

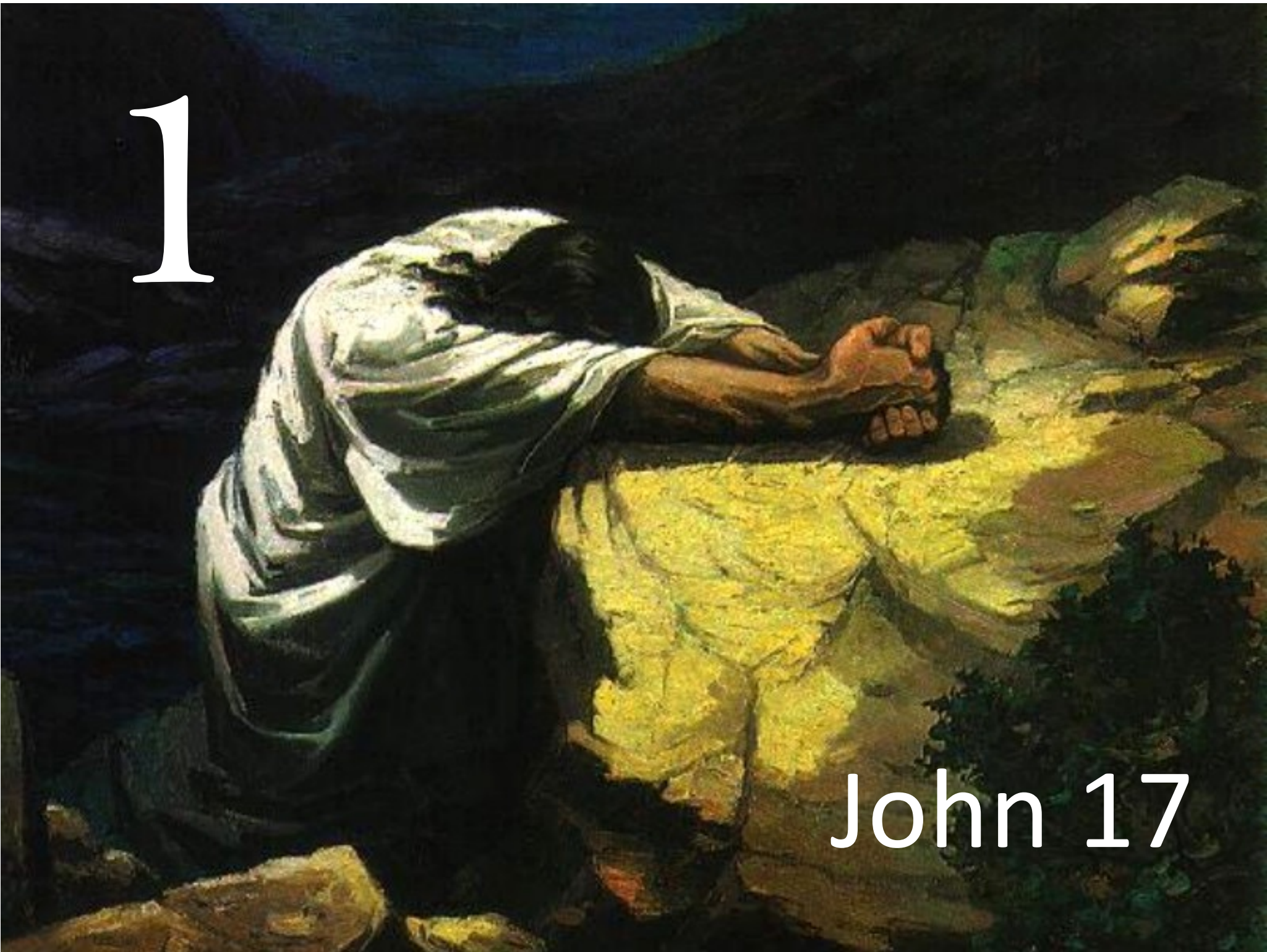
4 Passages
That

CHANGED
My Life



1

John 17




John 17 Prayer Summary

1. Jesus prays that God would glorify the son, so that he would in turn bring glory to his Father.
2. Jesus prays that God would Keep his disciples in his name. Read – Protect, Enable, Spiritually Keep. (REST)
3. Jesus prays that God would sanctify his followers in his Word. (WORK)

God's Special Revelation

- The Word of God is God's means of communicating with us.
- God meets us where we are, through his Word.
- Are we listening? The God of heaven is trying to communicate to each of us who will listen.



2

2 Cor 4

Personal Context

- I decided around the time of **the overnight prayer meeting** that God wanted me to be a Fulltime Minister of the Gospel – *In some way*.
- Applied to Moody Bible Institute, left for MBI after 1 ½ year of working at JCPenney
- Midway through MBI, I met Paul Sanders from Barakel at the Missions Conference, decided to go there for the summer of 1987 as counselor.
- I Was Youngest Child, **no experience with children whatsoever. NONE.**

Personal Context

- **Camp Barakel** (Where God Has Blessed) / Camp in the Northern part of the Lower Peninsula
- First week training...
- First night with Campers / *Stressful* / *Overwhelmed*
- 24-7 / Hardly any hours to self / 10 Weeks of Camp
- THERE -- I encountered the passage we are going to look at this morning.

Passage Context

- **Some people in Corinth were trying to convince others not to listen to Paul.**
- **He was not eloquent. He was poor. He was persecuted. Would God's messenger be persecuted?**
- **Was he legitimate?**

2 Corinthians 4:7

7. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

- Treasure? The Gospel of Christ, the message.
- Jars of Clay? Frail, human bodies, unimpressive.

V5 – For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Danger For Ministry

Proclaiming self / Proclaiming your Ministry

“...I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **1 Corinthians 2:3-5**

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

- ❖ We are afflicted in every way / but not crushed
- ❖ Perplexed / but not driven to despair
- ❖ Persecuted / but not forsaken
- ❖ Struck Down / but not destroyed
 - Contrasts of Human Weakness / God's Power
 - Picture a **Gladiatorial** or **Military Battle** -- think of our more modern boxing phrase...
 - “DOWN, BUT NOT OUT” UNDERDOG

2 Corinthians 4:10

10. Always **carrying** in the body the **death** of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be **manifested** in our bodies.

- **Carrying around?** Word typically used for “pallbearers.” Death includes the idea of “stench.”
- **manifested?** Clearly revealed to those around.

Summary – Always dying, but never lifeless.

We Have Life Because of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:11

11. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be **manifested** in our mortal flesh.

- Could have focused on his successes – founded more than a dozen churches – agreed with his weaknesses.
- It wasn't about him, it was about Christ, and Christ gave his life so that others would live.

2 Corinthians 4:12

12. So **death** is at work in us, but **life** in you.

- Summary of the last few verses...

Jesus said “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

“...we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. 2 Cor 13: 9

2 Corinthians 4:13-15

13. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “**I believed, and so I spoke.**” we also believe, and so we also speak. (**Quote from PS 116 / thanksgiving psalm = Life after Death.**)
14. Knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus **will raise us also** with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.
15. For it is all for your sake, so that as **grace extends to more and more people** it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16

16. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

- Why Shouldn't We Lose Heart?
 - Through Selfless Ministry **Others Know Christ**
 - Through Selfless Ministry **Others LIVE**
 - Through Selfless Ministry we **share in Christ's Suffering**
 - GOD will renew you day by day!

2 Corinthians 4:16

16. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is **wasting away**, our inner self is being **renewed** day by day.

- See 2 Corinthians 4:1 – “We Do Not Lose Heart”
- Wasting away? **Decomposing. Falling apart. Rotting.**
- Renewed? “**new in nature,**” miraculous, unexpected, wonderful. **SURPRISE!**

2 Corinthians 4:17

17. For this **light and momentary affliction** is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison.

- Light / momentary? **Insignificant weight / fleeting time frame.**
- Preparing? **Present tense, ongoing (the whole pp)**
- Eternal weight of glory? **REWARDS! Crowns, Colossians 1:5 speaks of an Inheritance “stored up” in heaven.**
- Beyond Comparison? **Hyperbolēn eis hyperbolēn, “Extraordinary unto the extraordinary.**

SIMILAR IDEA...

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Romans 8:18

REWARD

“For we all must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:10

Crown of Righteousness

loving his appearing.

2 Tim 4:8

Faithful Service

Phil 4:1



Crown of Life

Standing under trial.

Jas 1:12; Rev 2:10

Crown of Glory

Serving as a faithful elder

1 Peter 5:4

2 Corinthians 4:18

18. As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- Where are our Priorities?
- ETERNAL or TRANSIENT
- Too much attention to the physical / seen?

Application

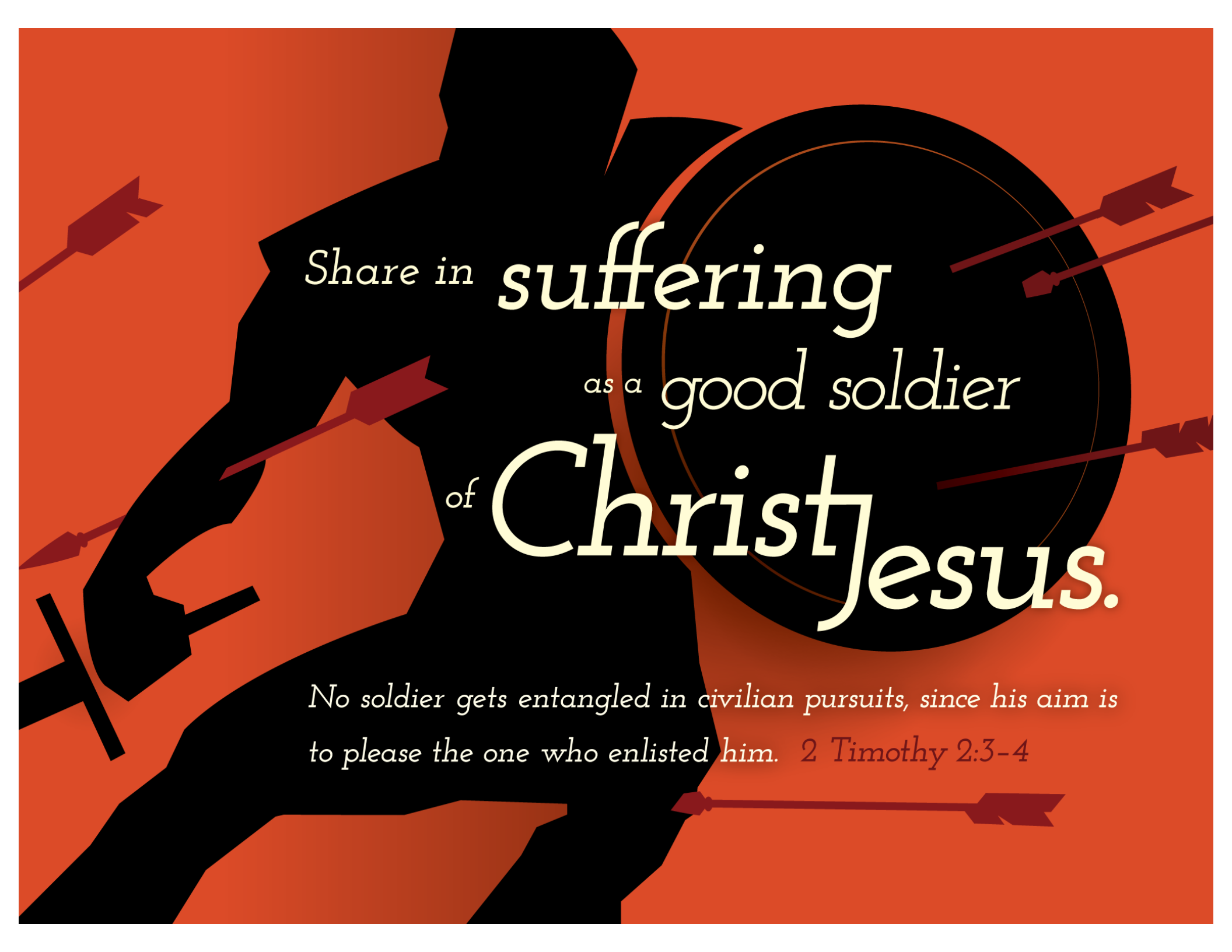
First / What is your Ministry?

- Every Christian needs to find a way to **SERVE** the body of Christ.
- The church works *when “every part does its work.”* **Ephesians 4:16**
- **Ministry should hurt a bit.** It's not just something always feels comfortable. Might feel like you are dying.
- Why do we avoid ministry? Because it costs something. **STEP OUT!**

Application

Second / What is Ministry?

- Serving others by exalting Christ – drawing people closer to him, with a personal cost.
- Ministry is not commanding and controlling others, it is serving others and seeing others as more important than self. Phil 2.
- You might get used or become disrespected... Not just possible, but likely.



Share in *suffering*
as a good soldier
of *Christ Jesus.*

No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 2 Timothy 2:3-4