



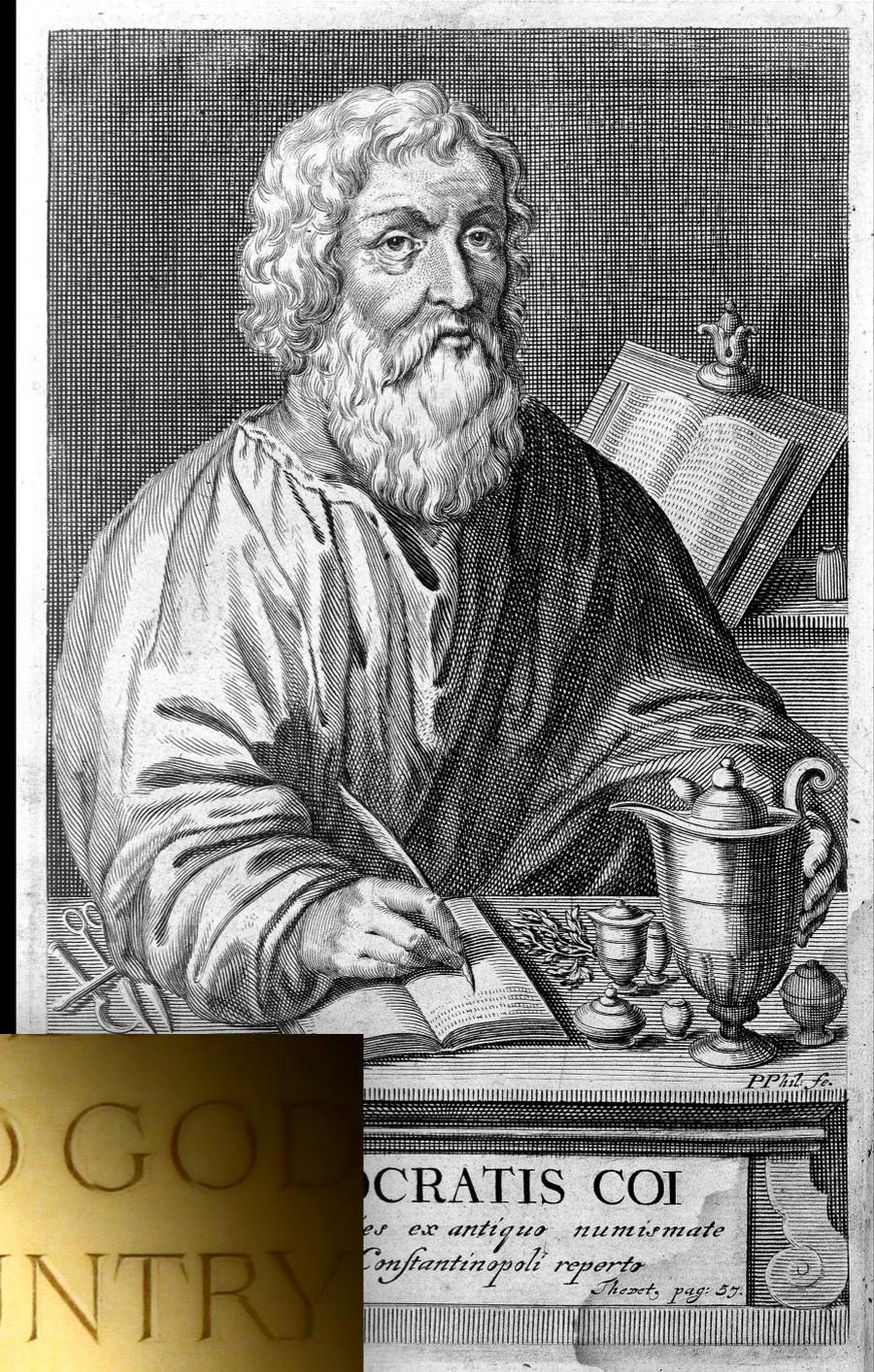
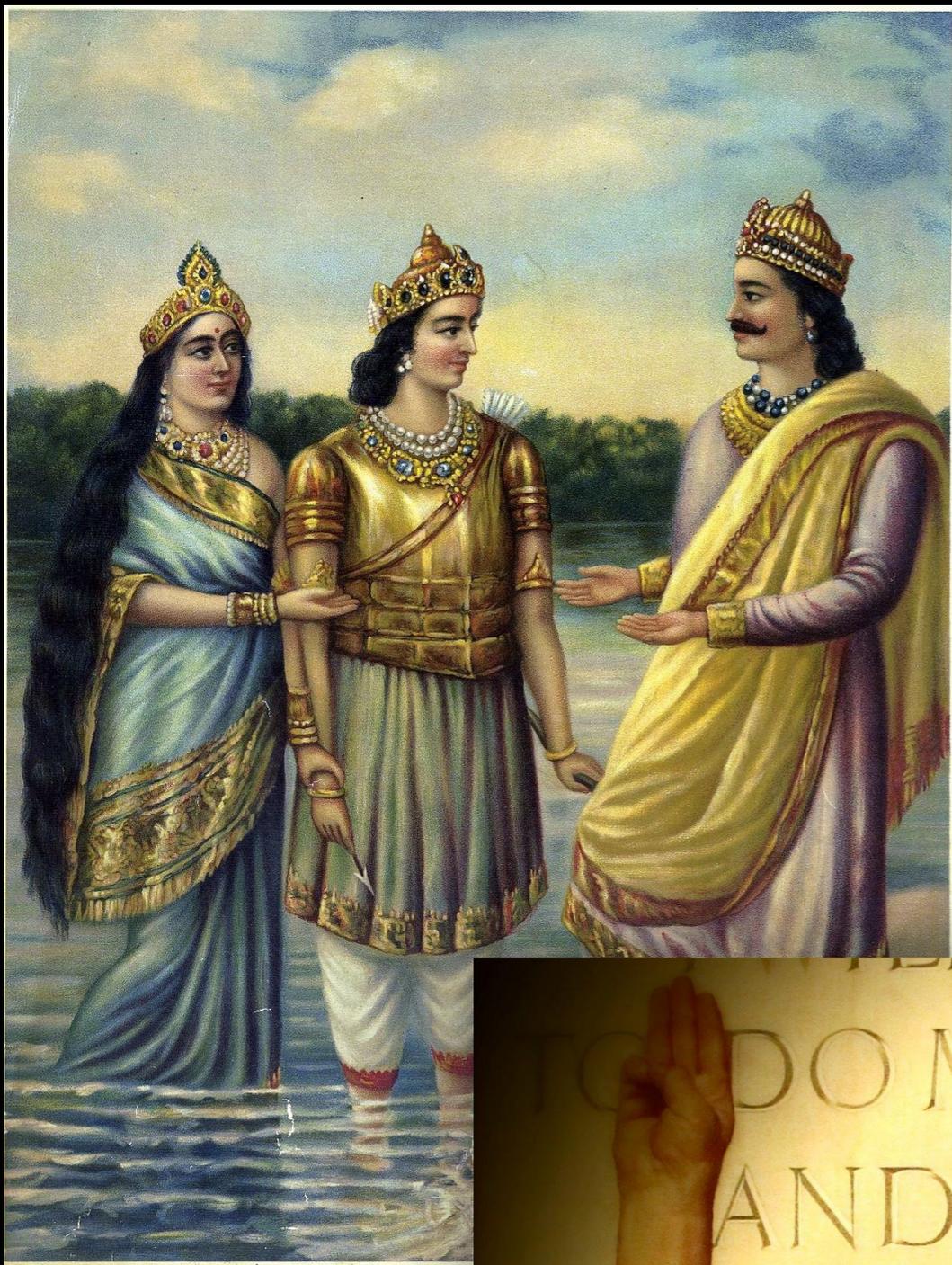
Pathways

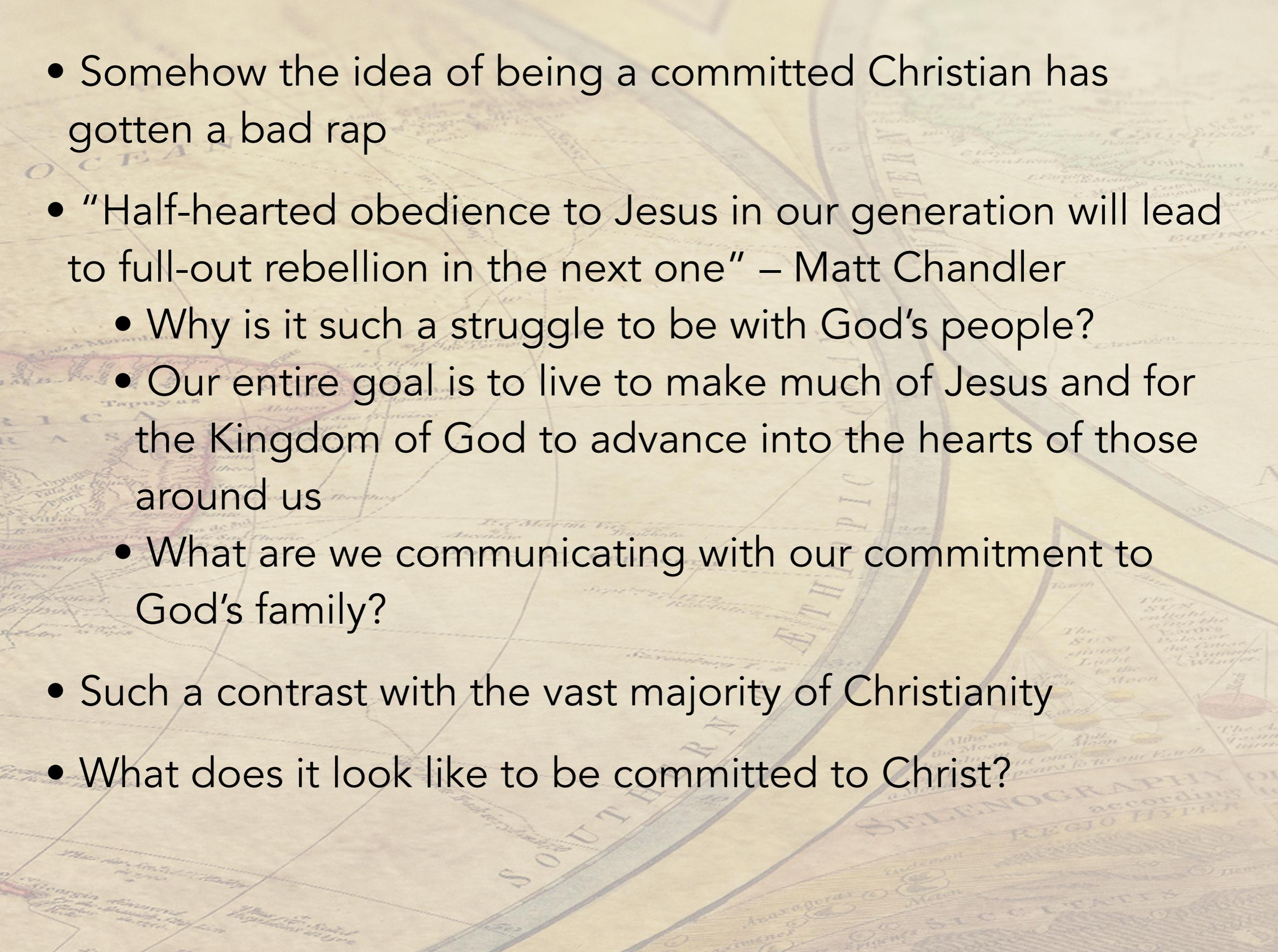
NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTION



DIVORCE *Care*[®]

Begins January 22



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- The background of the slide is a faded, historical-style map of the Pacific Ocean. The map shows the equator, the Tropic of Capricorn, and the Tropic of Cancer. It includes various geographical labels such as 'OCEANIC', 'SOUTHERN', 'ATHLETIC', and 'SOUTHERN'. On the right side, there are several small diagrams illustrating celestial phenomena, including the sun's path, the moon's phases (Alto, Full Moon, etc.), and the Earth's rotation. The text 'SELENOGRAPHY OF' and 'RECTO HYPER' is visible at the bottom right.
- Somehow the idea of being a committed Christian has gotten a bad rap
 - “Half-hearted obedience to Jesus in our generation will lead to full-out rebellion in the next one” – Matt Chandler
 - Why is it such a struggle to be with God’s people?
 - Our entire goal is to live to make much of Jesus and for the Kingdom of God to advance into the hearts of those around us
 - What are we communicating with our commitment to God’s family?
 - Such a contrast with the vast majority of Christianity
 - What does it look like to be committed to Christ?

Acts 20:18–35 (NASB)

18 And when they had come to him, he said to them,
“You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia,
how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all
humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me
through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from
declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching
you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying
to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith
in our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And now, behold, bound by the
Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will
happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly
testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions
await me.

Acts 20:18–35 (NASB) [continued]

24 But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

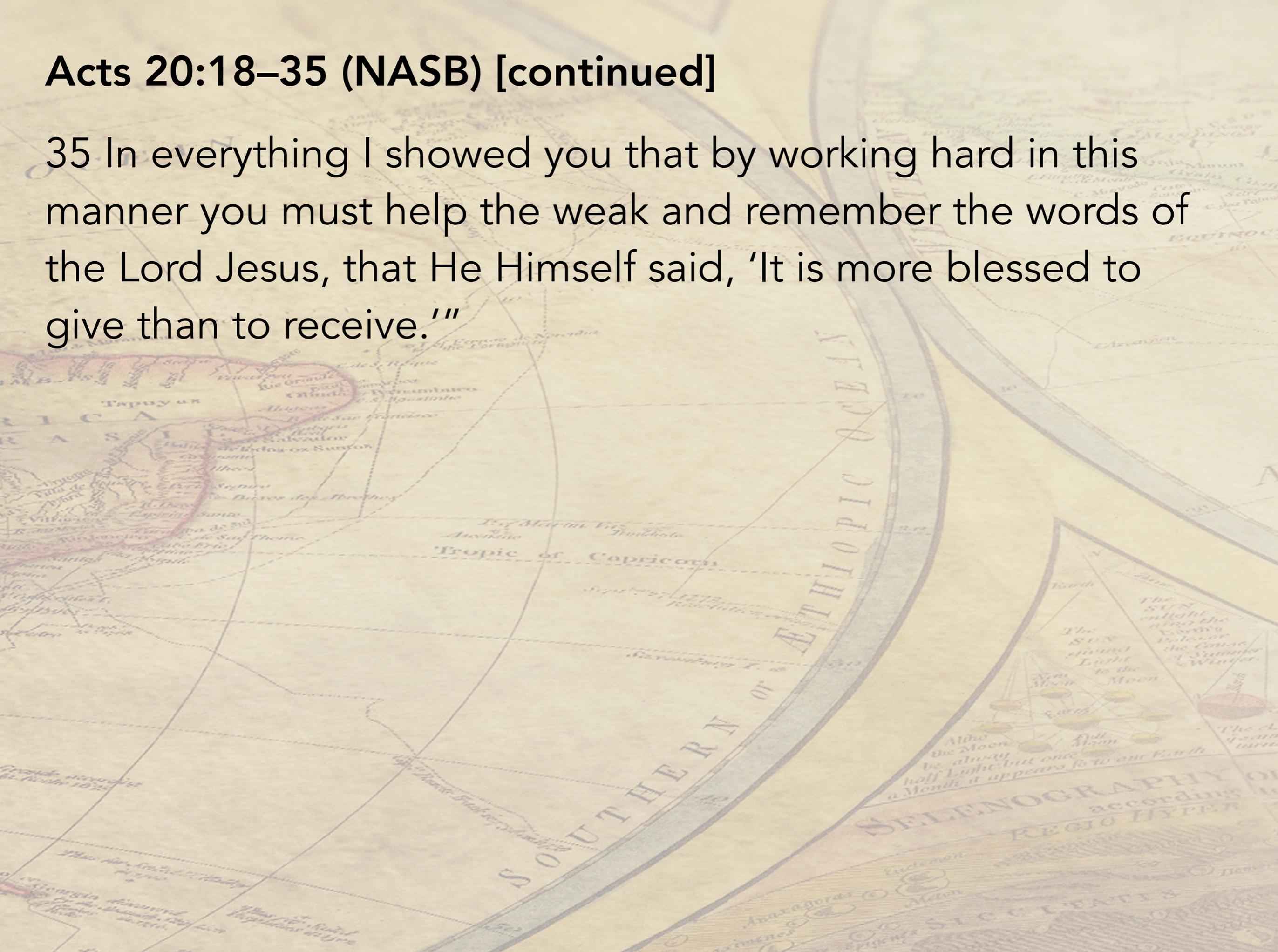
25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:18–35 (NASB) [continued]

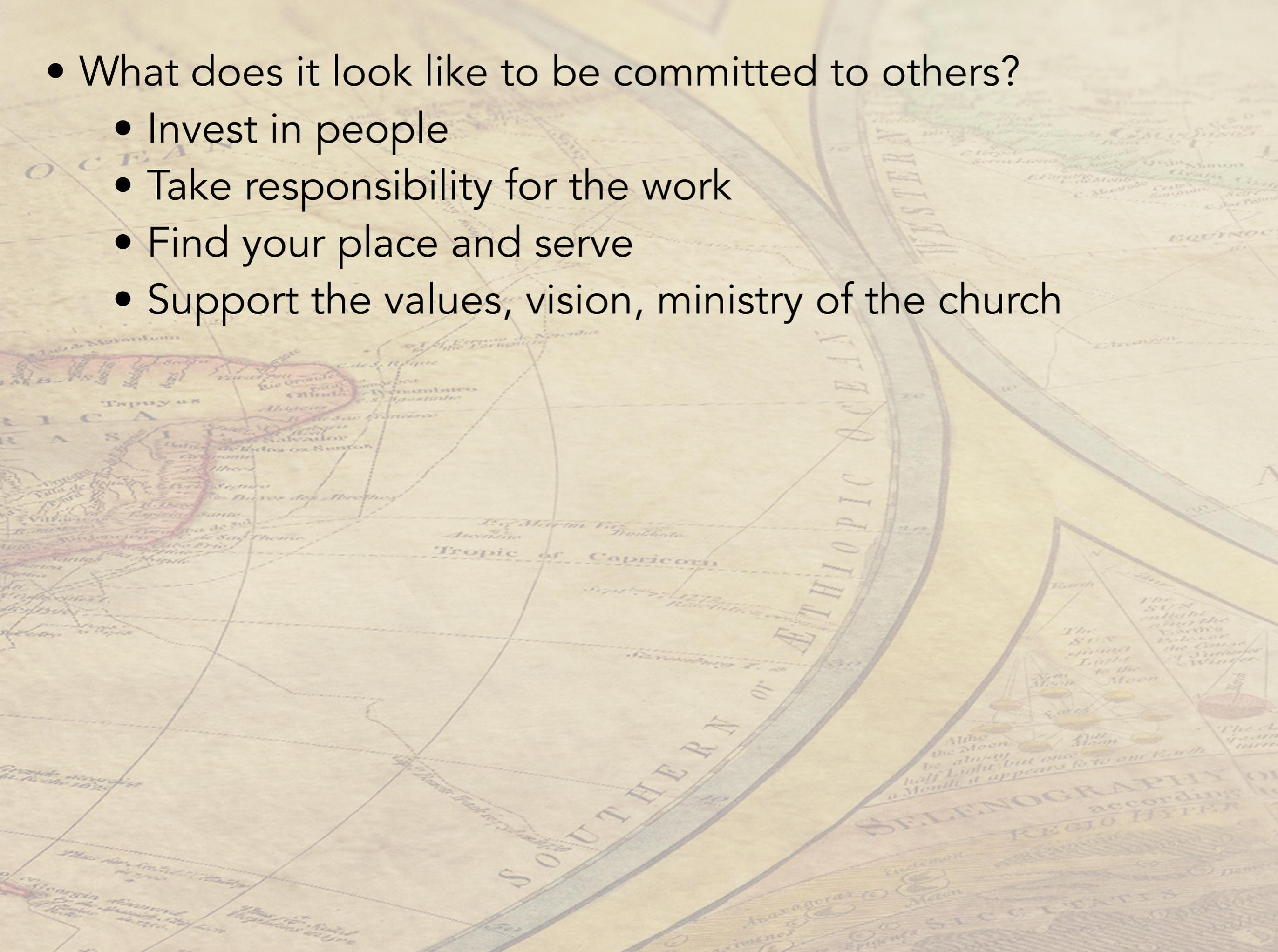
29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me.

Acts 20:18–35 (NASB) [continued]

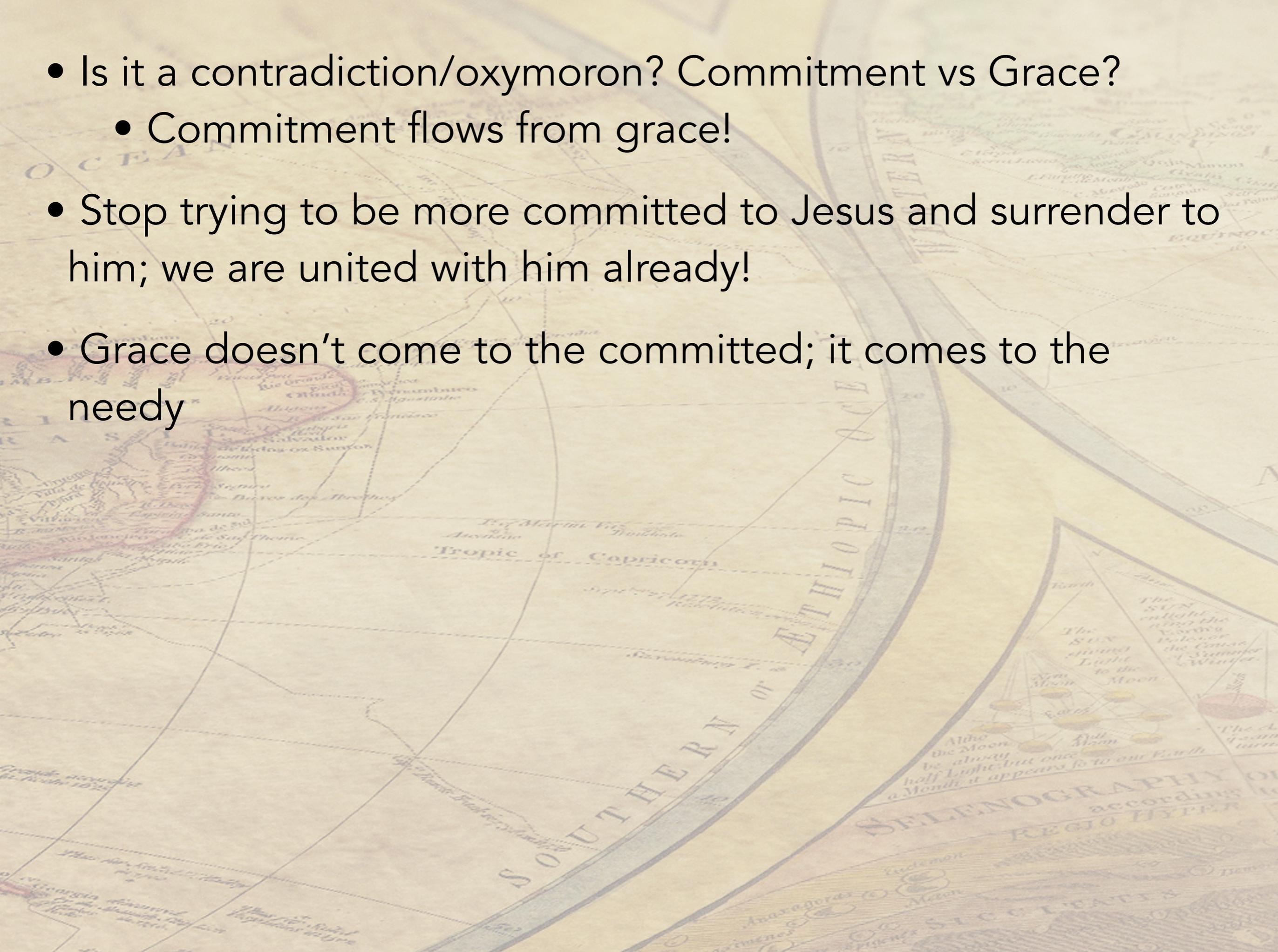
35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



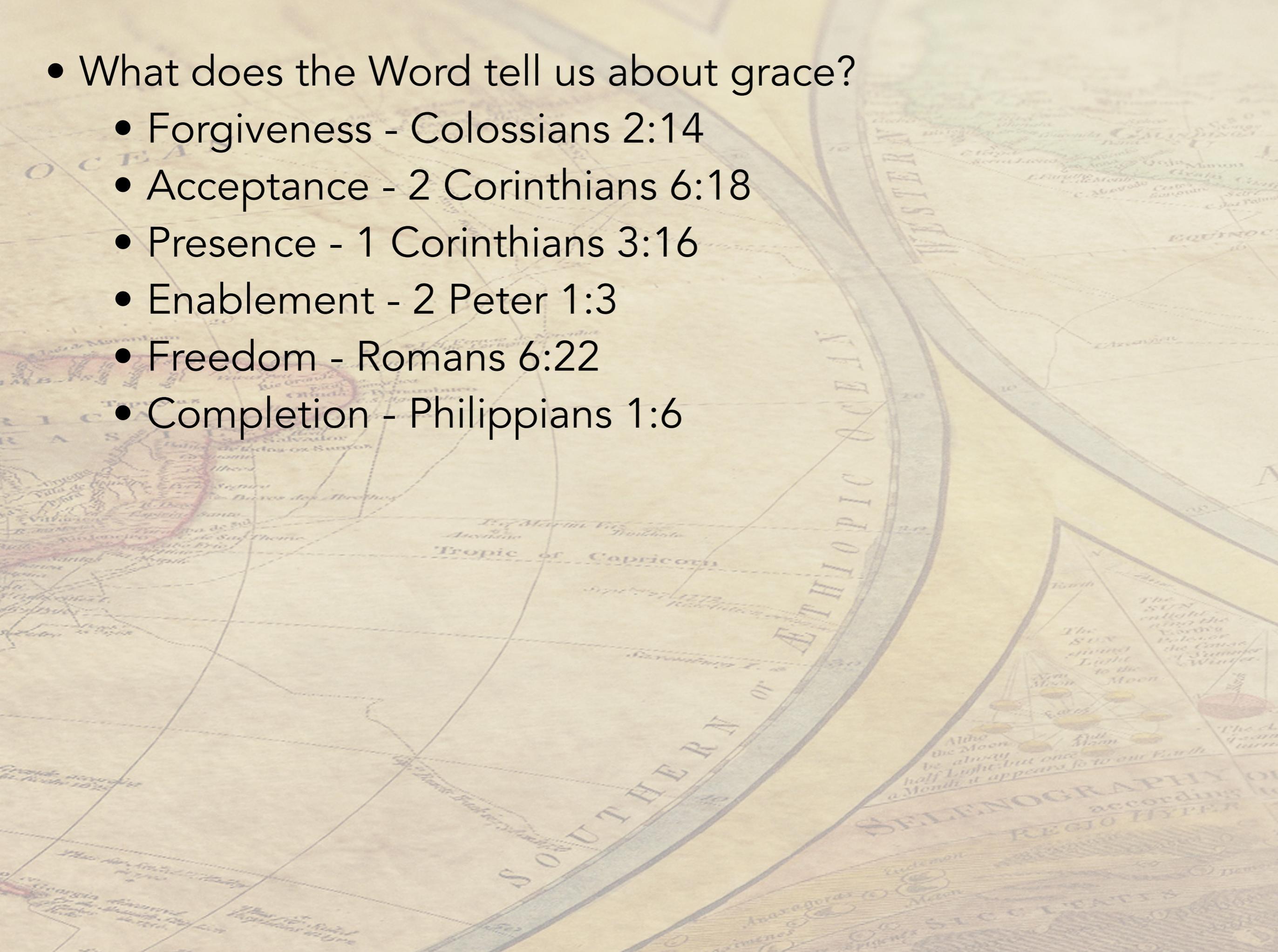
- What does it look like to be committed to others?
 - Invest in people
 - Take responsibility for the work
 - Find your place and serve
 - Support the values, vision, ministry of the church



- Is it a contradiction/oxymoron? Commitment vs Grace?
 - Commitment flows from grace!
- Stop trying to be more committed to Jesus and surrender to him; we are united with him already!
- Grace doesn't come to the committed; it comes to the needy



- What does the Word tell us about grace?
 - Forgiveness - Colossians 2:14
 - Acceptance - 2 Corinthians 6:18
 - Presence - 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - Enablement - 2 Peter 1:3
 - Freedom - Romans 6:22
 - Completion - Philippians 1:6



- For 3 years, what did Paul do?
 - Committed to soaking Gospel-living into those around him
- Can you say v. 35 to anyone?
- God doesn't need any more fans
 - He wants us to be committed to him, to others and to his grace

