

Growing in Christ

January 14 - March 10



Why this class?





**What does a mature Christian
look like?**











**What do you hope to get out of
this course?**



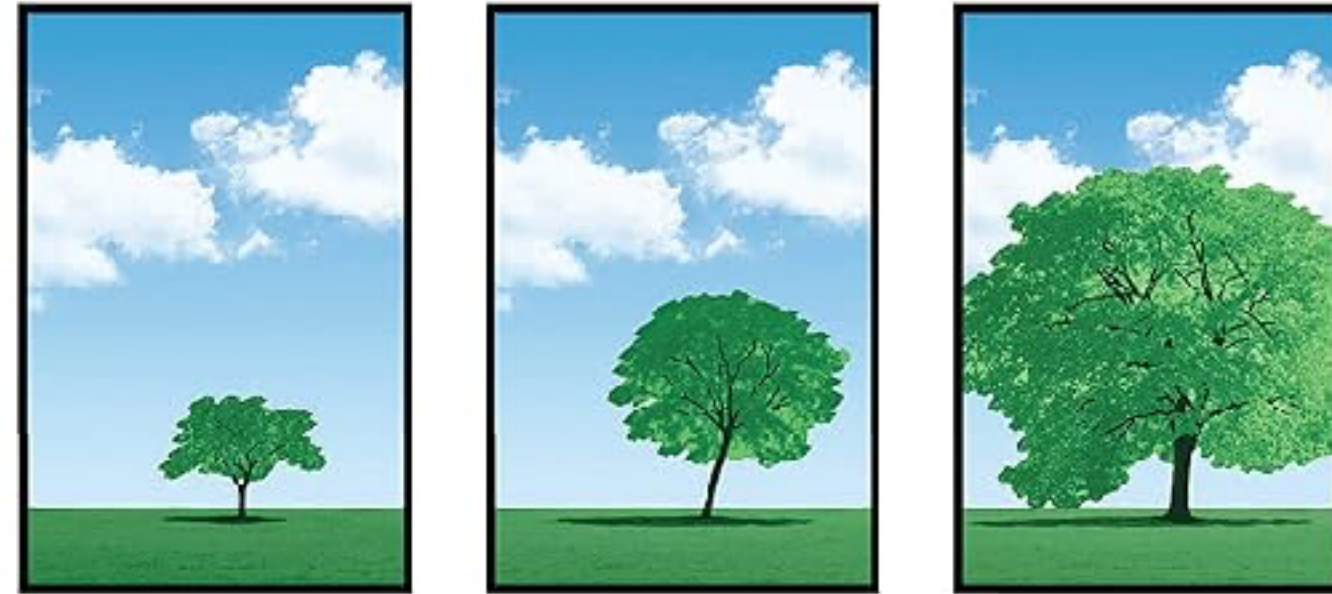
CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change

BRIAN G. HEDGES



how people change



Timothy S. Lane | Paul David Tripp

BRAD BIGNEY

GOSPEL TREASON



BETRAYING THE GOSPEL WITH HIDDEN IDOLS



Session 1: Beholding & Becoming

Growing in Christ January 14, 2024

God's Goal for Growth: **Christlikeness**

And we know that for those who love God
all things work together for good, for those
who are called according to his purpose...

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose...

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son...**

Romans 8:28-29

The Goal:
Christlikeness

Created in the **image of God**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26-28

I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.

Isaiah 43:6-7



“In Scripture, image and glory are interrelated ideas. As the image of God, man was created to reflect, express, and participate in the glory of God, in miniature, creaturely form.”

Sinclair Ferguson

The Goal:
Christlikeness

The image of God
Reflect





“We should not think of the image of God only as a noun but also as a verb: we are to *image* God by the way we live, and the heart of the image of God is love for God and for others.”

Anthony Hoekema

The Goal:
Christlikeness

The image of God
Relate



So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

The Goal:
Christlikeness

The image of God
Reign



Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26; 28

The Goal:
Christlikeness

The image of God and **the Fall**



Reflect

Relate



Reign

A young woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue and white sailor-style school uniform, stands in the center of a courtyard completely destroyed by a disaster. The ground is covered in rubble, including bricks, concrete blocks, and large piles of twisted metal and wooden debris. In the background, several multi-story concrete buildings are visible, many of which are severely damaged, with missing windows and exposed structural elements. Some balconies have wooden railings that appear broken or missing. The sky is bright blue with some light clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of desolation and the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

The Goal:
Christlikeness

The image of God and **Salvation**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Cor 5:17

Beholding & Becoming



Beholding & Becoming

Beholding Christ and **Salvation**

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is **the image of God...**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of **the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:3-4; 6

Beholding & Becoming

Beholding Christ and
Transformation

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another.

2 Cor 3:17



CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change

BRIAN G. HEDGES

“Beholding the glory of Christ is the means of becoming like Christ in His glory... The vision of God’s glory in Christ in the gospel has transforming power. As we see Him, we become like Him.”

Brian Hedges

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son...**

Romans 8:28-29

Beholding & Becoming

Beholding Christ in **Eternity**

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, **because we shall see him as he is.**

1 John 3:2

Beholding & Becoming

Already and Not Yet

Beholding & Becoming

Holiness = Christlikeness

“Be holy for I am holy.”

Leviticus 19:2

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40

*A heart in every thought
renewed
And full of love divine,
Perfect and right and
pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine.*

Charles Wesley



Beholding & Becoming

Spiritual Formation

Beholding & Becoming **Spiritual Formation**

Key Question: Am I becoming
more like Jesus?

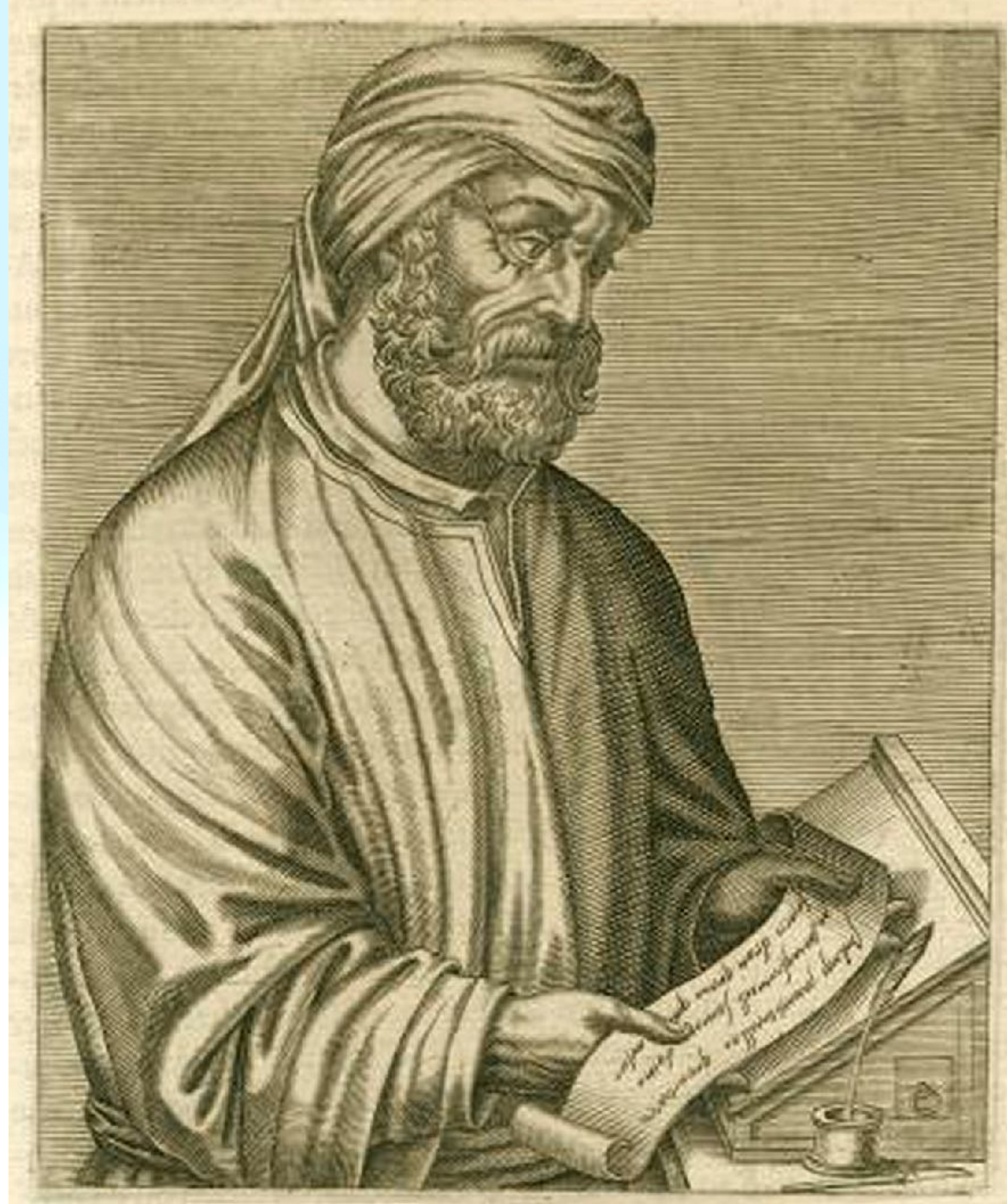


The Centrality of the Gospel

Tim Keller

“Just as Jesus was crucified between two thieves, so the gospel is ever crucified between two errors.”

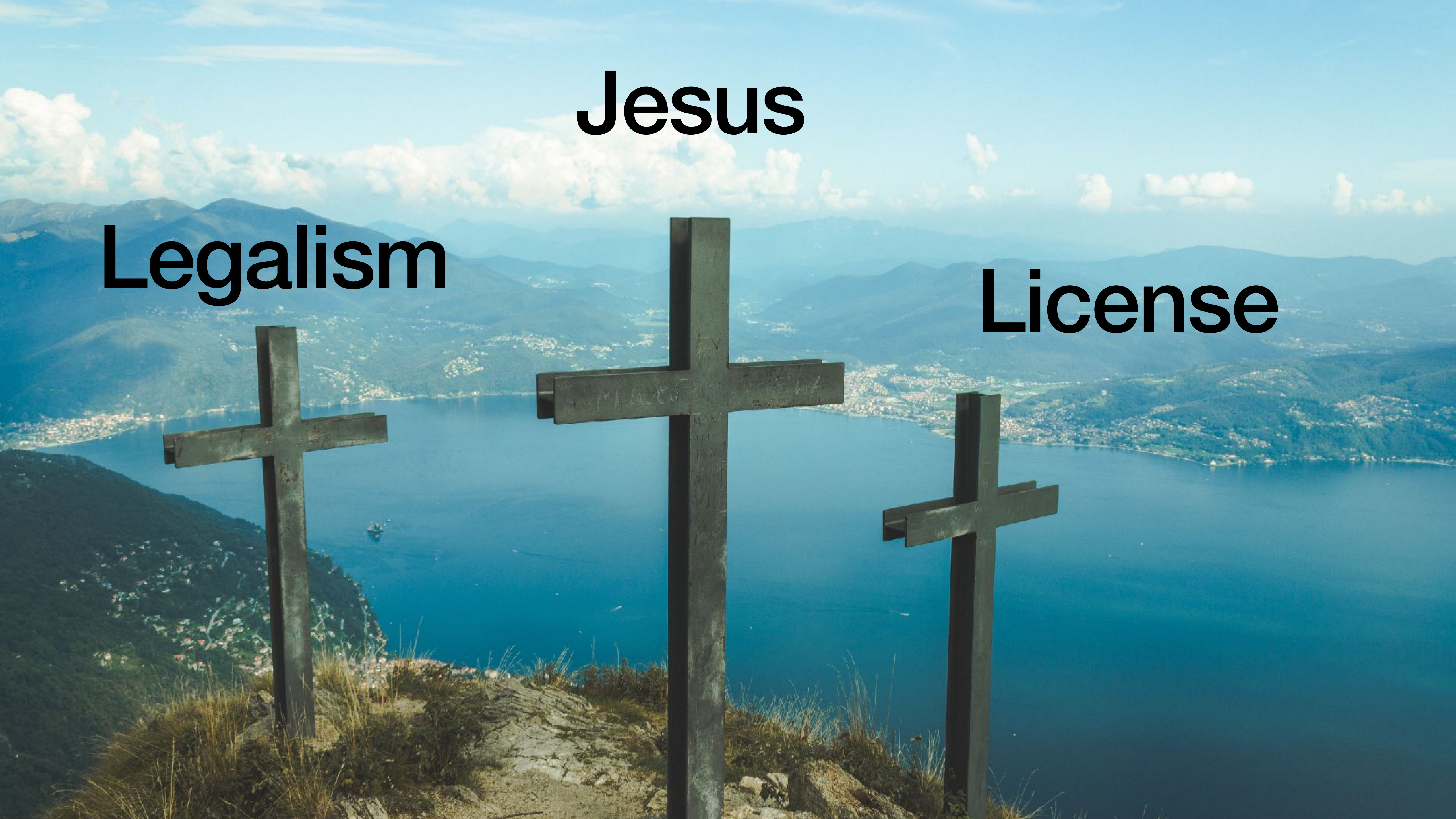
Tertullian (155-240 AD)



Jesus

Legalism

License



A wooden cross stands on a grassy hillside, overlooking a large blue lake and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The word "Legalism" is overlaid in large black text on the left side of the image.

Legalism

Legalism

- Moralism
- Performance

**TRUTH without
GRACE**

License

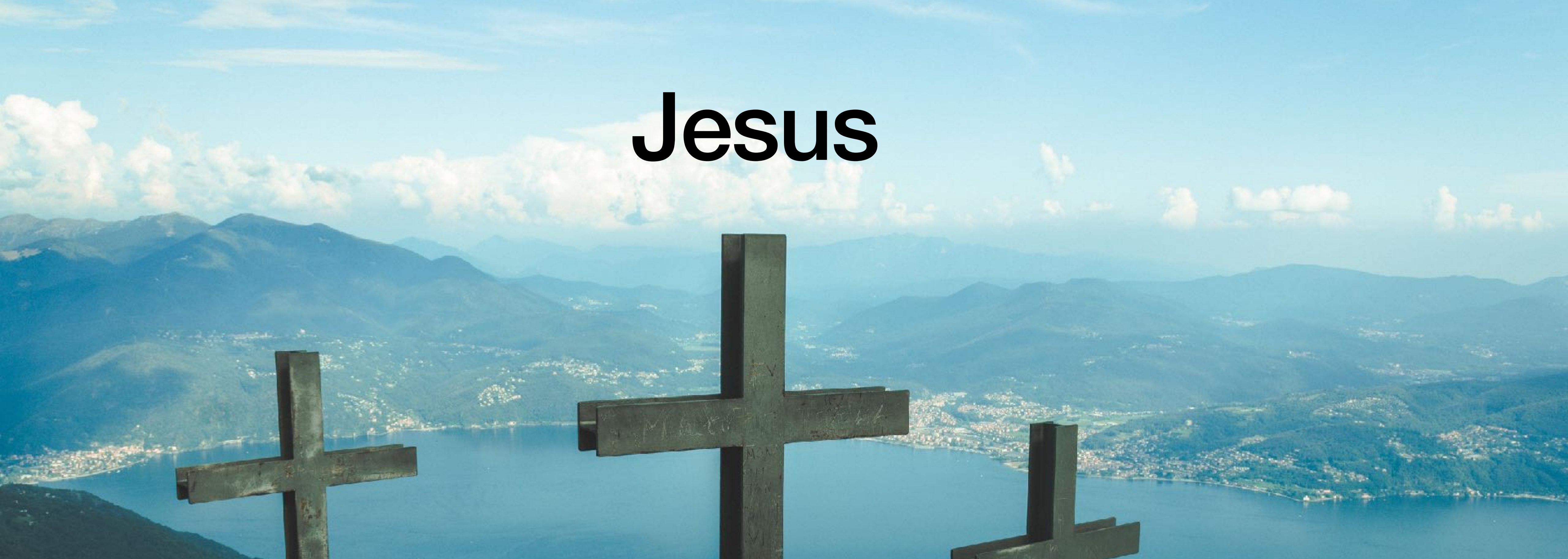
- **Relativism**
- **Accepting**

GRACE without
TRUTH



License

Jesus



...full of GRACE *and* TRUTH!



Tim Keller

“Paul is showing that in our Christian life we never “get beyond the gospel” to something more advanced. The gospel is not the first step in a stairway of truths; rather, it is more like the hub in a wheel of truth. The gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Z of Christianity. The gospel is not the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom but the way we make all progress in the kingdom. We are not justified by the gospel and then sanctified by obedience; rather the gospel is the way we grow (Gal. 3:1–3) and are renewed (Col. 1:6). It is the solution to each problem, the key to each closed door, the power to take us through every barrier (Rom. 1:16–17).”



Tim Keller

“It is very common in the church to think as follows: “The gospel is for non-Christians. One needs it to be saved. But once saved, you grow through hard work and obedience.” But Colossians 1:6 shows that this is a mistake. Both confession and “hard work” that is not arising from and in line with the gospel will not sanctify you—they will strangle you. All our problems come from a failure to apply the gospel. Thus when Paul left the Ephesians he committed them “to the word of his grace, which can build you up” (Acts 20:32).”



“[The truth of the Gospel] is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine. . . . Most necessary is it therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually.”

Martin Luther



Gospel

**Legalism/
Moralist**

**License/
Relativism**









Beholding & Becoming

Paul's Prayer Ephesians 3:14-21

Beholding & Becoming

