



HEAVEN MEETS EARTH

VOL. 1: GOD'S STORY



GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

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God's grace doesn't just save you—**it sends you.**
It gives you a **new identity** and a **new purpose.**

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Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

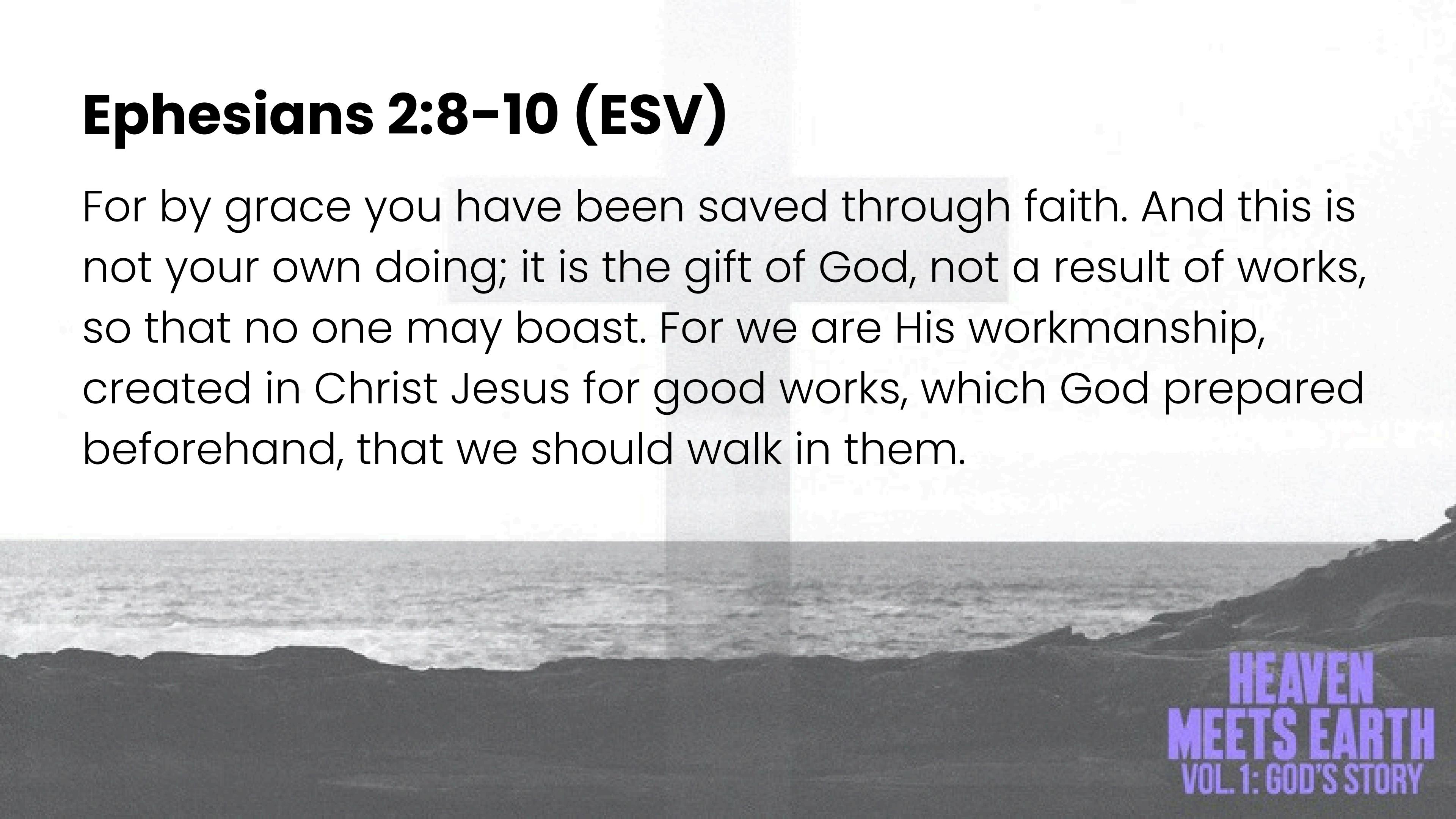
And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and He raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



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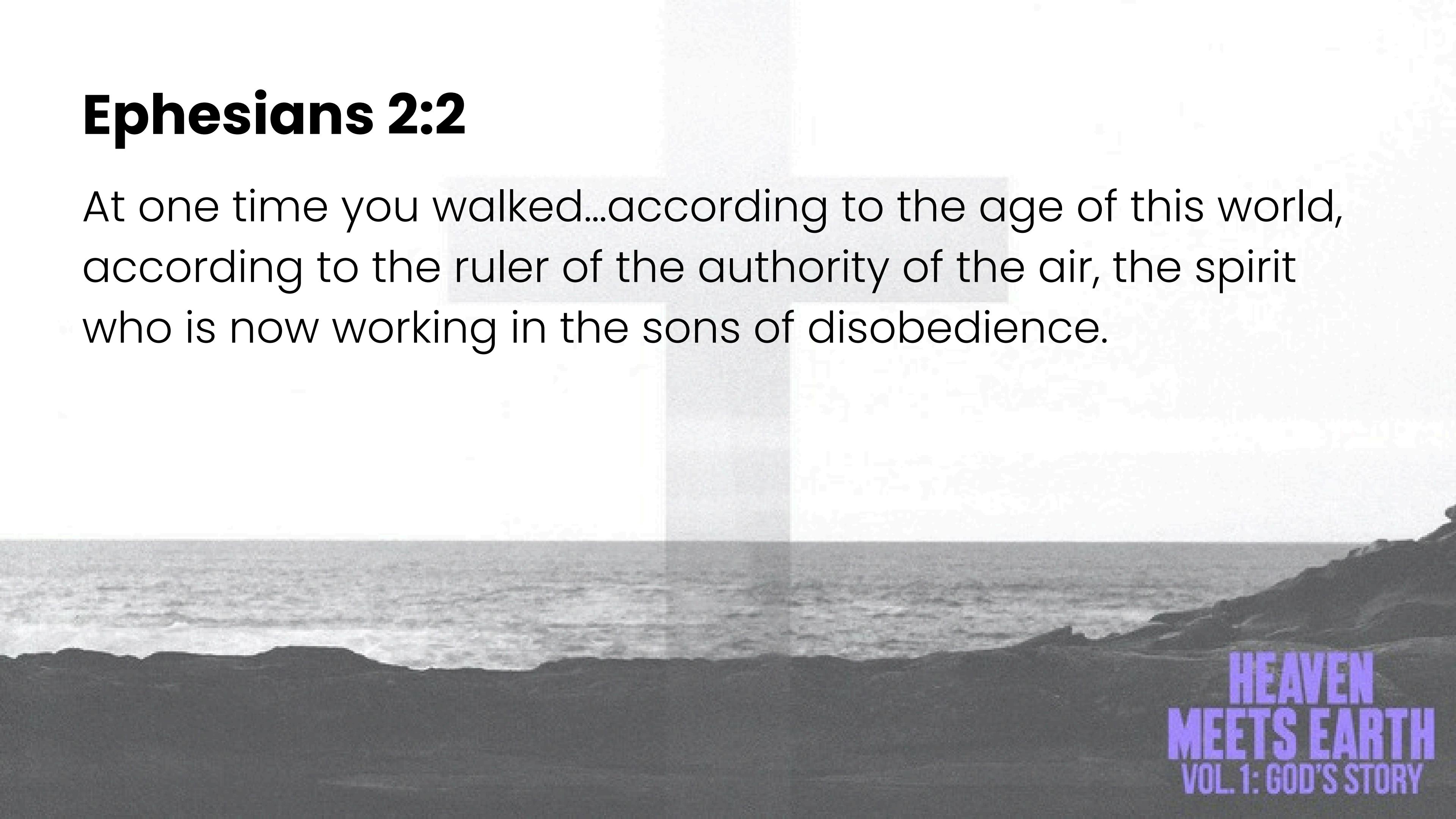
Ephesians 2:1, 3

You are dead in trespasses and sins..carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind.

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Ephesians 2:2

At one time you walked...according to the age of this world,
according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit
who is now working in the sons of disobedience.



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“The picture the text paints is bleak. Because of sins, humans are the living dead. They live in keeping with a world order that ignores God and in keeping with a ruler who works to cause disobedience. In their enslavement they follow desires and distorted reasonings that leave God out of the picture and, therefore, they are under God’s wrath. But, the main point of Ephesians—and especially of 2:1–10—is that God will not stay out of the picture.”

—Klyne Snodgrass

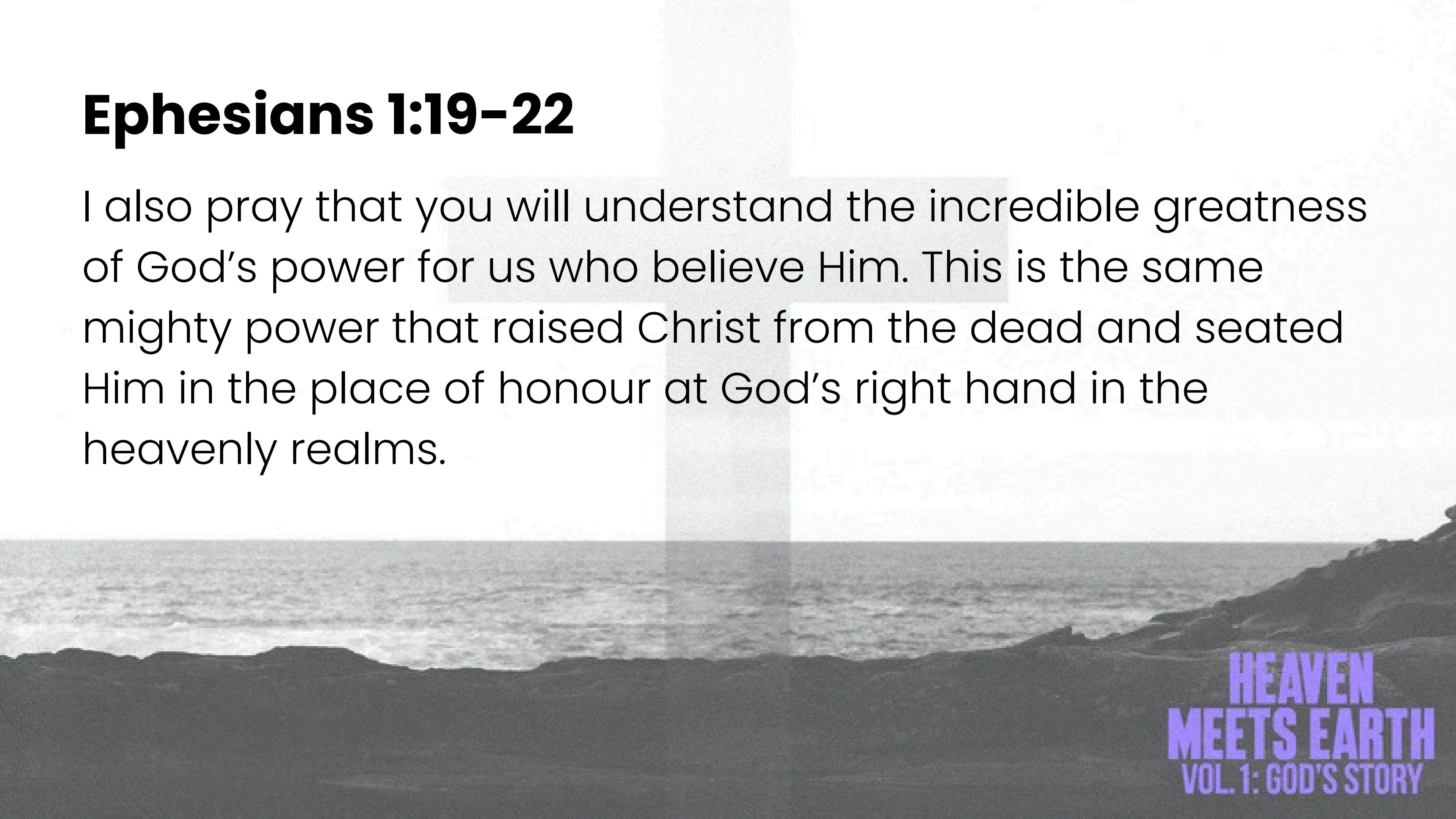
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Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive together with the Messiah—by grace y'all have been saved. And He raised us up together and sat us together in the heavenlies with Messiah Jesus...

Ephesians 1:19-22

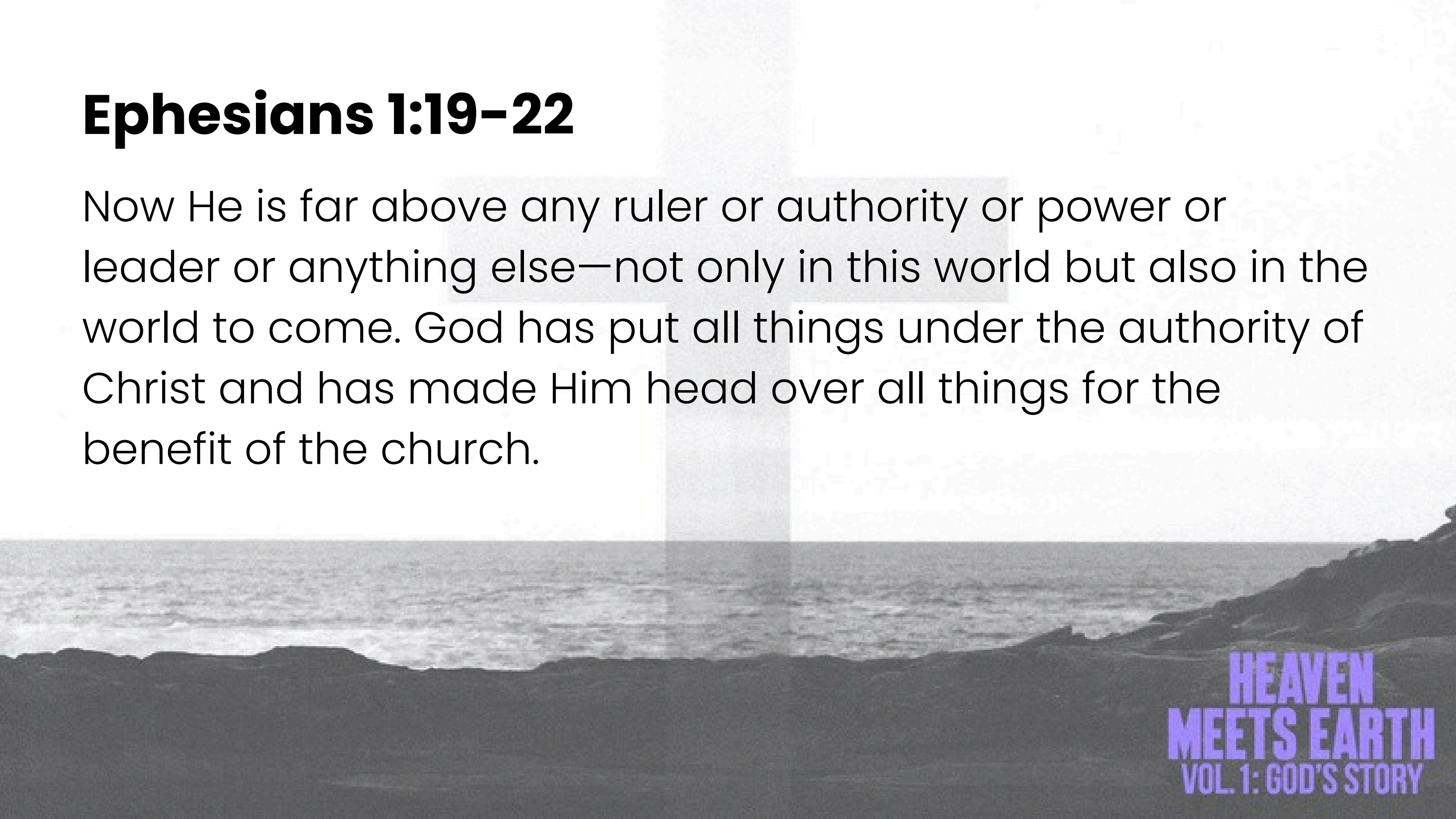
I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.



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Ephesians 1:19-22

Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church.



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“In Paul’s mind, Christ’s death and resurrection are not merely events that produce benefit for believers, they are events in which believers are included. According to Paul’s theology, people either live in sin and under its influence or in Christ and under his influence. It is a question of serving the tyrant sin or the Lord Christ. Conversion is a transfer from one sphere to the other, a change of lordships, and being raised with Christ is the language Paul uses to describe this transfer from the realm of death to the realm of life. Anything short of such a theology fails to understand Paul.”

—Klyne Snodgrass

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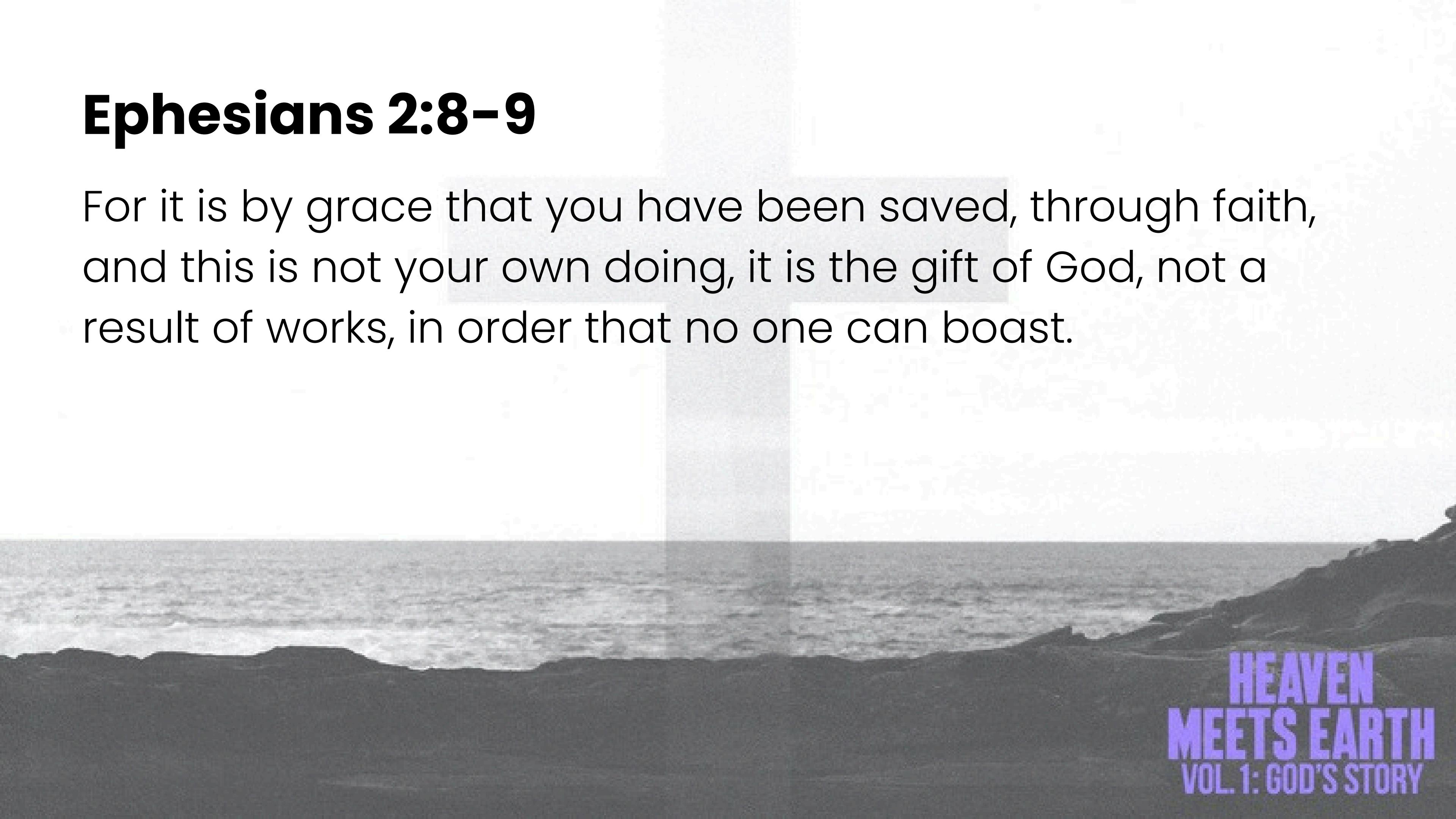


When God looks at the believer He sees His Son.

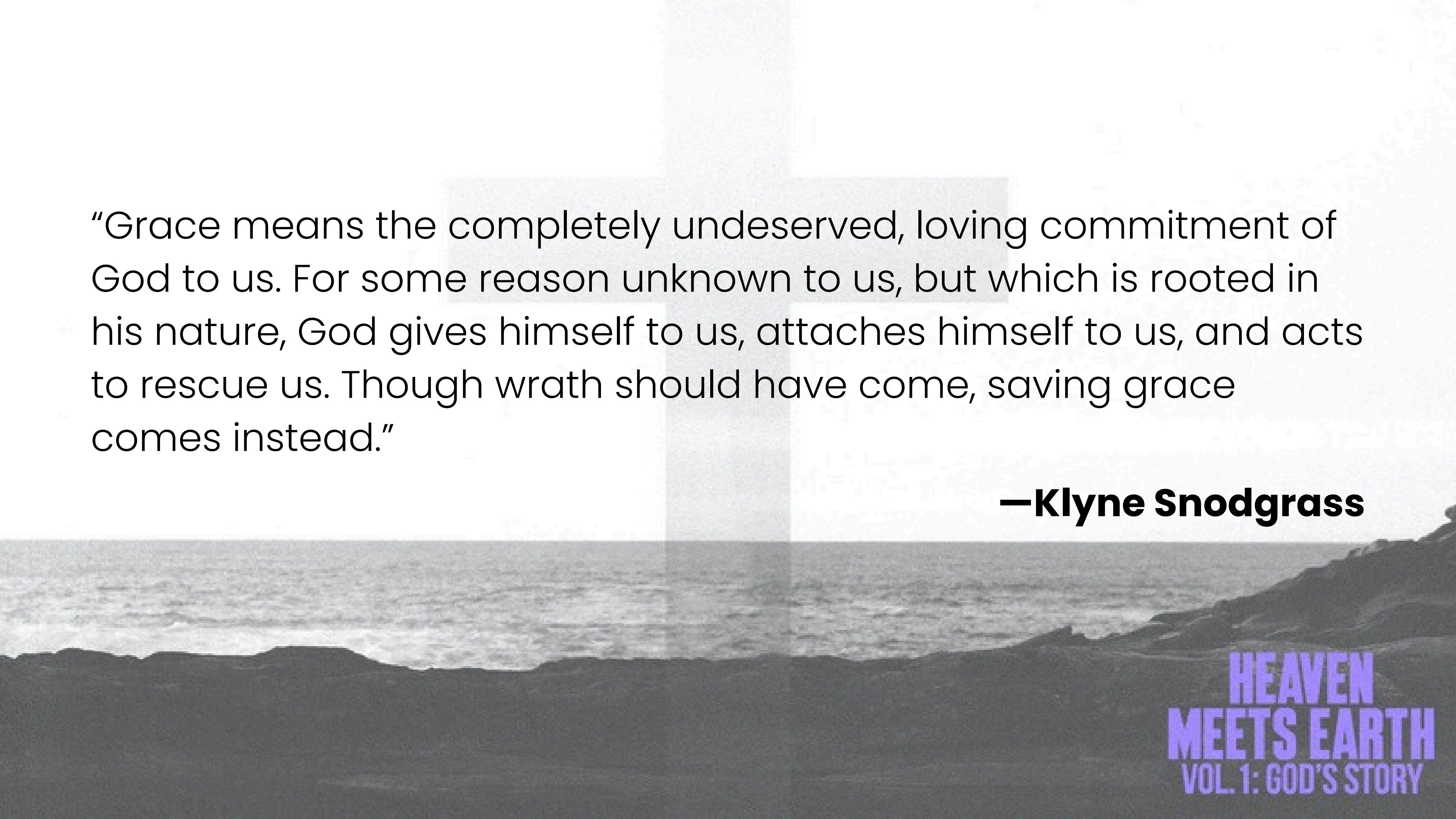
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Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, in order that no one can boast.



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“Grace means the completely undeserved, loving commitment of God to us. For some reason unknown to us, but which is rooted in his nature, God gives himself to us, attaches himself to us, and acts to rescue us. Though wrath should have come, saving grace comes instead.”

—Klyne Snodgrass

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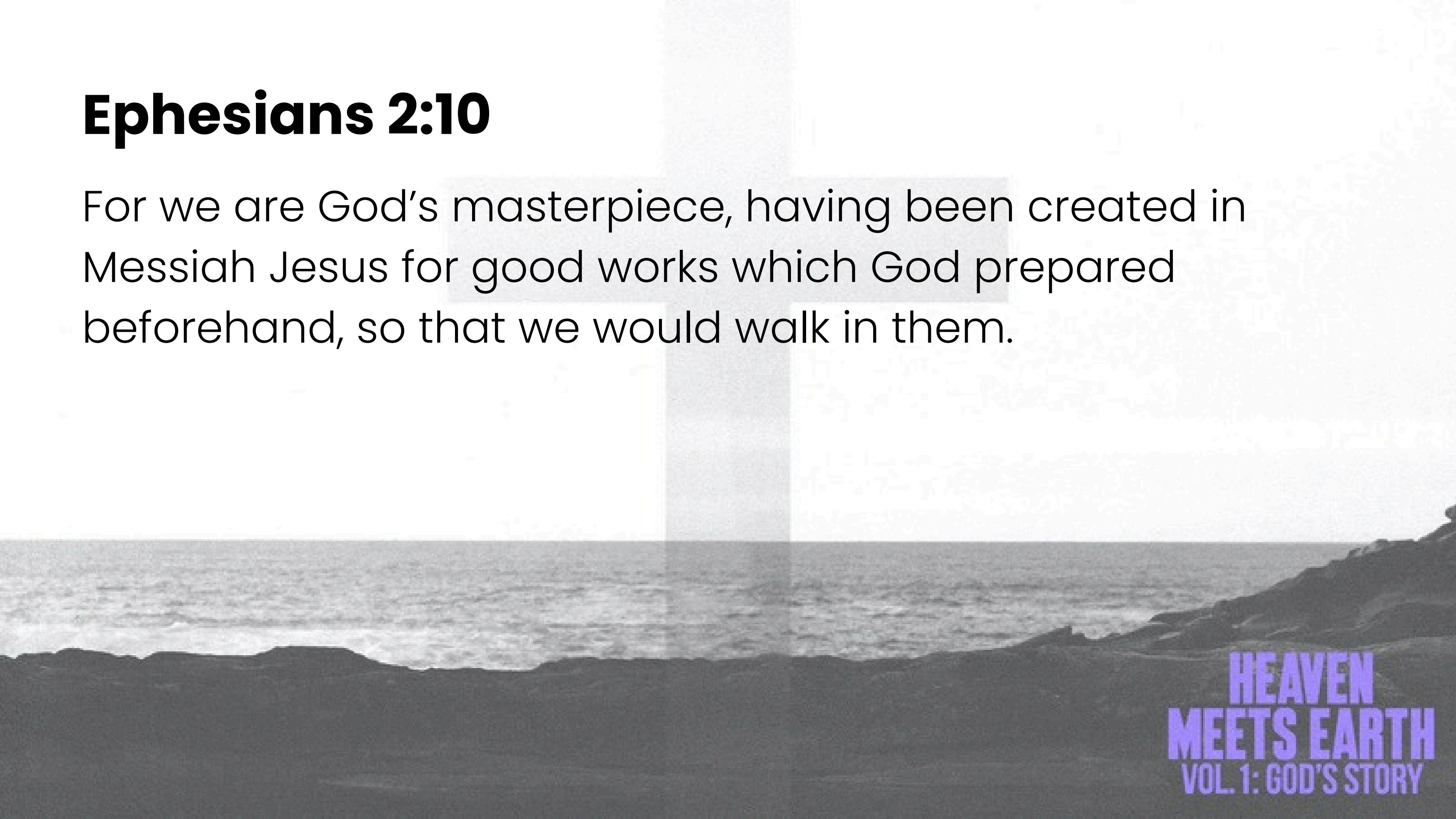
“The gift of grace is unconditioned, but it is not unconditional.”

—Tim Mackie

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Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece, having been created in Messiah Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, so that we would walk in them.



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“Grace is not simply a transaction. It’s an ongoing source of energy, inspiration, personal love, and presence.”

—Tim Mackie

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2 Corinthians 12:9

God's grace is sufficient for you, for His power is made perfect in weakness.

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