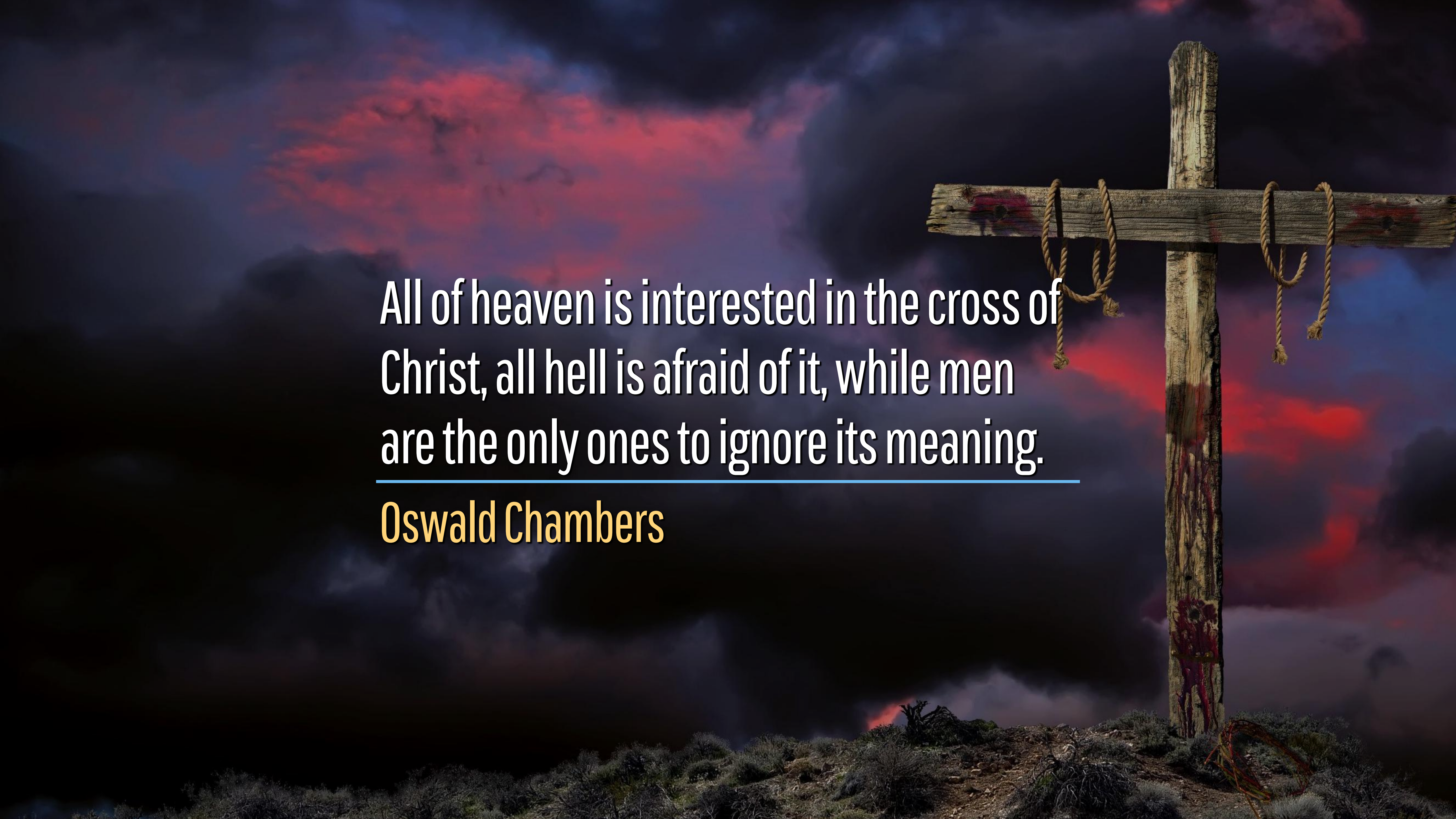
A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has thick, light-colored ropes tied to its horizontal beam. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and vibrant streaks of red and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is solemn and majestic.

THE GLORIOUS Cross of Christ

A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, with thick, light-colored rope tied around the horizontal beam. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and patches of vibrant red and purple light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

All of heaven is interested in the cross of
Christ, all hell is afraid of it, while men
are the only ones to ignore its meaning.

Oswald Chambers

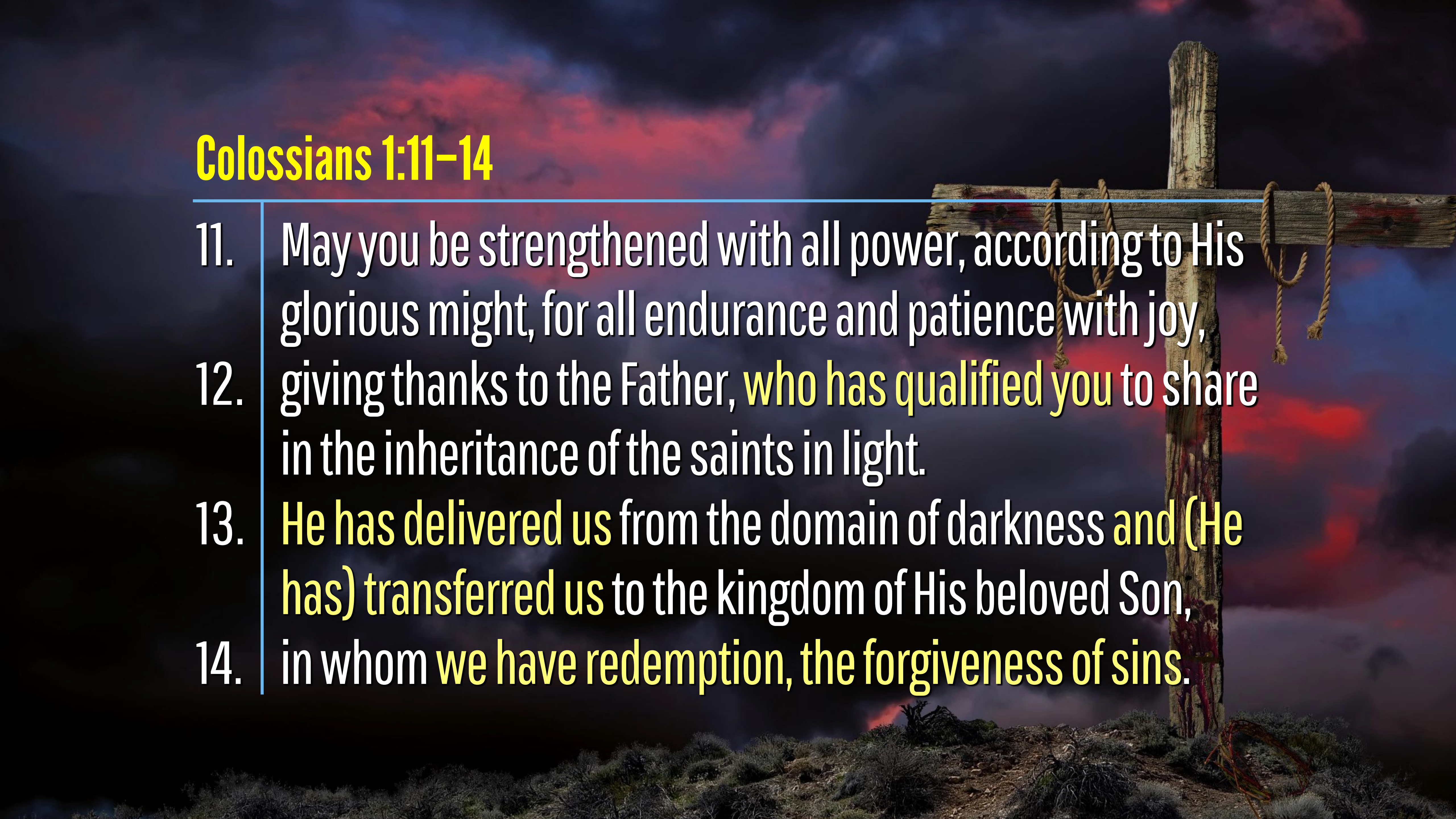
A wooden cross stands on a hilltop, its vertical post and horizontal beam made of rough, weathered wood. Two thick, light-colored ropes are tied to the horizontal beam, hanging down. The cross is set against a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a vibrant sunset or sunrise in shades of red, orange, and purple. The foreground shows a rocky, scrubby hillside.

It's time we held to a high view of sin, the cross, and
Jesus' beautiful sacrifice there.

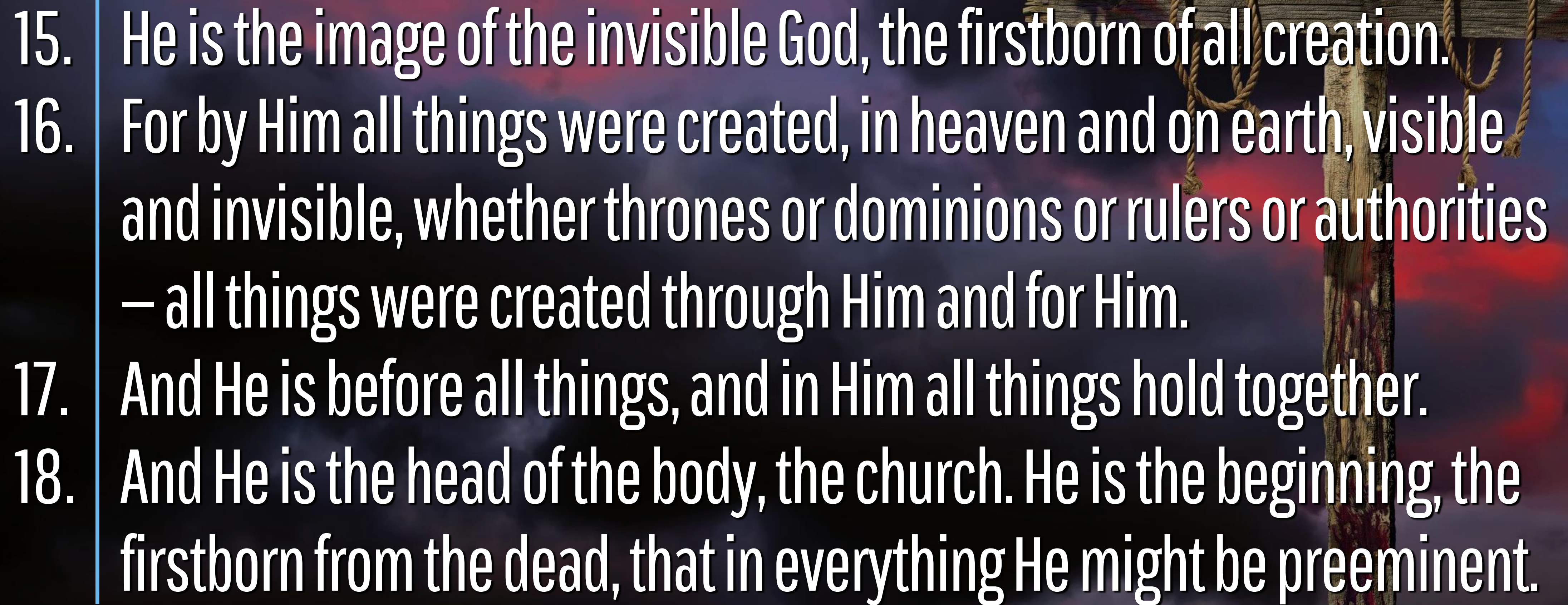
It's time that we repented from the crossless
Christianity we've invented for our convenience
because a crossless Christianity isn't Christianity at all.

Mary Demuth (Herald of His Coming)

Colossians 1:11–14

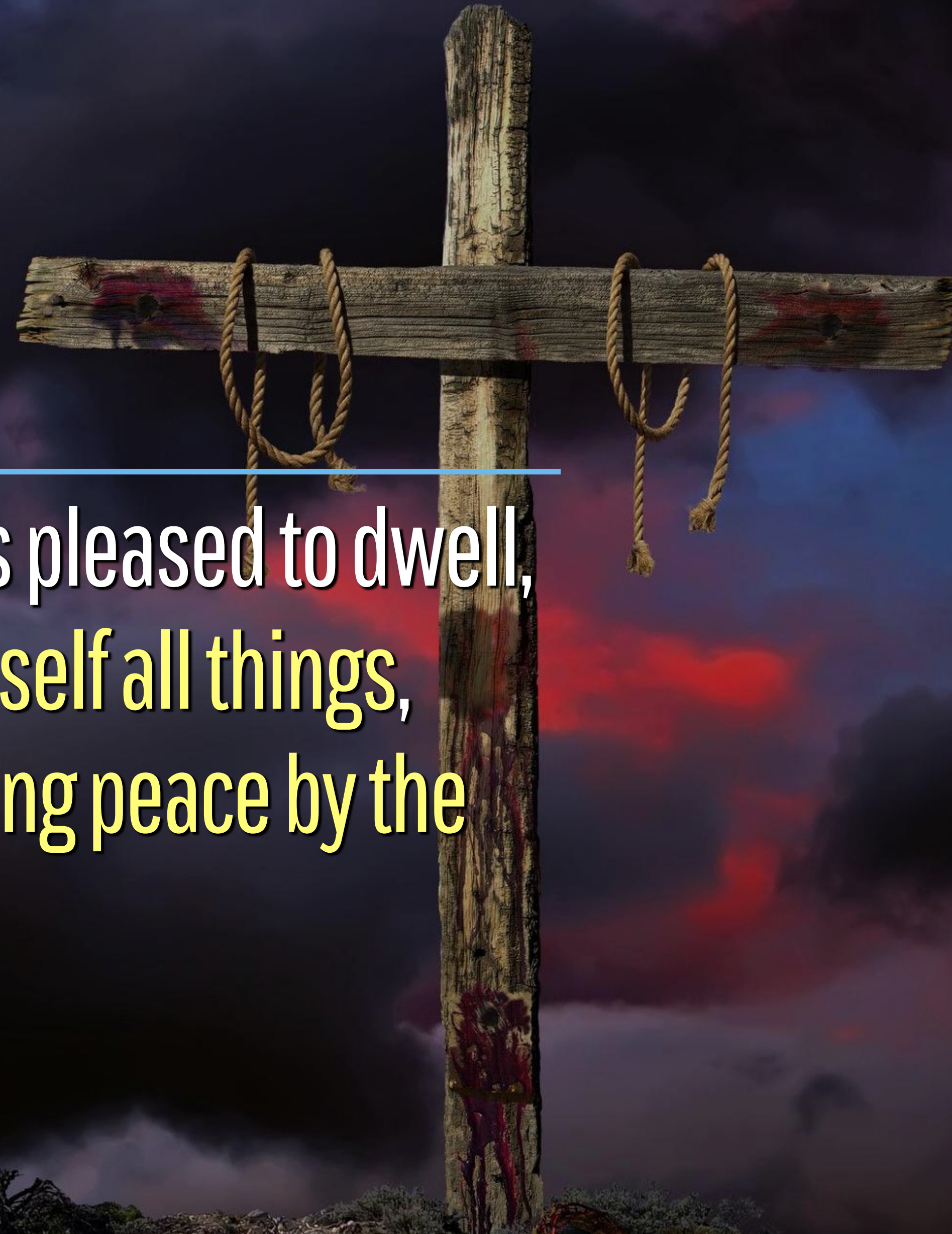
- 
- A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a vibrant sunset or sunrise in shades of red, orange, and purple. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood, and ropes are tied to its horizontal beam.
11. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,
12. giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
13. **He has delivered us** from the domain of darkness **and (He has) transferred us** to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
14. in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:15–18

- 
- A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is a dramatic mix of dark blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood, with ropes tied around the horizontal beam. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.
15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
16. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him.
17. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
18. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

Colossians 1:19–20

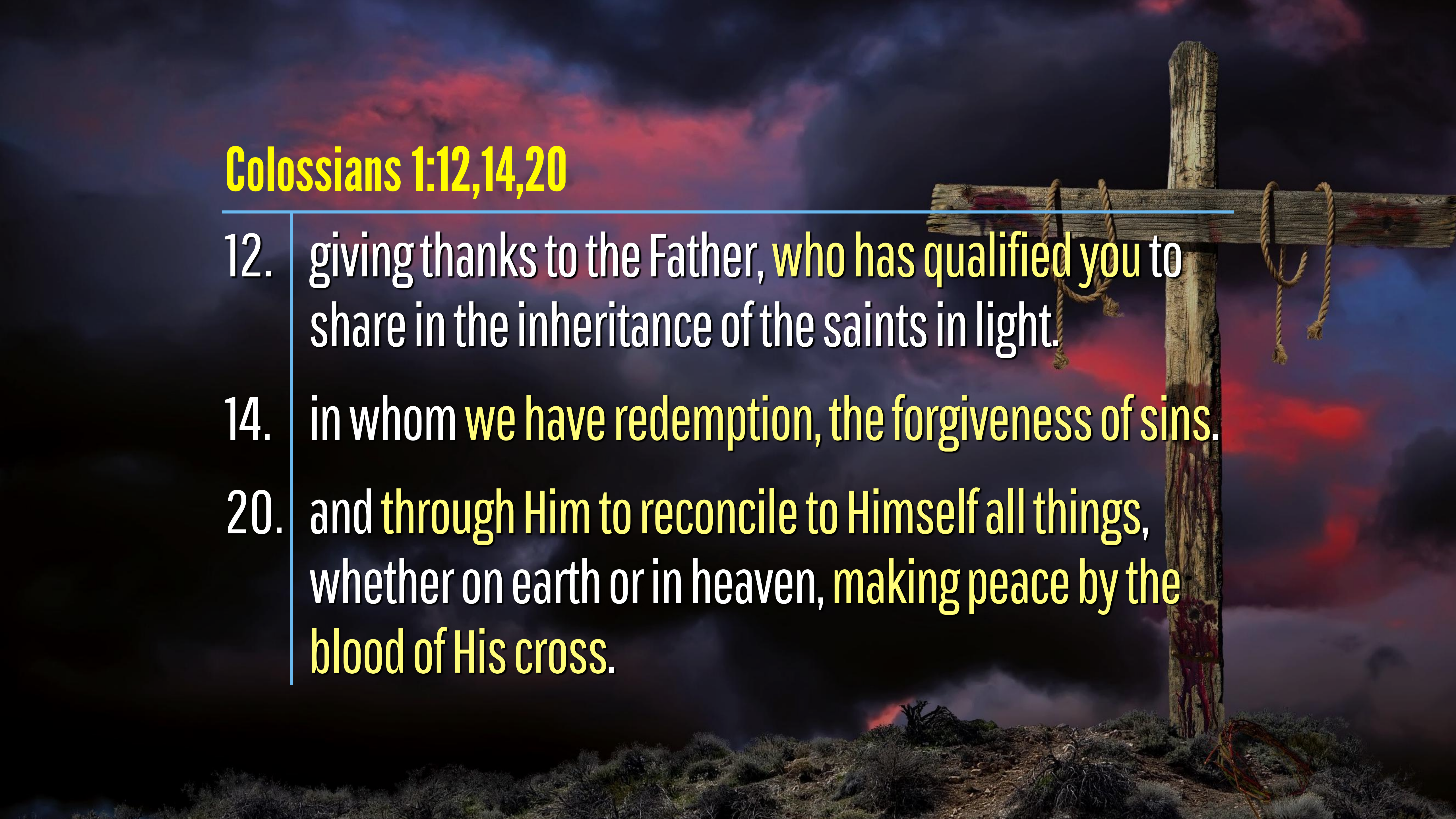
19. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20. and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the
blood of His cross.



A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a prominent band of red and purple light across the upper portion. The cross is made of rough, weathered wood, with ropes tied around the horizontal beam. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

THE IMPERATIVENESS OF THE **Cross of Christ**

Colossians 1:12,14,20

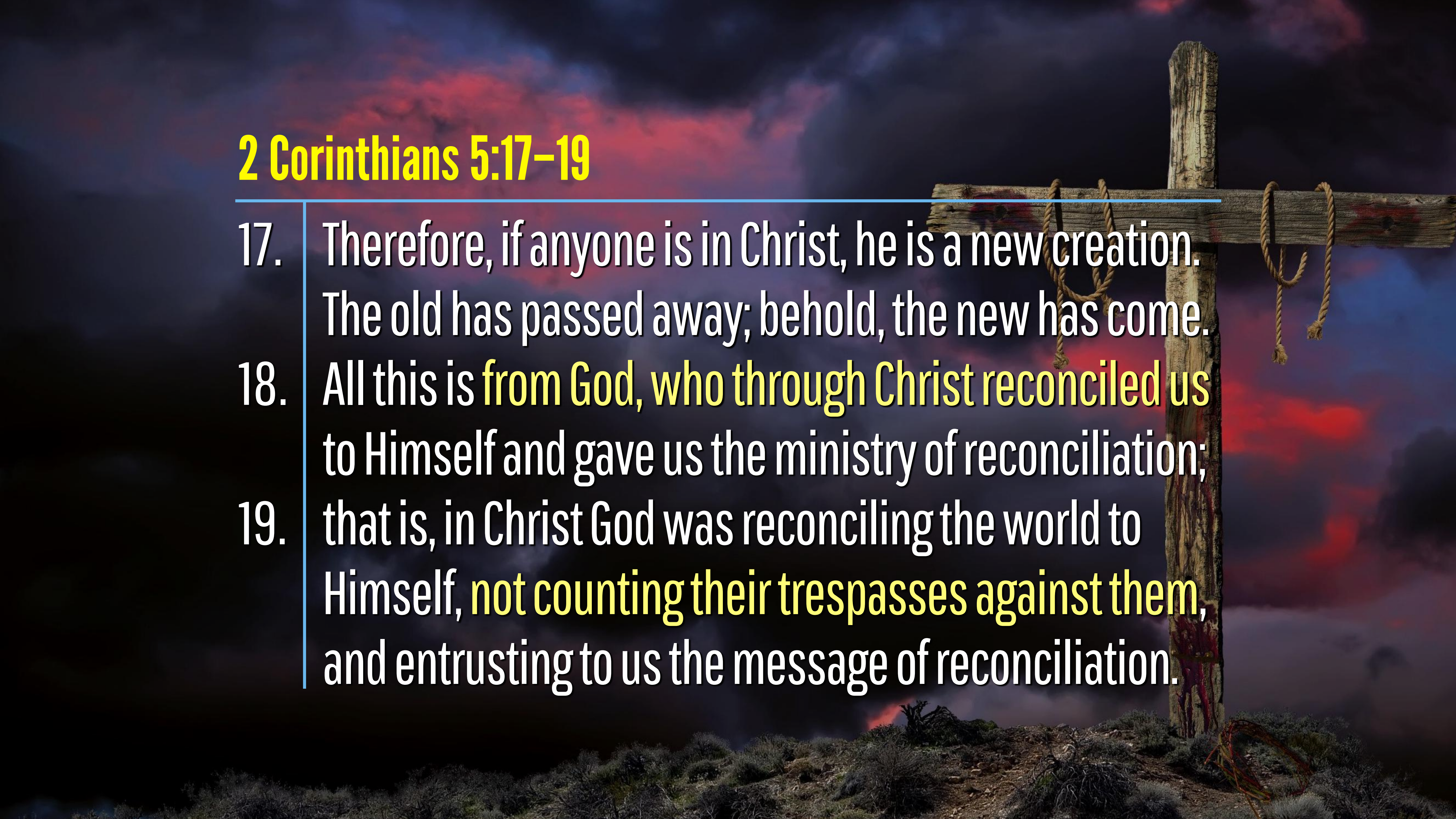
- 
- A wooden cross stands on a hill under a dramatic sunset sky with red and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has some red paint or blood on it. A rope is tied around the horizontal beam.
- 12. giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**
 - 14. in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**
 - 20. and **through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, with ropes tied around the horizontal beam. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and patches of red and orange light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

1 Corinthians 2:8

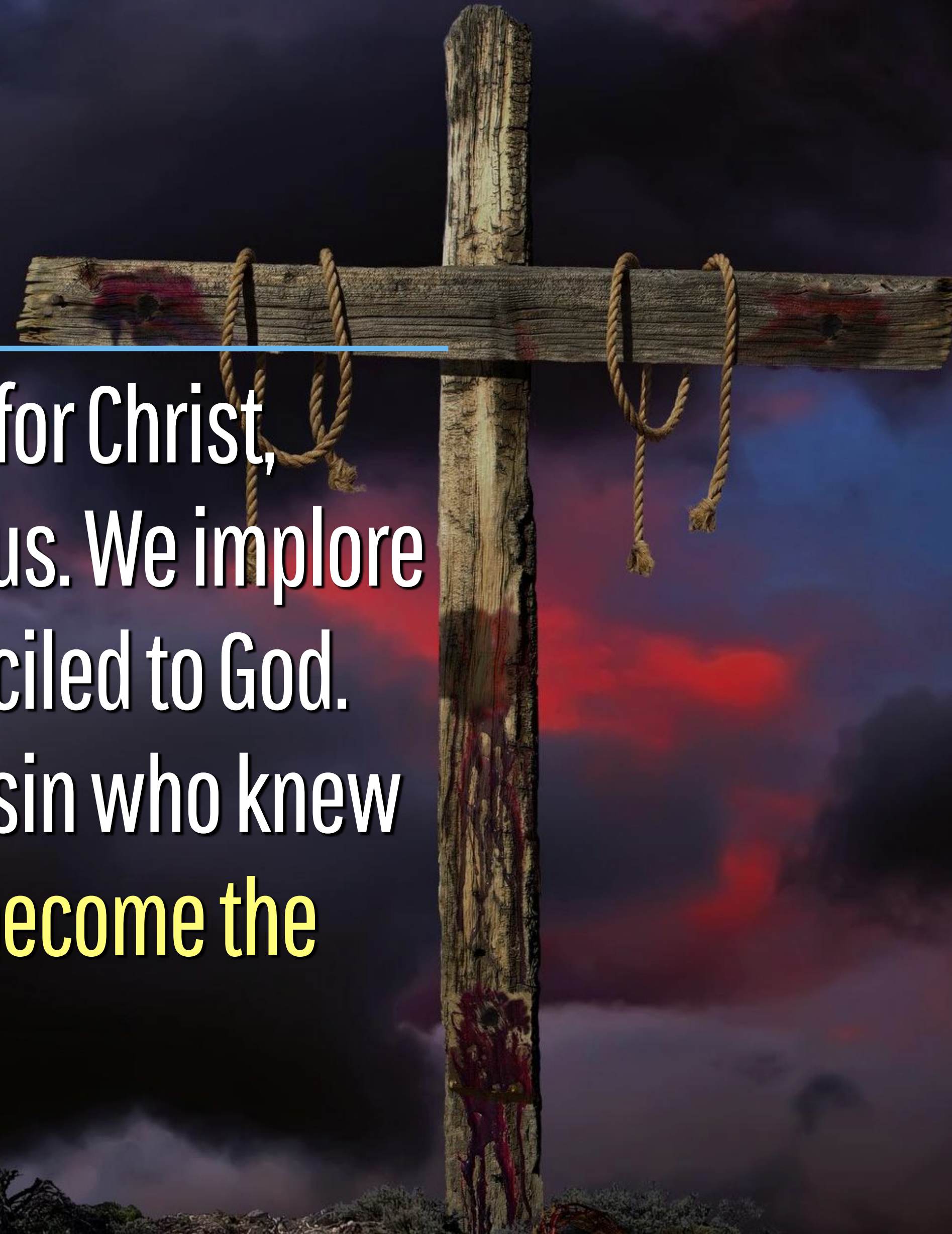
None of the rulers of this age understood this
(the wisdom of God), for if they had, **they**
would not have crucified the Lord of glory.


2 Corinthians 5:17–19

- 
- A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a vibrant sunset or sunrise in shades of red, orange, and purple. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood, and ropes are tied to its horizontal beam.
17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
18. All this is **from God, who through Christ reconciled us** to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
19. that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them,** and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

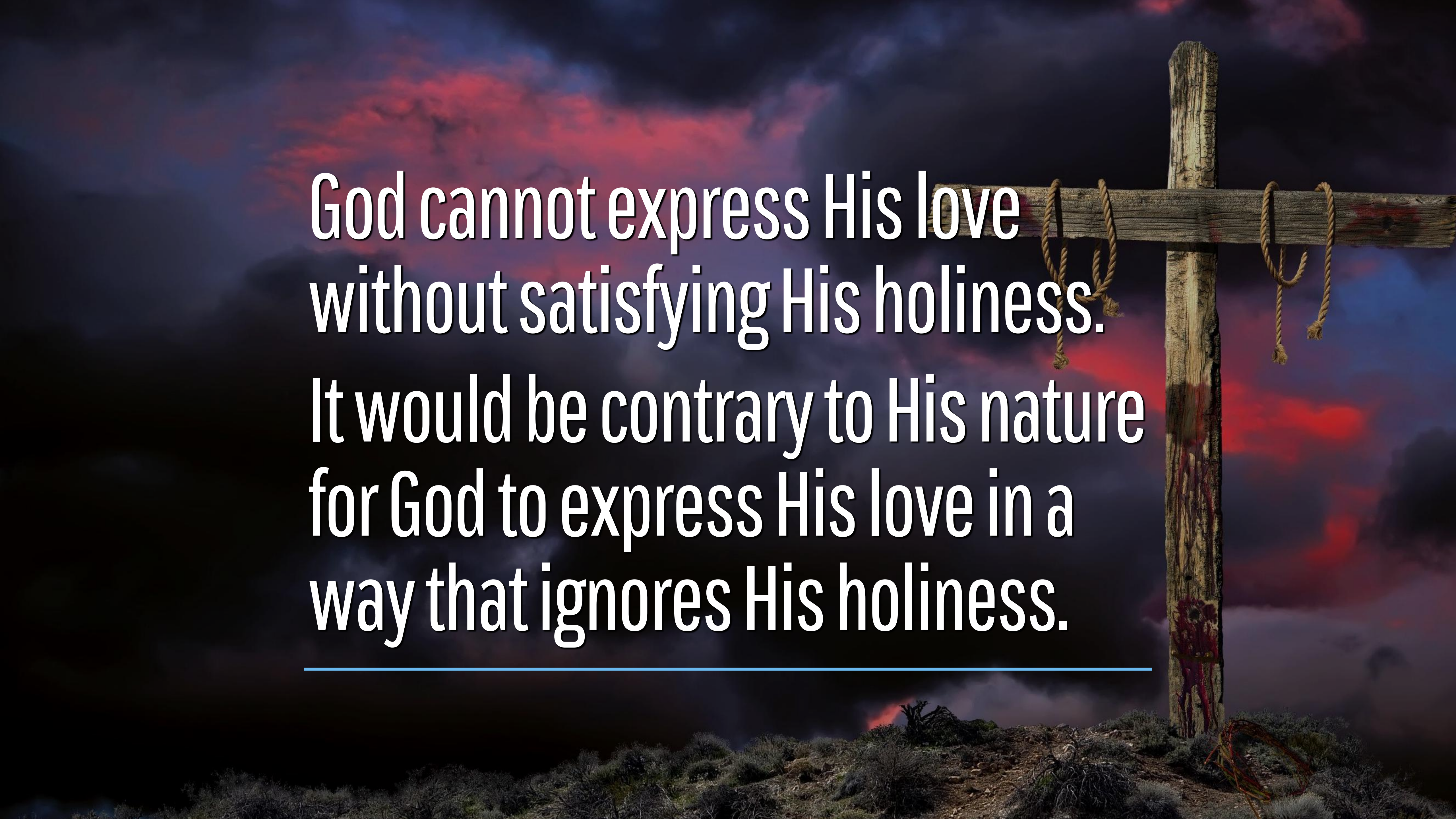
20. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
21. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.



A wooden cross stands on a grassy hill under a dramatic sky with red and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has ropes tied to its horizontal beam. The background is a sunset or sunrise scene with dark, swirling clouds and a bright orange and red glow on the horizon.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Amplified Bible)

It was God personally present in Christ,
reconciling and **restoring** the world **to favour**
with Himself, not counting up and holding against
men their trespasses but **cancelling them**.

A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is dark with swirling red and purple clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

God cannot express His love
without satisfying His holiness.
It would be contrary to His nature
for God to express His love in a
way that ignores His holiness.

Matthew 26:28

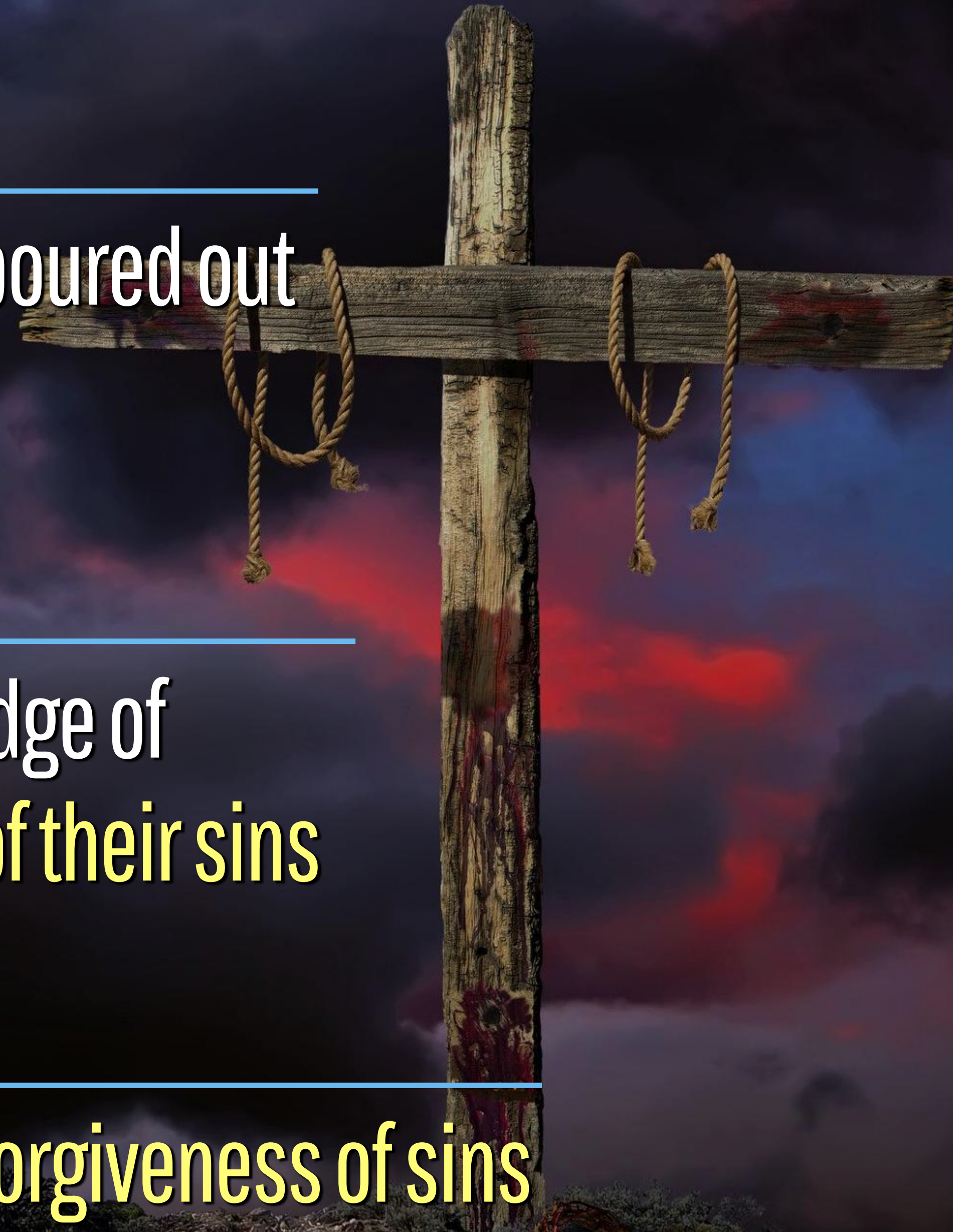
This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out
for many **for the forgiveness of sins**

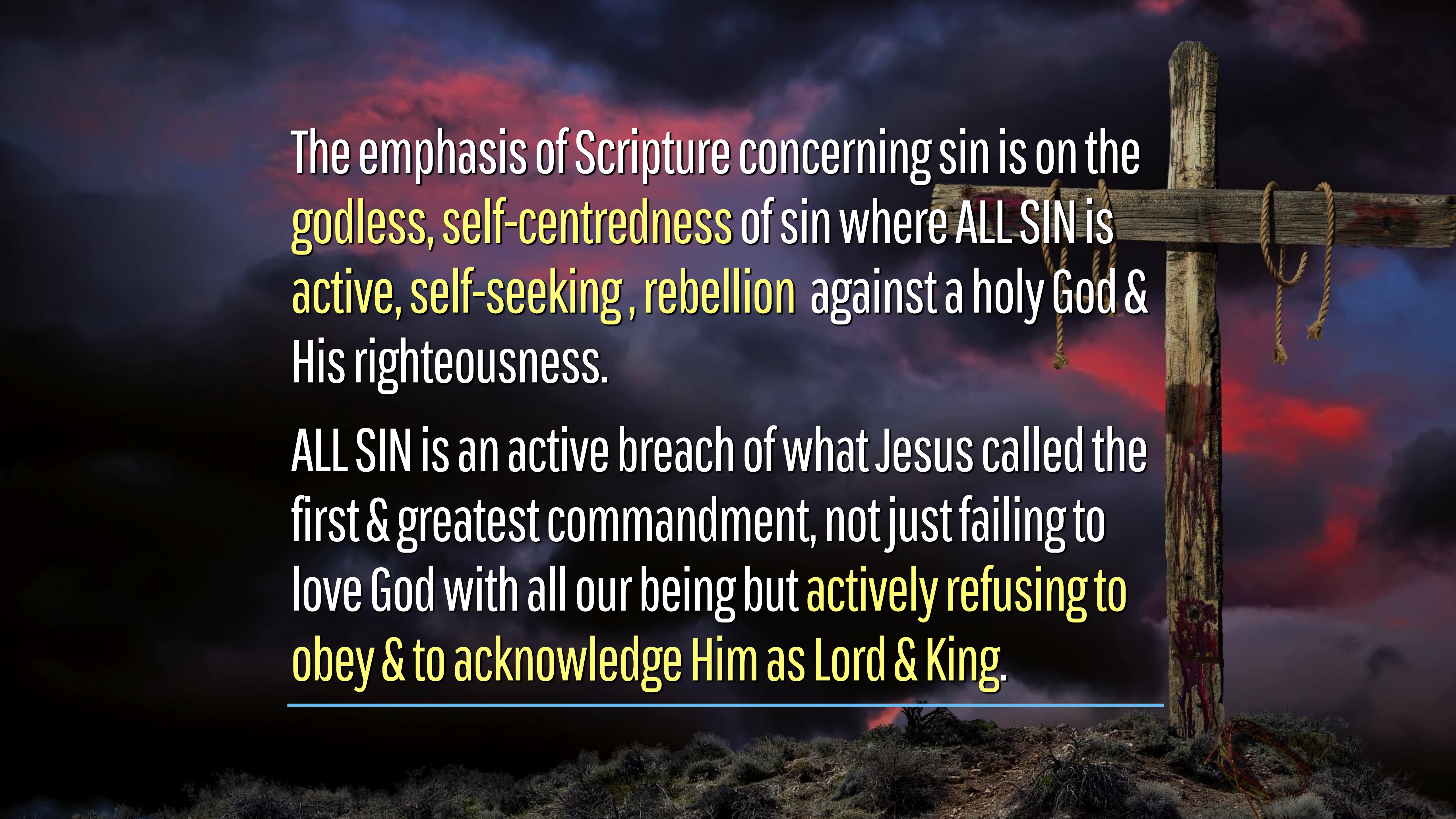
Luke 1:77

... he (John the Baptist) would give knowledge of
salvation to his people **in the forgiveness of their sins**

Hebrews 9:22

without the shedding of blood there is no **forgiveness of sins**



A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a vibrant sunset or sunrise in shades of red, orange, and purple. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood, and ropes are tied to its horizontal beam. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The emphasis of Scripture concerning sin is on the **godless, self-centredness** of sin where ALL SIN is **active, self-seeking, rebellion** against a holy God & His righteousness.

ALL SIN is an active breach of what Jesus called the first & greatest commandment, not just failing to love God with all our being but **actively refusing to obey & to acknowledge Him as Lord & King.**

A wooden cross stands on a hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is a dramatic mix of deep blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood, and ropes are tied to its horizontal beam. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

Sin in Scripture is not a regrettable lapse from conventional standards. It's essence is hostility to God issuing, or resulting, in active rebellion against Him.


Every sin we commit is an expression (in differing degrees of self-consciousness) of this spirit of revolt against God.

John Stott (The Cross of Christ)

A wooden cross stands on a hill under a dramatic sunset sky with red and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has ropes tied around its horizontal beam. The background shows a dark, silhouetted landscape with some low-lying vegetation.


John 16:8 (Amplified Bible)

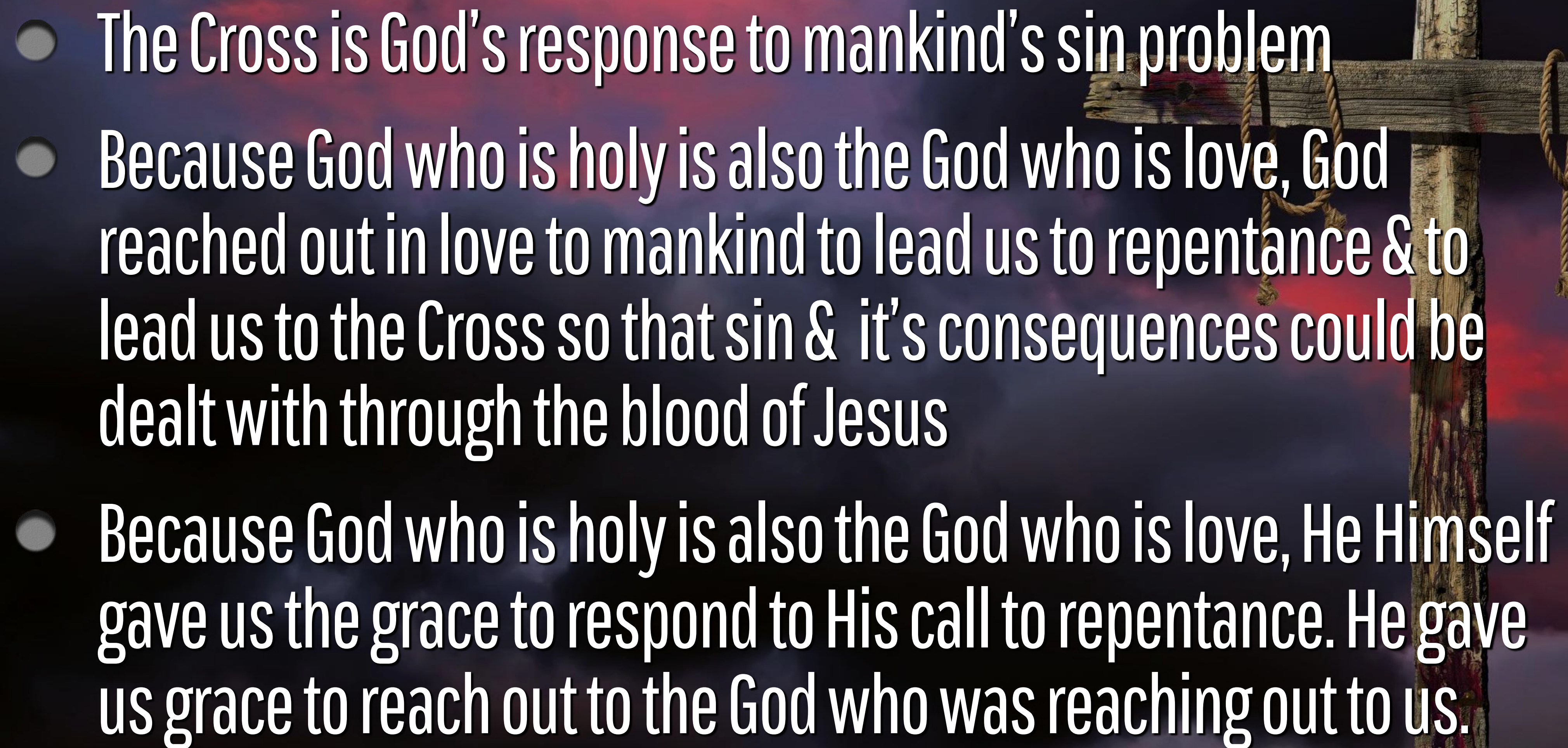
And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it **about sin and about righteousness** (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) **and about judgment**

A wooden cross stands on a hill under a dramatic sunset sky with red and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has ropes tied to its horizontal beam. The background shows a dark, silhouetted landscape with some low-lying vegetation.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Amplified Bible)

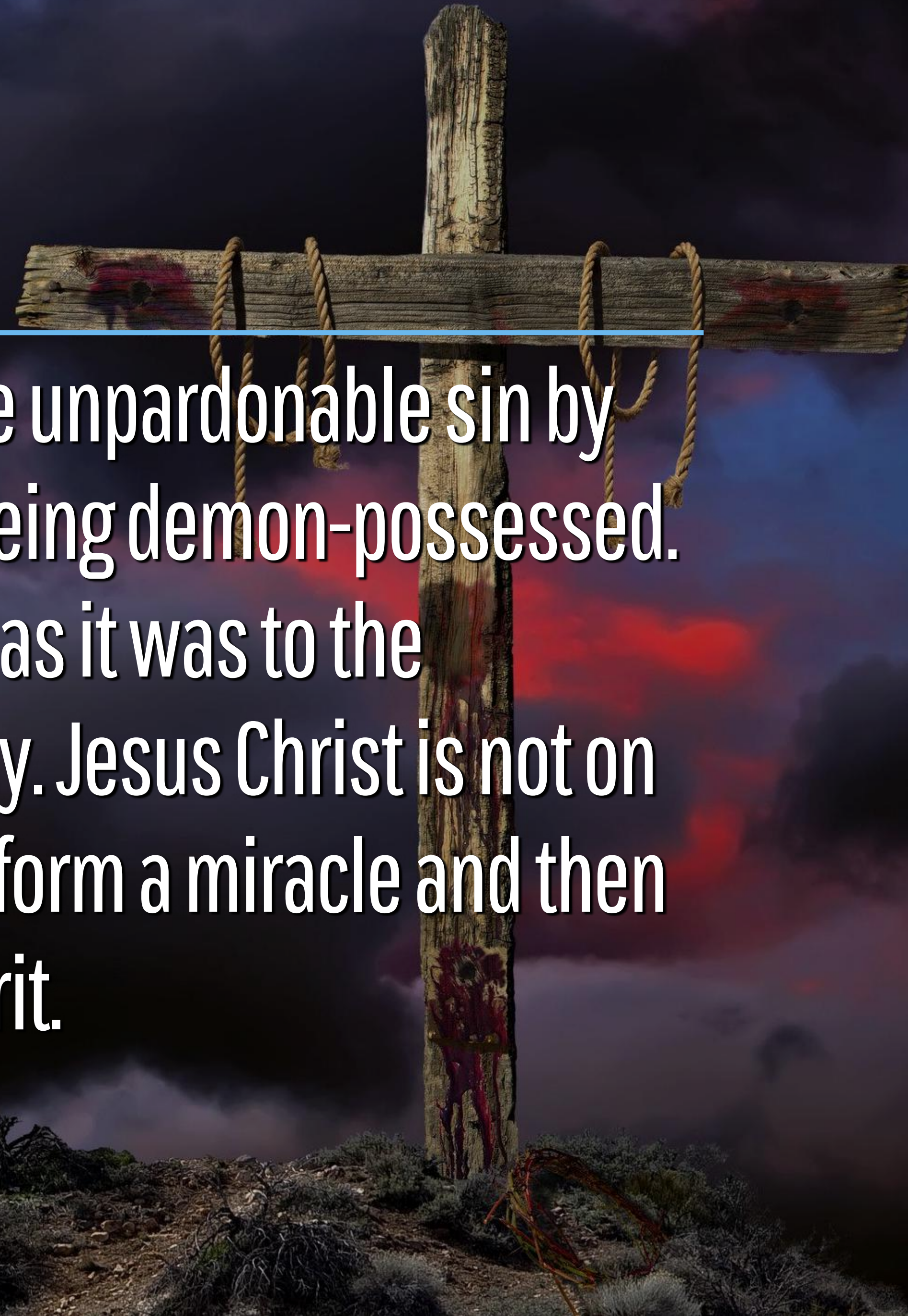
It was God personally present in Christ,
reconciling and **restoring** the world **to favour**
with Himself, not counting up and holding against
men their trespasses but **cancelling them**.

- 
- A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The cross is made of rough, weathered wood. The background is a dramatic sky with swirling clouds in shades of deep red, purple, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.
- Mankind's greatest need is to be reconciled to God & to be made free from the judgment of God because of man's sin
 - Sin is more than doing wrong things. In Scripture, sin essentially is active rebellion against God & active disobedience of Him

- 
- A wooden cross stands on a grassy hill under a dramatic sky with red and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has a rope tied around its horizontal beam. The background shows a sunset or sunrise with vibrant colors in the sky and some low-lying vegetation on the hill.
- The Cross is God's response to mankind's sin problem
 - Because God who is holy is also the God who is love, God reached out in love to mankind to lead us to repentance & to lead us to the Cross so that sin & its consequences could be dealt with through the blood of Jesus
 - Because God who is holy is also the God who is love, He Himself gave us the grace to respond to His call to repentance. He gave us grace to reach out to the God who was reaching out to us.

The Unpardonable Sin in the Gospels

The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day committed the unpardonable sin by accusing Jesus Christ (in person, on earth) of being demon-possessed. The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, specific as it was to the Pharisees' situation, cannot be duplicated today. Jesus Christ is not on earth, and no one can personally see Jesus perform a miracle and then attribute that power to Satan instead of the Spirit.



The Unpardonable Sin Today

The only unpardonable sin today is that of continued unbelief. There is no pardon for a person who dies in his rejection of Christ. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, convicting the unsaved of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). If a person resists that conviction and remains unrepentant, then he is choosing hell over heaven. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6), and the object of faith is Jesus (Acts 16:31). There is no forgiveness for someone who dies without faith in Christ.