

**STANDING
FIRM IN A
FADING
WORLD**

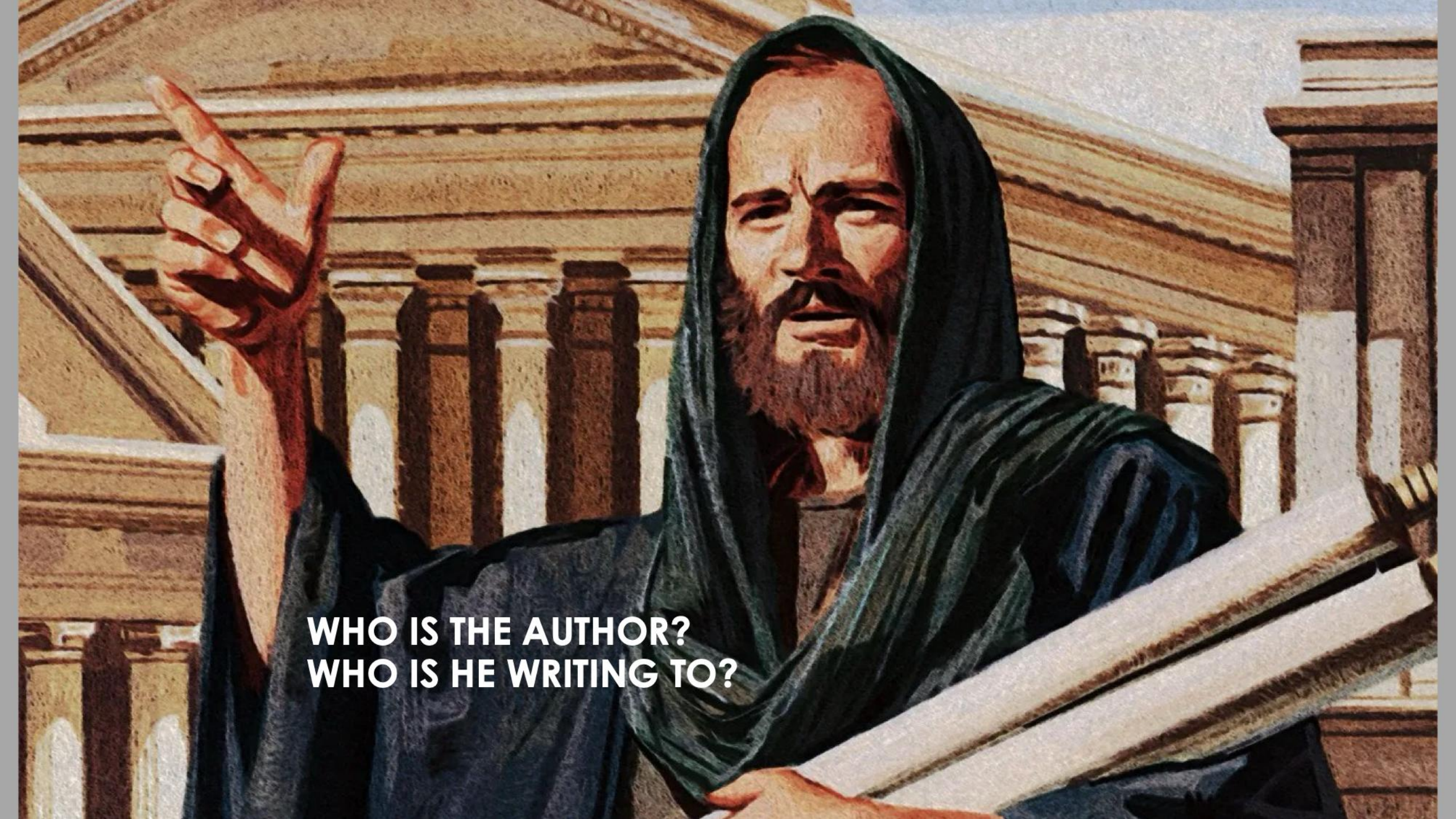

EVERY NATION
CHURCH • PENANG

ENDURE



2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:
2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
3 For the time is coming when people will not **endure** sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
5 As for you, always be **sober-minded**, **endure suffering**, **do the work** of an evangelist, **fulfill** your ministry.



**WHO IS THE AUTHOR?
WHO IS HE WRITING TO?**





Background :

Suffering and hardship were common experiences due to various factors such as **political** oppression, **social** injustice, and **economic** difficulties

And for early Christians, **persecution**. So Paul is writing to encourage/WARN believers to endure these hardships with patience and faith.

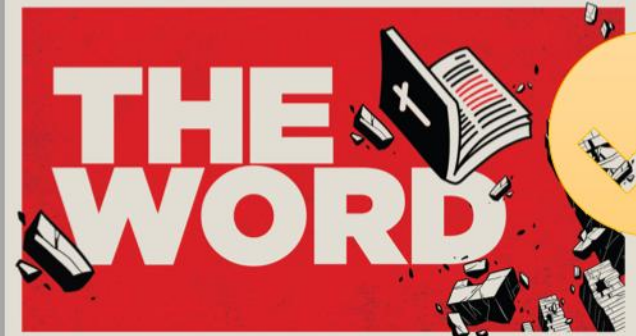
...For the time is coming when people will not **endure** sound teaching, but As for you, always be sober-minded, **endure** suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Endure : gk kakopatheó:
To **suffer** hardship, to **endure** affliction;

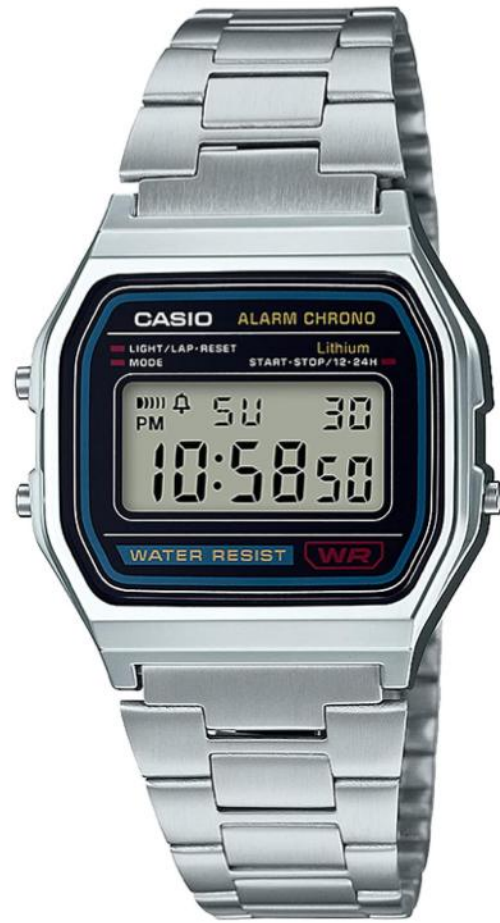
From a compound of **κακός** (kakos, meaning "bad" or "evil") and **πάσχω** (paschō, meaning "to suffer" or "to endure")

It conveys the idea of facing difficulties or afflictions with perseverance.



THE WATCH





2 Timothy 4:1-5

I **charge** you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:
2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not **endure** sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

5 As for you, always be **sober-minded**, **endure suffering**, **do the work** of an evangelist, **fulfill** your ministry.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE WATCHING TODAY?

- SOCIAL MEDIA
- YOUTUBE
- STREAMING
SHOWS/MOVIE



- 
- SOCIAL MEDIA
 - YOUTUBE
 - STREAMING
SHOWS/MOVIES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT “WHAT IS COMING”?



For the time is coming

when ...

PEOPLE WILL

1-**not endure** sound
teaching, but

2-**having** itching ears

3-they will **accumulate** for
themselves teachers to suit
their own passions, and

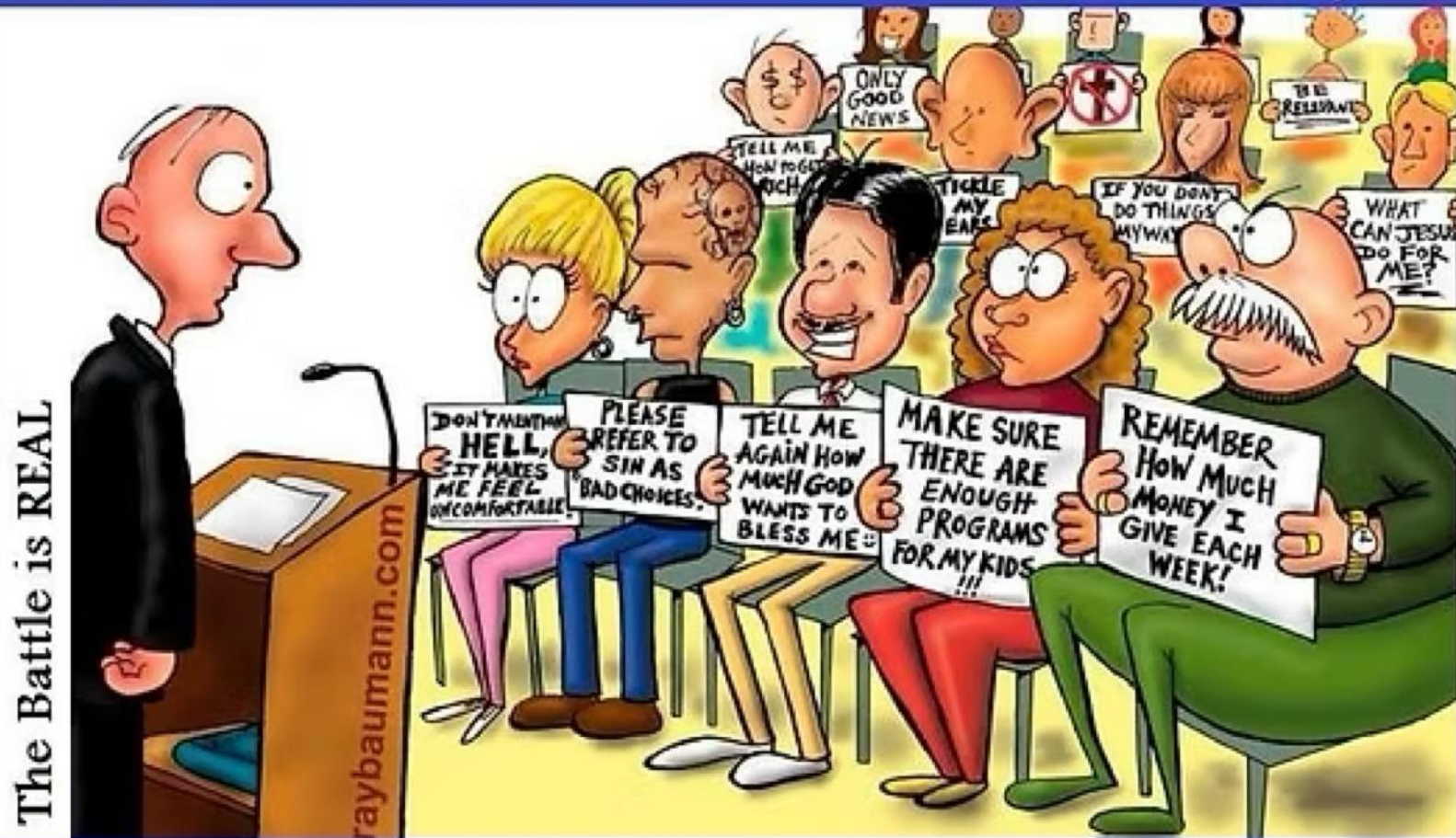
4-will **turn away** from
listening to the truth and

5-**wander off** into myths.

2 Timothy 4:3-4



For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine,

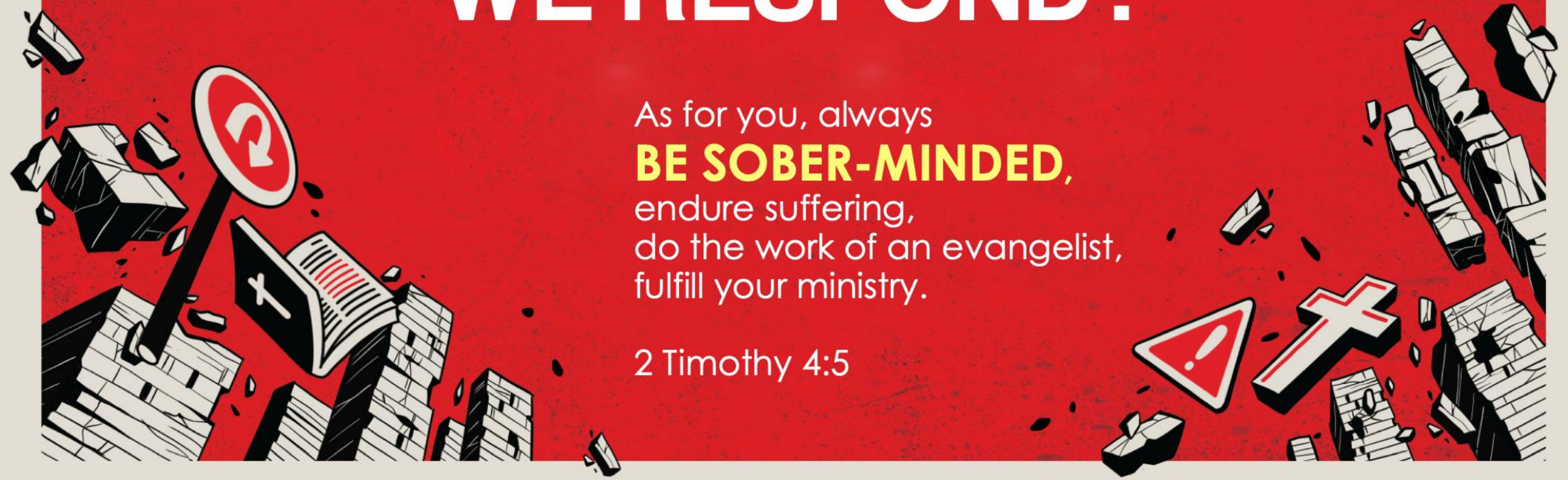


but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2 Timothy 4:3~4

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

As for you, always
BE SOBER-MINDED,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist,
fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5



WHAT IS **SOBER?** **SOBER-MINDED?**

Sober (Greek: *nēphō* – νήφω):
Literally means
“**to abstain from wine**” or
“to be free from intoxicants.”

Figuratively, it means
to be **sensible**, discreet,
to be **calm, collected, self-**
controlled, or clear-headed.

In other words to be **spiritually**
alert, and **emotionally steady.**

WHAT IS **SOBER-MINDED?**

Sober-minded refers to having:

- **Sound** judgment
- **Mental** and spiritual alertness
- **Emotional** steadiness
- **Freedom** from deception or panic

That means :

You are **not** swayed

by panic, popularity, pressure, or public opinion.

In short :

TO BE SOBER-MINDED =

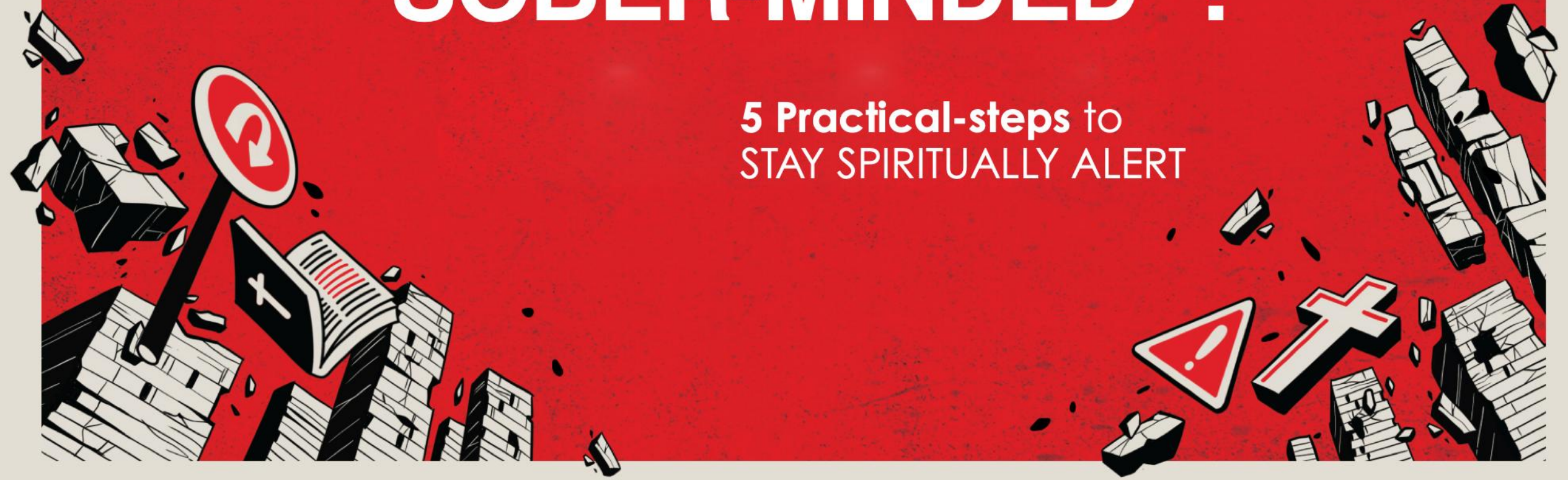
THINK clearly,

LIVE wisely, and

ACT with spiritual awareness."

HOW CAN WE BE “SOBER-MINDED”?

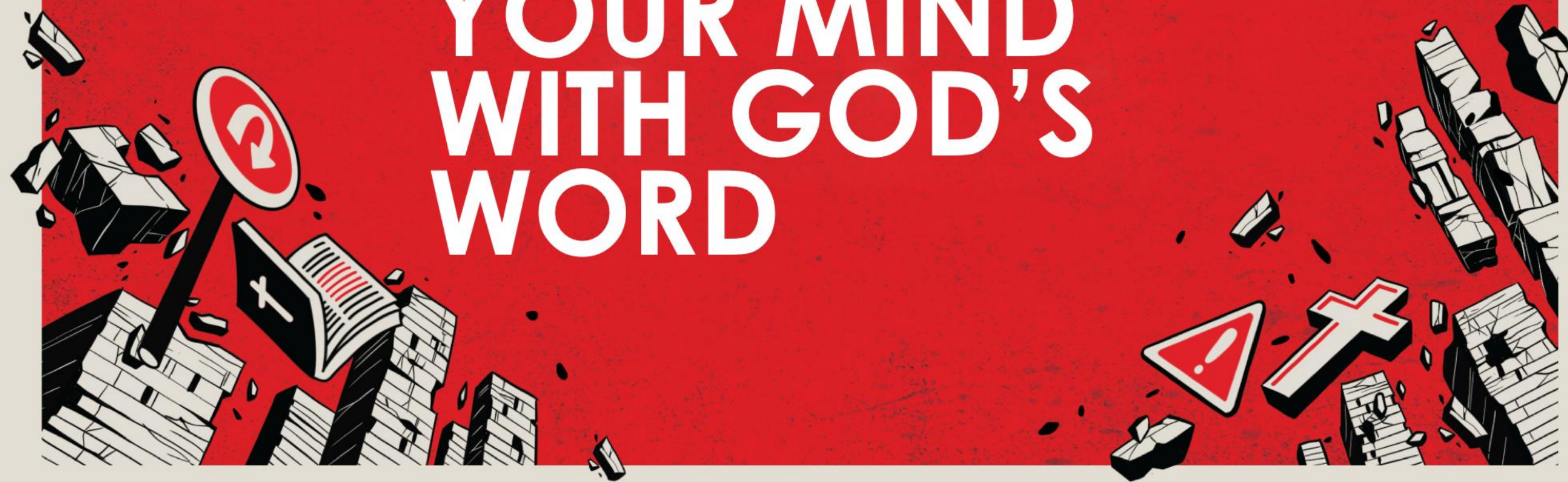
5 Practical-steps to
STAY SPIRITUALLY ALERT



S.O.B.E.R.



#1: SATURATE YOUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD





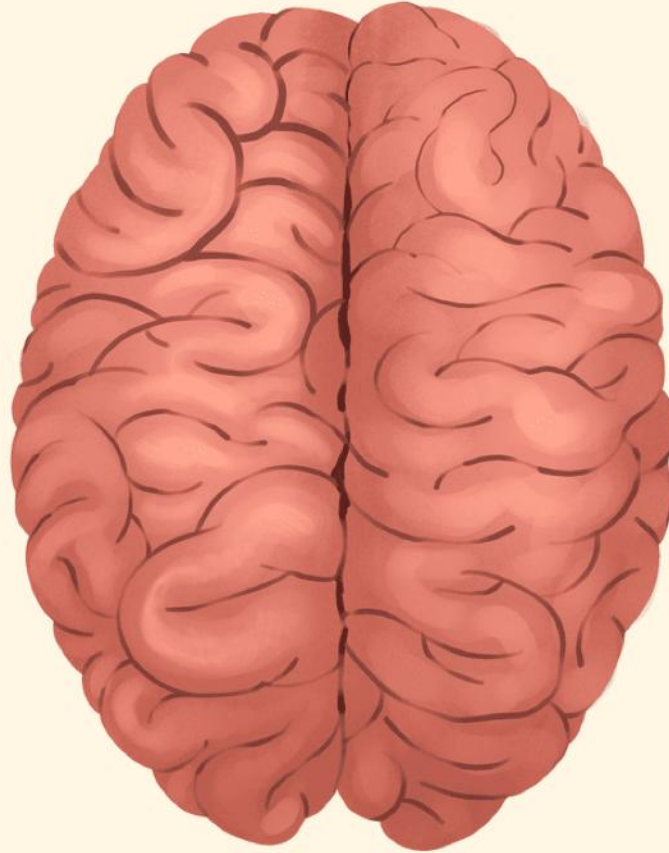
"Let the word of Christ
dwell in you richly,
teaching and
admonishing one
another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and
hymns and spiritual
songs, with thankfulness
in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

Left Brain vs. Right Brain

Left Side

- Control of the right side of the body
- Written and spoken language
- Mathematical calculations
- Logical decision making
- Reasoning



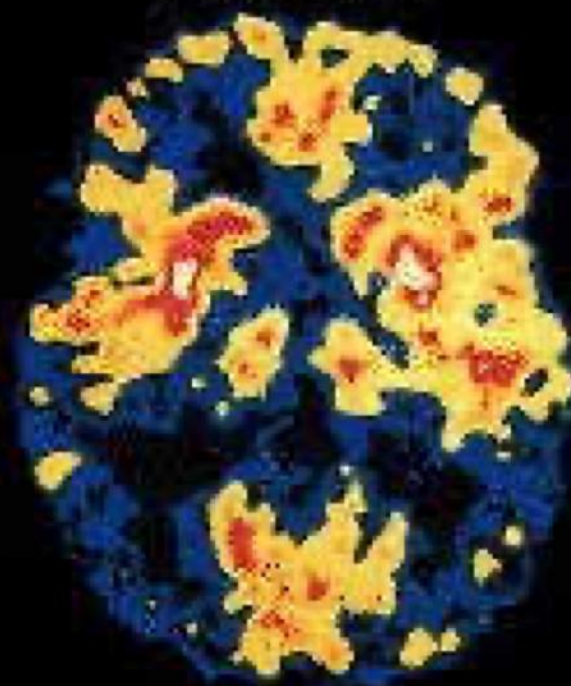
Right Side

- Control of the left side of the body
- Understanding language
- Non-literal thinking
- Spatial awareness
- Imagination
- Facial recognition

Normal
Brain



Alzheimer's
Disease



in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins, DAN 9:24

28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers sakes.

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief.

31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

4 Discourse on God's wisdom, 11:33-36

33 O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways, past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

11:26 See Isa 59:20-21

11:32 all I.e. Jews and Gentiles alike (through him), sustainer

11:36 God is the source (of him), sustainer described in the preceding chapters, reason- one's rational powers.

12:2 be not conformed, I.e. do not live according to the style or manner of this present age, but live as if the new age had already begun. The only other occurrence of this phrase is in

36 For of him and through him and to him are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen

VI. RIGHTEOUSNESS PRACTICED, APPLICATION, SERVICE, 12:1-15

In Relation to Ourselves, 12:1-2

1 Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

B In Relation to the Church, 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office;

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy

12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office;

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy

12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office;

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy

12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

ROMANS 12:7

let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith,

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

In Relation to Society, 12:9-13

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another, in honour preferring one another; SEE ALSO PHIL 2:3-4

11 Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; INSTANT IN THE SERVICE OF GOD

12 Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality, ROM 16:23

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much

12:7 ministry = service in a general sense.

12:8 simplicity Better, generosity

12:9 dissimulation = hypocrisy; or, let love be genuine.

12:11 Not slothful in business = Do not let your zeal slacken. fervent in = boiling with.

ROMANS 13:5

as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord, DEUT 32:35

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

SUBORDINATE - YE OBEY - LIKE SERVS. AREN'T IN ORDER UNDER A GENERAL HABITUAL SUBJECTION

D In Relation to Government, 13:1-14

13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2) Whosoever therefore resisteth the ordinance of God, and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.

4) For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the servant of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 See Note bottom of page 1617

vidual's proper attitude to the state is set forth the powers that be are ordained of God. This does not say that only certain forms of government are ordained of God. God established and upholds the principle of government even though some governments do not fulfill His desires.

13:5 as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

13:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord, DEUT 32:35

13:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

13:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

SUBORDINATE - YE OBEY - LIKE SERVS. AREN'T IN ORDER UNDER A GENERAL HABITUAL SUBJECTION

ROMANS 13:5

as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord, DEUT 32:35

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

SUBORDINATE - YE OBEY - LIKE SERVS. AREN'T IN ORDER UNDER A GENERAL HABITUAL SUBJECTION

D In Relation to Government, 13:1-14

13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2) Whosoever therefore resisteth the ordinance of God, and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.

4) For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the servant of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 See Note bottom of page 1617

vidual's proper attitude to the state is set forth the powers that be are ordained of God. This does not say that only certain forms of government are ordained of God. God established and upholds the principle of government even though some governments do not fulfill His desires.

13:5 as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

13:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord, DEUT 32:35

13:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

13:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

SUBORDINATE - YE OBEY - LIKE SERVS. AREN'T IN ORDER UNDER A GENERAL HABITUAL SUBJECTION

#2: OBSERVE AND FILTER YOUR THOUGHTS



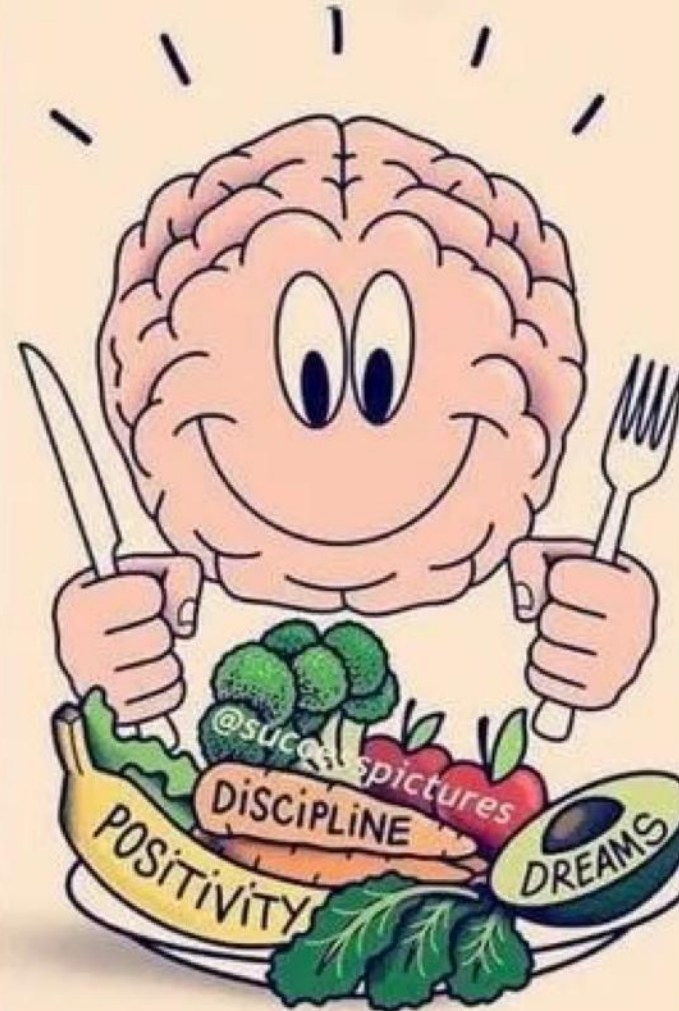
2 Corinthians 10:5

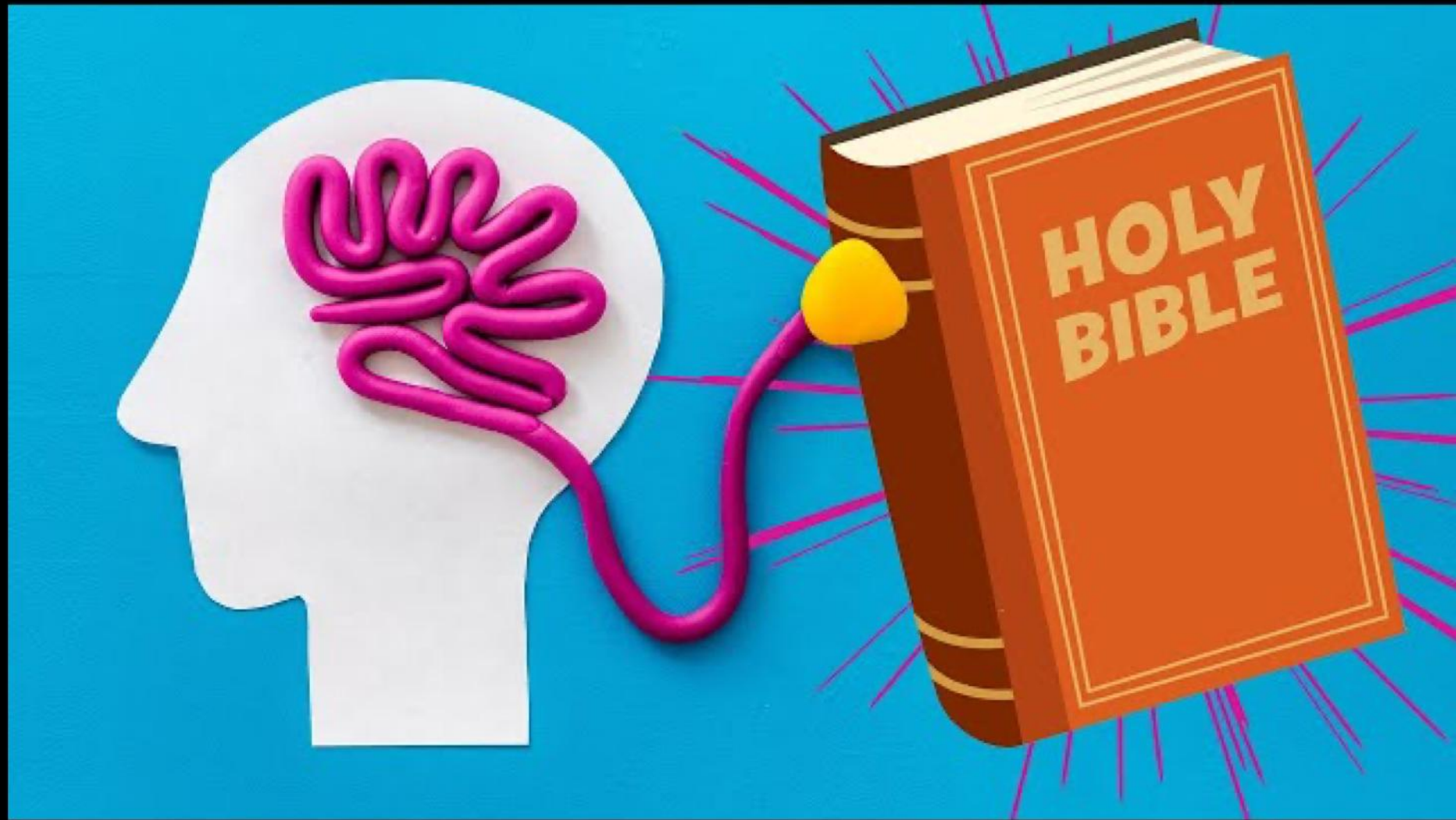
*“We destroy
arguments and every
lofty opinion raised
against the
knowledge of God,
and take every
thought captive to
obey Christ”*





YOU BECOME WHAT YOU FEED YOUR MIND





Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal** of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”



Philippians 4:8

“**Finally**, brothers,
whatever is **true**,
whatever is **honourable**,
whatever is **just**,
whatever is **pure**,
whatever is **lovely**,
whatever is **commendable**,
if there is any **excellence**,
if there is anything **worthy**
of **praise**,
think about these things.



#3: BE SPIRITUALLY DISCIPLINED



1 Timothy 4:7

“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. **Rather train** yourself for **godliness;**”



#4: ENGAGE IN PRAYER & DISCERNMENT:



James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."



#5: RUN WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE:





“Whoever walks
with the **wise**
becomes **wise**,
but the companion
of fools will suffer
harm.”

Proverbs 13:20



**“Do not be
misled:**

**“Bad company
corrupts
good character.”**

1 Corinthians 15:33

HOW TO STAY
SPIRITUALLY ALERT?
BE SOBER-MINDED
ALWAYS

S : SATURATE
YOUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD
O : OBSERVE
AND FILTER YOUR THOUGHTS
B : BE SPIRITUALLY DISCIPLINED
E : ENGAGE
IN PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT
R : RUN
WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE



Application
Questions :

Q1 : Reflect what influences your mind daily?
What do you need to reduce/eliminate/increase so that you think more clearly.

Q2 : Reflect what does your daily/weekly rhythm of Bible intake look like?
How can that be improved?

Q3 : Reflect who are the people you are walking with : are they helping or hindering your sobriety of mind?
And what are you going to do about it?