



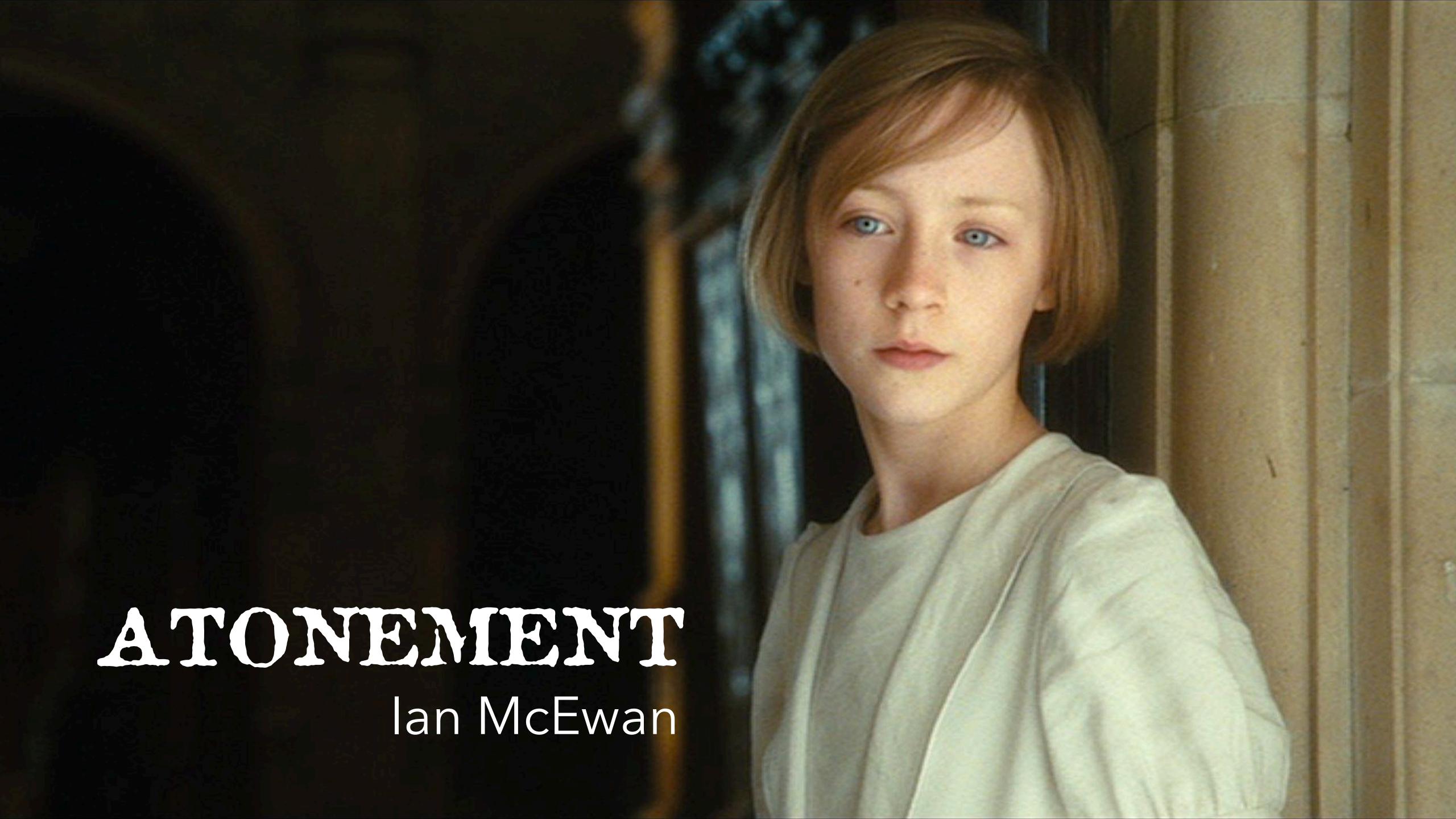
All of us have fallen short of God's holy standard and are guilty of sin.

Steve Chalke Why can't God do what he asks us to be able to do—to freely forgive without demanding retribution first?

My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry.

... Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love.

How should we decide what kind of sins demand justice and which ones God should just overlook?











Matthew 5:48

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

True, God did establish moral law for creation. But God is not above moral law. If God were, God could morally do anything God wanted – destroy, lie, humiliate, oppress, whatever. Then what would be the difference between God and the Devil? Only that God is stronger than the Devil and can define what is good or evil?

Moral law is also not above God. If it were, God would have to submit to the law, and the law would regulate God's behavior. The law would then be God's God, and God would be the law's servant. But that would undo God, rob God of divinity.

God is neither above moral law nor below it. Rather, moral law is an expression of God's very being. And when we look at justice through this lens, we see that God is just and therefore acts justly. God can't suspend justice any more than God can cease being God.

God's solution to this problem was to send his Son Jesus to become one of us so that he could stand in our place and satisfy God's demand for justice through his own sacrifice.

Isaiah
59:15-17

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 2:10-17

(William Lane) In bringing many sons to glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the champion who secured their salvation perfect through suffering. For the one who consecrates human beings and those whom he consecrates are all of one origin. That is why Jesus does not blush to call them his brothers,

Hebrews 2:10-17

when he says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will praise you." He also says, "I will trust him"; and furthermore, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since the children share a mortal human nature, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of the one who holds the power

(William Lane)

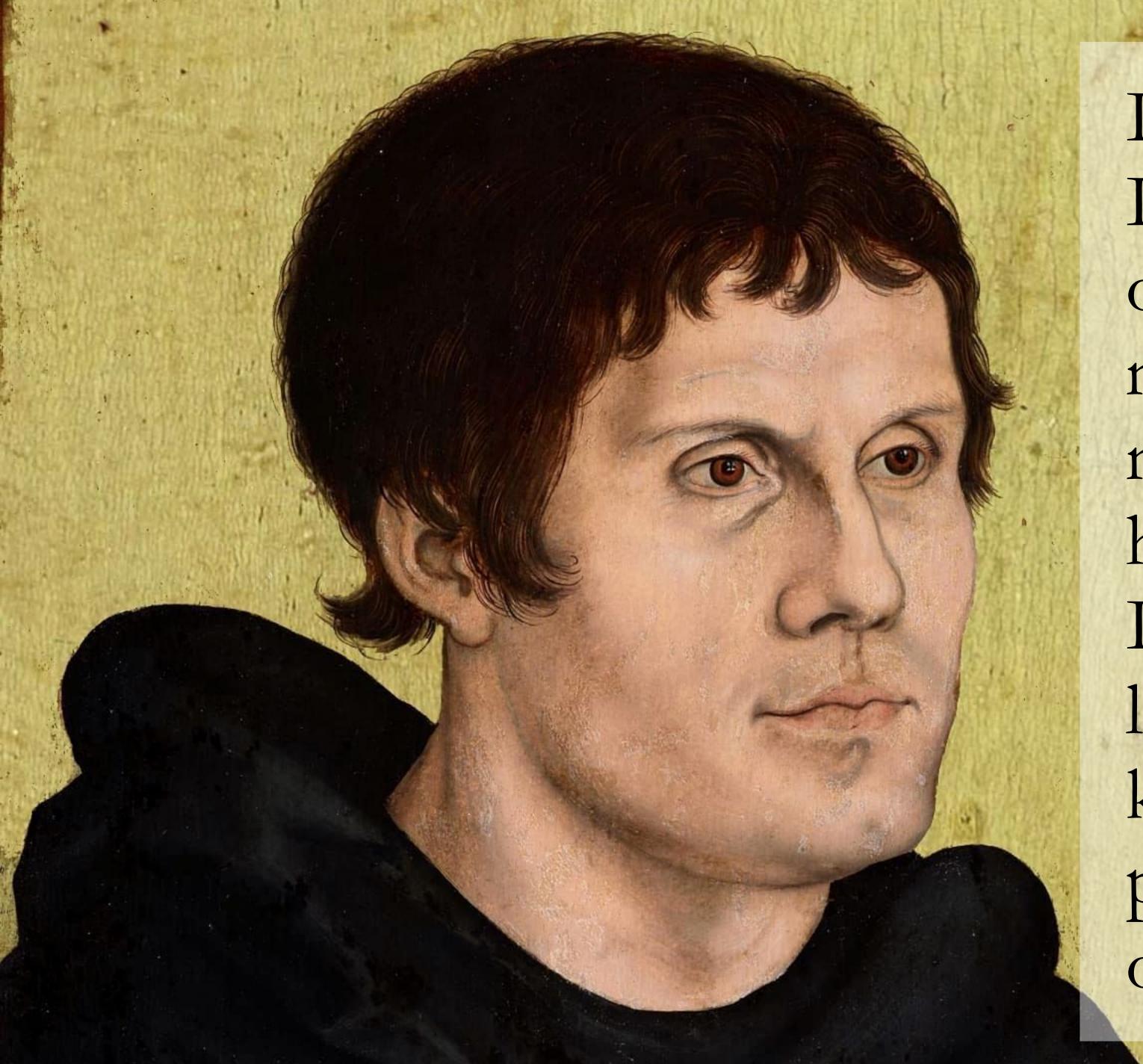
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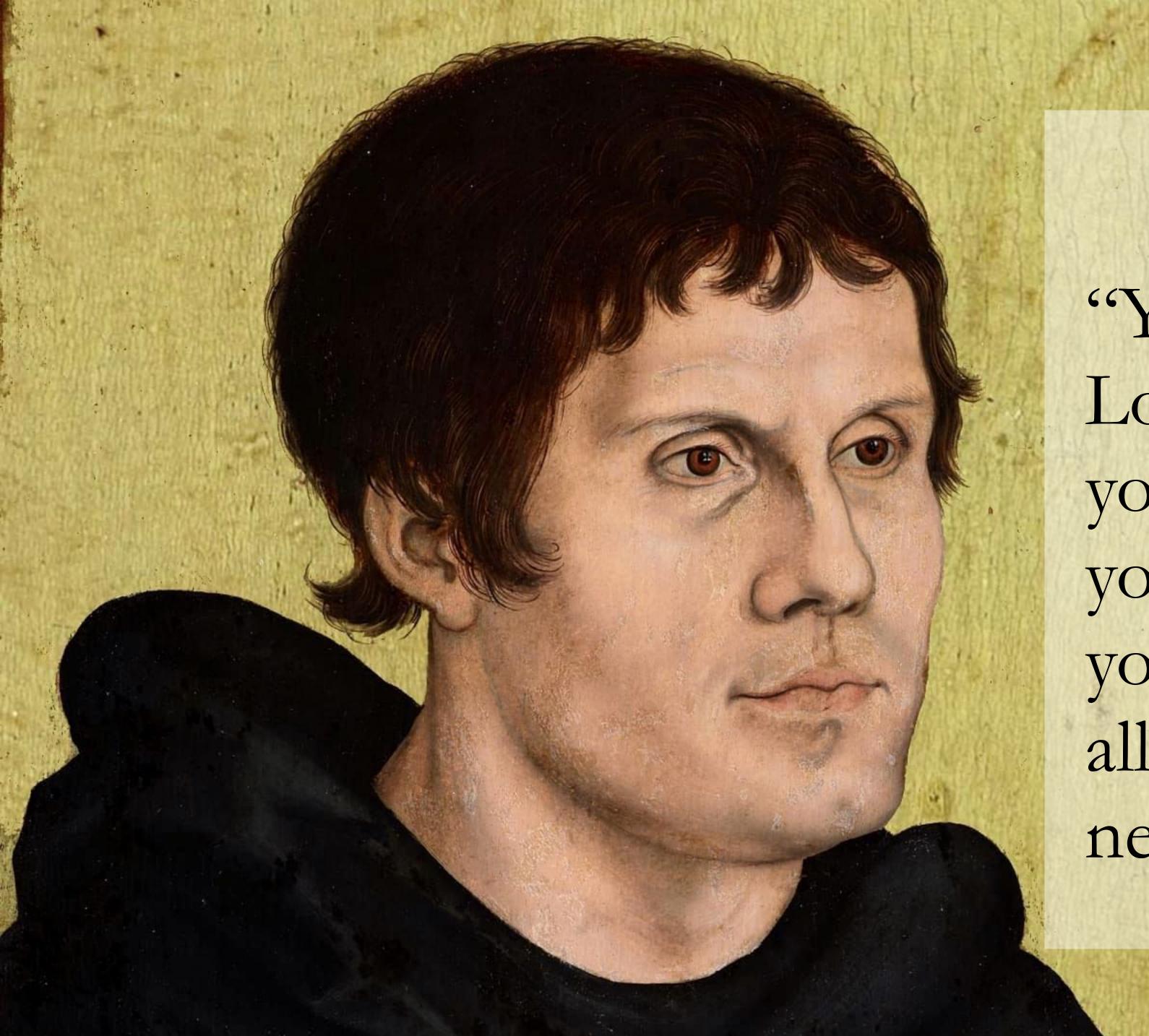
of death (that is, the devil) and liberate those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (For of course it is not angels that he takes hold to help, but Abraham's descendants.) This means that it was essential for him to be made like these brothers of his in every respect, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation with regard to the sins of the people.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.





I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, it was I.... If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading, and other work.



Luke 10:27

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

It's not until we realize how utterly impossible it is to meet God's demands through our own strength that we begin to truly understand why we need God's grace in order to be saved.

Hebrews 3:5-6

Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

JESUS, THE FAITHFUL SON

Fleeing from Egypt Killing of Jewish boys Testing in the wilderness Baptism at the Jordan River The Mount of transfiguration

Jesus is the faithful Son that we never could be.

Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

As our Champion, Jesus not only paid the penalty for our sins, but also lived the perfectly righteous life that we couldn't live and credited it to us.

Tony Campolo

He not only takes our sin upon himself, he not only forgets that we ever sinned in the first place, but he imputes unto us his righteousness. ... And what that means is that not only does he take our sin upon himself but he gives us the credit for all the good things he ever did.

I can wait to get to glory. When they open my book they're going to have under the name Tony Campolo all the good stuff that Jesus ever did. I'm going to be credited for

Tony Campolo

it. It's going to be imputed unto me. Is that wild? I mean I wish my wife no harm, but I want her there when I arrive. Because I know when they start reading all the good stuff Jesus ever did she's going to say, "You didn't do all of that!" And I'm going to say, "It's his book!"

I can say this joyfully: "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!"

Having Christ's righteousness means that we have been given the power to become more and more like him in our lives.

Hebrews 2:18 Because he himself suffered death, having been put to the test, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Philippians 3:8-9

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith