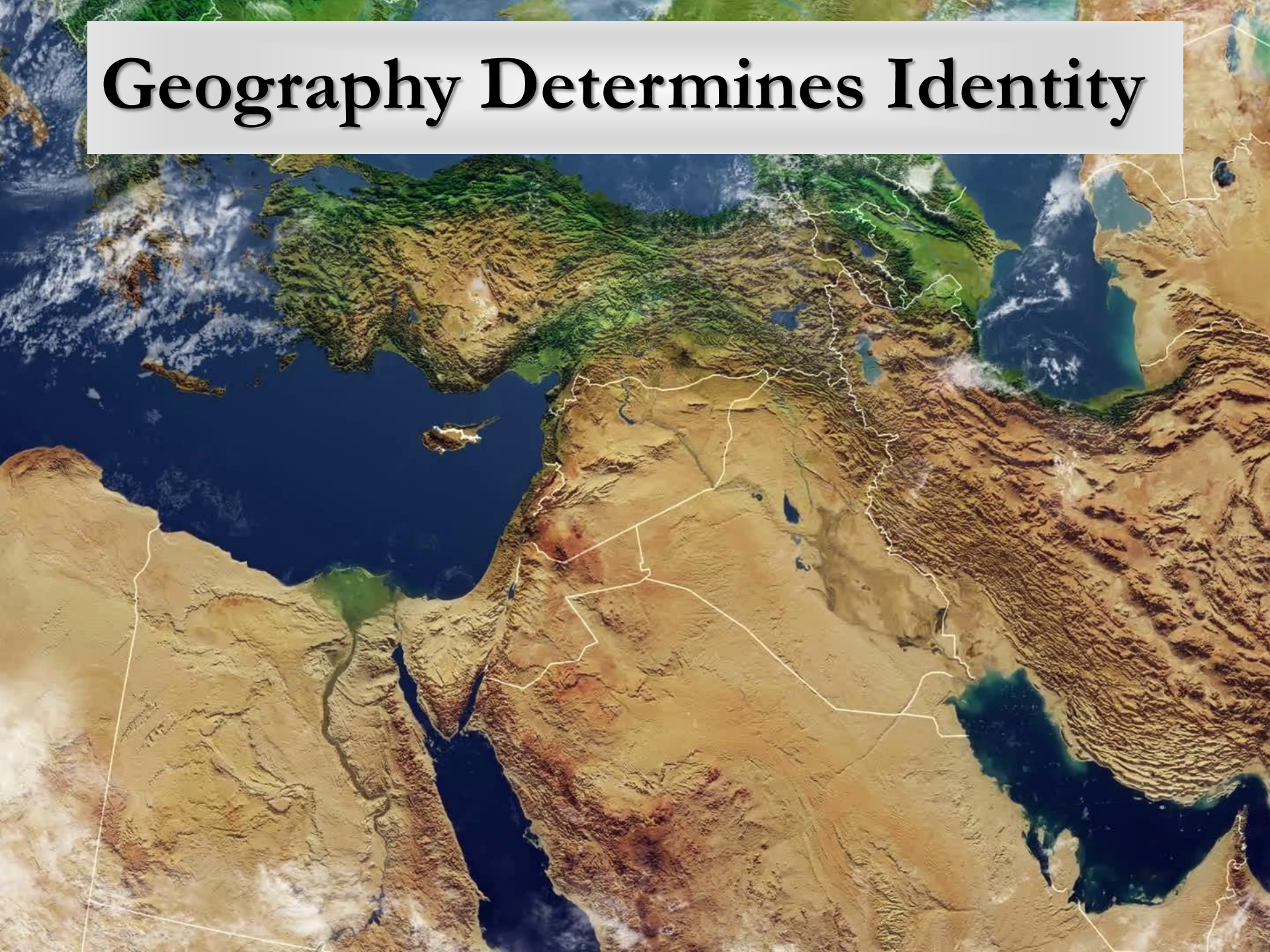


But God...

Ephesians 2:4-6

Geography Determines Identity





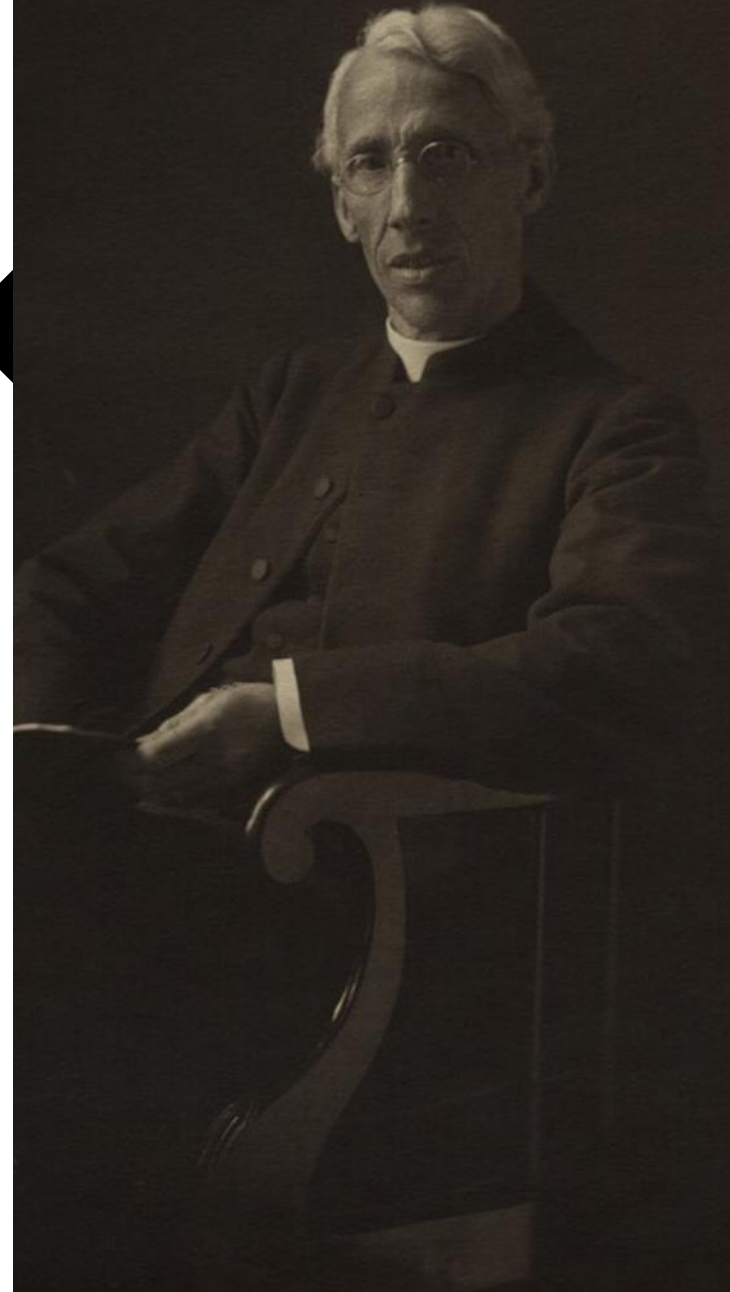


We Learned Last Week EPHESIANS

- We “were dead in...trespasses and sins”
- We “formerly walked according to the course of this world”
- We lived “according to the prince of the power of the air”
- We “formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh...and were by nature children of wrath”

“The picture of man’s state is very dark: ‘dead through your trespasses and sins’—that is, cut off from all the true things of life; therefore, walking under the dominion of ‘the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience’; therefore living ‘in the lusts of the flesh’; therefore ‘children of wrath.’ Can any conditions more hopeless be imagined? How can it ever be that those living under such conditions shall become ‘holy and without blemish?’ What wisdom can plan such a deliverance? What power can be equal to carrying out such a purpose?”

• G. Campbell Morgan



HB Charles, Jr.

**“Without Christ,
every human
being is on a
collision course
with holy
justice, divine
wrath, and
eternal
condemnation.”**



Listen:

EPHESIANS

Our Problem Is Not With Sin.

Our Problem Is With God.

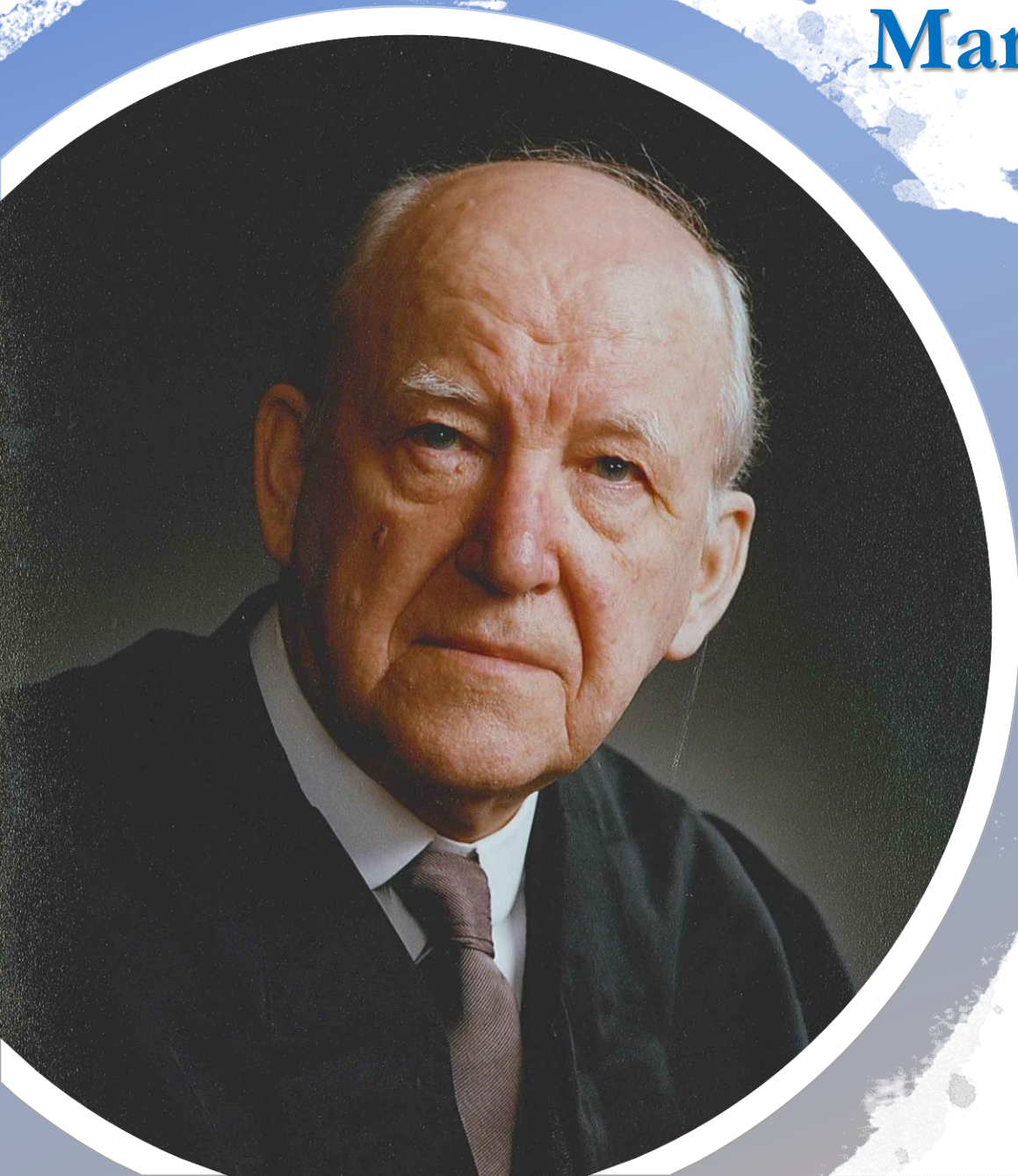
**And At The End of v. 3, We
Are Left With No Hope.**

Then We Read v. 4...

EPHESIANS

“But God”

Martin Lloyd-Jones



**“These
two
words
contain
the
entirety
of the
gospel.”**

We Must Understand: EPHESIANS

**This Text is NOT About
Us.**

**The subject of this
section of Scripture is
God.**

This Text is About

EPHESIANS

Divine Intervention



God is Not... |

“But God” in the OT

EPHESIANS

- Genesis 8:1 – “**But God** remembered Noah...”
- Genesis 50:20 – “you meant evil against me, **but God** meant it for good...”
- 1 Samuel 23:14 – “Saul sought him every day, **but God** did not deliver him into his hand...”
- Psalm 73:26 – “My flesh and my heart may fail, **But God** is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Consider This Truth: EPHESIANS

- Our salvation hangs entirely on those two words.
 - We were dead...**But God!**
 - We were enslaved...**But God!**
 - We were trapped...**But God!**
 - We were self-destructive...**But God!**
 - We were lost in sin...**But God!**
 - We deserved wrath...**But God!**

2 Vital Truths

EPHESIANS

1. The reason for our alienation lies not with God but with man.
2. It is God Who initiates the salvation Paul proceeds to describe in the following verses.

Ephesians 2:4

EPHESIANS

4 But God, being rich...

Our God is “rich”

EPHESIANS

πλούσιος

plousios

How is the word “rich” used in the Bible in most instances?

Is it positive or negative?

How Rich?

EPHESIANS

Consider the
Size of Your
Debt

Ephesians 2:4

EPHESIANS

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us

But Why?

EPHESIANS

- Two Reasons:

1. Mercy (*eleos*)

2. Love (*agape*)

“mercy” (*eleos*)

EPHESIANS

- **Kenneth Wuest:** “God’s kindness and goodwill toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them”
- **Edmond Hiebert:** “the self-moved, spontaneous loving kindness of God which causes Him to deal in compassion and tender affection with the miserable and distressed.”

OT Connection

EPHESIANS

- In the Septuagint (LXX) *eleos* often translates the Hebrew word *hesed* which speaks of God's loyal or steadfast love, His unfailing love and His tenderness.
- It appears in the Psalms 127 times.
- Psalm 23:6 – “Surely goodness and **lovingkindness** will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in lovingkindness** and truth”

18 Who is a God like you,
pardoning iniquity and passing
over transgression for the
remnant of his inheritance? He
does not retain his anger
forever, because he delights in
steadfast love.

“God’s Love”

EPHESIANS

- There is no shortage of sermons preached on this subject, but the majority are missing a biblical understanding of “love.”
- The problem is that we either treat God’s love frivolously or we reject that God could love someone as sinful and/or insignificant as we are.

Paul Loves “Love”

EPHESIANS

- The “love of God” appears in Ephesians 1:4, 6 and 5:1
- The “love of Christ” appears in 3:18-19; 5:2, 25.
- Not to mention Romans 5:5, 8; 8:35, 39; 15:30; 2 Corinthians 13:11, 13; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 16.

ἀγάπη

agapē / love

Erasmian Pronunciation

“love” (*agape*)

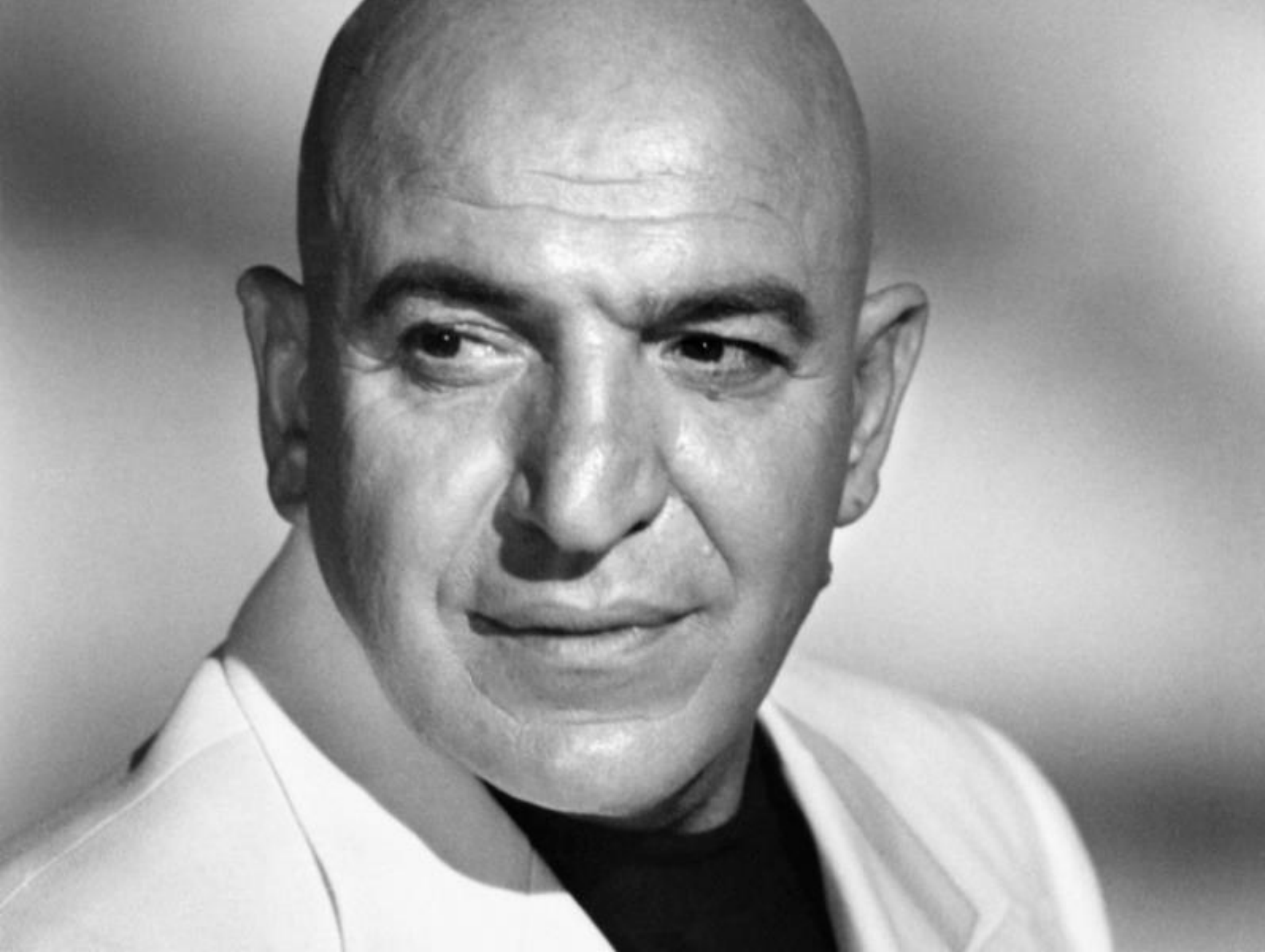
EPHESIANS

- This describes the love God gives freely and unconditionally regardless of response – love that goes out not only to the lovable but to the unlovable, as well.
- It is unconditional, sacrificial love (1 Corinthians 13); it speaks of a love called out of one’s heart by the preciousness of the one loved, a love that impels one to sacrifice one’s self for the benefit of the object loved.
- It is the love shown at Calvary to undeserving sinners.

1 John 4:10

EPHESIANS

10 In this is **love**, not that we have **loved** God but that he **loved** us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



8 But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

F.B. Meyer



“In the day that we were born, we were cast out in the open field, dead in trespasses and sins, and to the abhorring of our person. But He loved us even then. His great love was not diverted by the spectacle of our loathsomeness. He knew what we were, and what we should be, and how much pain and sorrow we should cost Him; but He loved us still. He foresaw our failures and backslidings, and lapses into the darkness of shadow; but none of these things availed to quench his love. So rich was He in mercy that He could afford to be prodigal of his wealth.”

Ephesians 2:5-6

EPHESIANS

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Paul Restates v. 1

EPHESIANS

In order to heighten the contrast
between man's predicament and
God's rescue.

In the light of God's redeeming
work how dark does our
unregenerate heart appear?

God is rich; we are dead.



Three Salvific Actions EPHESIANS

1. “made us alive together with Christ”
2. “raised us up with Him”
3. “seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”

Another Important Truth

EPHESIANS

What God
accomplished for the
believer was
accomplished first in
Christ.

Another Simple Truth EPHESIANS

The Gift of Salvation Cannot be
Separated from the Giver of
Salvation.

Jesus is the “founder and
perfecter” of our faith!

Consider:

EPHESIANS

“with Christ”





Charles H.
Spurgeon

“Ah! That accounts for everything: ‘together with Christ.’ When we get ‘together with Christ,’ then are we made alive, then are we saved. Are you my dear hearers, ‘quickened together with Christ?’”

A person in a blue jacket stands on a grassy shore, looking out at a calm lake. The sky is dark with a vibrant aurora borealis in shades of green and purple. The text "BUT GOD" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. The text is reflected in the water below. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

BUT GOD

EPHESIANS