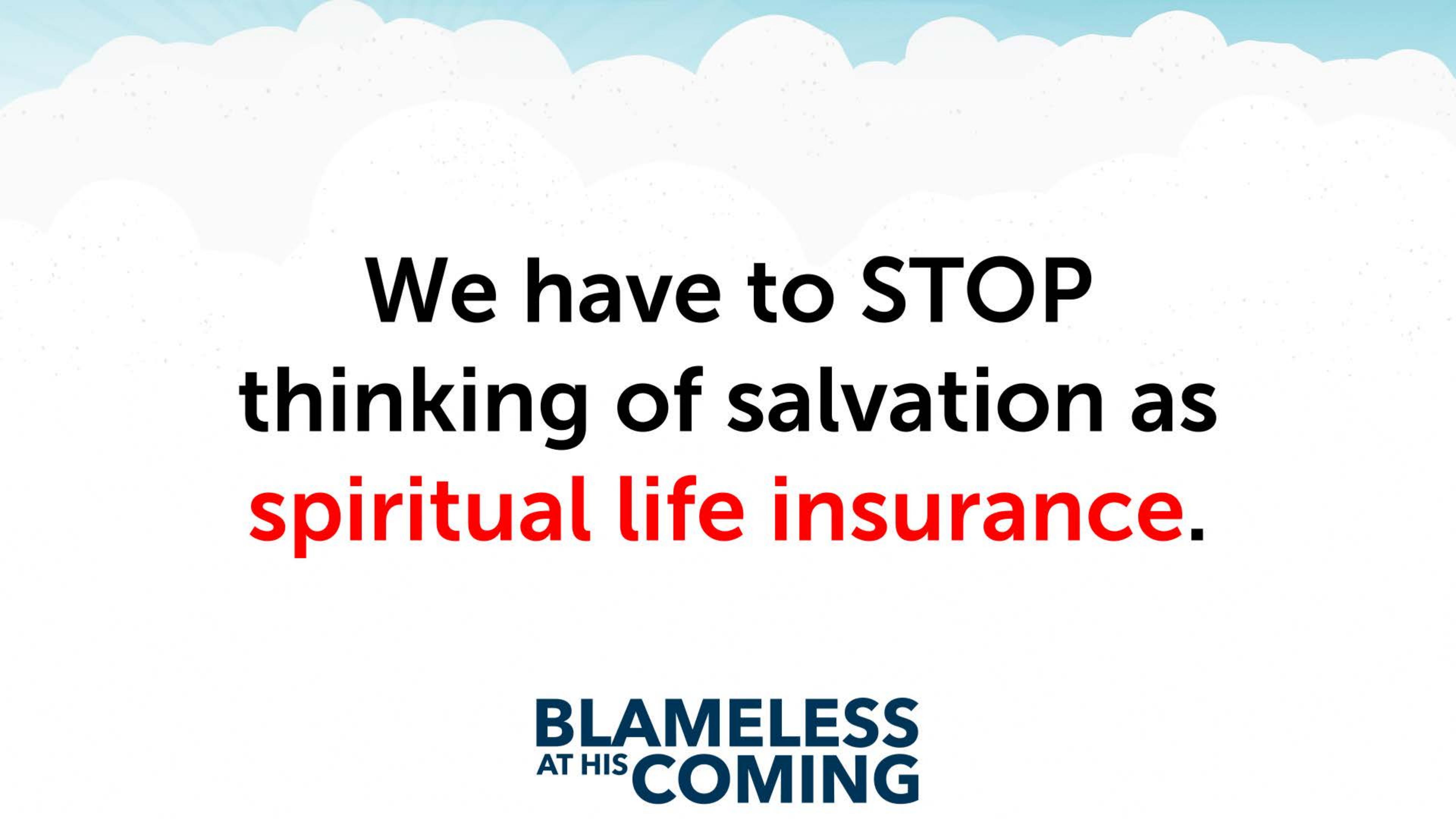




BLAMELESS AT HIS COMING

a SANCTIFIED church awaiting a promised SAVIOR



**We have to STOP
thinking of salvation as
spiritual life insurance.**

BLAMELESS
AT HIS COMING

Acts 17:2–3

ESV

² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for **the Christ** to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is **the Christ**.”

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Acts 17:4

ESV

⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

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Acts 17:5

ESV

⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they **formed a mob**, set the **city in an uproar**, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

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Acts 17:6–7

ESV

⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have **turned the world upside down** have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting **against the decrees of Caesar**, saying that there is **another king, Jesus.**”

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Acts 17:8–10

ESV

⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. ¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea...

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1 Thessalonians 1:1–3

ESV

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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1 Thessalonians 1:4–5

ESV

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because **our gospel came to you not only in word**, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

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1 Thessalonians 1:6–8

ESV

⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you **became an example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord **sounded forth** from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has **gone forth everywhere**, so that we need not say anything.

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1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

ESV

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,** ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

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That was simply unheard of in Paul's world. It would be like asking people in a modern city to give up using motor cars, computers and telephones. **The gods of Greek and Roman paganism were everywhere.** If you were going to plant a tree, you would pray to the relevant god. If you were going on a business trip, a quick visit to the appropriate shrine was in order. If you or your son or daughter was getting married, serious and costly worship of the relevant deity was expected.

Source: N.T. Wright, Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians

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A decorative header featuring a row of stylized, overlapping white clouds with soft shadows, set against a light blue sky background.

**Salvation transforms us
from serving **idols** to serving
the **living God**.**

BLAMELESS
AT HIS COMING