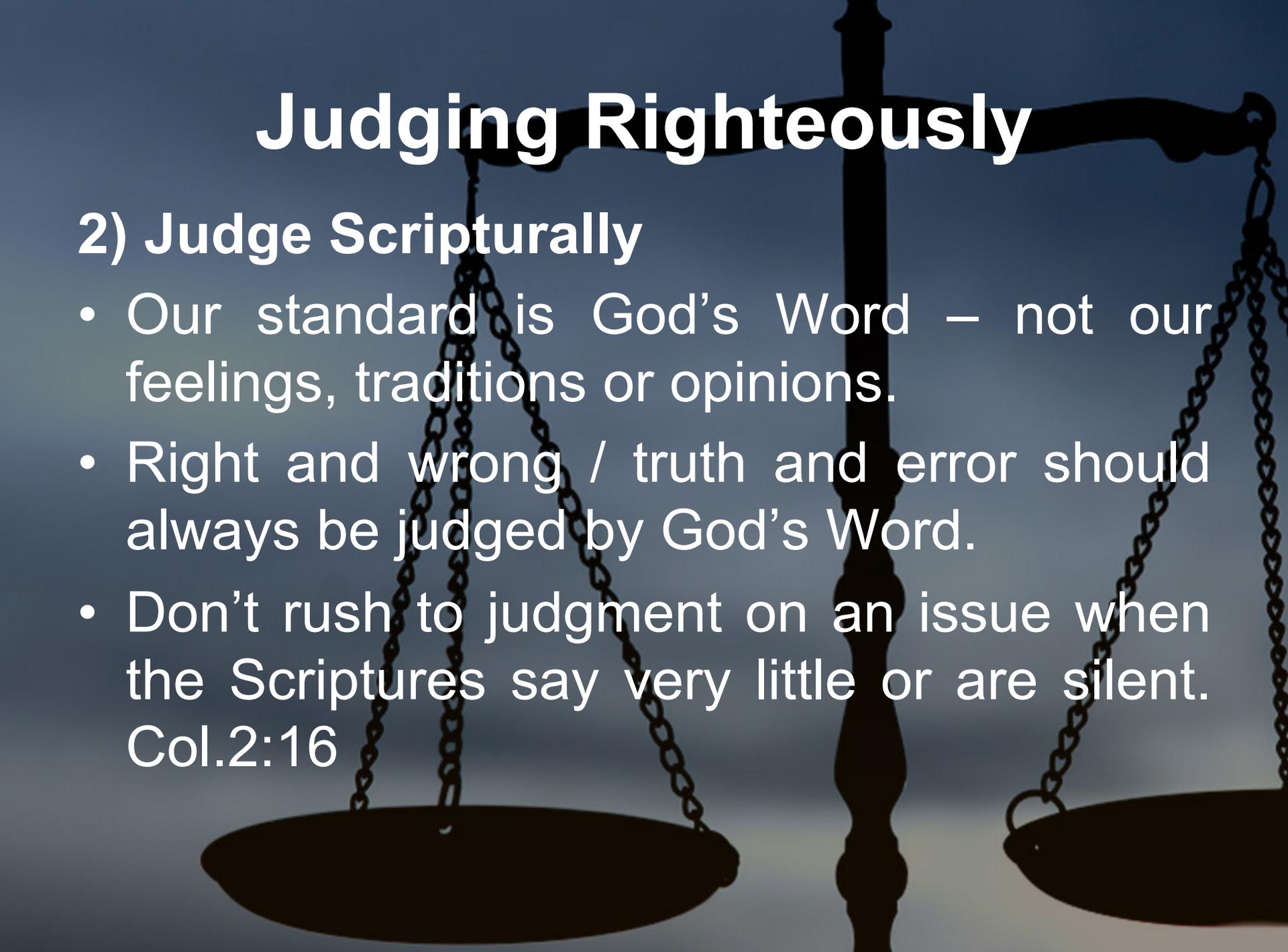
Judging Righteously

1) Take the Log Out of Your Own Eye

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” ~ Mt.7:3-5

- *Humility – without it, its always judgmental!*

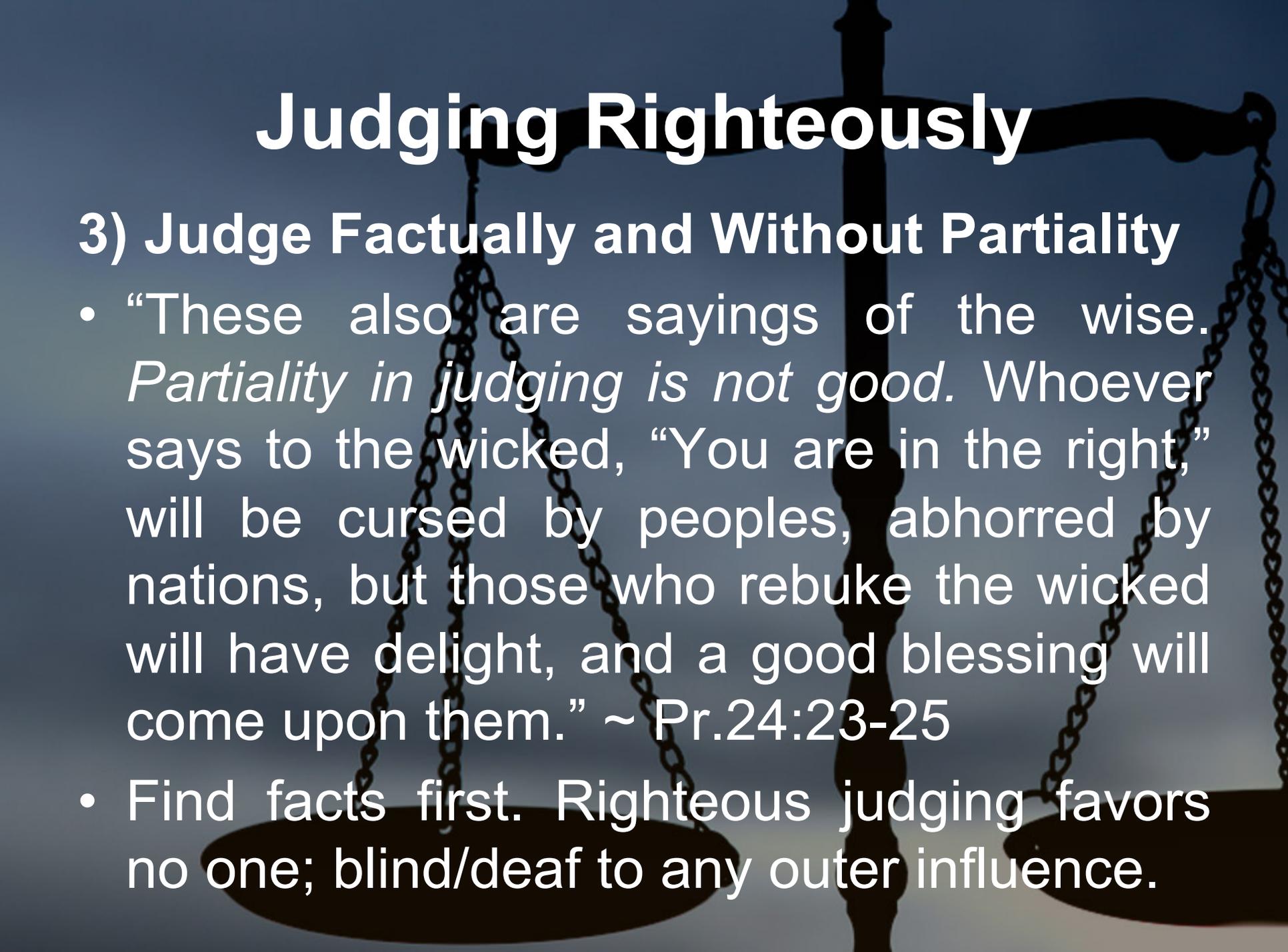
Judging Righteously



2) Judge Scripturally

- Our standard is God's Word – not our feelings, traditions or opinions.
- Right and wrong / truth and error should always be judged by God's Word.
- Don't rush to judgment on an issue when the Scriptures say very little or are silent.
Col.2:16

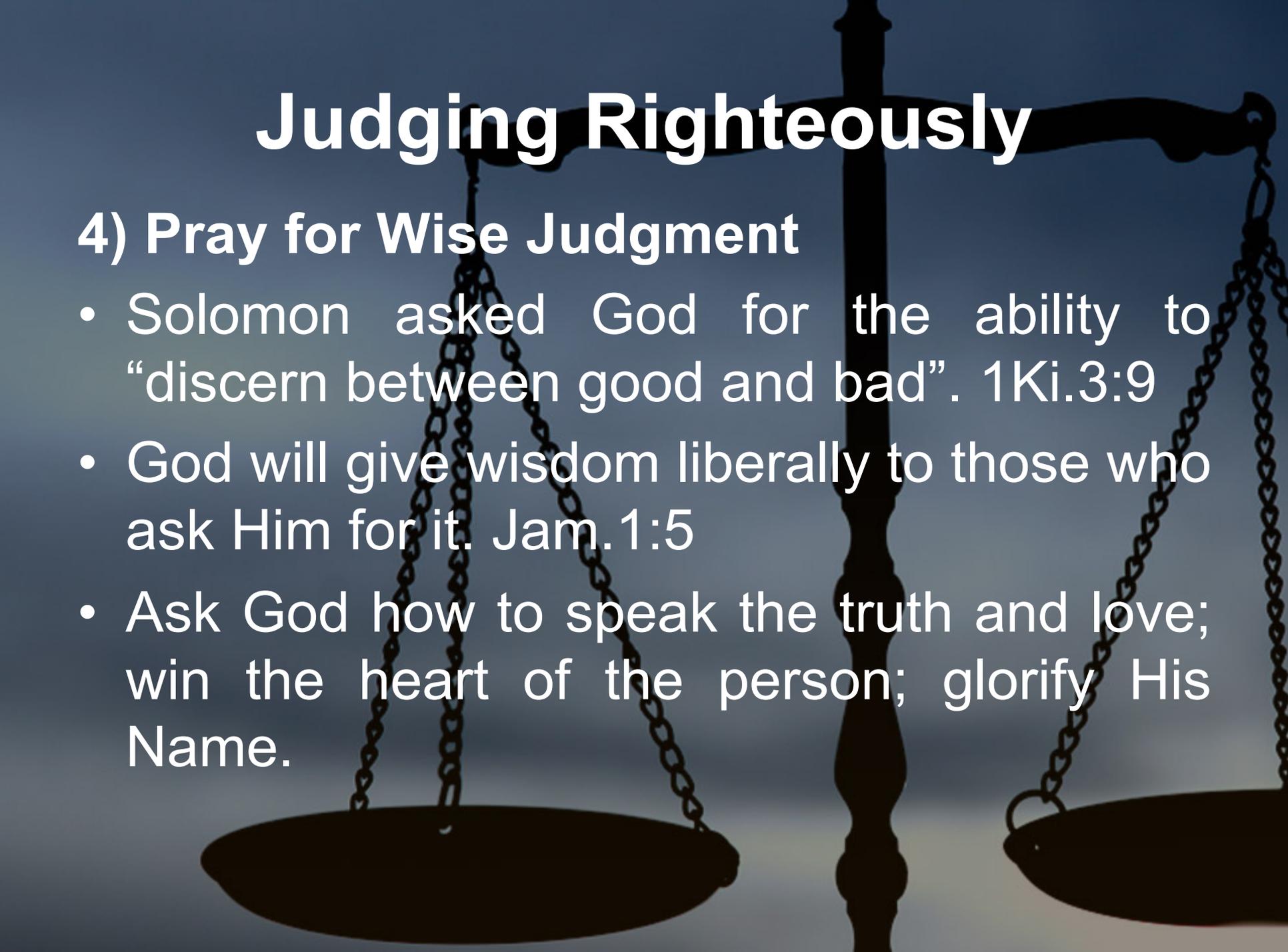
Judging Righteously



3) Judge Factually and Without Partiality

- “These also are sayings of the wise. *Partiality in judging is not good.* Whoever says to the wicked, “You are in the right,” will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.” ~ Pr.24:23-25
- Find facts first. Righteous judging favors no one; blind/deaf to any outer influence.

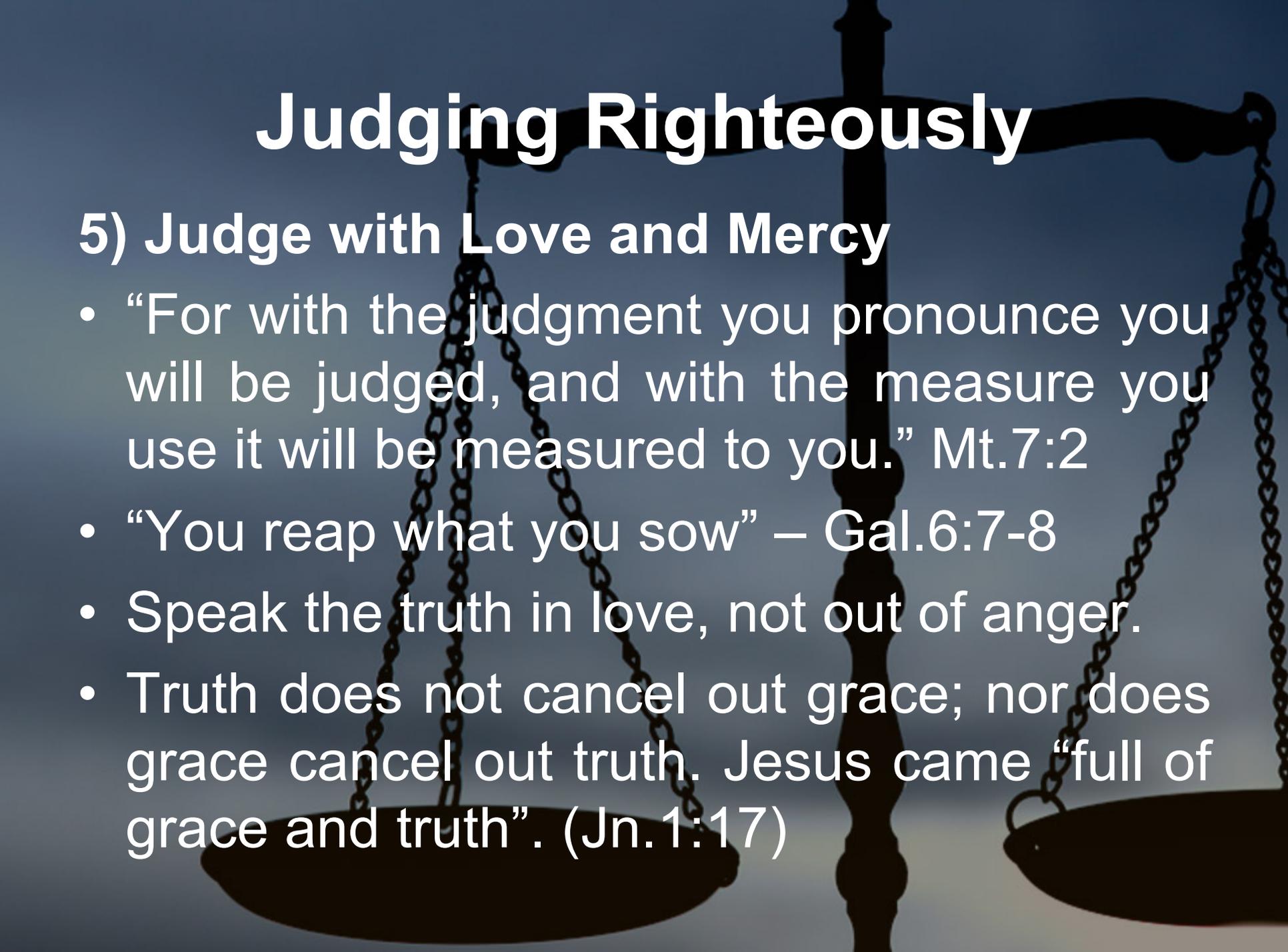
Judging Righteously



4) Pray for Wise Judgment

- Solomon asked God for the ability to “discern between good and bad”. 1Ki.3:9
- God will give wisdom liberally to those who ask Him for it. Jam.1:5
- Ask God how to speak the truth and love; win the heart of the person; glorify His Name.

Judging Righteously



5) Judge with Love and Mercy

- “For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.” Mt.7:2
- “You reap what you sow” – Gal.6:7-8
- Speak the truth in love, not out of anger.
- Truth does not cancel out grace; nor does grace cancel out truth. Jesus came “full of grace and truth”. (Jn.1:17)