

WITNESSES

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Illustrating the Missionary Journeys and Last Voyage
OF THE
APOSTLE PAUL.

Scales.
English Miles
0 50 100 150 200
Roman Miles
0 50 100 125 200

SYRTIS MAJOR
GULF OF SIDRA

ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

1. Antioch to Herbe, Herbe to Antioch
2. Antioch to Corinth, Corinth to Antioch
3. Antioch to Ephesus, Ephesus to Corinth and back
4. Ephesus to Corinth, Corinth to Jerusalem
5. Jerusalem to Rome

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

— Acts 15:1-35 —

MAP
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ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

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But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

— vs 1

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1. Antioch to Herbe, Herbe to Antioch
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I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

– Galatians 1:6-9

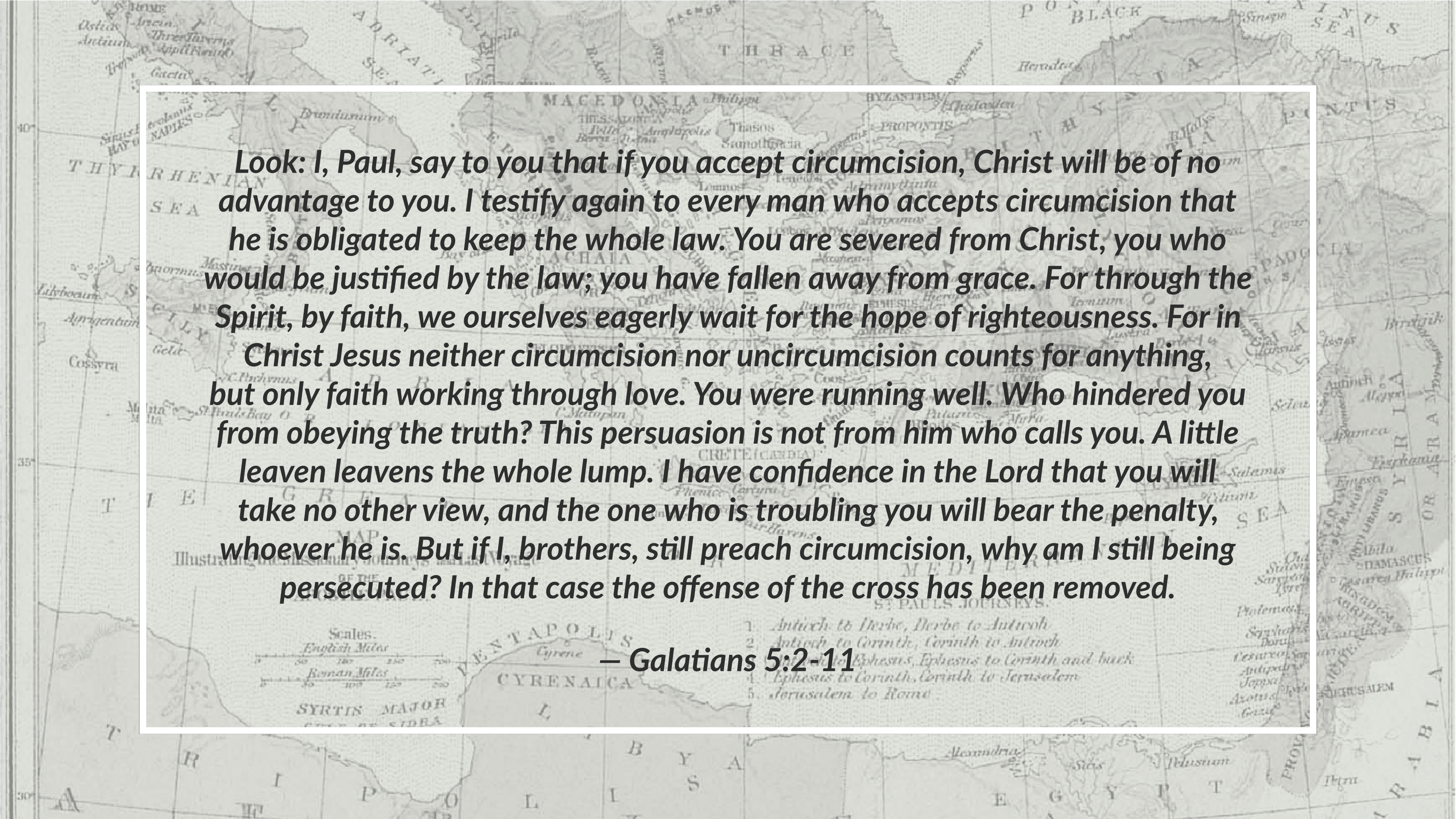
MAP
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SYRTIS MAJOR
GULF OF SIDRA

ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

1. Antioch to Derbe, Derbe to Antioch
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Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

— Galatians 5:2-11

And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

— vs 2

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1. Antioch to Herbe, Herbe to Antioch
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So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

— vs 3

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ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

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When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

— vv 4-5

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SYRTIS MAJOR
COAST OF SIDRA

ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

1. Antioch to Derbe, Derbe to Antioch
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**The apostles and the elders were
gathered together to consider this matter.**

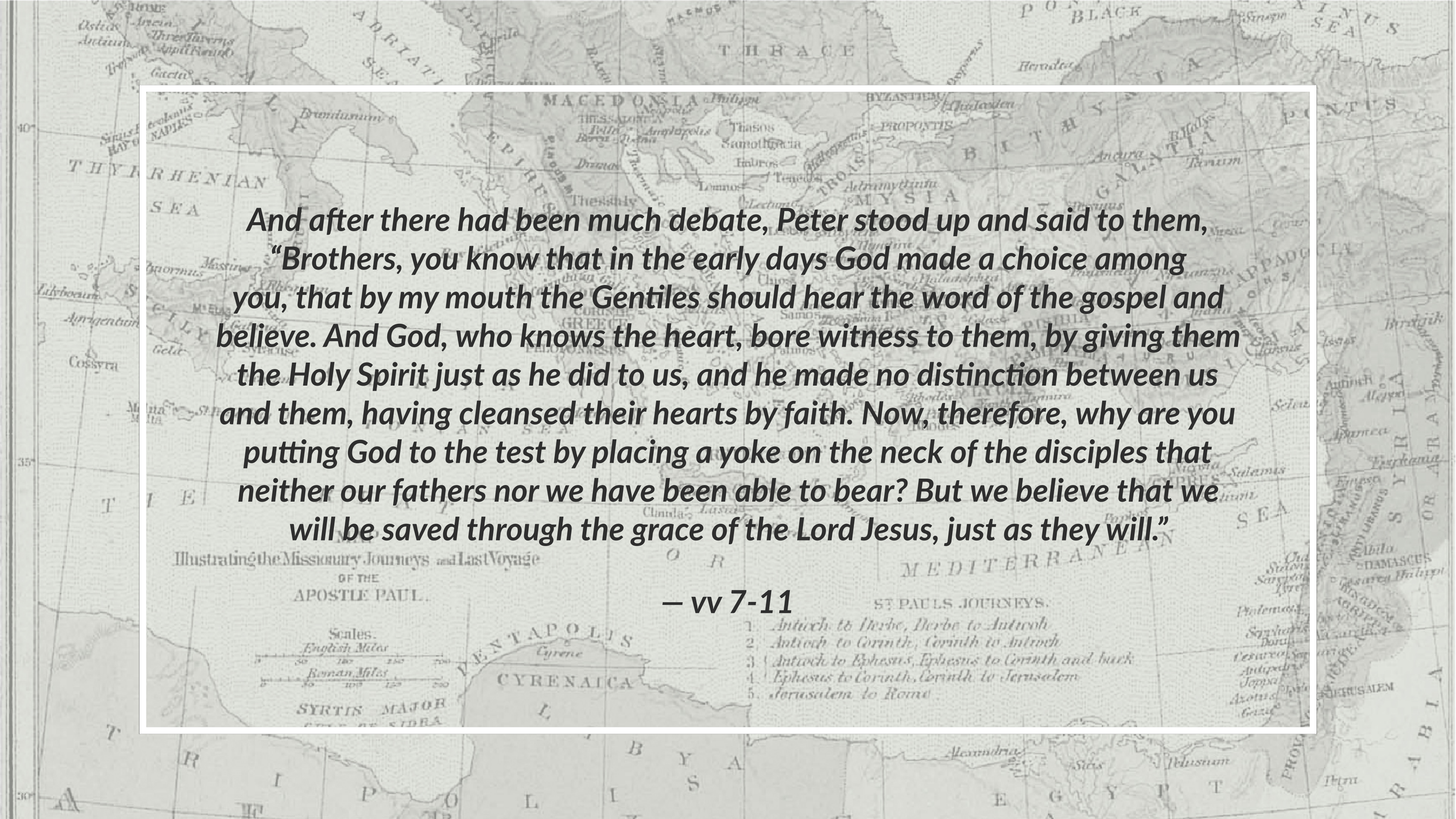
— vs 6

MAP
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APOSTLE PAUL.

Scales.
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ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

1. Antioch to Derbe, Derbe to Antioch
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**And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them,
“Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among
you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and
believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them
the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us
and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you
putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that
neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we
will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”**

— vv 7-11

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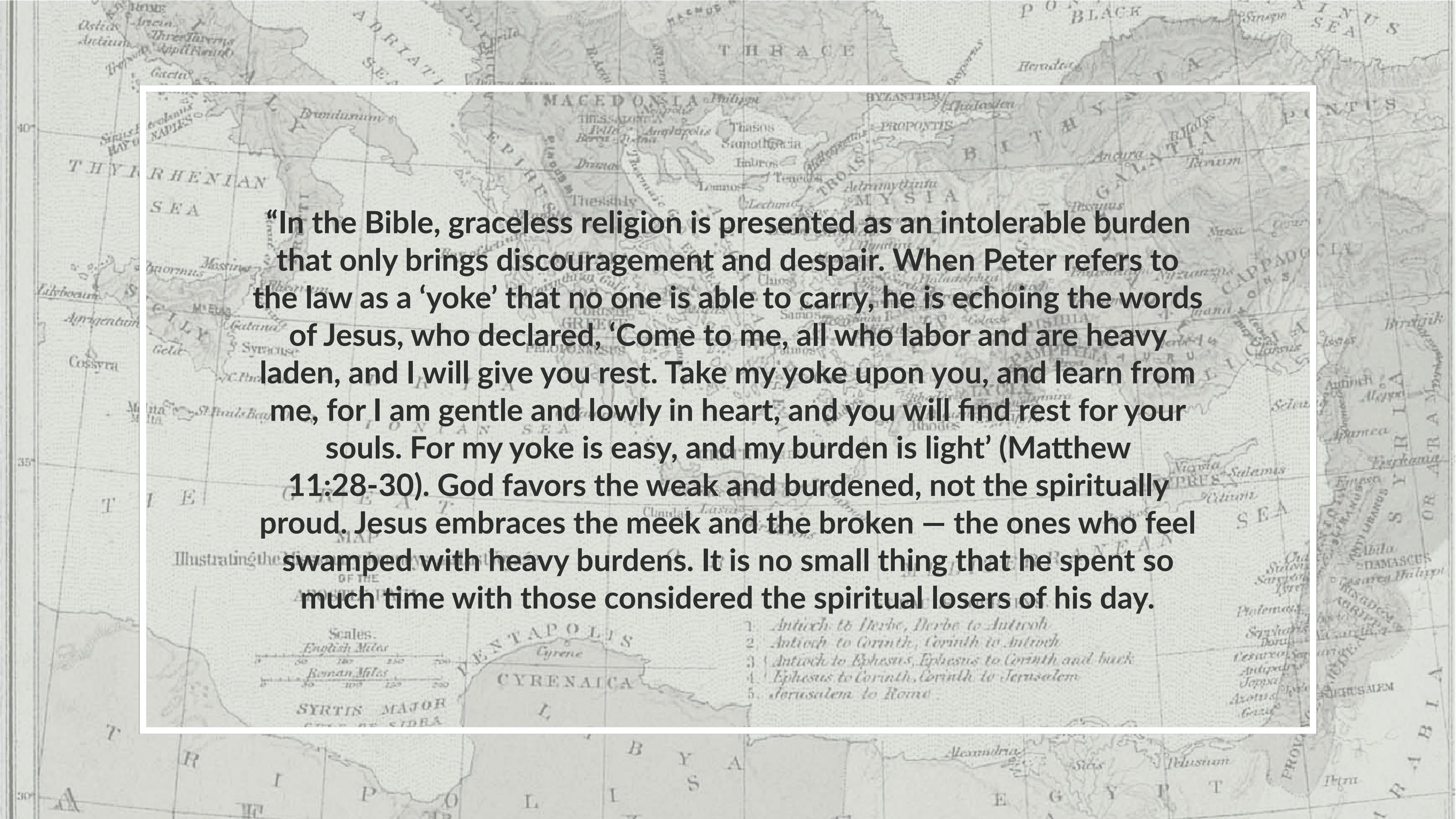
SYRTIS MAJOR
GULF OF SIDRA

VENTAPOLIS
Cyrene
CYRENAICA

ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

1. Antioch to Derbe, Derbe to Antioch
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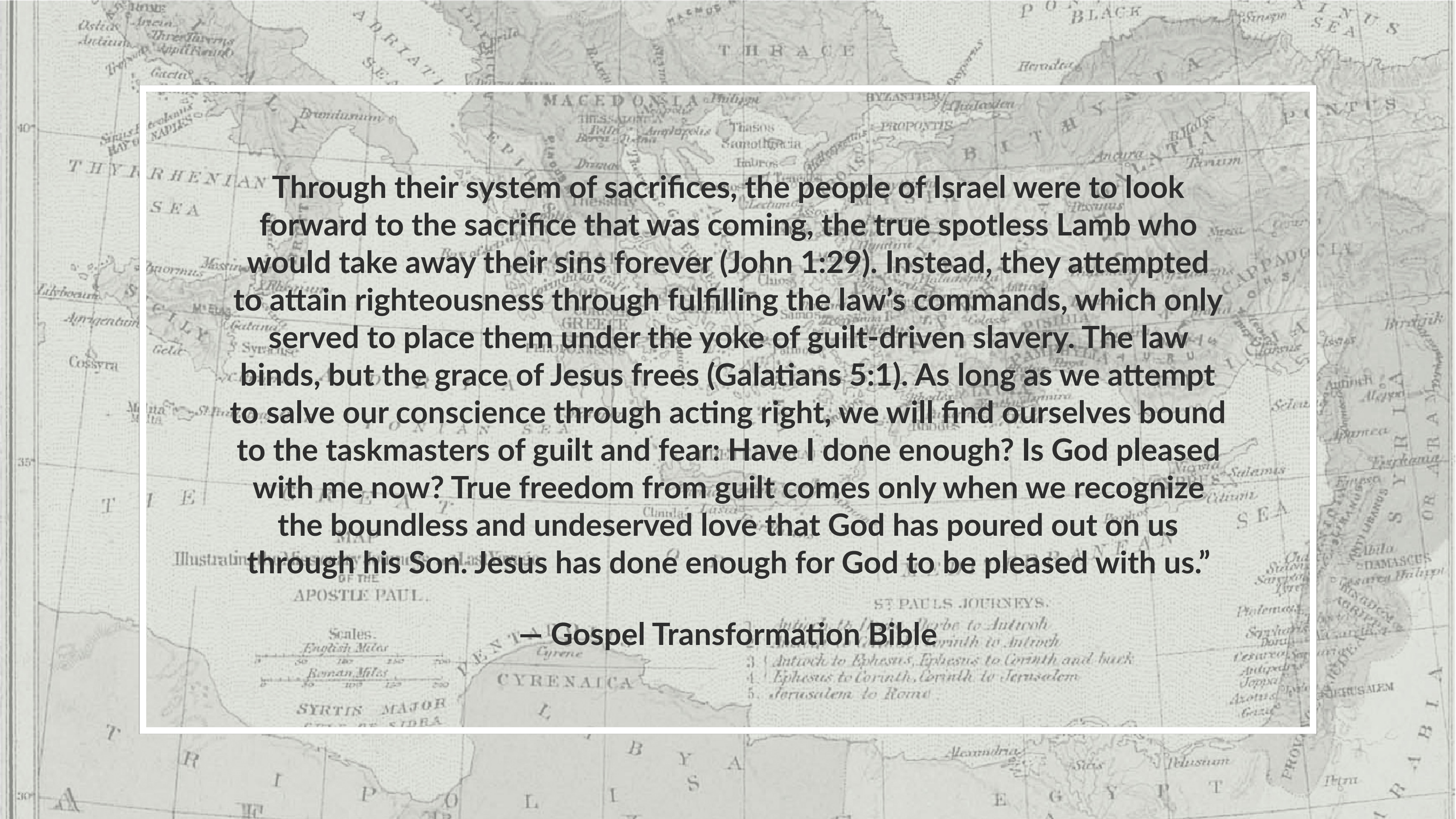
Old
Stations
Antioch
Derbe
Smyrna
Corinth
Ephesus
Jerusalem
Rome



“In the Bible, graceless religion is presented as an intolerable burden that only brings discouragement and despair. When Peter refers to the law as a ‘yoke’ that no one is able to carry, he is echoing the words of Jesus, who declared, ‘Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light’ (Matthew 11:28-30). God favors the weak and burdened, not the spiritually proud. Jesus embraces the meek and the broken — the ones who feel swamped with heavy burdens. It is no small thing that he spent so much time with those considered the spiritual losers of his day.

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Through their system of sacrifices, the people of Israel were to look forward to the sacrifice that was coming, the true spotless Lamb who would take away their sins forever (John 1:29). Instead, they attempted to attain righteousness through fulfilling the law's commands, which only served to place them under the yoke of guilt-driven slavery. The law binds, but the grace of Jesus frees (Galatians 5:1). As long as we attempt to salve our conscience through acting right, we will find ourselves bound to the taskmasters of guilt and fear: Have I done enough? Is God pleased with me now? True freedom from guilt comes only when we recognize the boundless and undeserved love that God has poured out on us through his Son. Jesus has done enough for God to be pleased with us."

— Gospel Transformation Bible

And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

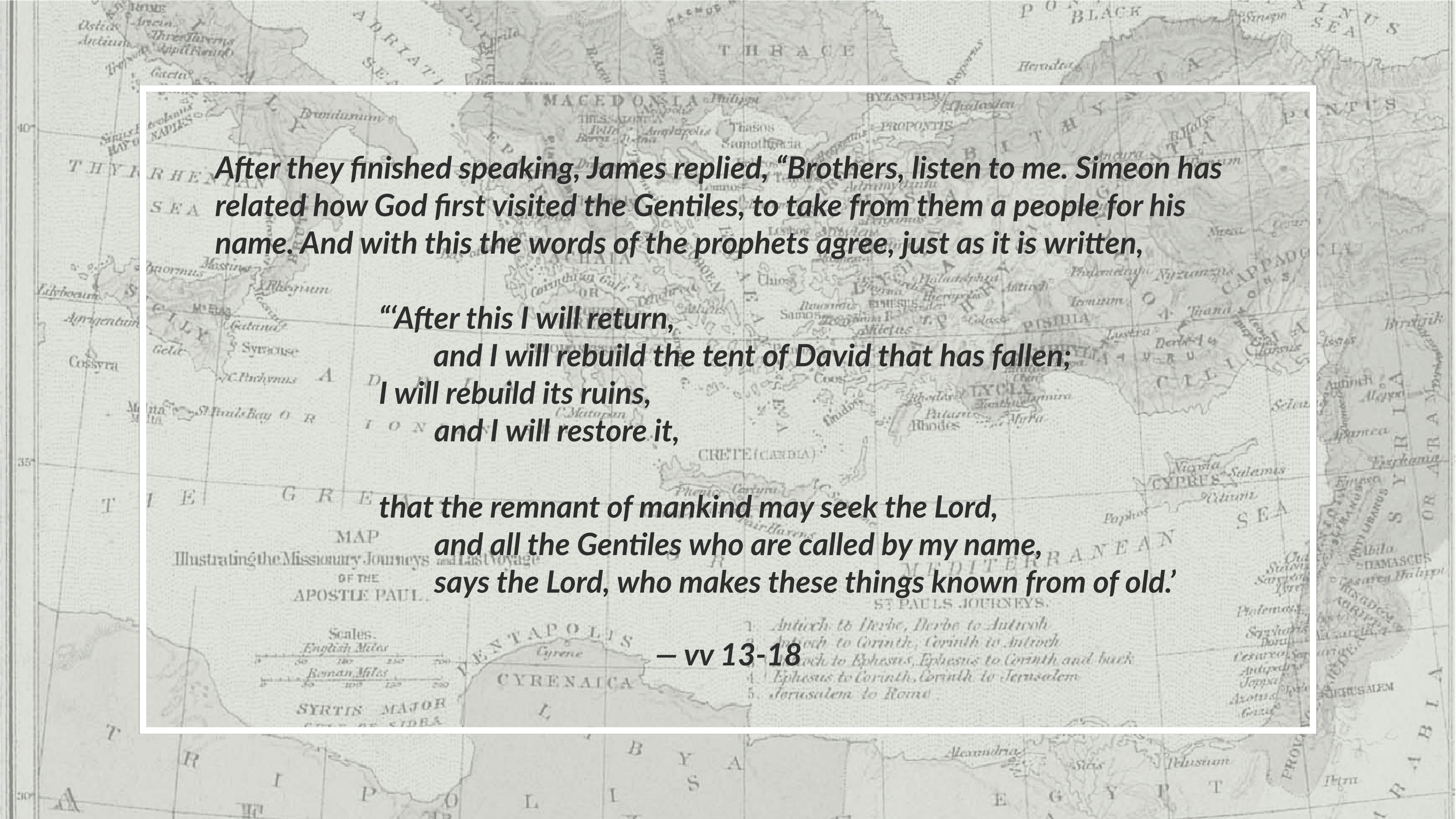
— vs 12

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After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

**“After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
I will rebuild its ruins,
and I will restore it,**

**that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,
says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old.’**

— vv 13-18

Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

— vv 19-21

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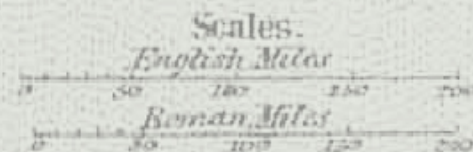
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personal holiness

brotherly love

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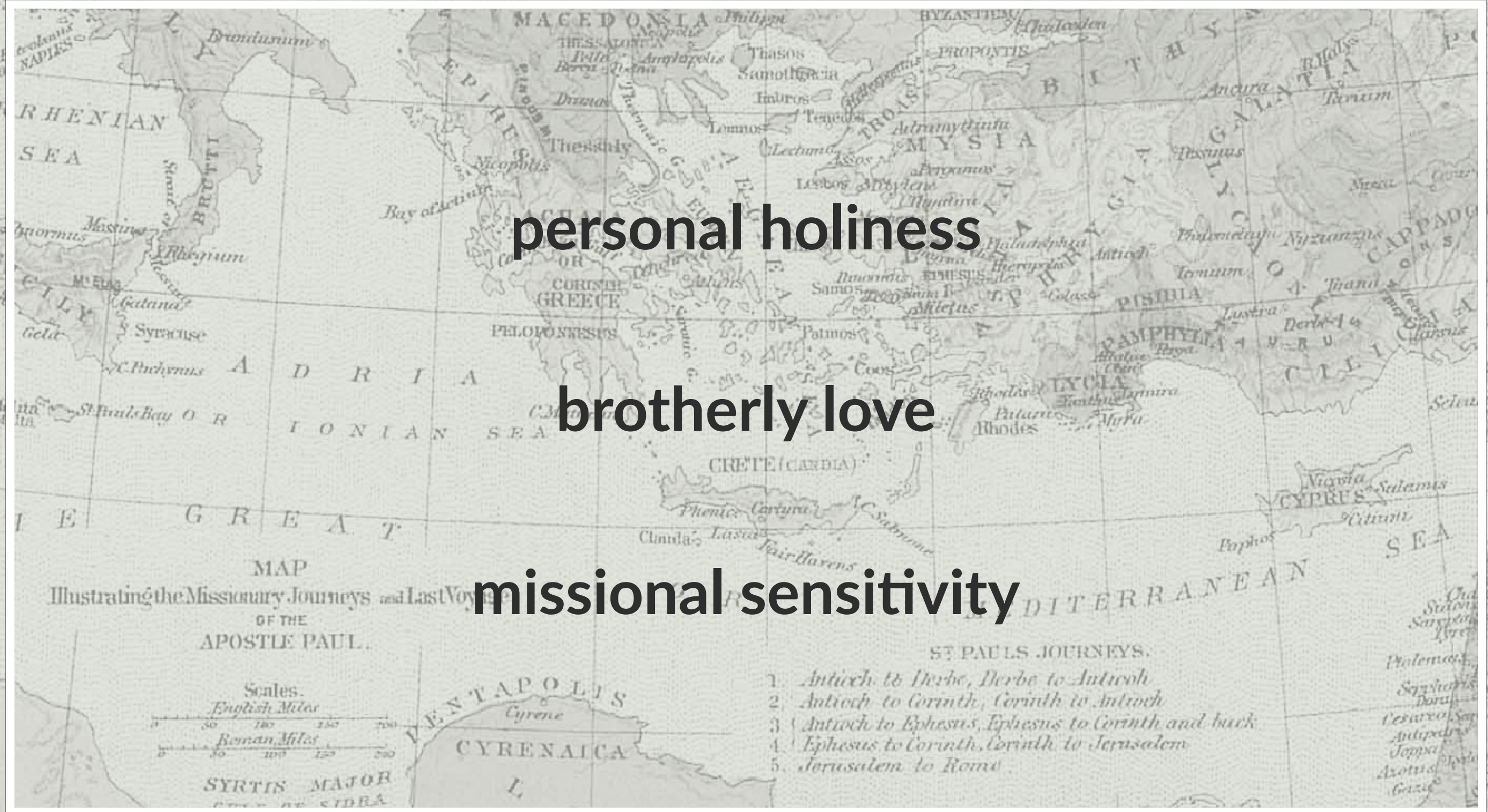
ST PAUL'S JOURNEYS.

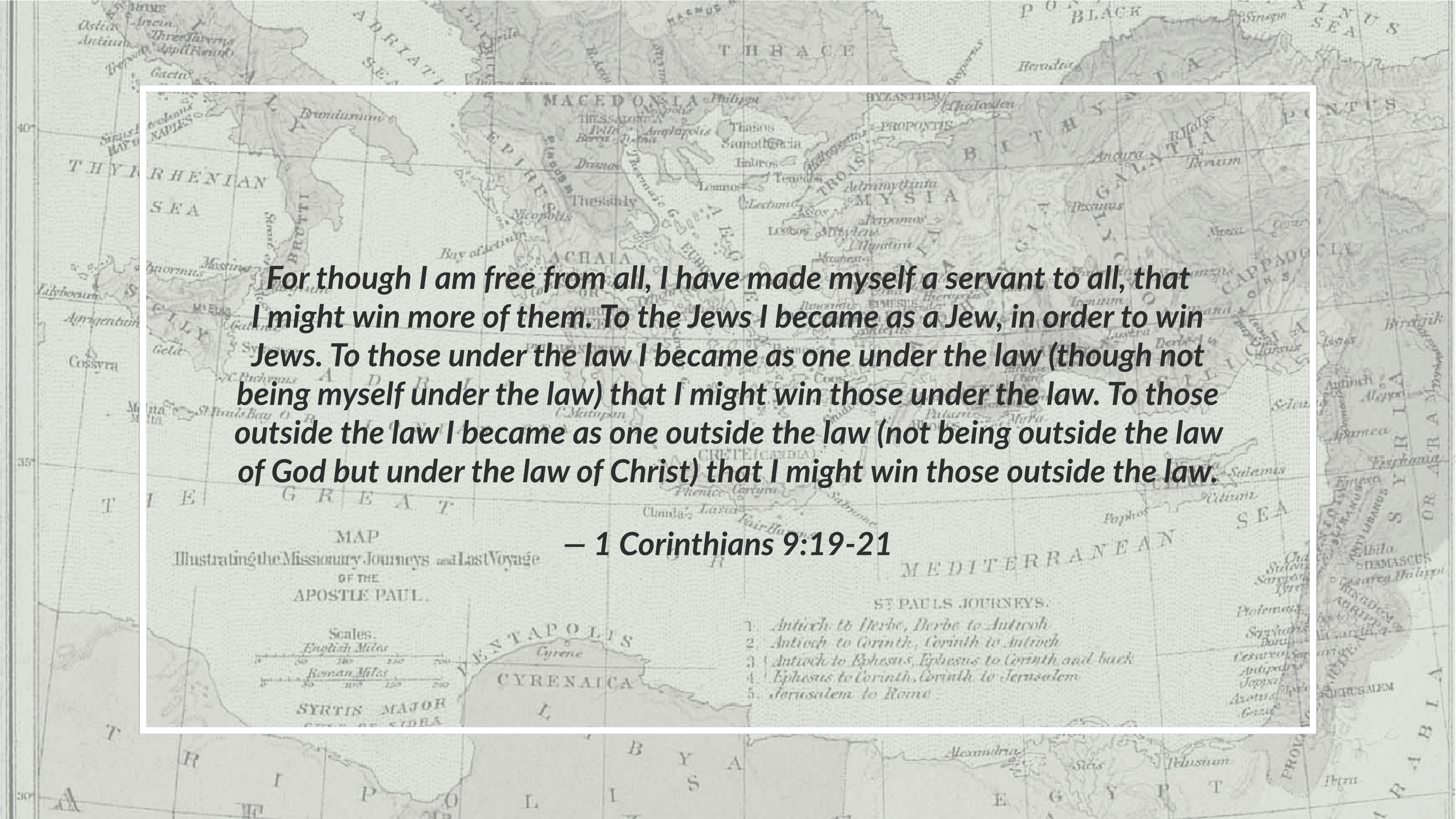
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personal holiness

brotherly love

missional sensitivity





For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

— 1 Corinthians 9:19-21

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GULF OF SIDRA

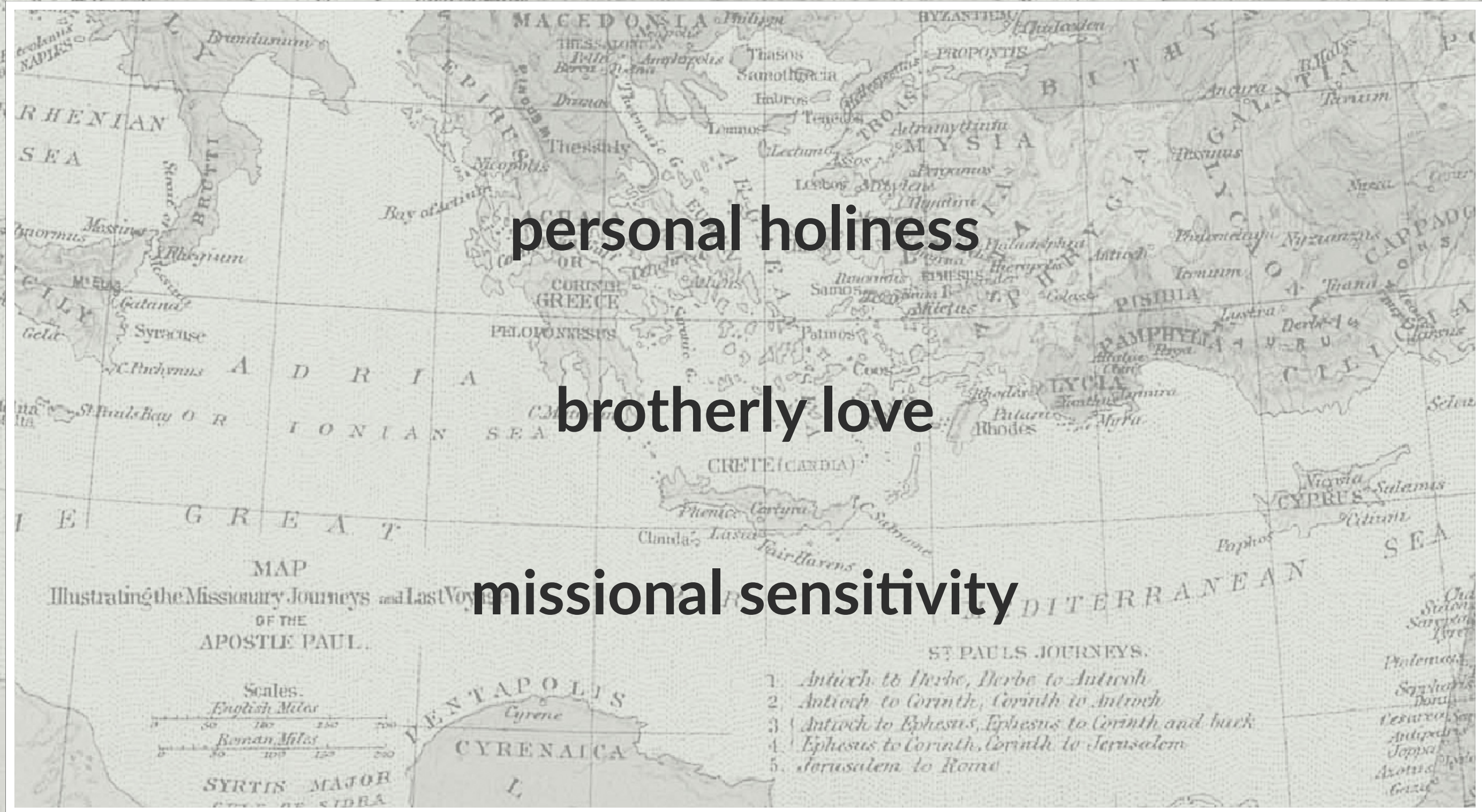
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Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, with the following letter:

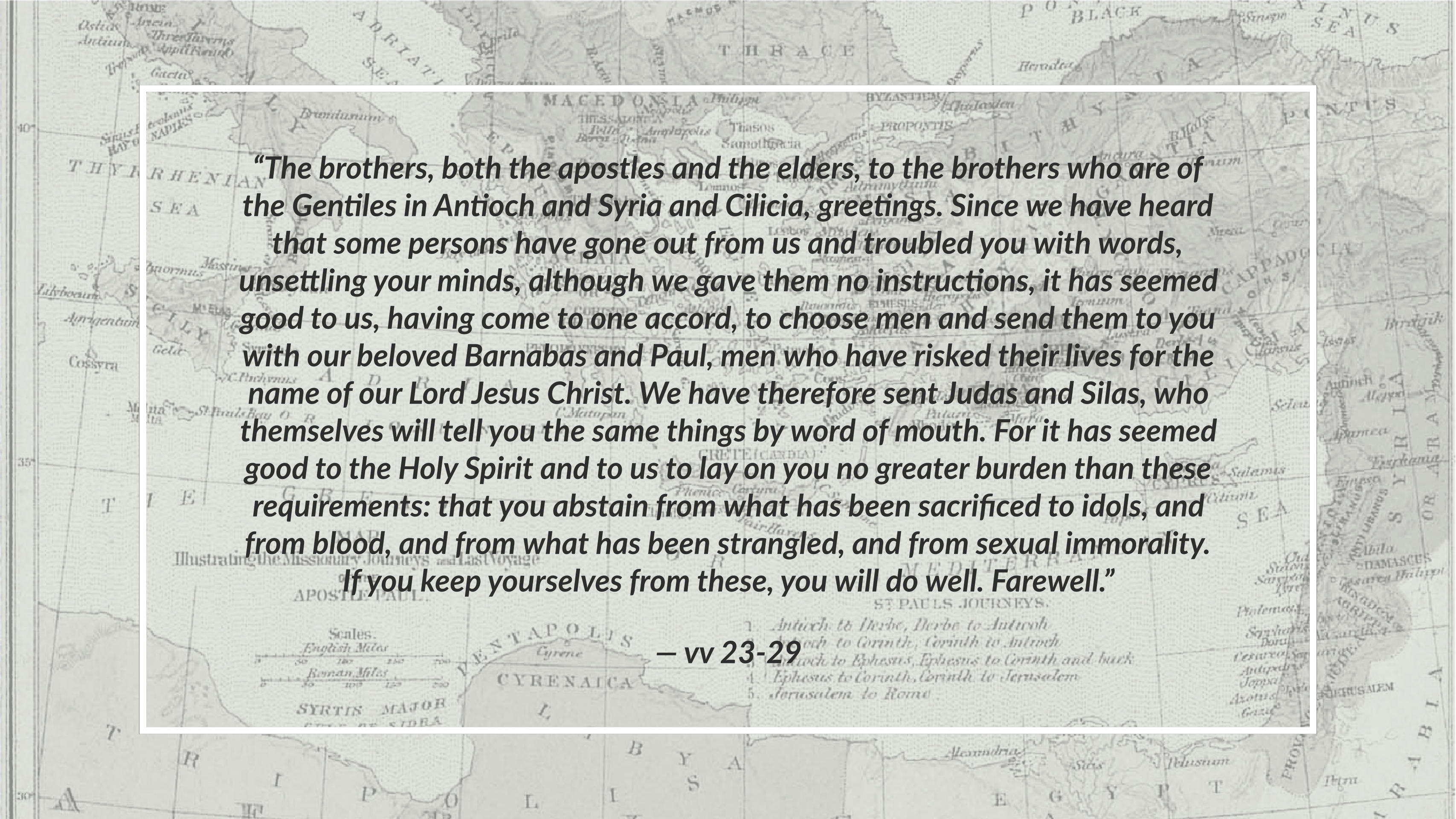
— vv 22-23

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“The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

— vv 23-29

So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

— vv 30-35

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**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

— Ephesians 2:8-9

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