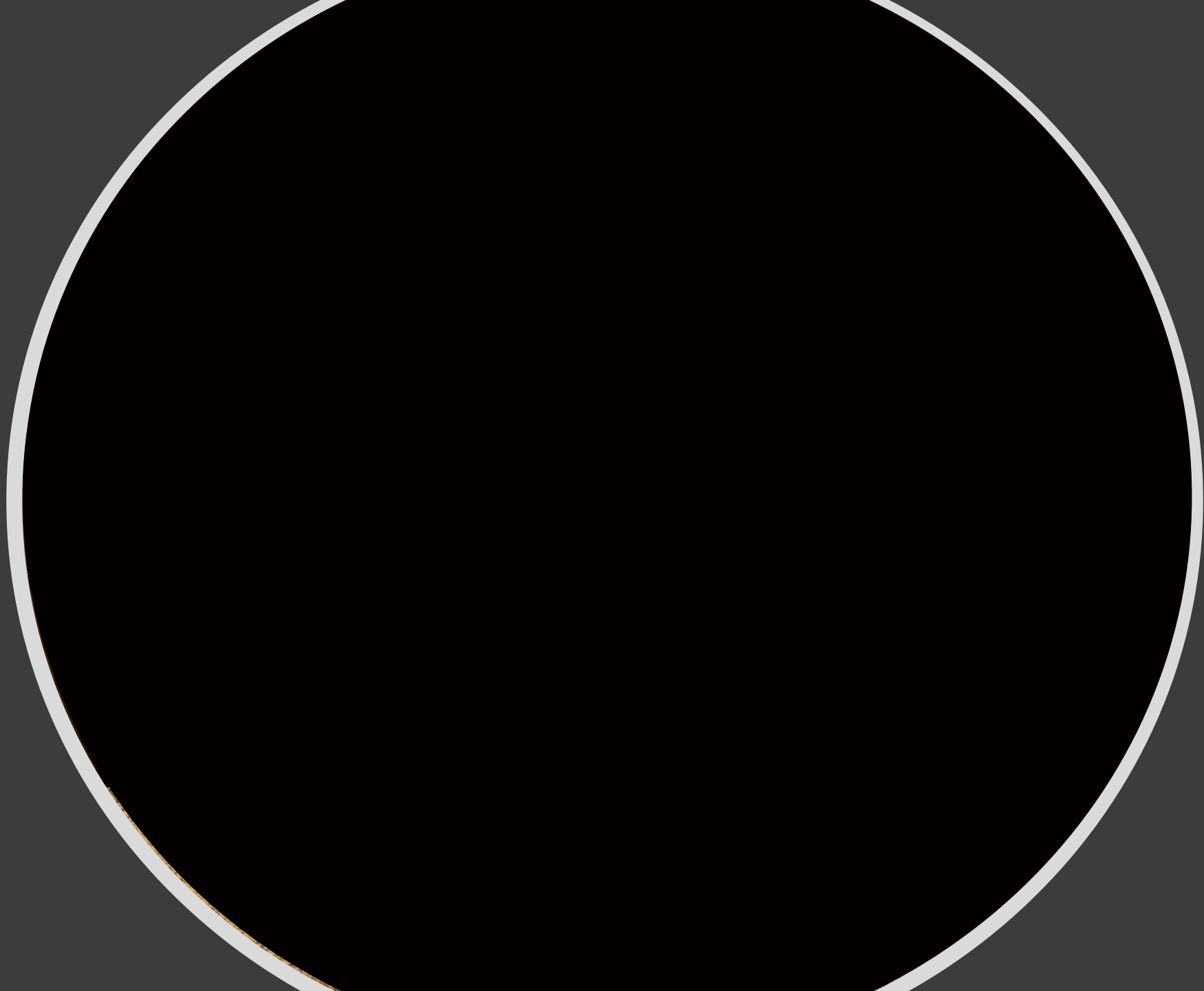




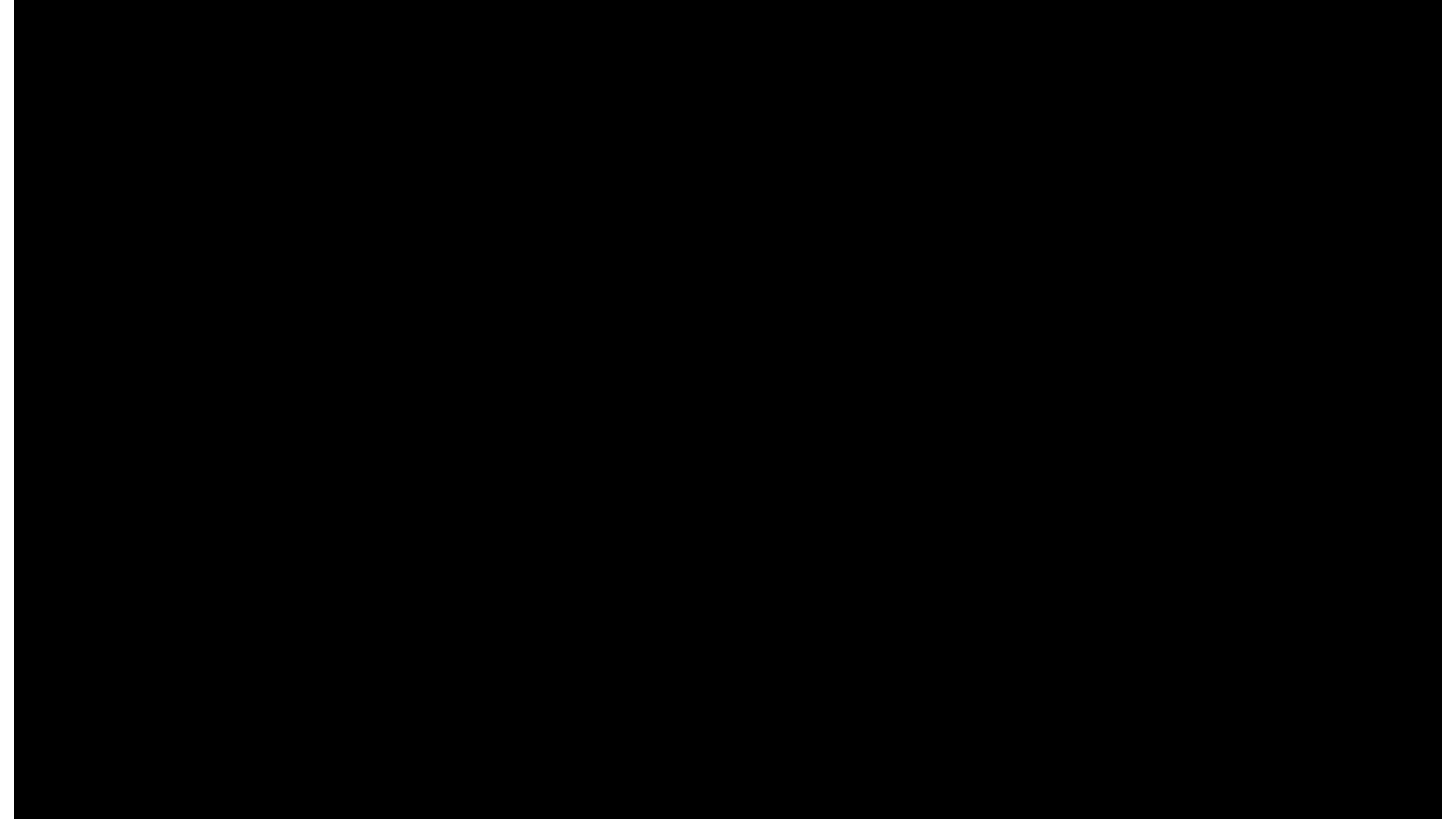
Snapshots of Jesus



Think through
history...









2021

+340 million Christians living in areas of high levels of persecution and discrimination

4,761 Christians killed for their faith

4,488 churches and other Christian buildings attacked

4,277 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned

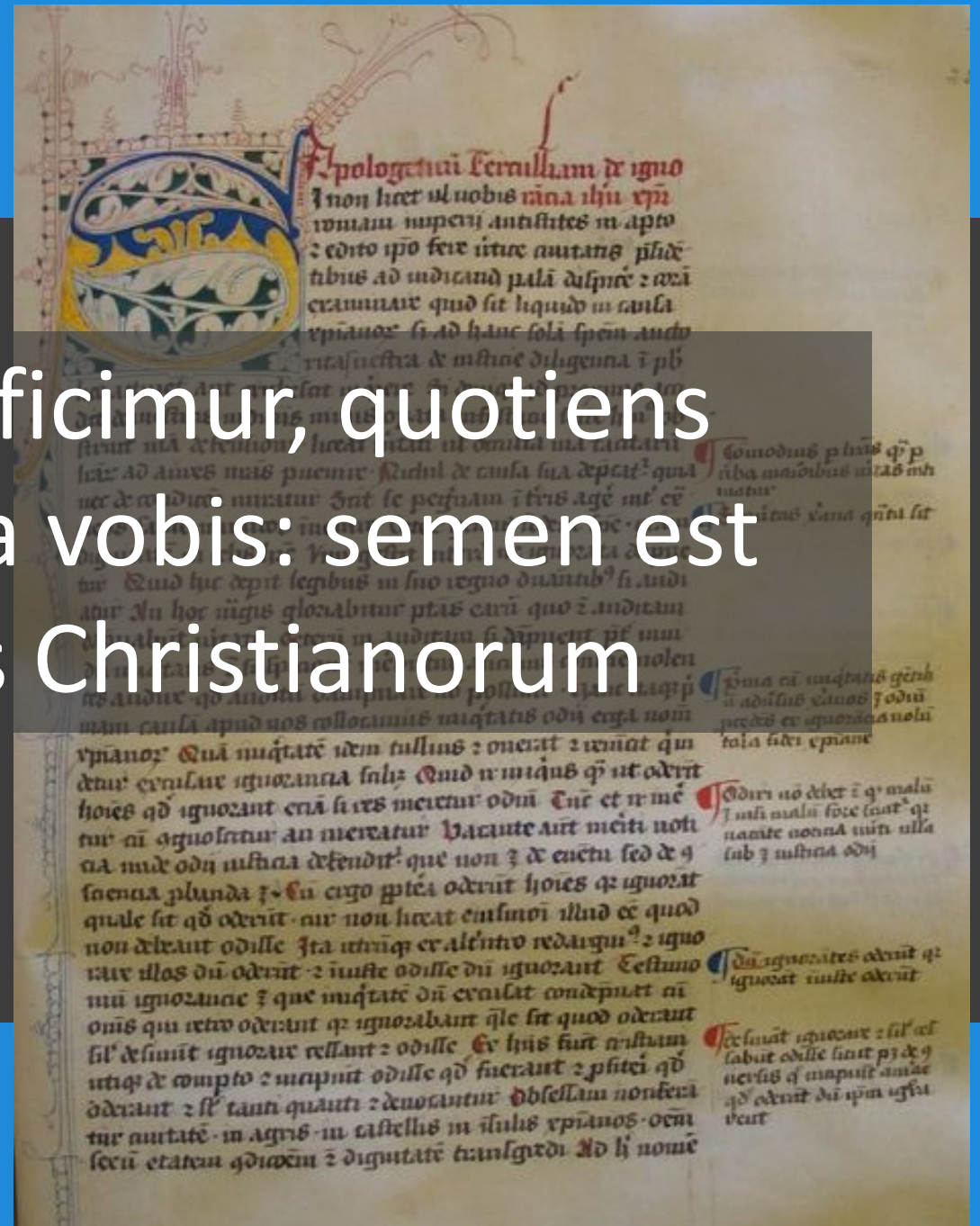






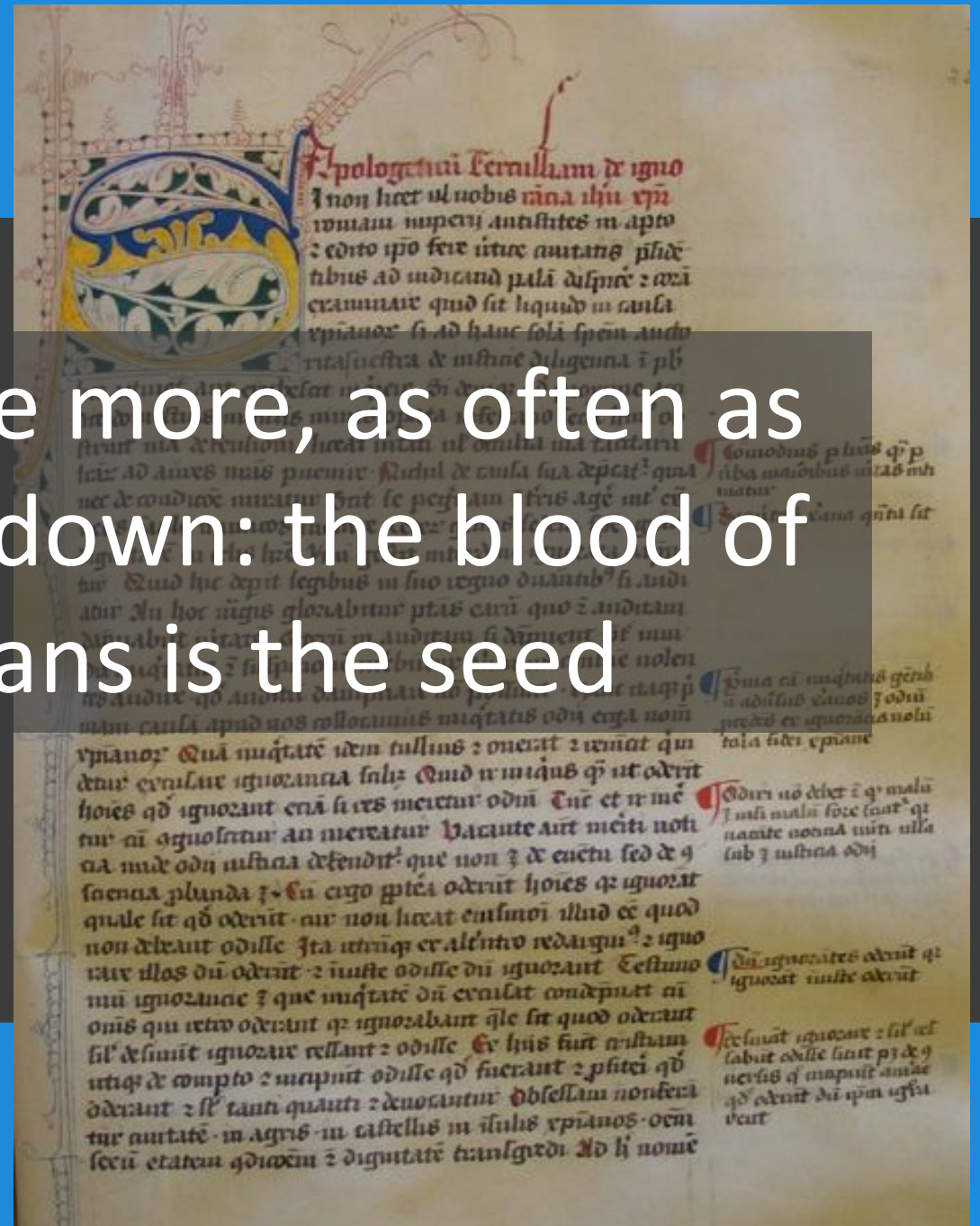
Tertullian
155-220

Plures efficimur, quotiens
metimur a vobis: semen est
sanguis Christianorum



We become more, as often as
you cut us down: the blood of
Christians is the seed

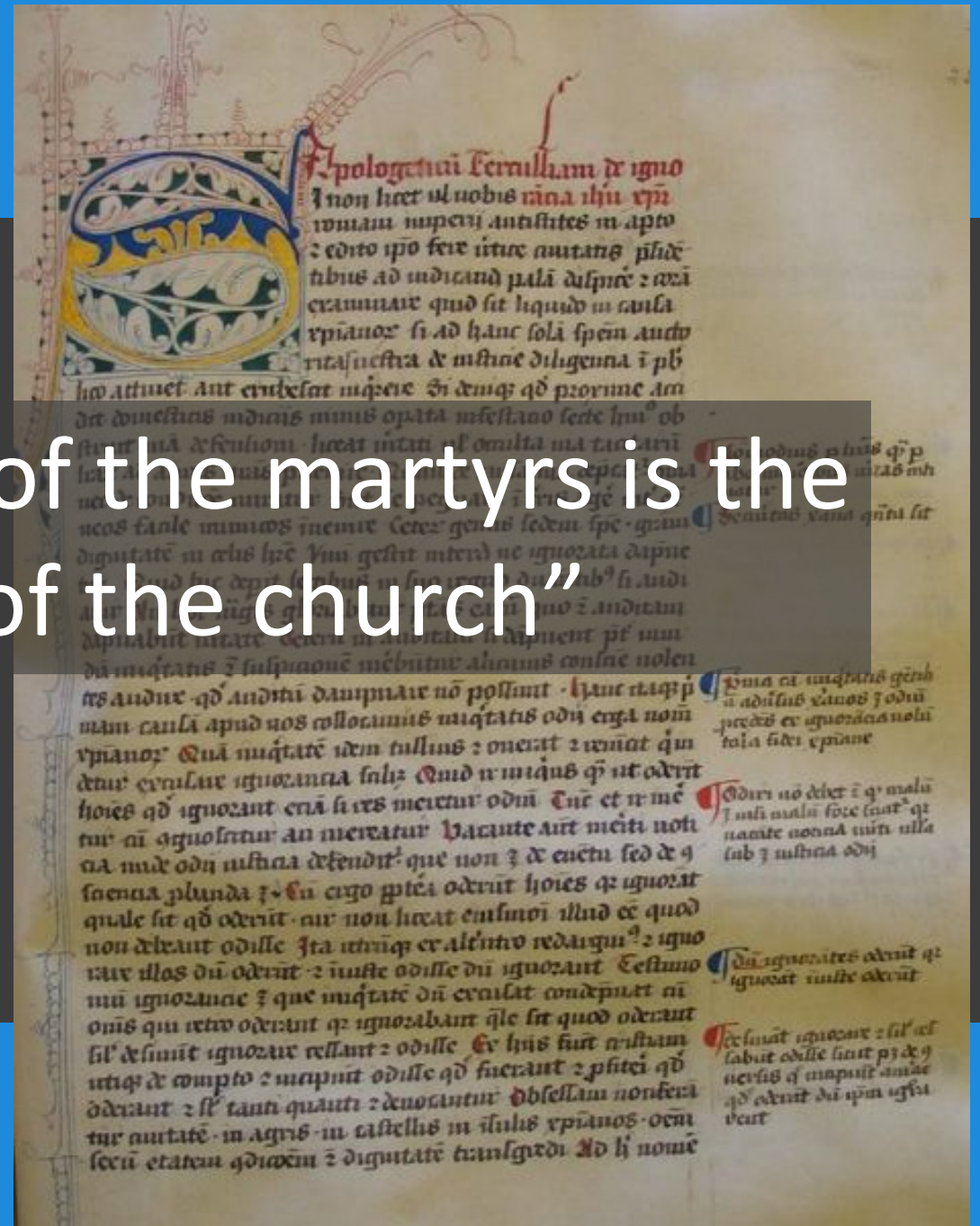
Tertullian
155-220





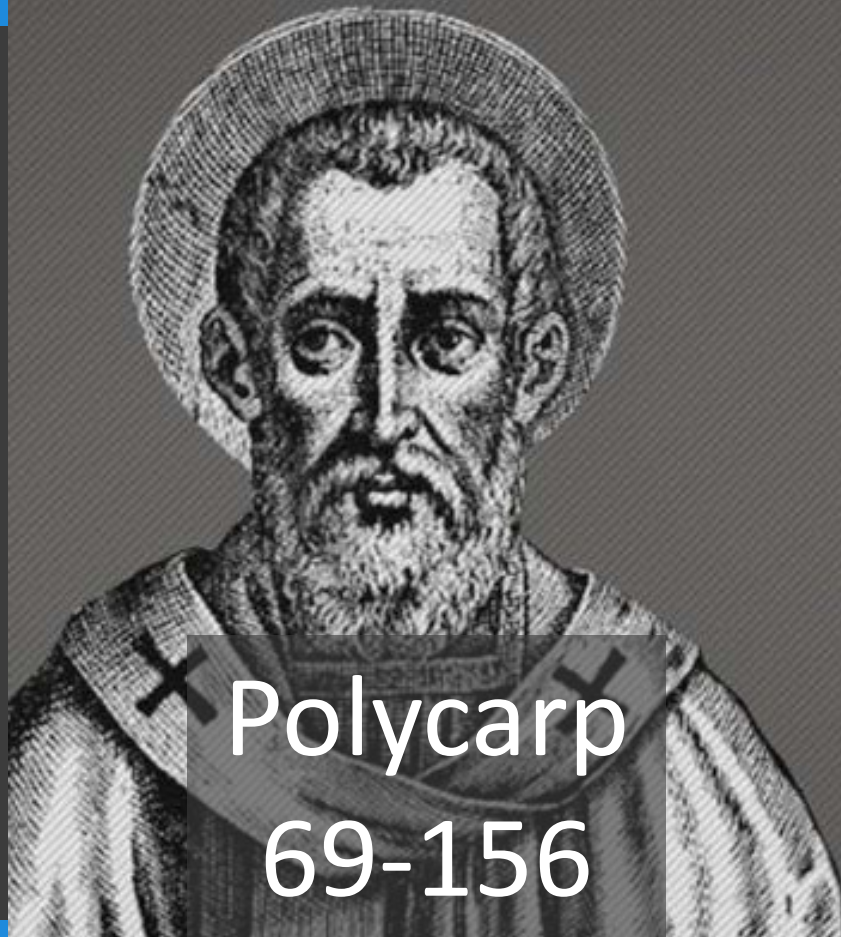
Tertullian
155-220

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”



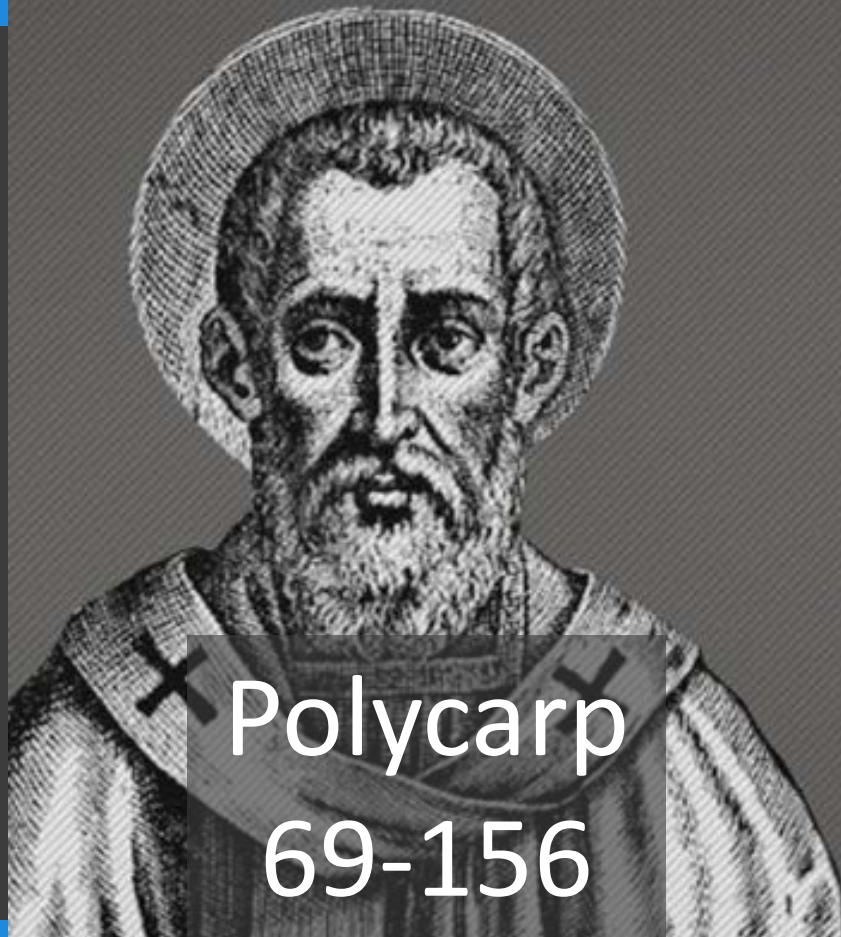


POLYCARP
69–156



Polycarp
69-156

- Discipled by the Apostle John
- One extent letter shows him simple, relatively uneducated, humble, and godly



Polycarp
69-156

The proconsul: “Swear a reproach to Christ, and I will set you free.”
Polycarp: “86 years have I have served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”

Mk 8:34-9:1 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.


Mk 8:34-9:1 Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν ὄχλον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι.

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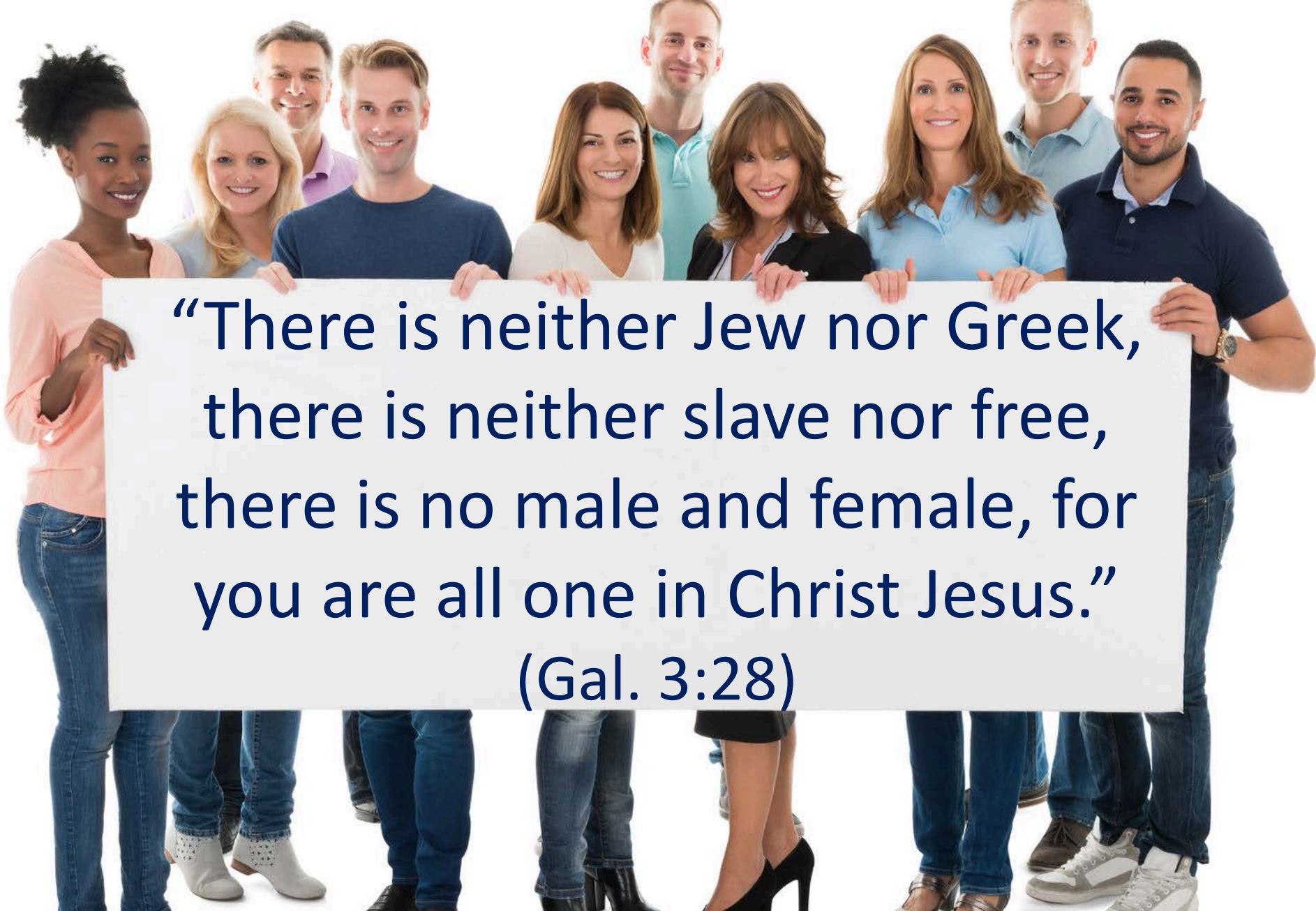
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This message is for everyone,
not just church leaders

A diverse group of ten people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are standing behind a large white sign. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The sign is held by several of them and contains the text: "True Christianity makes no difference in haves and have nots, culture, background, gender...". The background is plain white.

True Christianity makes no
difference in haves and have nots,
culture, background, gender...



“There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male and female, for
you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
(Gal. 3:28)

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Mk 8:34-9:1 Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν ὄχλον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι.

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aparneomai
(ἀπαρνέομαι)

Mk 8:34-9:1 Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν ὄχλον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ

"Refuse to recognize"
"Act in a selfless manner"

Mk. 14:30-31

This is a HUGE shift



Night

Day

This is a HUGE shift



Self

God

Mk 8:34-9:1 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

akolouthēō
(ἀκολουθέω)

Mk 8:34-9:1 Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν ὄχλον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι.

“to move behind someone in the same direction”

Why would *anyone*
make this choice?



For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν
αὐτοῦ σῶσαι ἀπολέσει
αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσει τὴν
ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ
τοῦ εὐαγγελίου σώσει αὐτήν.

For whoever would **save** his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

sōzō (σώζω)

Mk. 5:23, 28, 4; 6:56

ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ **σῶσαι** ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσει τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου σώσει αὐτήν.

“to save from death, disease;
to thrive, prosper, get on
well”

For whoever would **save** his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will **save** it.

sōzō (σώζω)

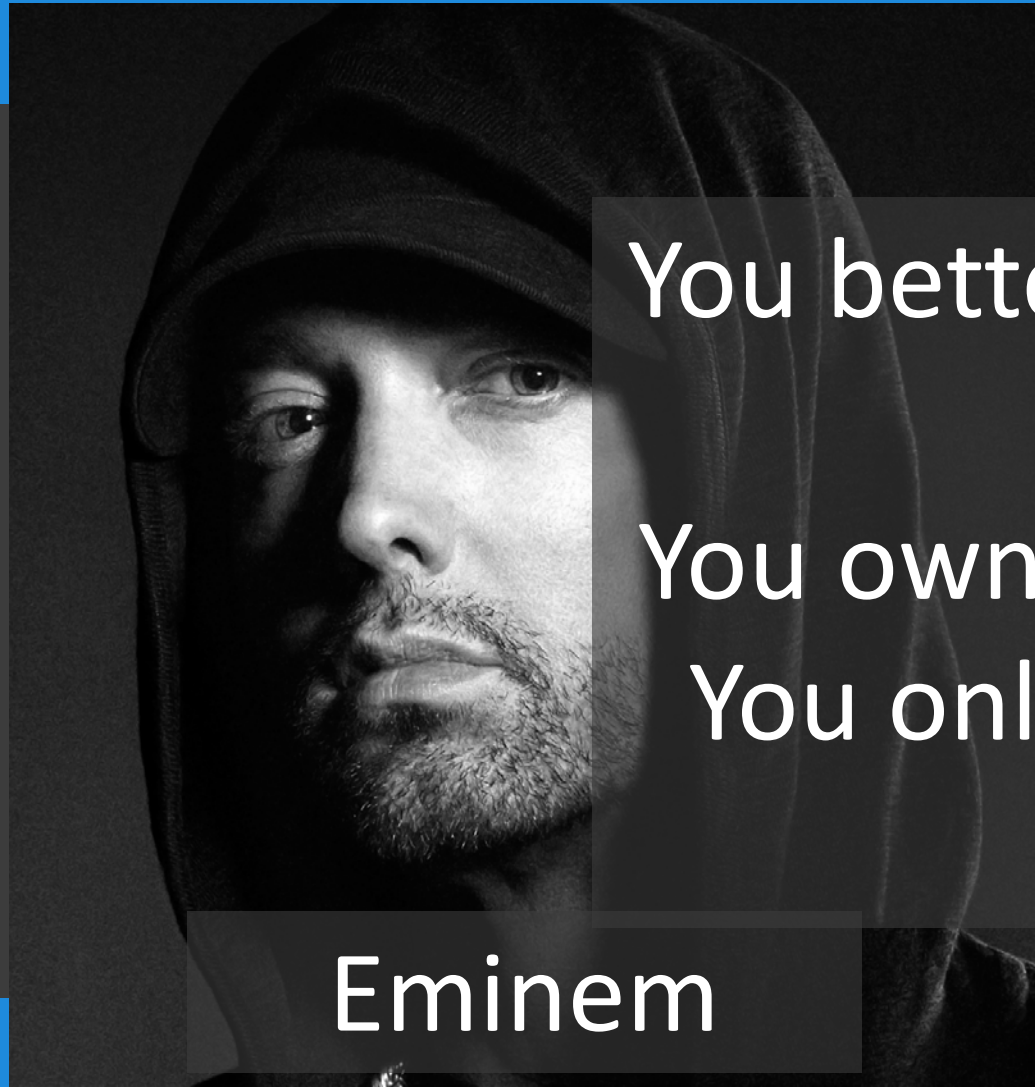
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“to save from death, disease;
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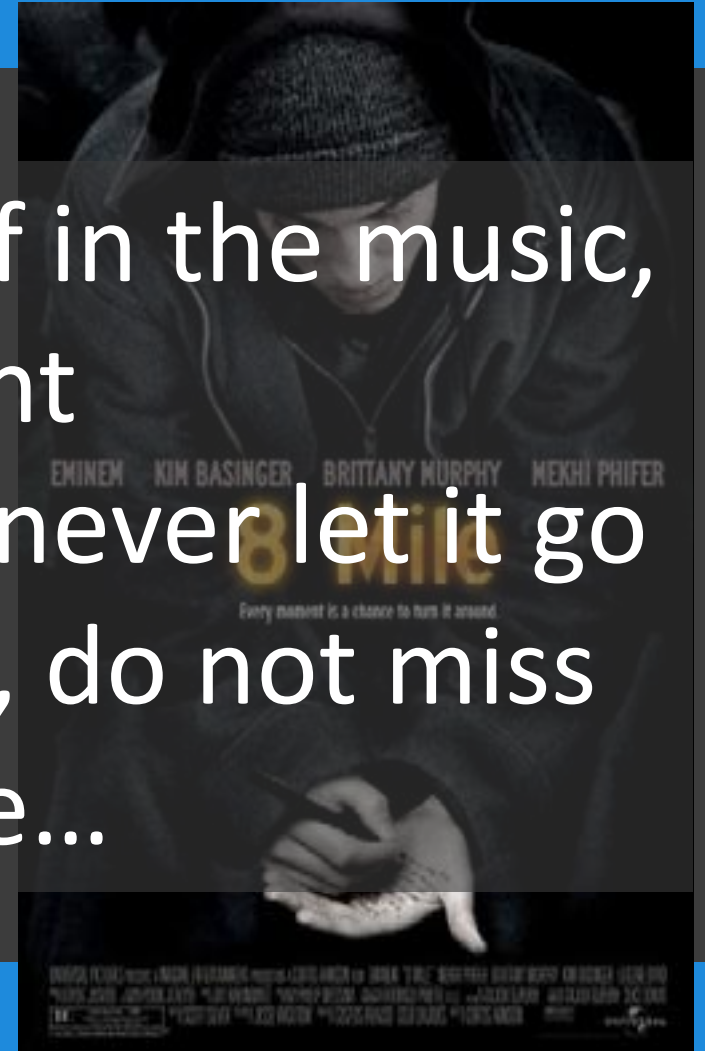
About last week...
Another view...





Eminem

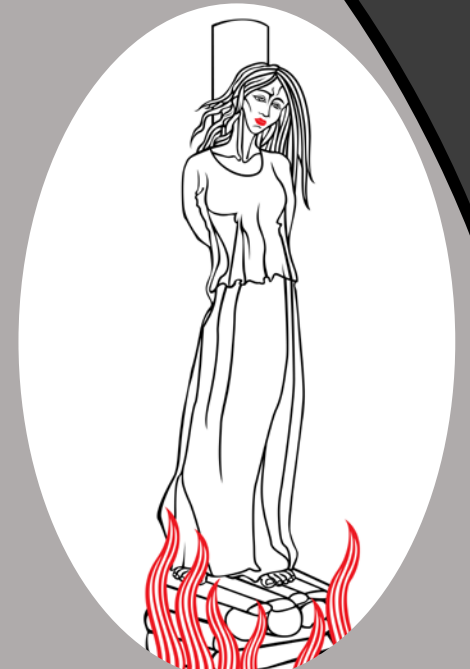
You better lose yourself in the music,
the moment
You own it, you better never let it go
You only get one shot, do not miss
your chance...



For some this is upside-down thinking



The Range of Losing oneself



For whoever would **save** his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will **save** it.

sōzō (σώζω)

Mk. 5:23, 28, 4; 6:56

ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ **σῶσαι** ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσει τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου **σώσει** αὐτήν.

“to save from death, disease;
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ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ **ἐνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ**
τοῦ εὐαγγελίου **σώσει** αὐτήν.

See how entwined are Jesus and the gospel



For whoever would **save** his
life will lose it, but whoever
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ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν
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ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ **ἐνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ**
τοῦ εὐαγγελίου **σώσει** αὐτήν.

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

τί γὰρ ὠφελεῖ ἄνθρωπον
κερδῆσαι τὸν κόσμον ὅλον
καὶ ζημιωθῆναι τὴν ψυχὴν
αὐτοῦ; τί γὰρ δοῖ ἄνθρωπος
ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς
αὐτοῦ;

Think in commercial terms: profit and loss

Ps. 49:6-9



For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

τί γὰρ ὠφελεῖ ἄνθρωπον
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αὐτοῦ; τί γὰρ δοῖ ἄνθρωπος
ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς
αὐτοῦ;

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνηθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνηθήσεται αὐτόν, ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων.



William L. Lane
1931-1999

“Jesus was sent to reveal the glory of God in a world whose intoxication with its own glory is well expressed in the thought of gaining the world.”



William L. Lane
1931-1999

“For Jesus this required
submission to the contempt
and shame of the cross.”

And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶν τινες ὧδε τῶν ἐστηκότων οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσιν τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

Consider the fruit that comes from this thinking

1 Thess. 1:3-10



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