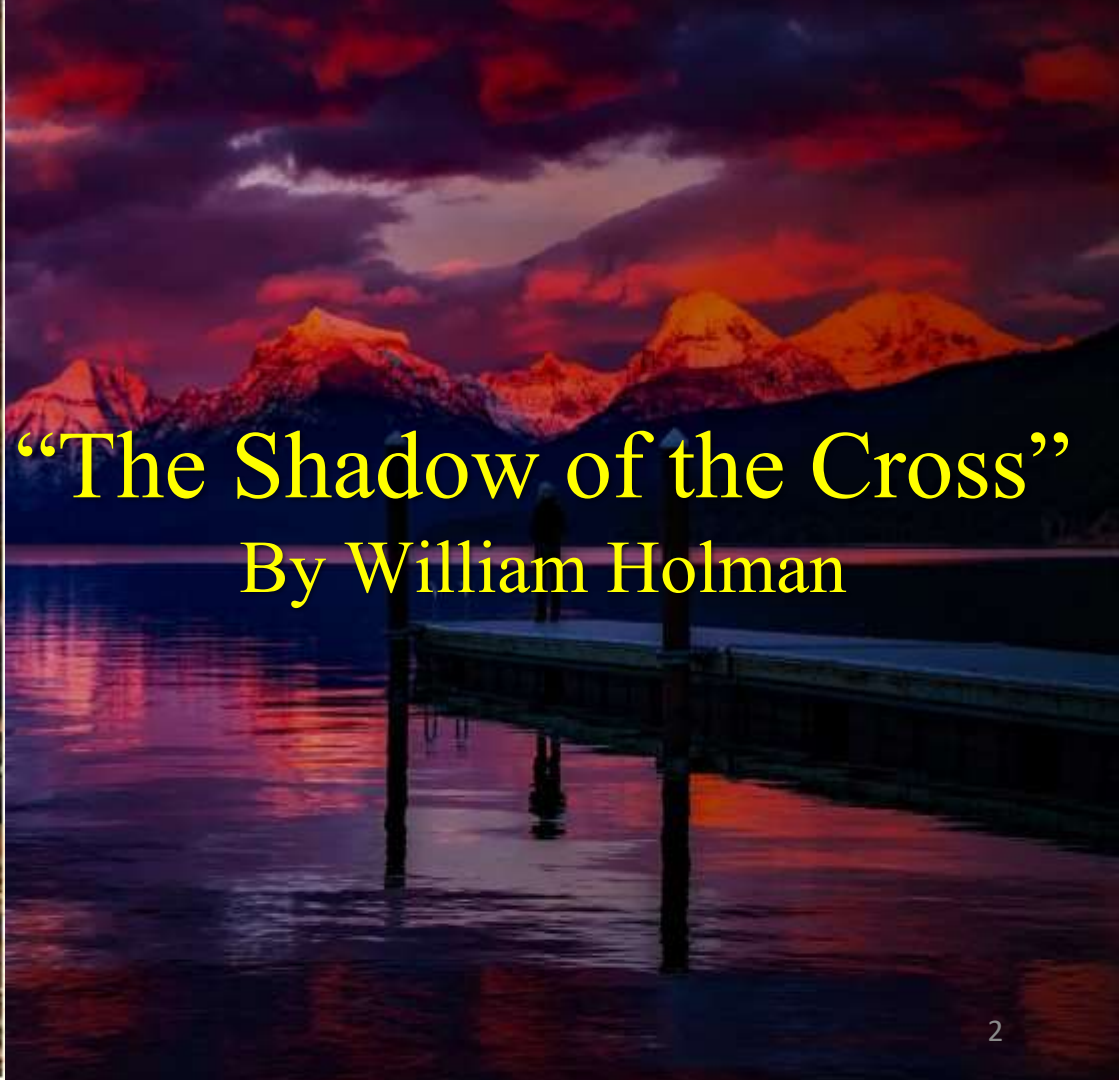




Seeking the Heart of God

“The Mystery of God’s Love”



“The Shadow of the Cross”

By William Holman

The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the vibrant colors of the sky. A wooden pier with several posts extends from the right side into the water. In the middle ground, a small figure of a person stands on the pier, looking out towards the mountains. The background features a range of mountains with significant snow cover, their peaks partially hidden by low-hanging clouds. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a palette of deep reds, oranges, and purples. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

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!



“Awakenings”

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



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.*

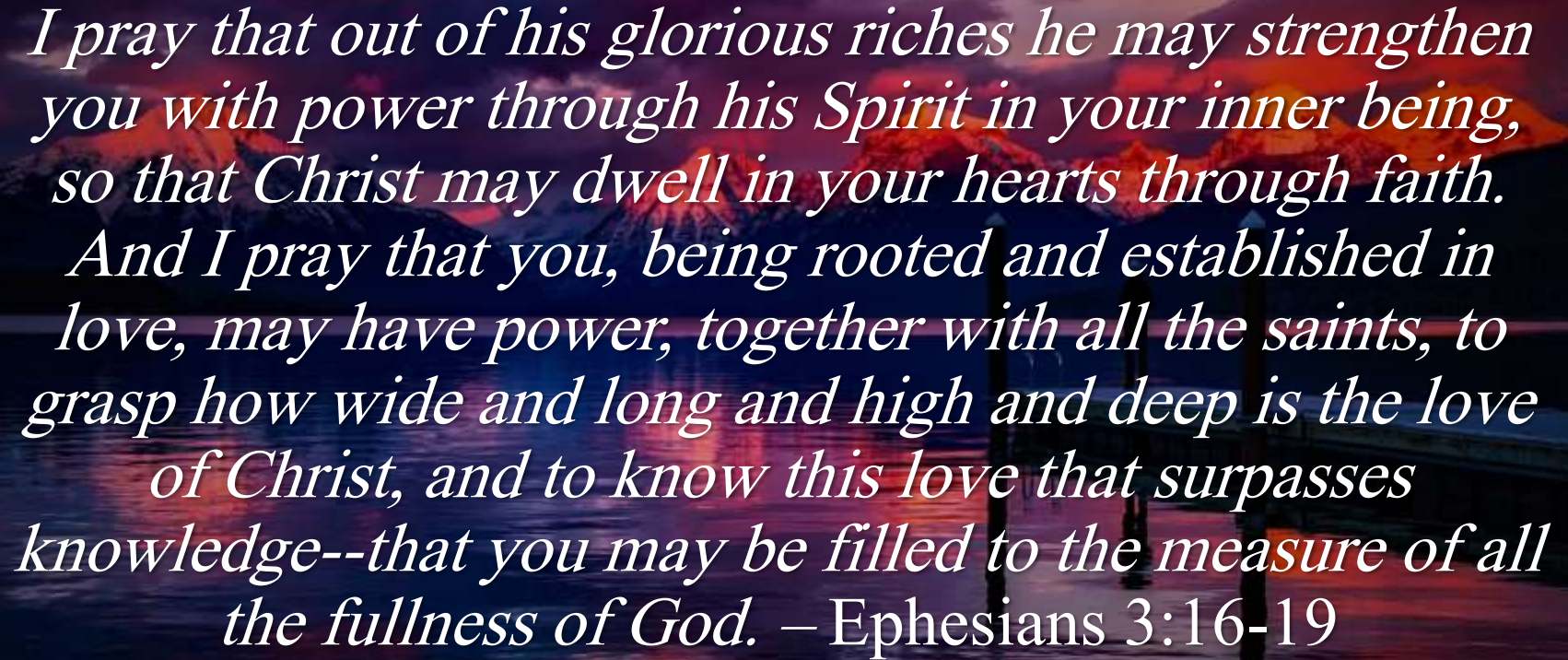
– Psalm 94:14

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)*

The background image is a scenic landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds that are illuminated from below by a low sun, creating a vibrant palette of deep reds, oranges, and purples. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks partially shrouded in mist or low clouds. The foreground consists of a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. On the right side of the frame, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. The overall mood is serene yet powerful, with the dramatic lighting emphasizing the spiritual theme of the text.

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

The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a wooden pier with several vertical posts extends from the right side into a body of water. The water is dark blue and reflects the colors of the sky and mountains. In the middle ground, there are several snow-capped mountains. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by a low sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

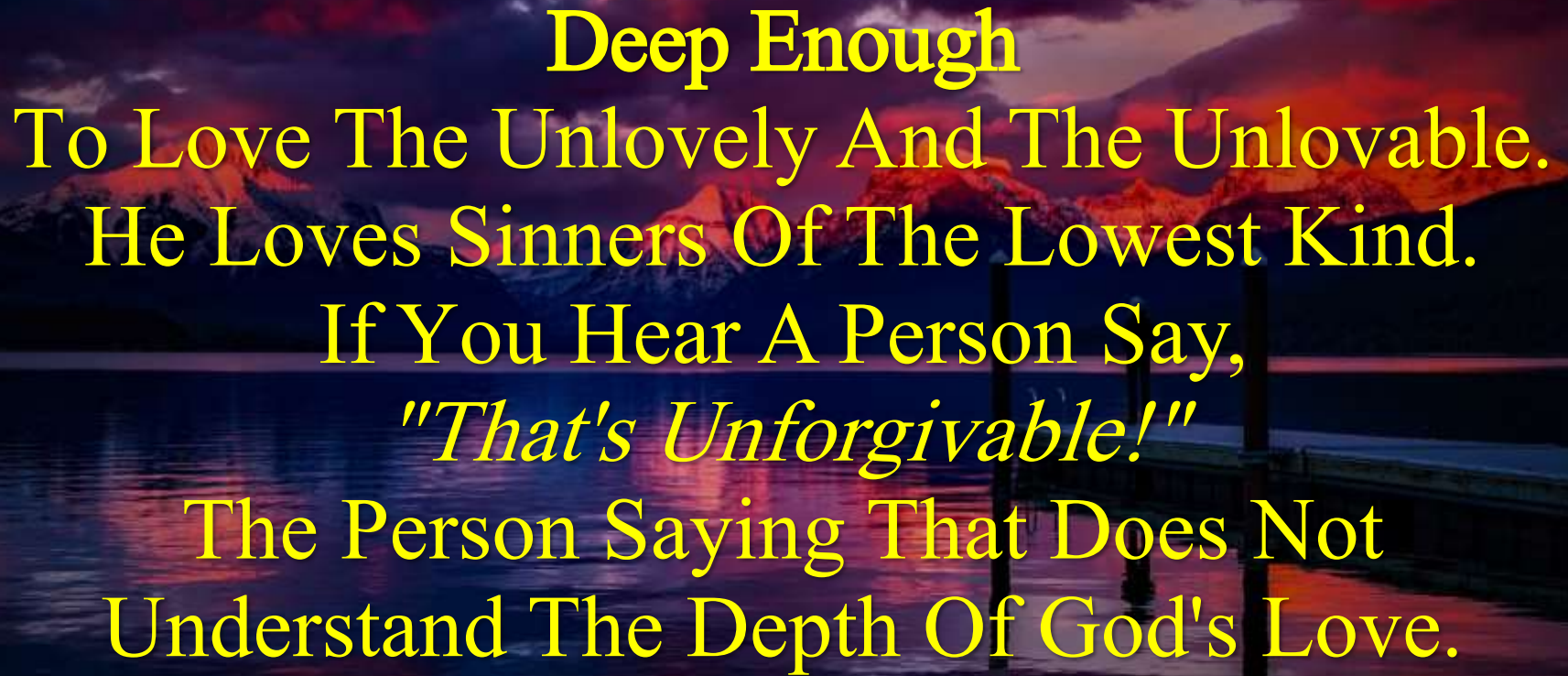
Wide Enough
To Embrace All Humanity.
Red And Yellow, Black And White, They
Are Precious In His Site...



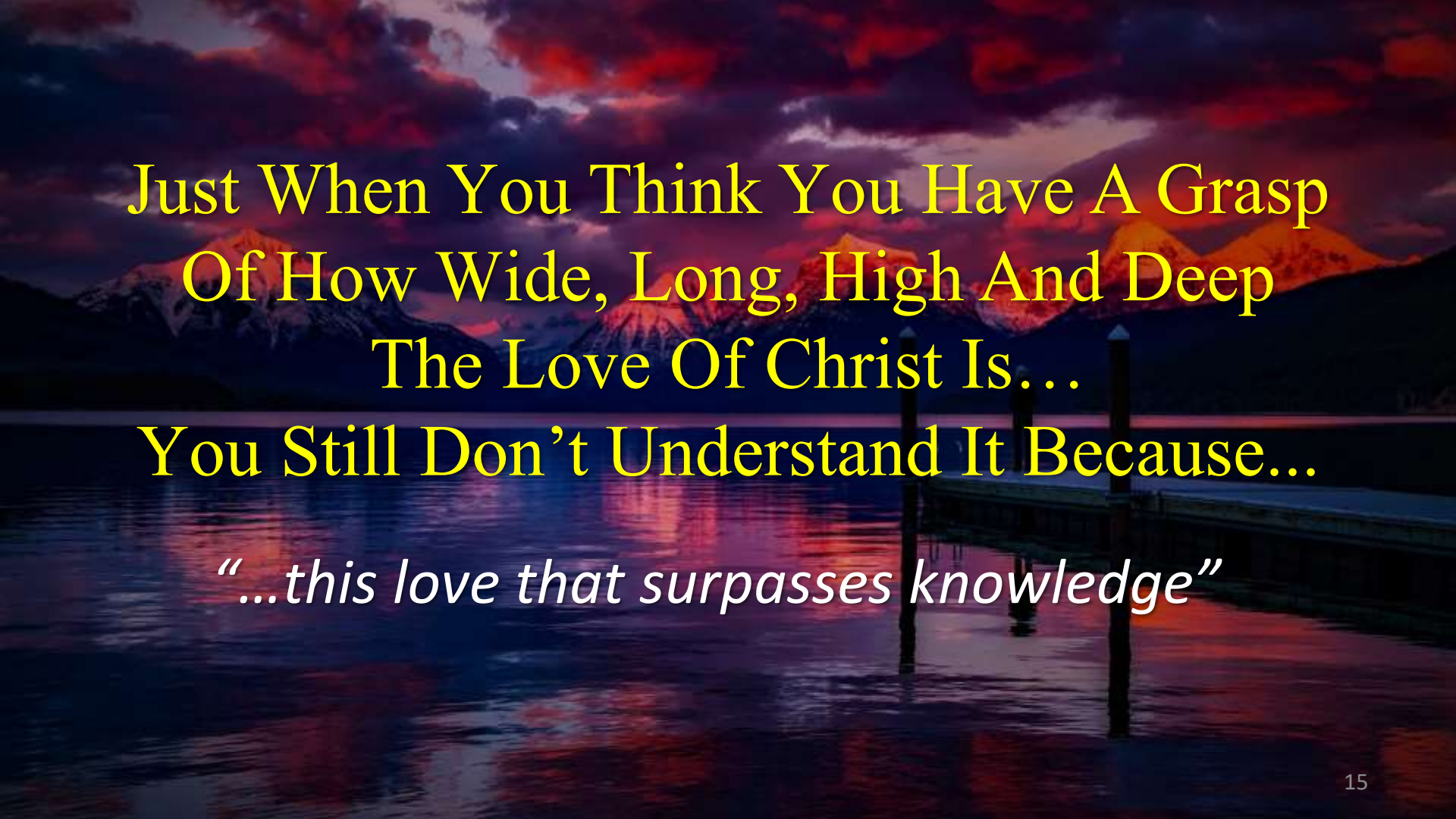
Long Enough
To Be Willing To Make Any Sacrifice,
Undergo Any Cruelty, Pay Any Price And
Go To Any Length To Rescue Humanity



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

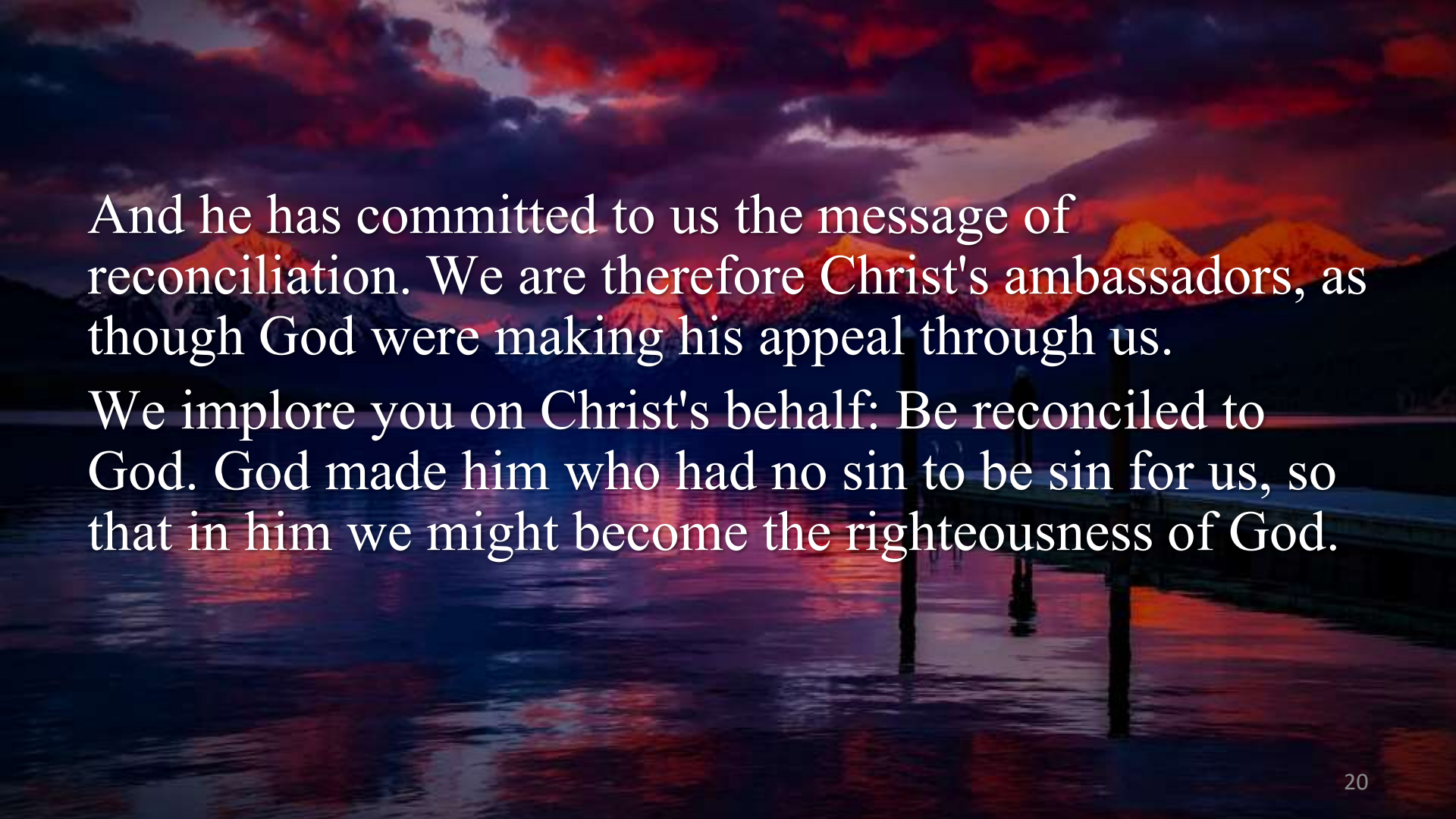
2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

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.