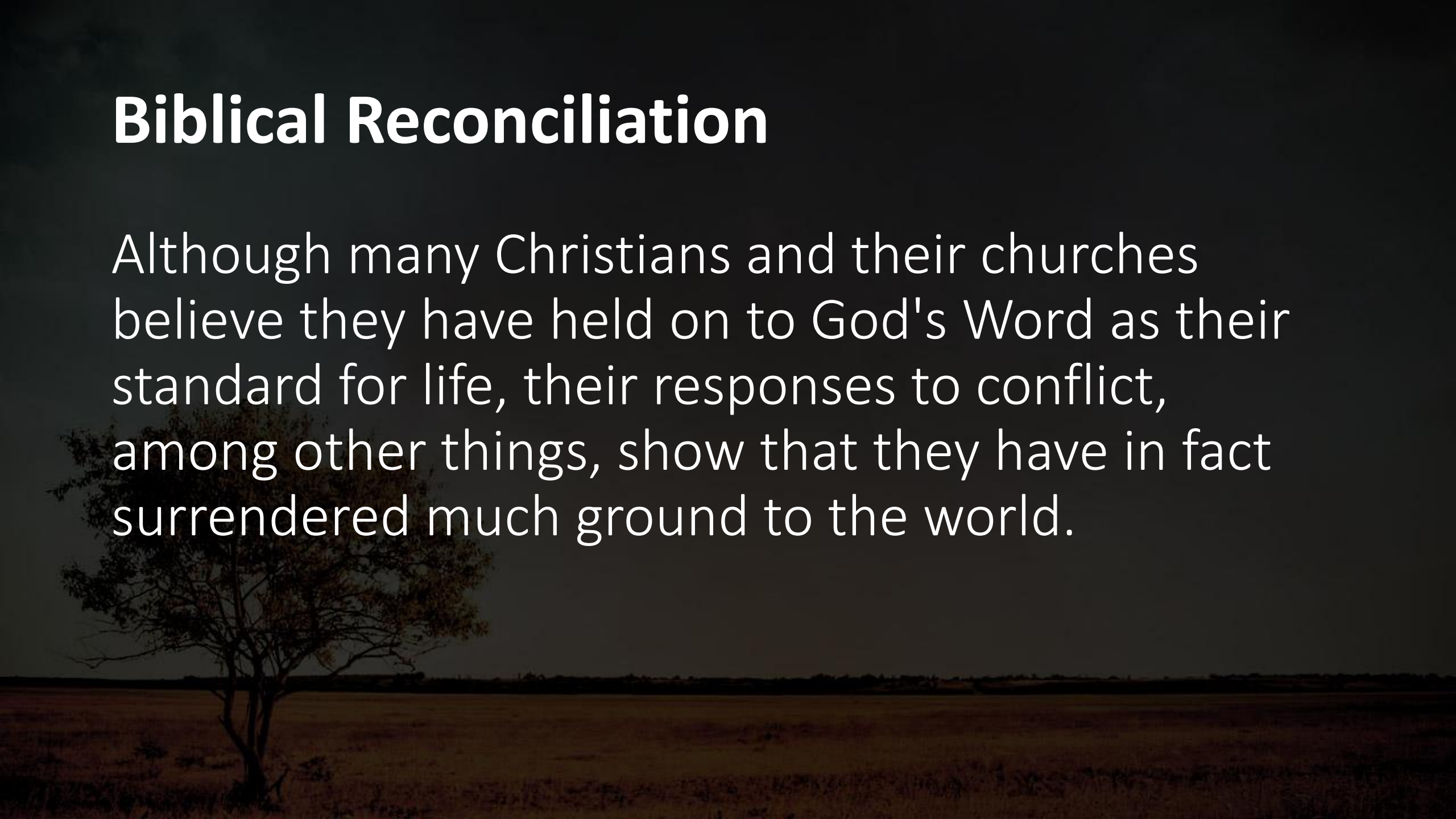


A landscape photograph featuring a single, leafy tree on the left side of a vast, flat, golden-brown field. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The text 'RESOLVING everyday CONFLICT' is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

# RESOLVING *everyday* CONFLICT

# Biblical Reconciliation

Although many Christians and their churches believe they have held on to God's Word as their standard for life, their responses to conflict, among other things, show that they have in fact surrendered much ground to the world.





# Biblical Reconciliation

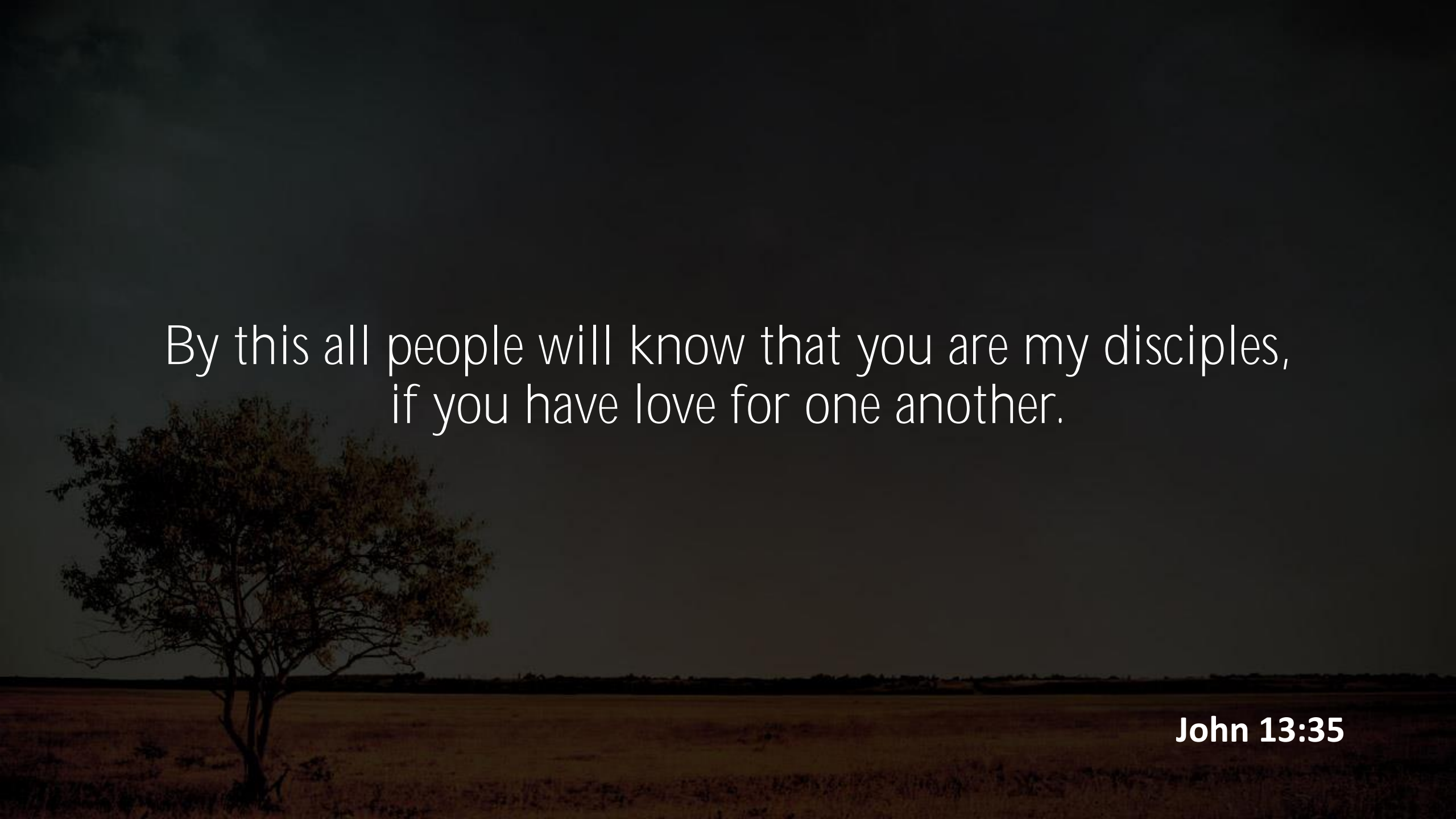
Instead of resolving differences in a distinctively biblical fashion, they often react to conflict with the same avoidance, manipulation, and control that characterize the world. In effect, both individually and congregationally, they have given in to the world's postmodern standard, which is “what feels good, sounds true, and seems beneficial *to me*?”

# GOSPEL-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS



# Essential Elements of the Gospel

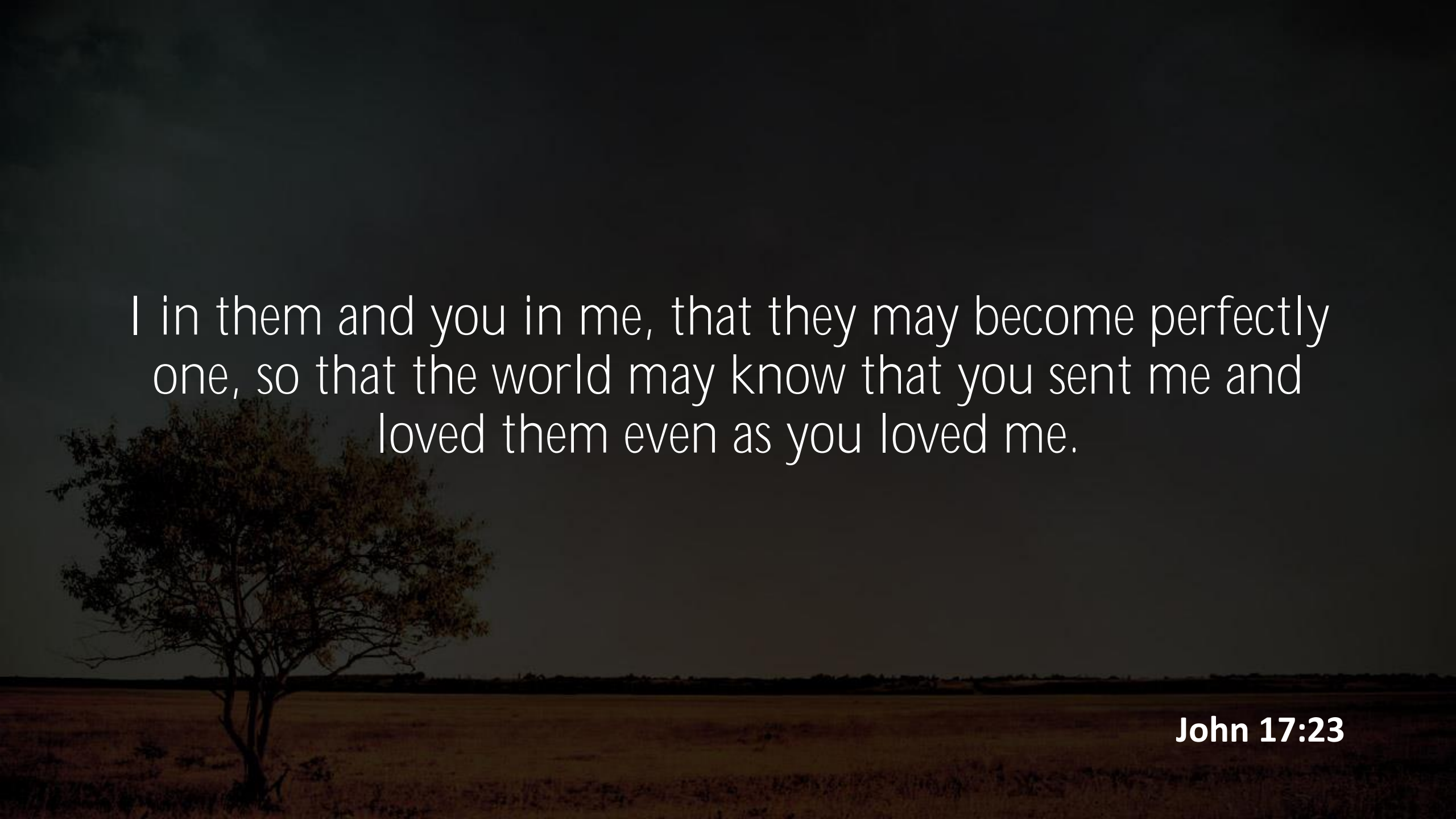
1. Made for relationship
2. Sin separates
3. Justice punishes
4. Substitution satisfies justice
5. Grace redeems
6. Repentant faith receives
7. Love pursues

A lone, leafy tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a dark, flat landscape. The sky is a deep, uniform black, and the ground is a dark, textured brown. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another.

**John 13:35**



A lone tree stands in a field under a dark sky. The tree is on the left side of the frame, with its branches spread out. The field is a flat, open expanse of land, and the sky is a deep, dark blue or black. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

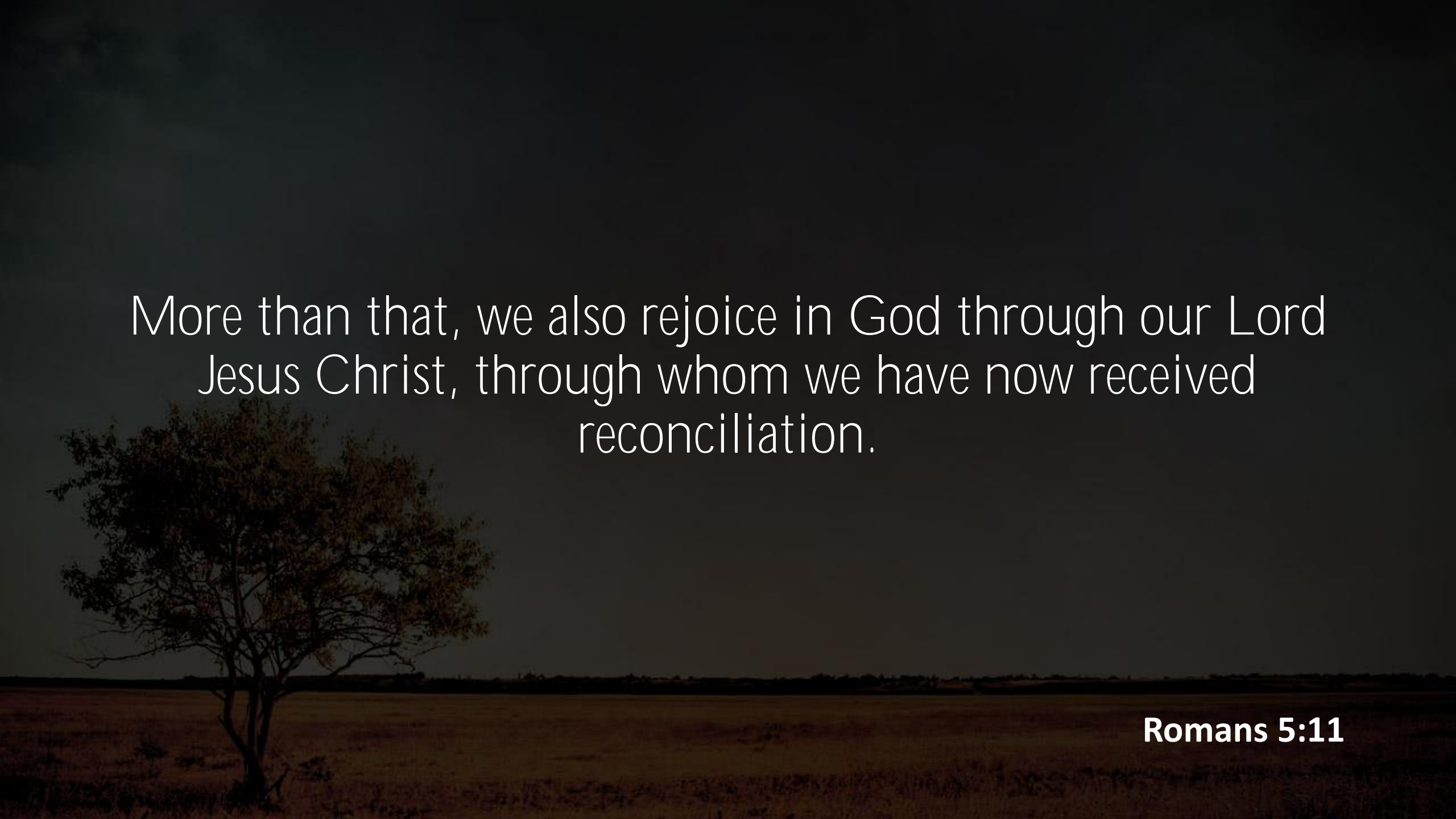
I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

**John 17:23**

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, a single, silhouetted tree stands on the left side. The ground is a flat, dark expanse, possibly a field or a beach. The sky is a deep, dark blue or black, with some faint, wispy clouds visible near the horizon. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

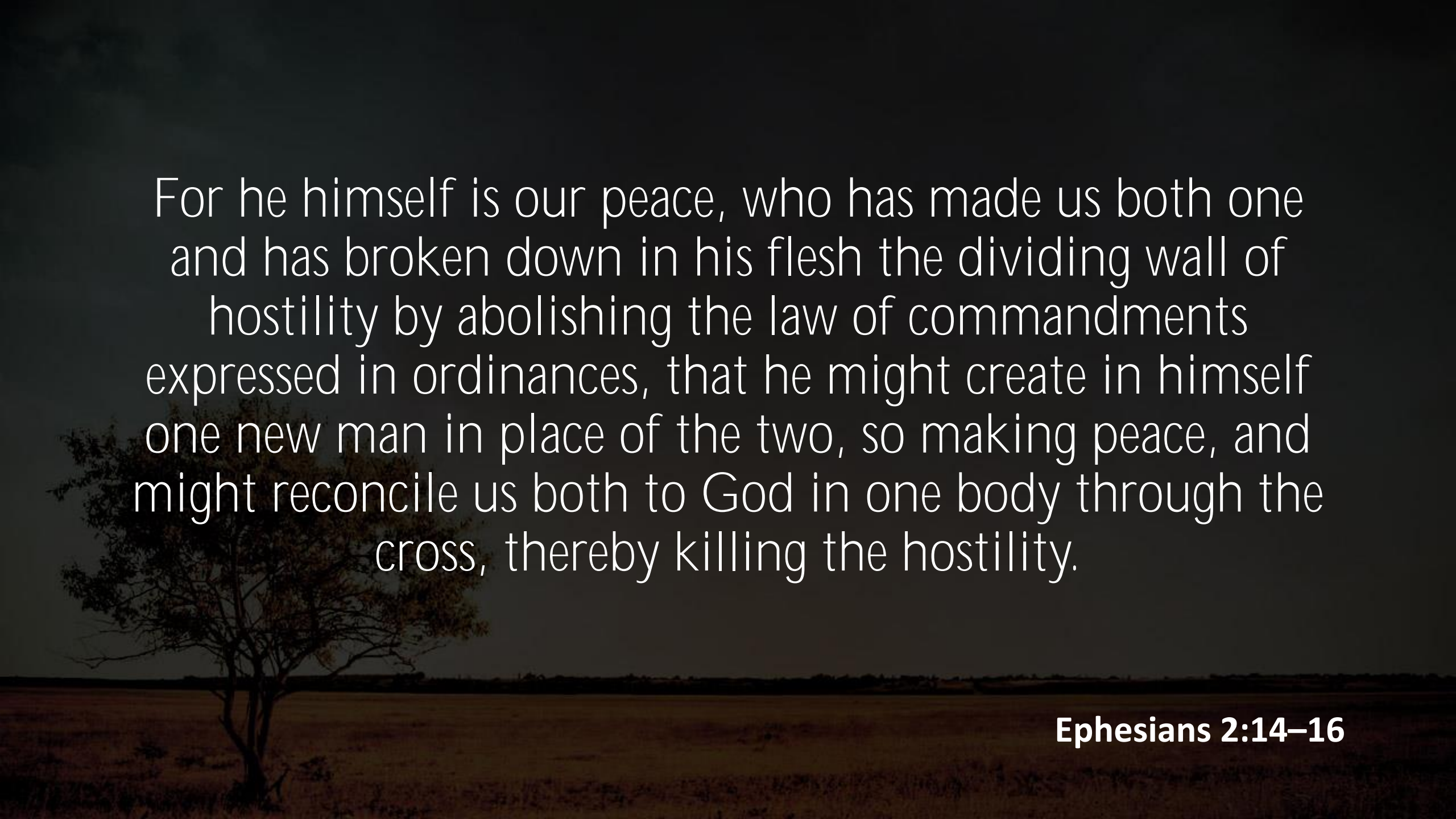
# The Gospel Makes Peace Possible



A lone tree stands in a vast, dark field under a dark sky. The tree is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its branches spreading out. The field is a uniform dark brown, and the sky is a deep, dark grey. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received  
reconciliation.

**Romans 5:11**

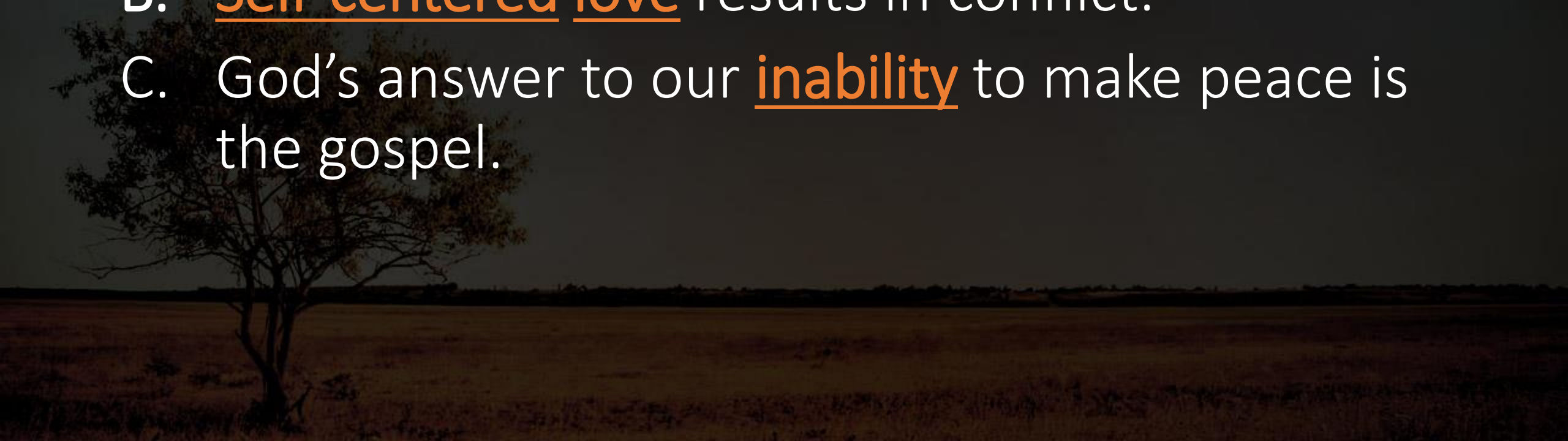


For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**Ephesians 2:14–16**

# The Gospel Makes Peace Possible

- A. Biblical peace can only be accomplished by other-oriented love.
- B. Self-centered love results in conflict.
- C. God's answer to our inability to make peace is the gospel.





The background of the image is a dark, moody landscape. On the left side, there is a single, silhouetted tree with some foliage. The ground is a flat, dark expanse, possibly a field or a beach. In the distance, a dark horizon line separates the land from a sky filled with dark, heavy clouds. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

**The Gospel is More Than  
Something to Believe**

# Gospel Reconciliation

- A. From God, not man
- B. More than knowing what is right
  - 1. Relying on mere knowledge
  - 2. Neglecting the knowledge of the gospel
- C. More than trying harder
- D. Power of God for peace



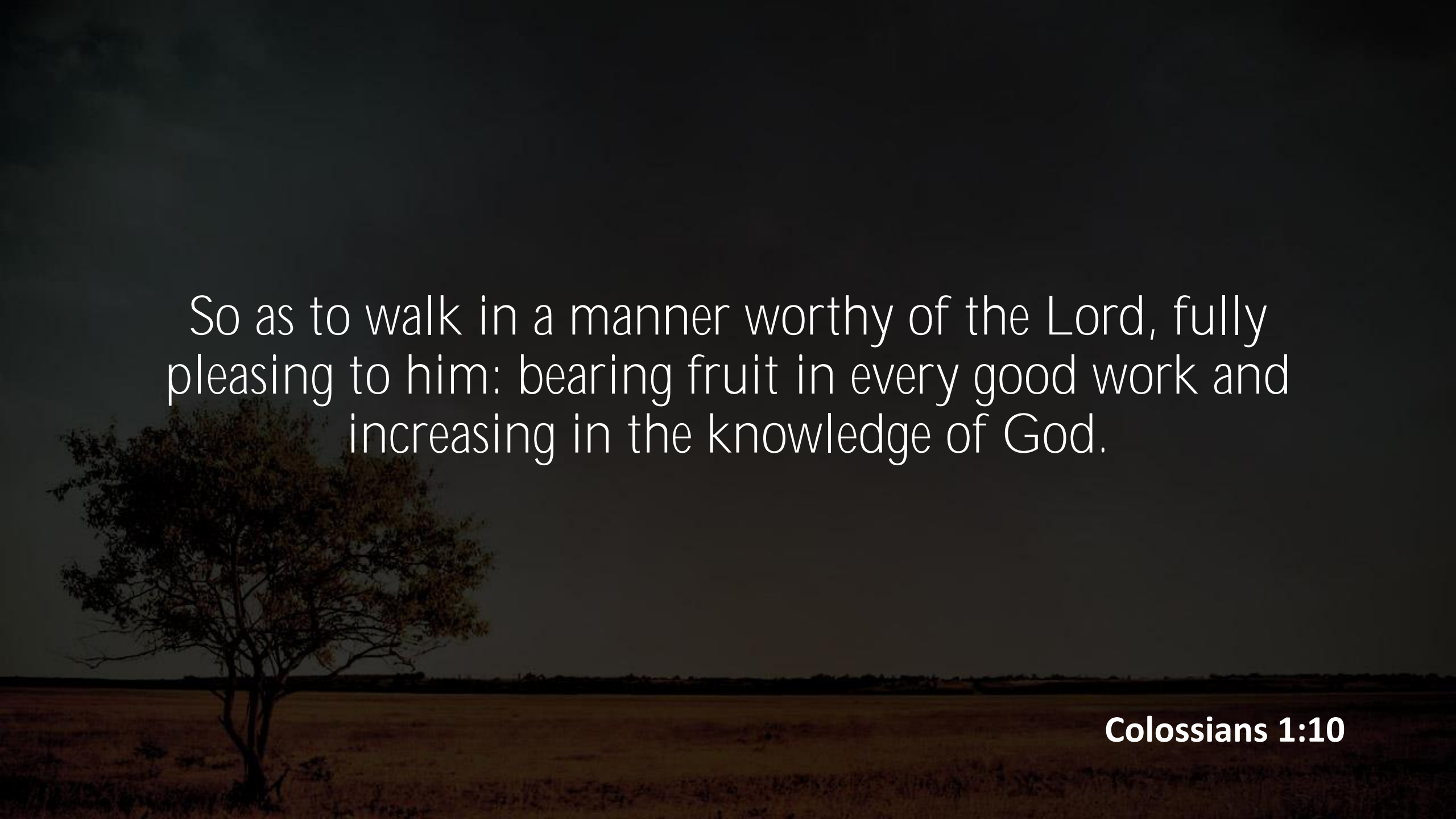
# The Gospel in Our Relationships



# The Gospel in Our Relationships

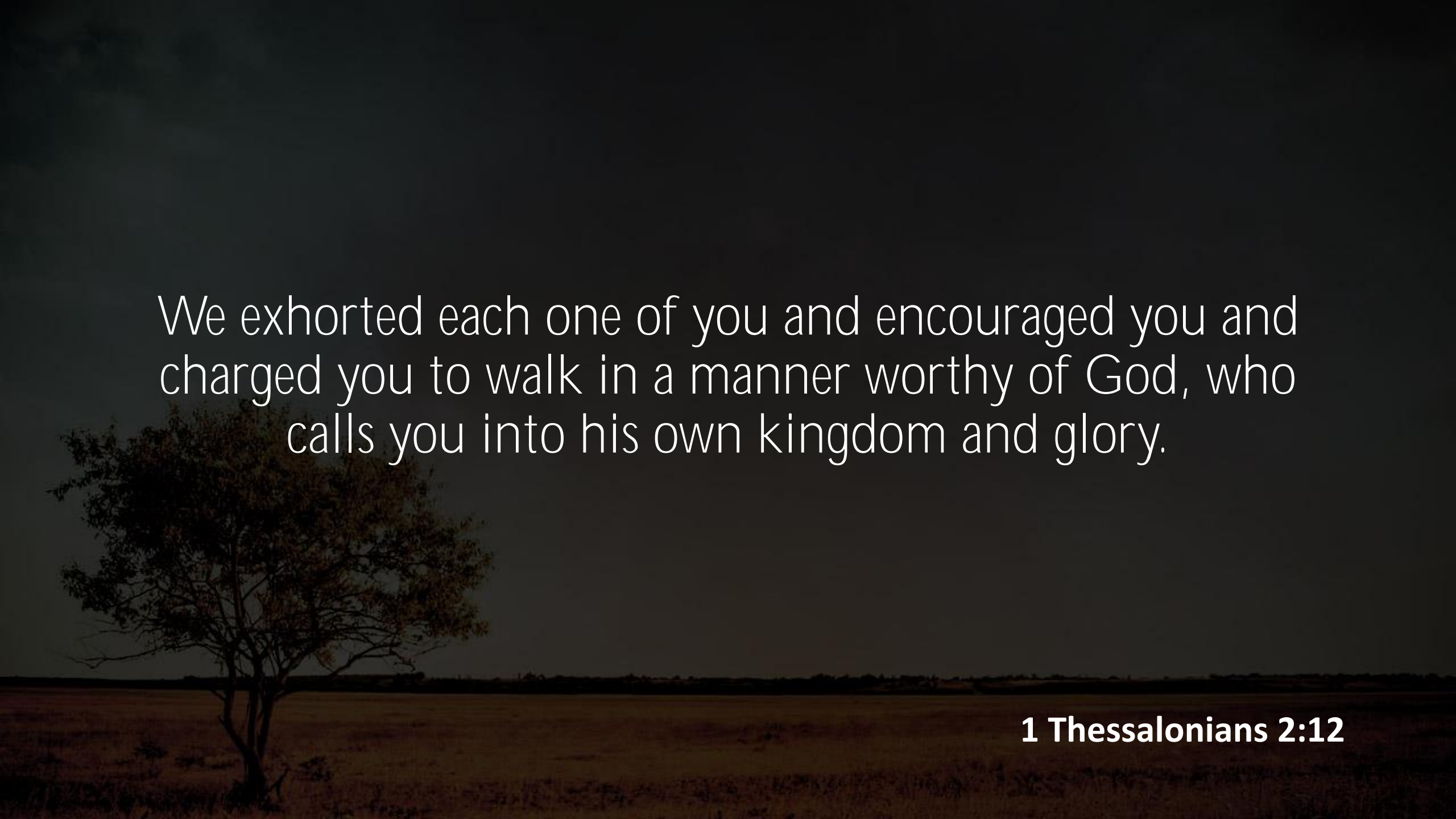
## A. Indicative to Imperative



A lone tree stands in a vast, dark landscape under a dark sky. The tree is silhouetted against the dark background, with its branches spread out. The ground is a flat, dark expanse. The sky is a deep, dark blue or black. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully  
pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and  
increasing in the knowledge of God.

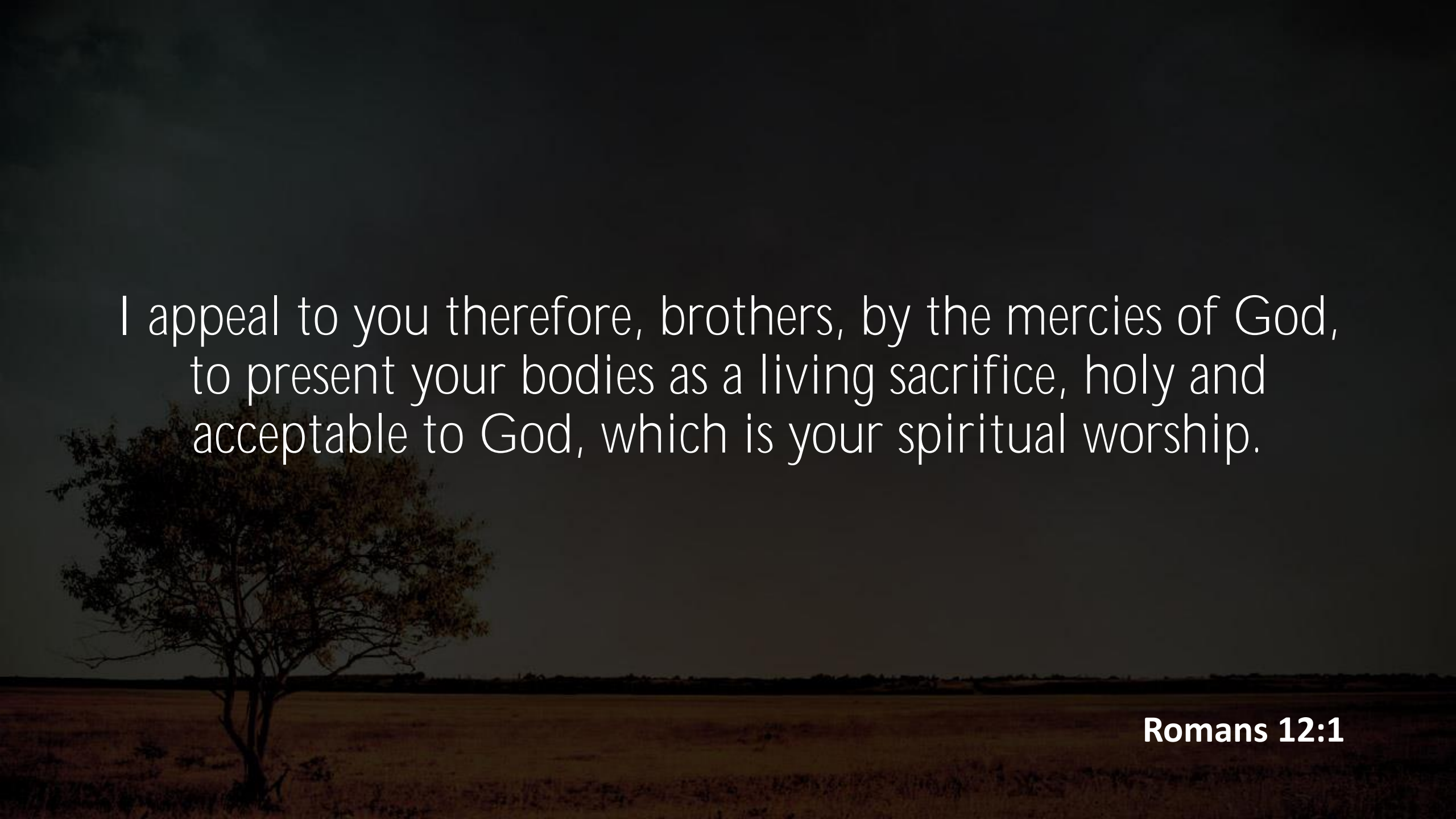
**Colossians 1:10**

A lone tree stands in a vast, open field under a dark, overcast sky. The tree is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its branches spreading out. The field is flat and extends to the horizon. The sky is a uniform dark grey, suggesting a storm or late evening. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

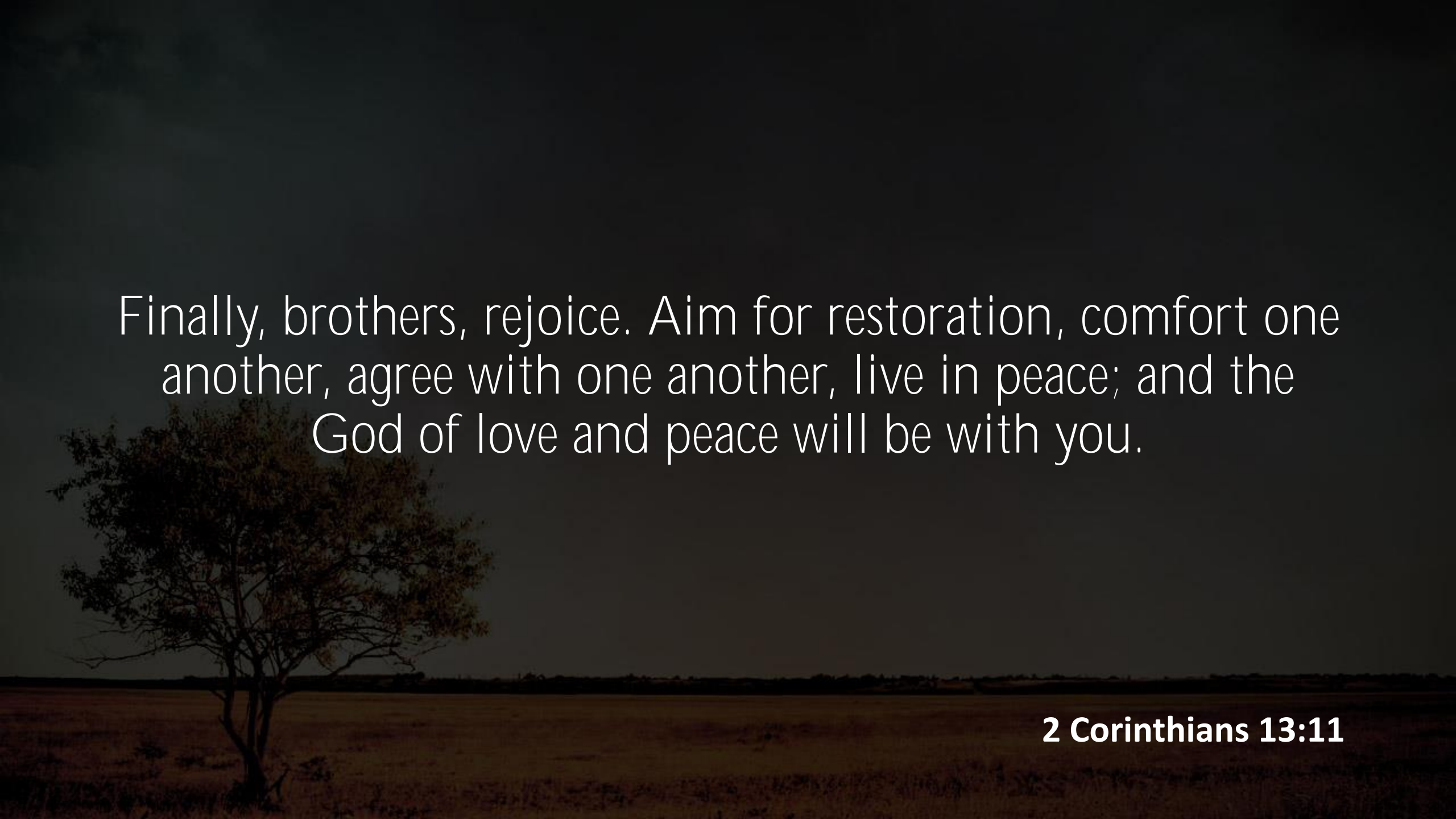
**1 Thessalonians 2:12**



A lone, leafy tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a vast, flat, open field. The field extends to a distant, dark horizon line. The sky above is a deep, dark grey, suggesting a heavy, overcast day. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

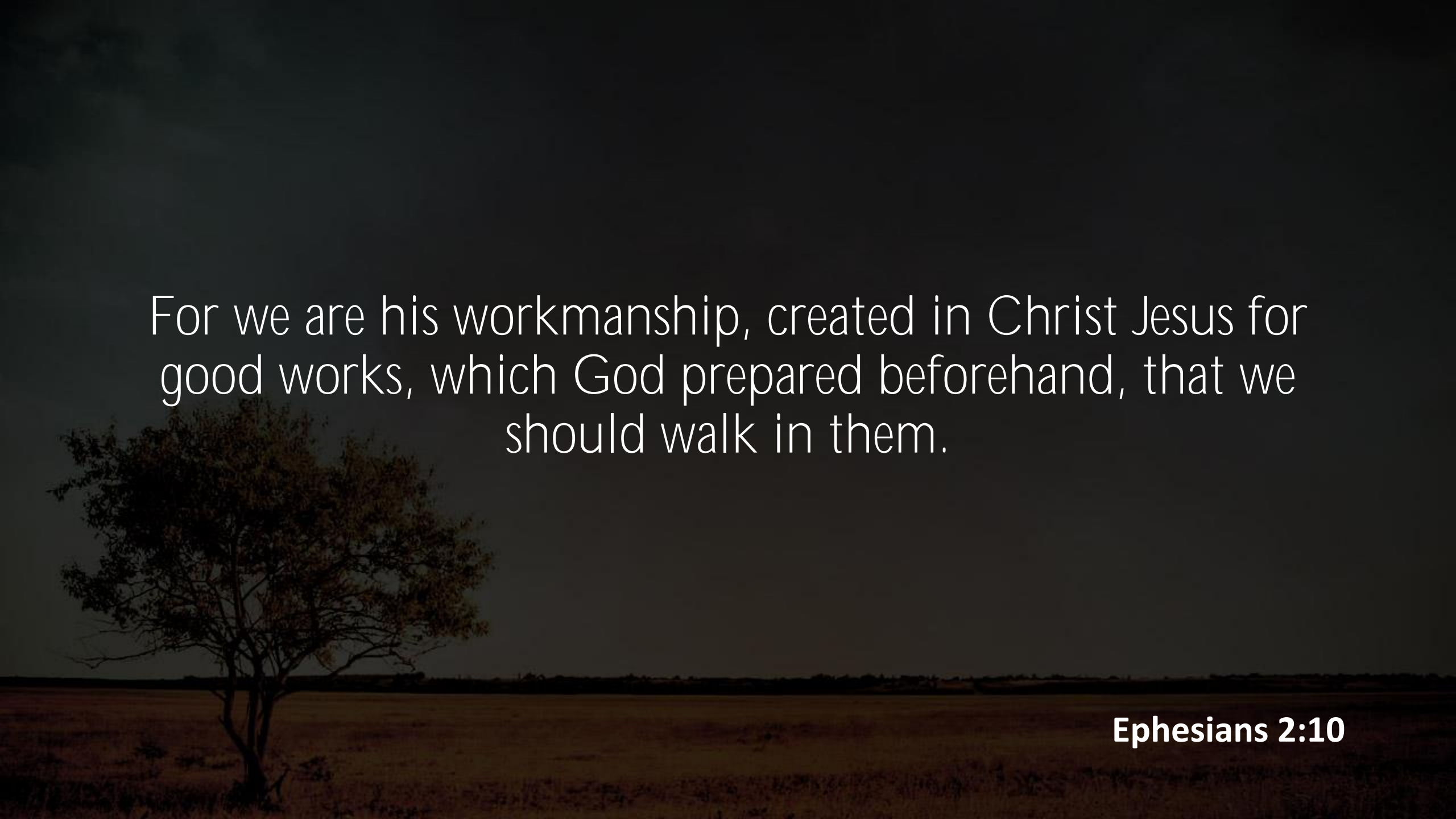
I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,  
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and  
acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**Romans 12:1**

A lone tree stands in a field under a dark sky. The tree is on the left side of the frame, and the field extends to the horizon. The sky is a deep, dark blue or black, suggesting dusk or dawn. The text is overlaid on the sky.

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

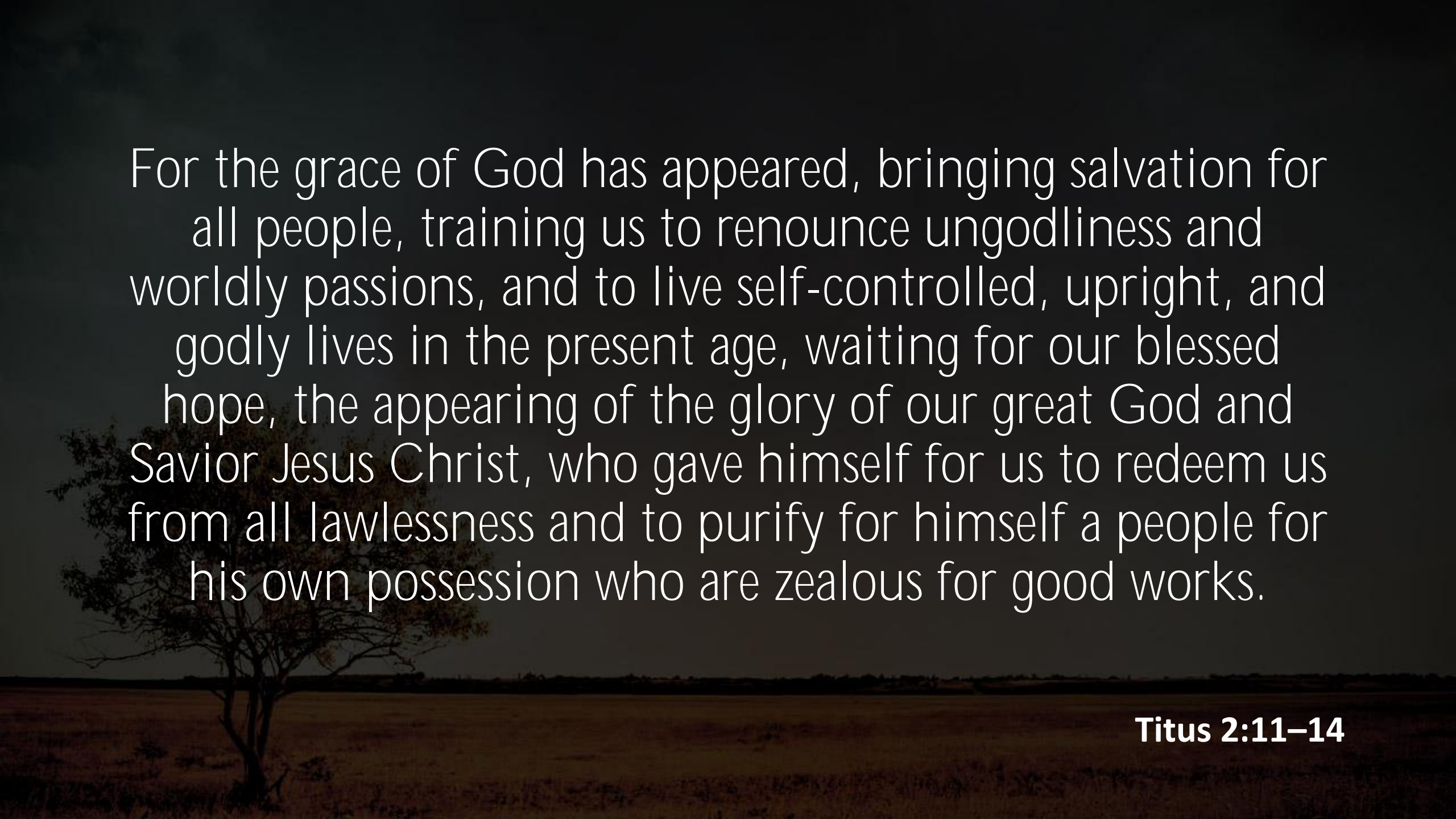
**2 Corinthians 13:11**

A lone, leafy tree stands on the left side of a vast, flat, brownish landscape. The sky is a deep, dark grey, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

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

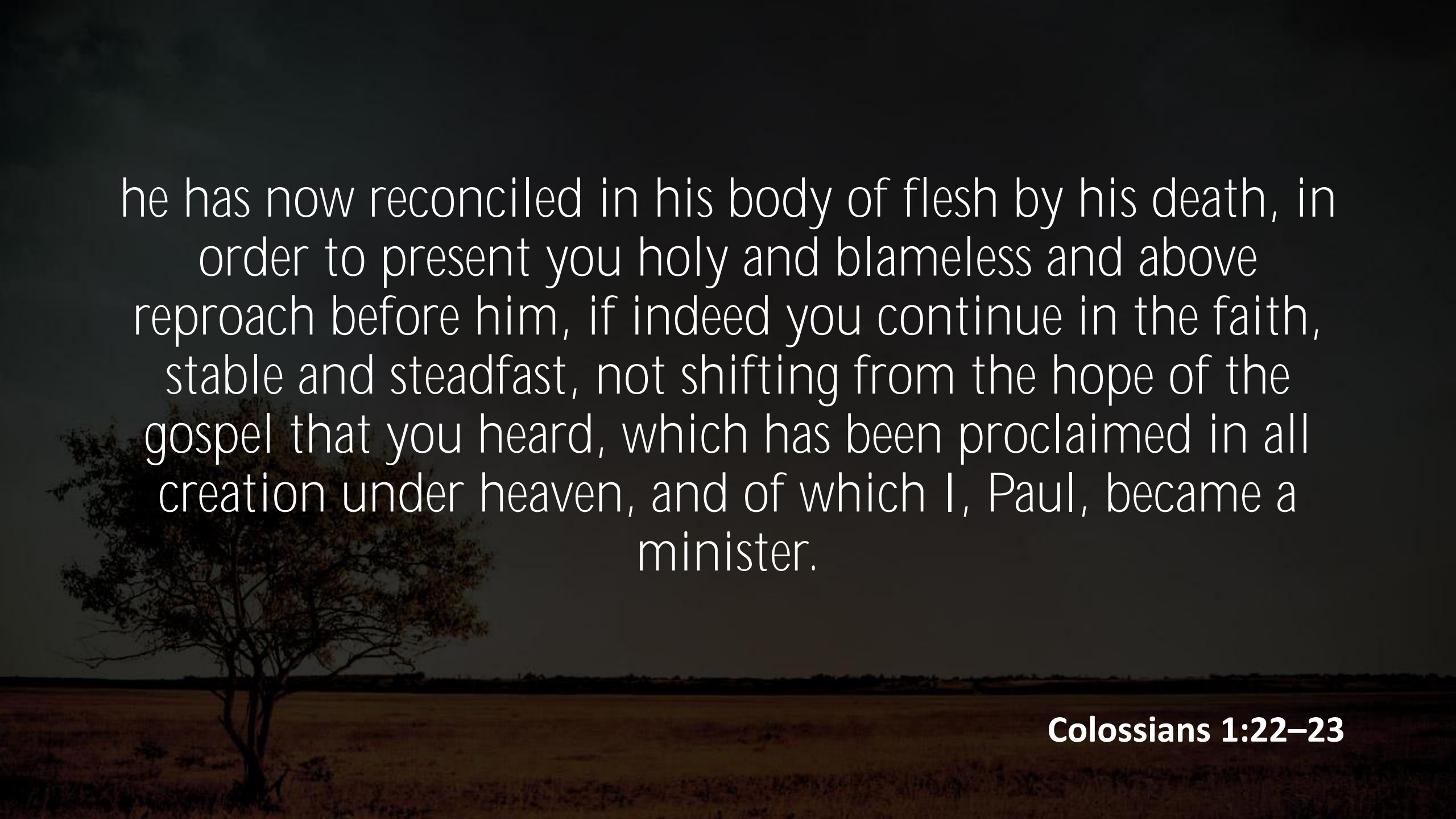
**Ephesians 2:10**





For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**Titus 2:11–14**



he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

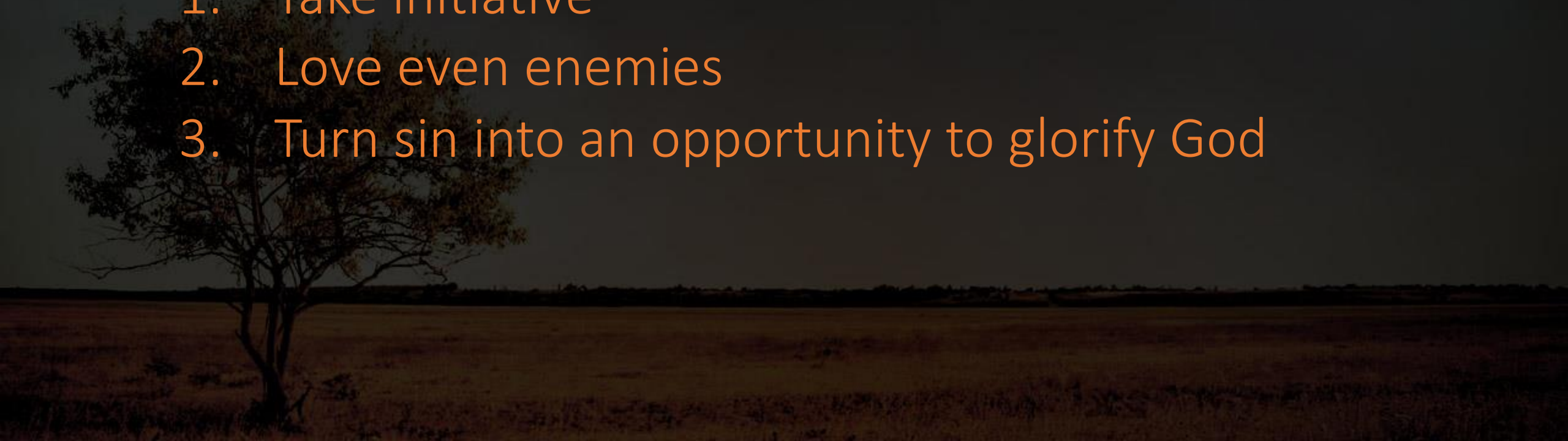
**Colossians 1:22–23**

# The Gospel in Our Relationships

A. Indicative to Imperative

B. Living out the gospel in our relationships

1. Take initiative
2. Love even enemies
3. Turn sin into an opportunity to glorify God



# The Gospel in Our Relationships

## C. The Character of the Gospel-centered relationships

1. With all humility
2. With all gentleness
3. With patience
4. Bearing with one another in love
5. Eager for unity



A lone tree stands in a dark, open field under a dark sky. The tree is on the left side of the frame, and its branches are silhouetted against the dark background. The ground is a flat, dark expanse. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**To Make Much of Christ**