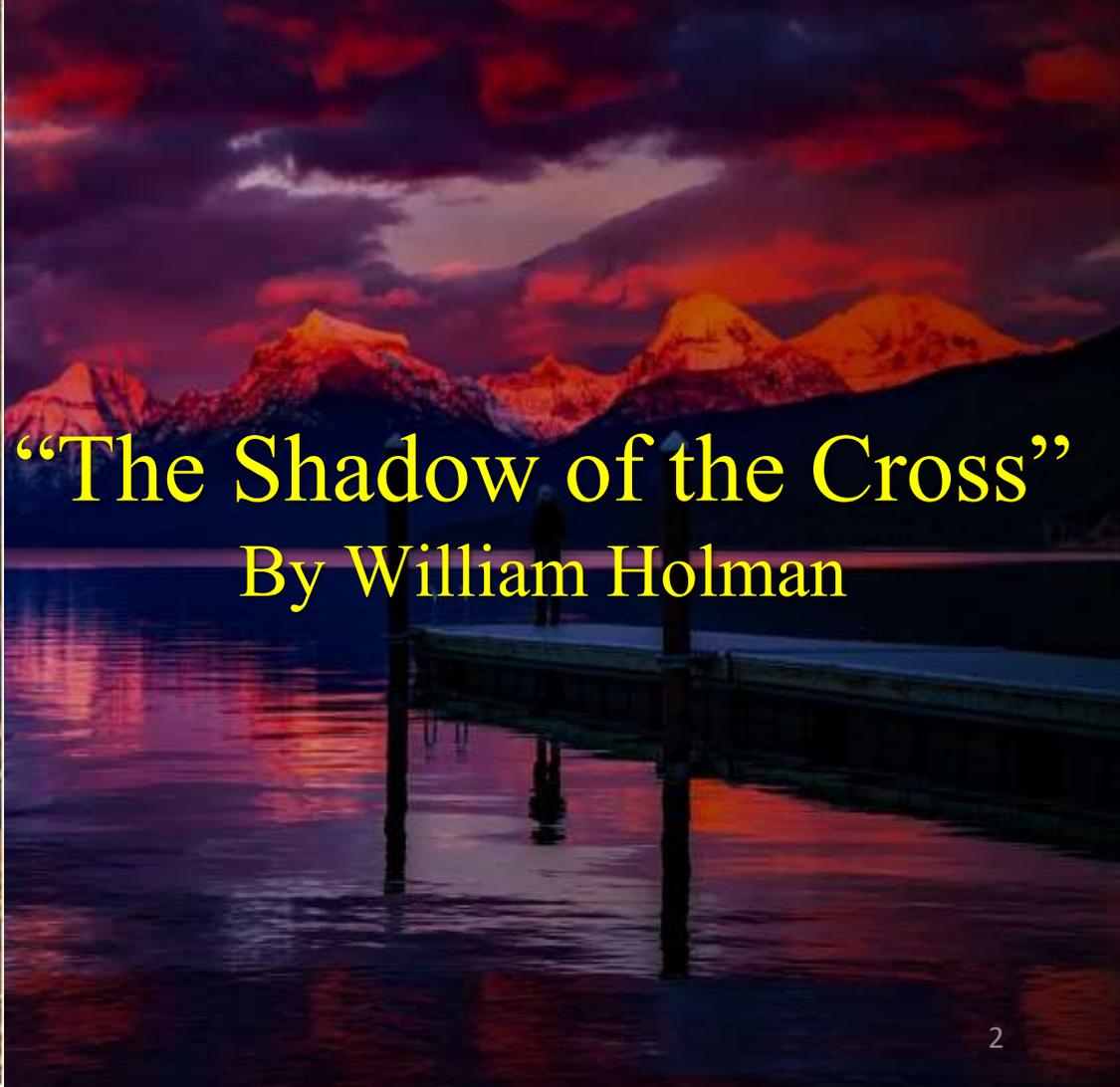
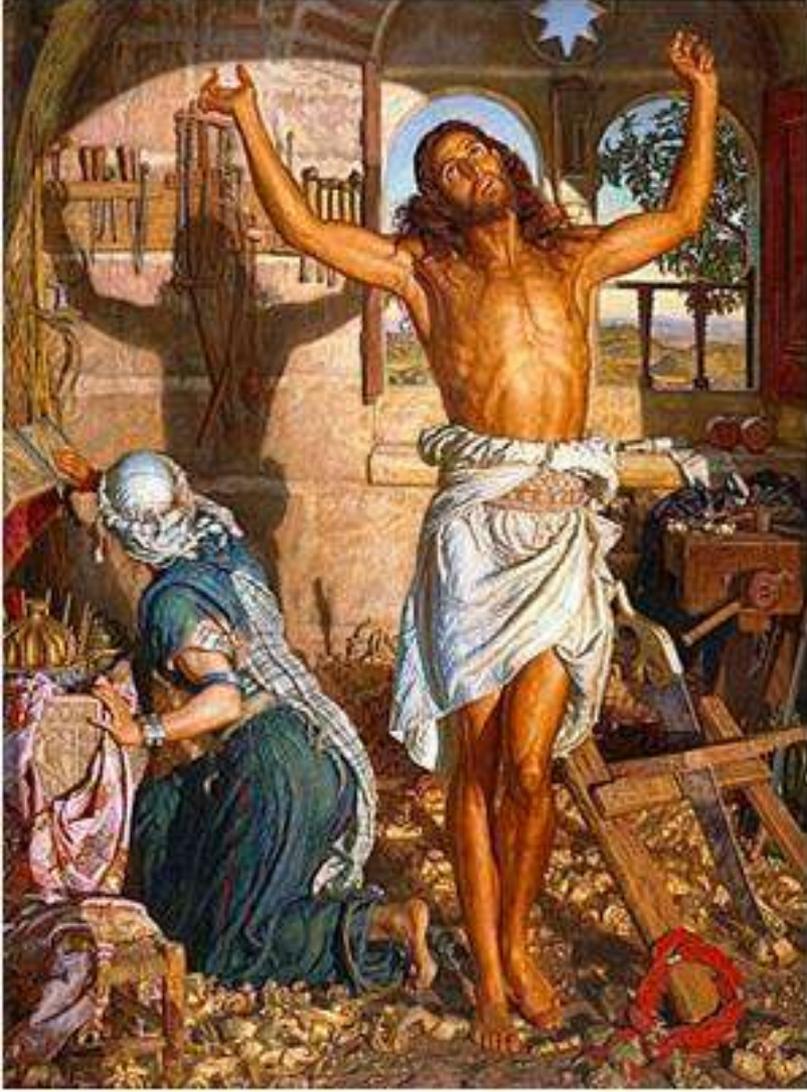




# Seeking the Heart of God

“The Mystery of God’s Love”



**“The Shadow of the Cross”**  
By William Holman

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, several mountain peaks are visible, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The foreground features a calm body of water that reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. A wooden pier or dock extends from the right side of the frame into the water, supported by several dark posts. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The Mystery Of God's Love Is  
Most Profound For Those  
Who Have The Clearest Understanding  
Of Their Sinfulness.

# J. H. Jowett Wrote That If We Listen, We May Hear God Saying:

*"I love thee more ardently than thou hast loved thy sin."*

I know how I have loved my sin. I know how I have clung to it. I know how I have yearned after it. I know what illicit pleasure I have found in it. I know how I have pursued it at any cost. And, now, in the school of Calvary, my Master takes up this, my so strenuous and overwhelming passion for sin, and contrasts it disparagingly with his passion for me: *"I love thee more than thou hast loved thy sin."*

# 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT2)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever!



*“Don't give up;  
don't give up  
on me.”*

“Awakenings”



God Will Not Give Up On You!

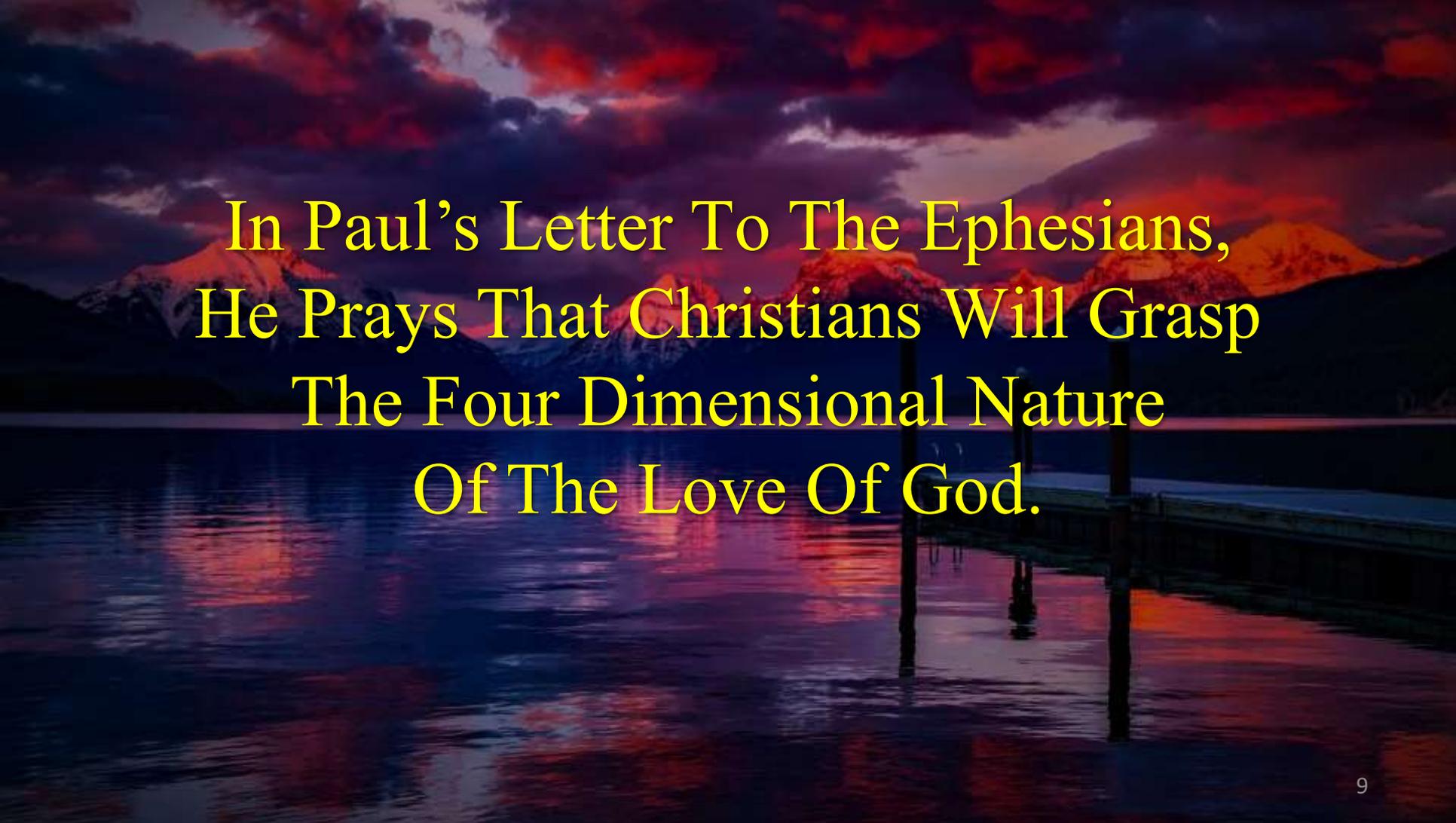
This Is A Huge Part Of The Good News!

*For the LORD will not reject his people; he  
will never forsake his inheritance.*

– Psalm 94:14

# Because Of Love, God Came To Die.

- *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. – 1 John 4:9 (NIV)*
- *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. – 1 John 3:16 (NIV)*

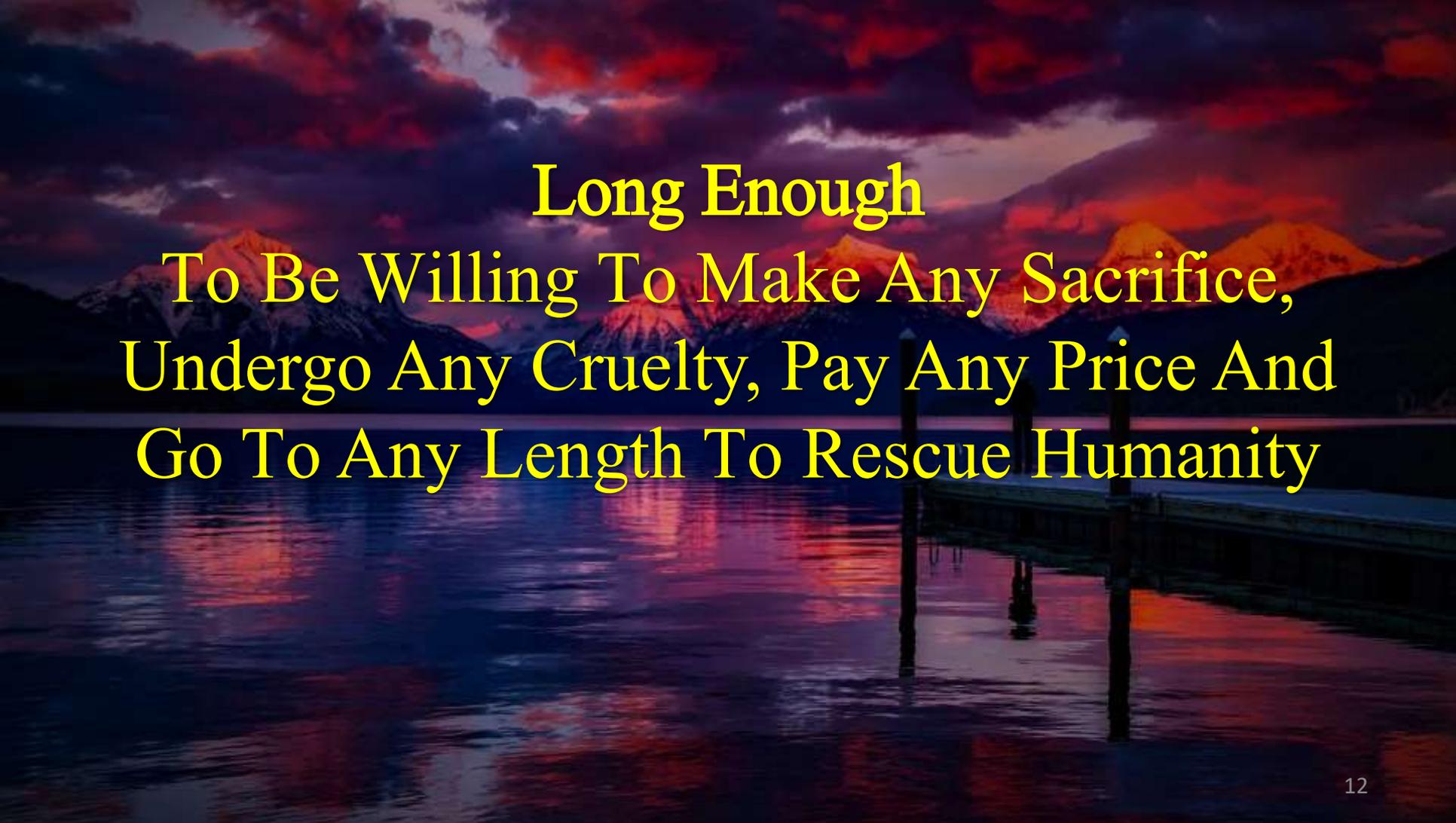
A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with some peaks appearing to have a light dusting of snow. The foreground features a calm body of water that reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

In Paul's Letter To The Ephesians,  
He Prays That Christians Will Grasp  
The Four Dimensional Nature  
Of The Love Of God.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:16-19*



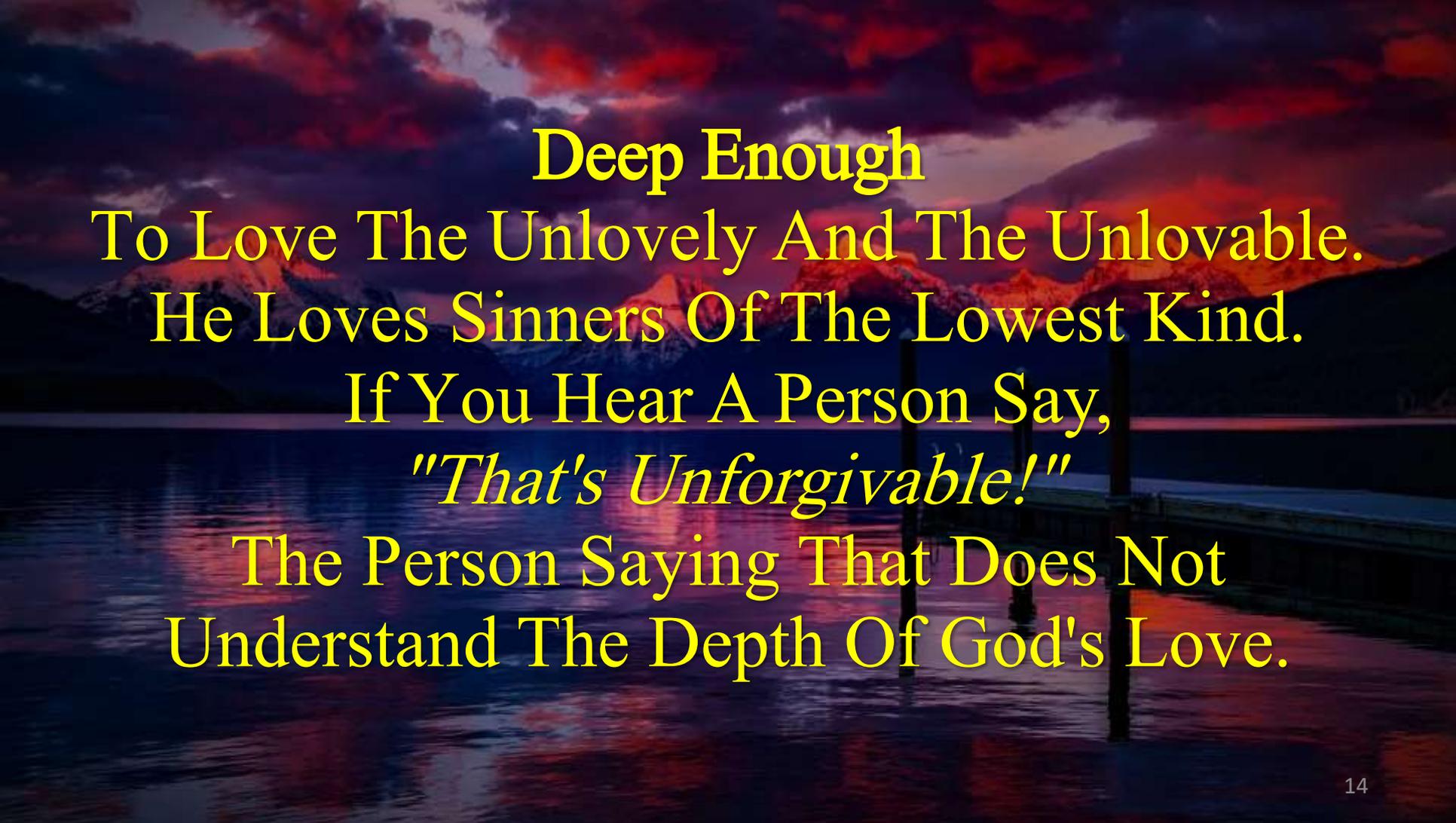
**Wide Enough  
To Embrace All Humanity.  
Red And Yellow, Black And White, They  
Are Precious In His Site...**



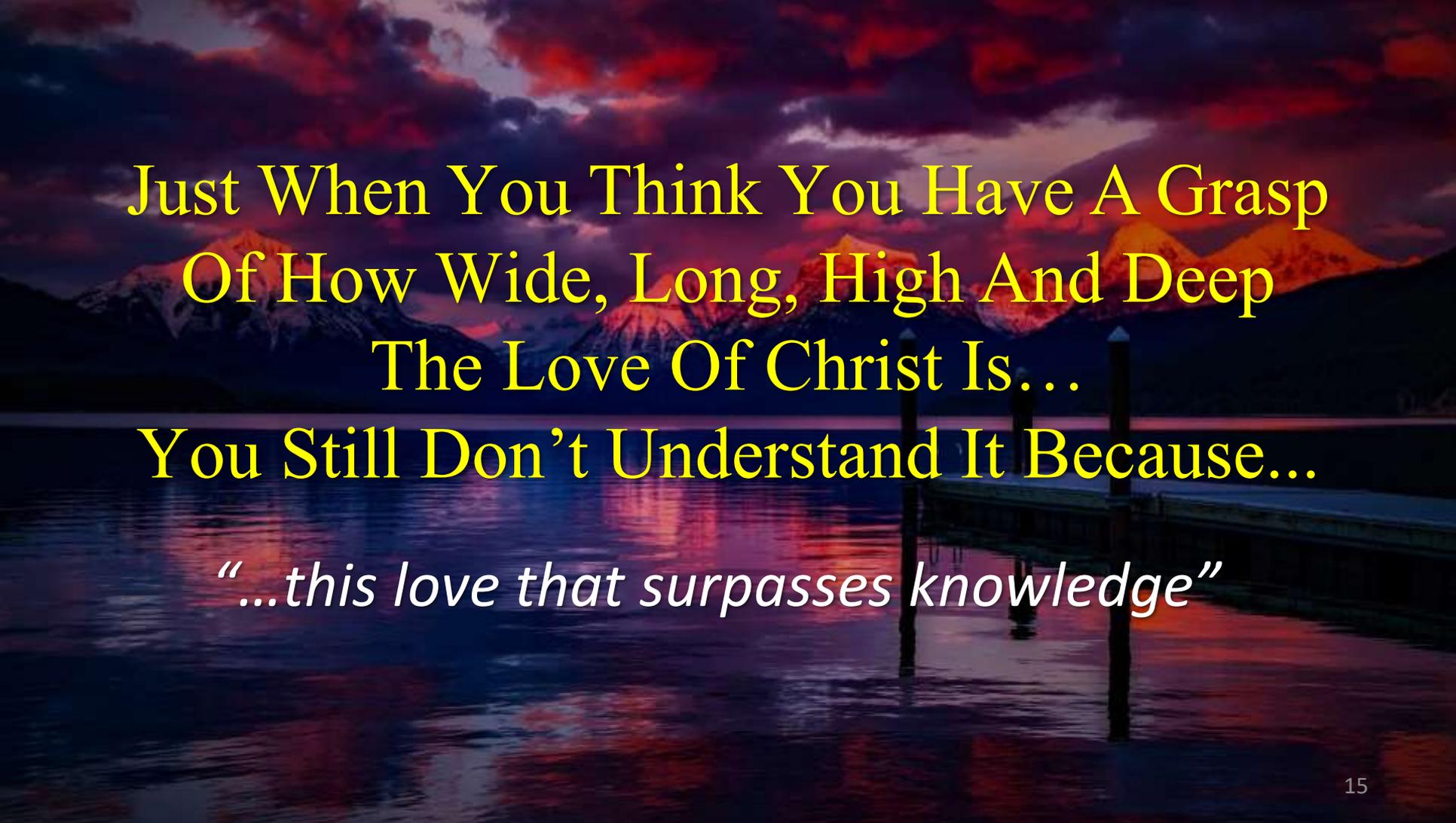
**Long Enough**  
To Be Willing To Make Any Sacrifice,  
Undergo Any Cruelty, Pay Any Price And  
Go To Any Length To Rescue Humanity



**High Enough**  
To Call Us To A Higher Plane Of Living  
And Through The Holy Spirit,  
He Empowers That Kind Of Life.  
God Wants Us To Love Others Enough To  
Call Them To A Higher Plane Of Living.



**Deep Enough**  
To Love The Unlovely And The Unlovable.  
He Loves Sinners Of The Lowest Kind.  
If You Hear A Person Say,  
*"That's Unforgivable!"*  
The Person Saying That Does Not  
Understand The Depth Of God's Love.



Just When You Think You Have A Grasp  
Of How Wide, Long, High And Deep  
The Love Of Christ Is...  
You Still Don't Understand It Because...

*"...this love that surpasses knowledge"*

# God's Love Will Not Let Go

- Do you get tired of the struggle, of swimming against the current, of always feeling like an outsider in the workplace, of denying your natural desires?
- Have you ever wanted, even for just a short time, to let go and drift with the current, give in to the hurt and just let go?
- God never gets tired. He will never let go!
- I love Psalm 121 for this very reason.

## Psalm 121:1-8 (NIV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills--where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip--he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you--the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm -- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

# That Love Changes Everything

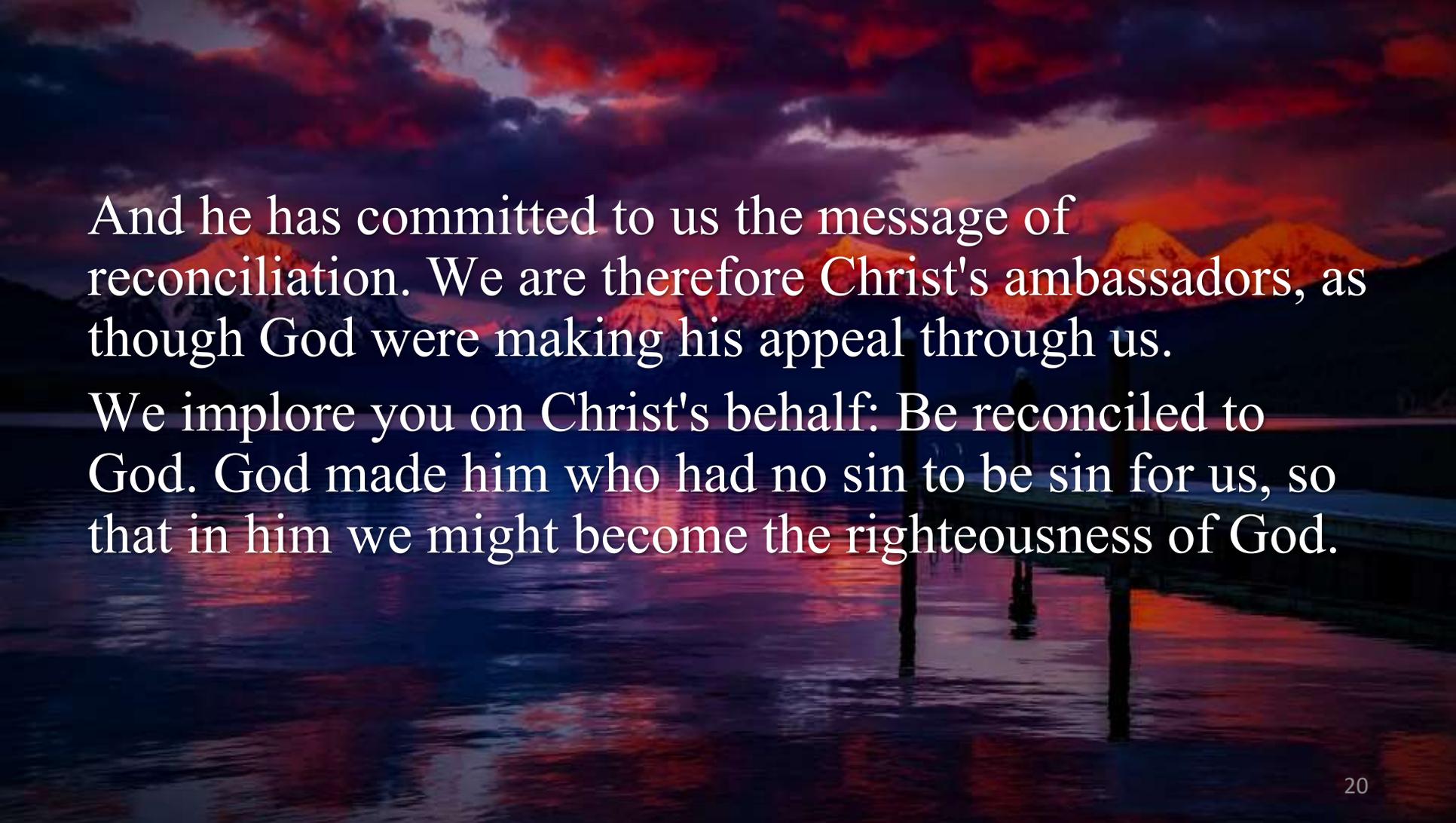
## 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again.

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.



And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Because Of The Love Of God...

- Christ died to pay the spiritual death penalty for every sin was paid in full. By His death, we all died.
- Christ died so we could live, but not for ourselves. Just as he died for others, we are to live for others.
- We have new priorities, new allegiances and a new dedication to Christ and his priorities.
- We have a new and noble responsibility as ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors for Christ.

# This Morning, God Is Making His Appeal Through Me!

- (I) *“implore you on Christ's behalf:”*
- *“Be reconciled to God.”*  
(re – council – “to be back on speaking terms”)
- *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for (you), so that in him (you) might become the righteousness of God.”*
- Are you ready to take on the righteousness of God?  
He will give you everything you need.