

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds that are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant palette of orange, pink, and purple. The sun is not directly visible but its light creates a bright glow in the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark blue and reflects the colors of the sky. In the background, a dark silhouette of a forested shoreline is visible against the bright sky. The text 'Curing The Disease Within' is written in a large, yellow, serif font, centered over the image. The text is slightly tilted upwards to the right.

Curing The Disease Within

When The Pandemic Was Threatening...

- We began meeting virtually.
- We established gathering protocols
- We required Masks
- We suspended Classes
- We rearranged the chairs to keep proper distances.
- We began using sanitary individualized cups/bread

We did all this because we did not want a disease to infect our membership or others.

A sunset over a lake with a forested shoreline. The sky is filled with large, colorful clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The shoreline is dark with silhouettes of trees.

There Is Another More Deadly, Disease,
A Spiritual One,
That Should Get Our Attention.

Jesus Said:

Matthew 10:28 (NIV)

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ultimately, Spiritual Diseases Are
More Deadly Than Physical Ones.

What Is The Disease We Should Fear?

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer called the disease “cheap grace.”
- A. W. Tozer called it “notable heresy.”
- Dallas Willard has diagnosed the sickness with multiple terms, “Nondiscipleship Christianity,” and a “Barcode” faith, which tends to produce what he calls a “vampire Christian.”
- They are “consumers” not participants in the mission of God.

Jesus Said:

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We Have Gotten Distracted

- The mission is to make disciples but we've settled for making good church members; there's a difference.
- We often define good church members as those who:
 - Attend regularly
 - Serve in some capacity
 - Give consistently and sacrificially
 - And the really committed ones lead in some way

Disciples Are All For Those Things.

- But, they will flow out of being followers of Jesus.
- Disciples are those who:
 - Arrange their life to be with Jesus.
 - Intentionally pursue the character of Jesus.
 - Increasingly love what Jesus loves.
 - Are committed to the mission of God because of their devotion to Jesus.

Spiritual Leaders Are Focused On...

- Helping people order their everyday lives around a relationship with Jesus.
- Guiding toward being transformed from the inside out.
- How our programs and events are making transformation possible.
- Equipping people to live as disciples, who make disciples.

A sunset over a lake with a forested shoreline. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple, transitioning to a deep blue at the top. The water in the foreground is dark blue, reflecting the colors of the sky. The shoreline in the background is a dark silhouette of trees and bushes.

Discipleship Is Not Optional.

The Gospel Is Not Just About Forgiveness.

It Is About Following Jesus.

A serene sunset scene over a calm lake. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds in shades of deep blue, purple, and vibrant orange. The sun is partially obscured by a cloud on the right side, creating a soft glow. The water in the foreground is dark blue, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the background, a dark silhouette of a forested shoreline is visible against the bright sky.

Jesus Said:

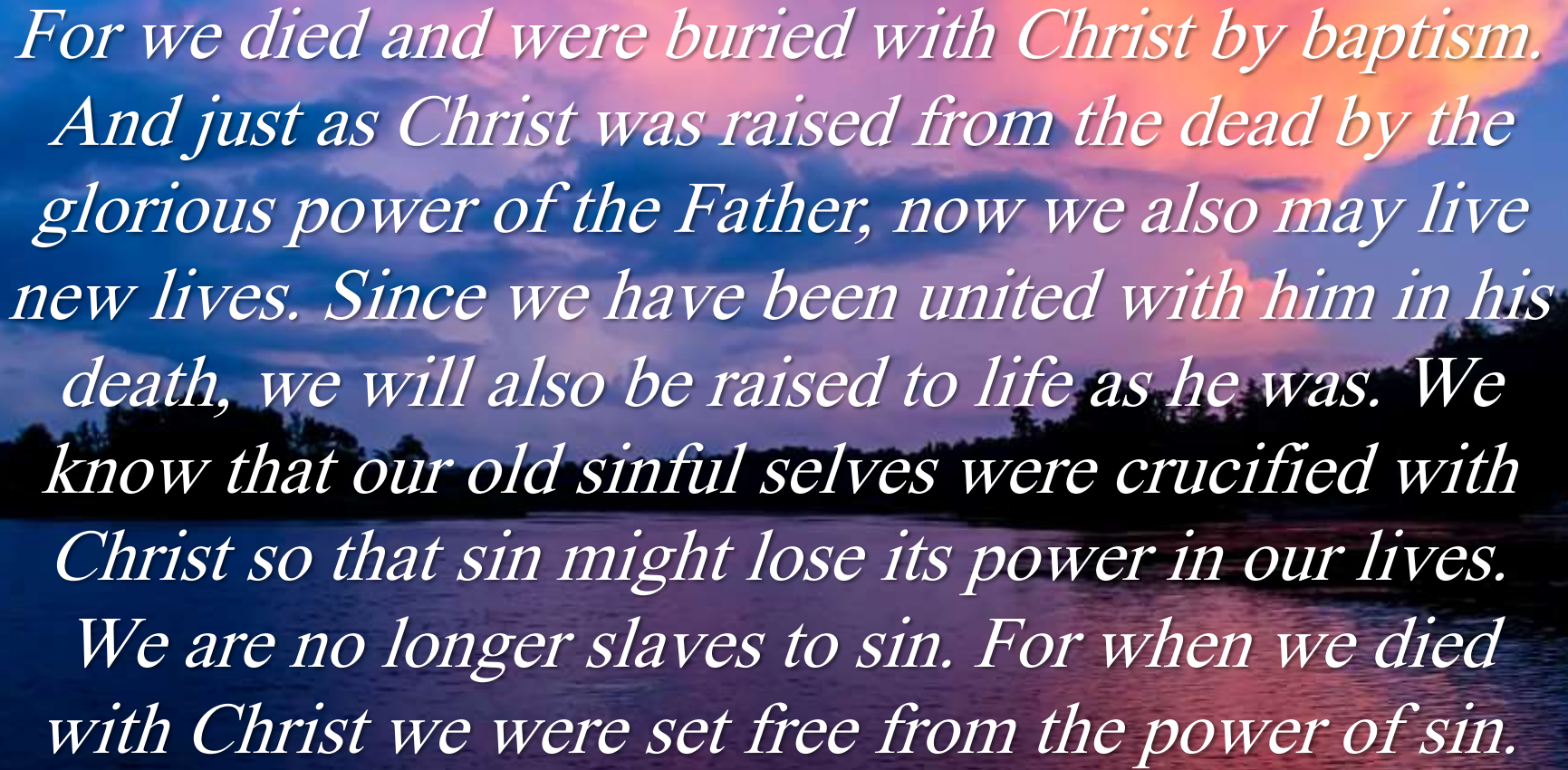
John 14:15 (NLT2)

“If you love me, obey my commandments.”

Paul Wrote:

Romans 6:1-7 (NLT2)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

A sunset over a body of water with trees in the background. The sky is filled with vibrant colors of orange, red, and purple, transitioning into a deep blue. The water reflects these colors, and the silhouettes of trees are visible along the horizon.

*For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism.
And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the
glorious power of the Father, now we also may live
new lives. Since we have been united with him in his
death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We
know that our old sinful selves were crucified with
Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives.
We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died
with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.*

James Wrote:

James 2:17-18 (NLT2)

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

A sunset over a lake with a forested shoreline. The sky is filled with large, colorful clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The shoreline is dark, with silhouettes of trees and bushes.

We Have Been Saved By
“grace through faith.”

A sunset over a lake with a forested shoreline. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, pink, and blue clouds. The water in the foreground reflects the colors of the sky. The shoreline is dark with silhouettes of trees.

We Have Been Saved To
*“to do good works which God prepared
in advance for us to do.”*

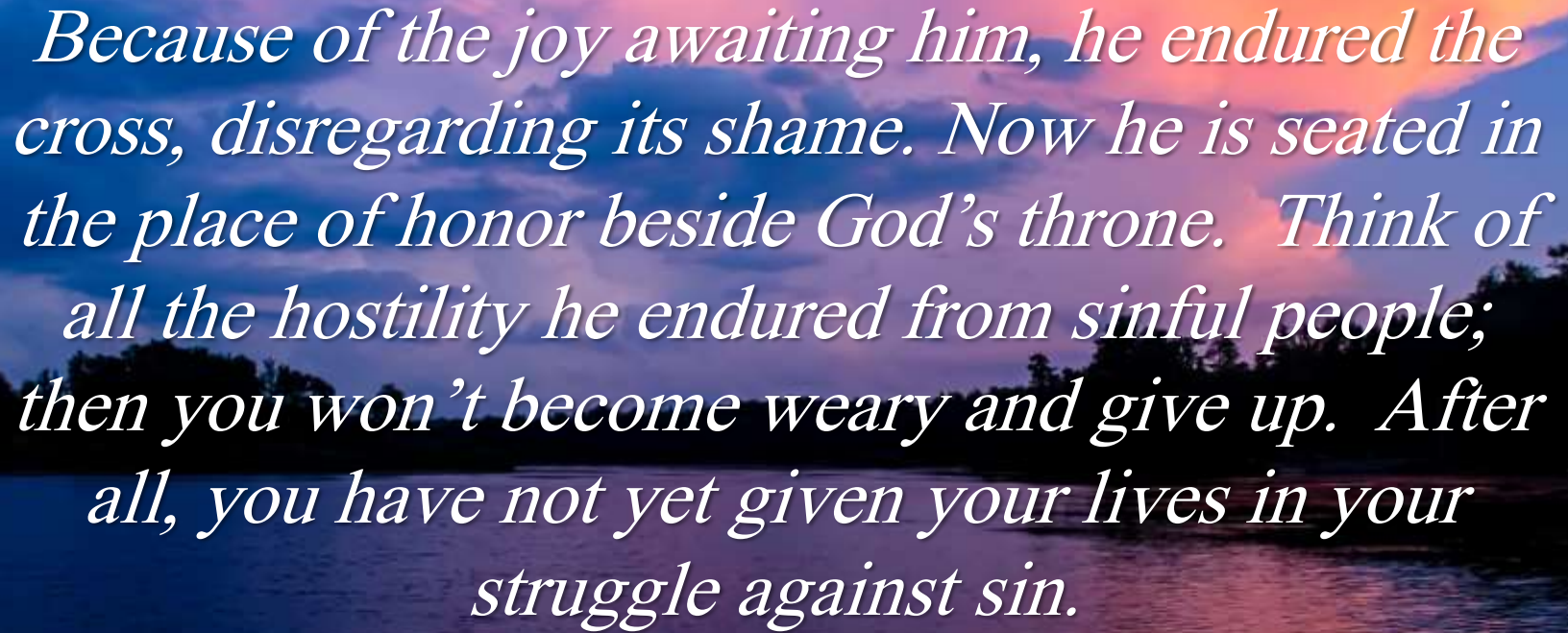
A sunset over a lake with trees in the background. The sky is filled with large, colorful clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The water in the foreground is dark blue, reflecting the colors of the sky. The trees on the far shore are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Faith, Repentance, Confession, Baptism,
Forgiveness And The Gift Of The Holy
Spirit Are Not The Finish Line.

They Are The Starter's Pistol.

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NLT2)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.


A sunset over a body of water with trees in the background. The sky is filled with vibrant colors of orange, pink, and purple, transitioning into a deep blue. The water in the foreground reflects these colors, creating a shimmering effect. The trees along the horizon are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.



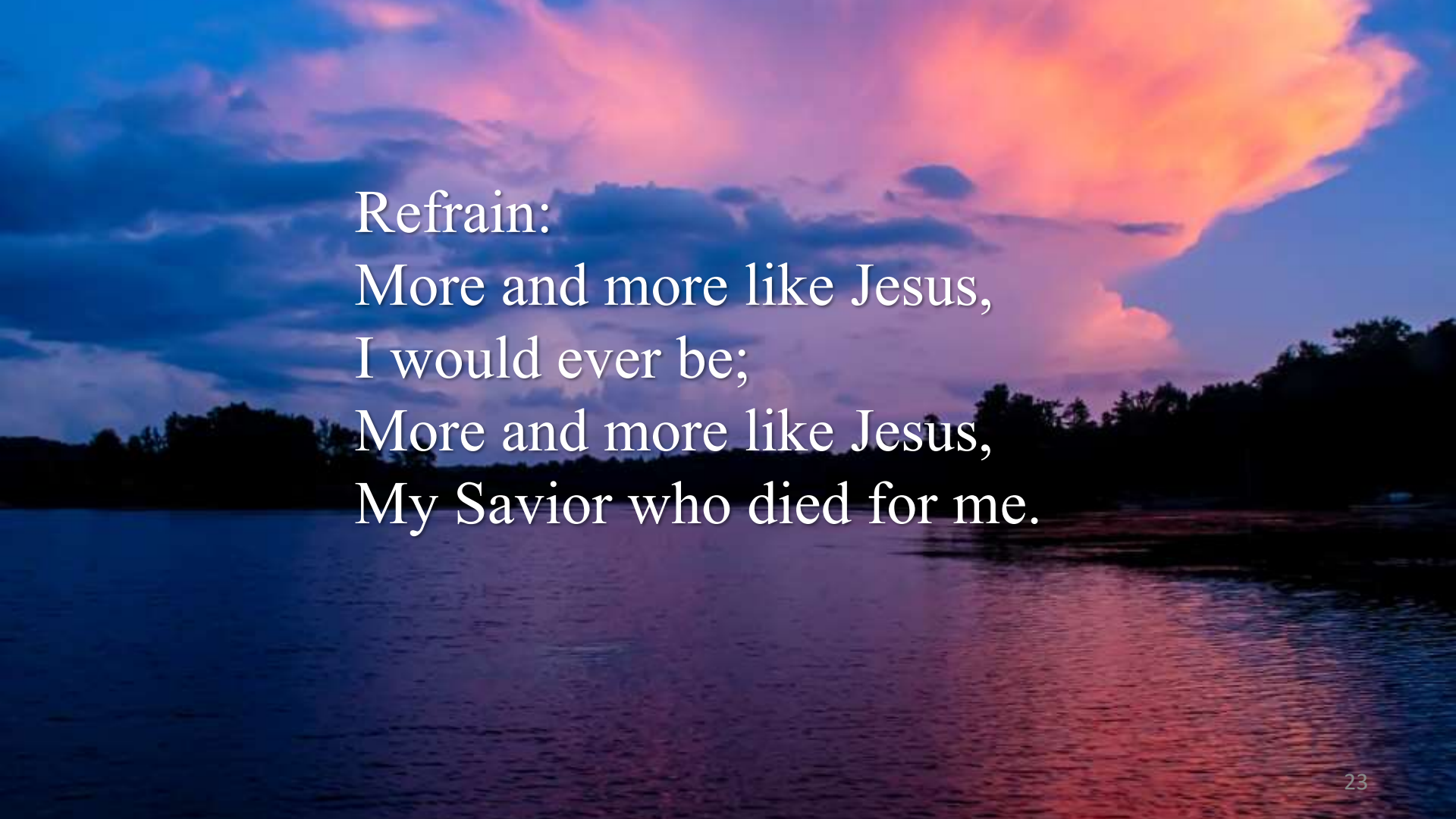
More Like Jesus

1. I want to be more like Jesus,
And follow Him day by day;
I want to be true and faithful,
And every command obey.
2. I want to be kind and gentle,
To those who are in distress;
To comfort the brokenhearted,
With sweet words of tenderness.



3. I want to be meek and lowly,
Like Jesus, our Friend and King;
I want to be strong and earnest,
And souls to the Savior bring.

4. I want to be pure and holy,
As pure as the crystal snow;
I want to love Jesus dearly,
For Jesus loves me, I know.

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds in shades of deep blue, purple, and vibrant orange. The sun is partially obscured by a large cloud on the right side, creating a soft, glowing light. The water in the foreground is dark blue, with the colors of the sunset reflected on its surface. In the background, a dark silhouette of a forested shoreline is visible against the bright sky.

Refrain:
More and more like Jesus,
I would ever be;
More and more like Jesus,
My Savior who died for me.