



JOY TO THE WORLD



Waiting

vs

Waiting Around

Luke 12:35-39

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. **It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes** I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. **It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into."

Review

1. Let every heart prepare him room
2. Let men their songs employ
3. Let earth receive her king

Prophet

Truth
Authority

Priest

Devotion
Piety

King

Stewardship
Responsibility



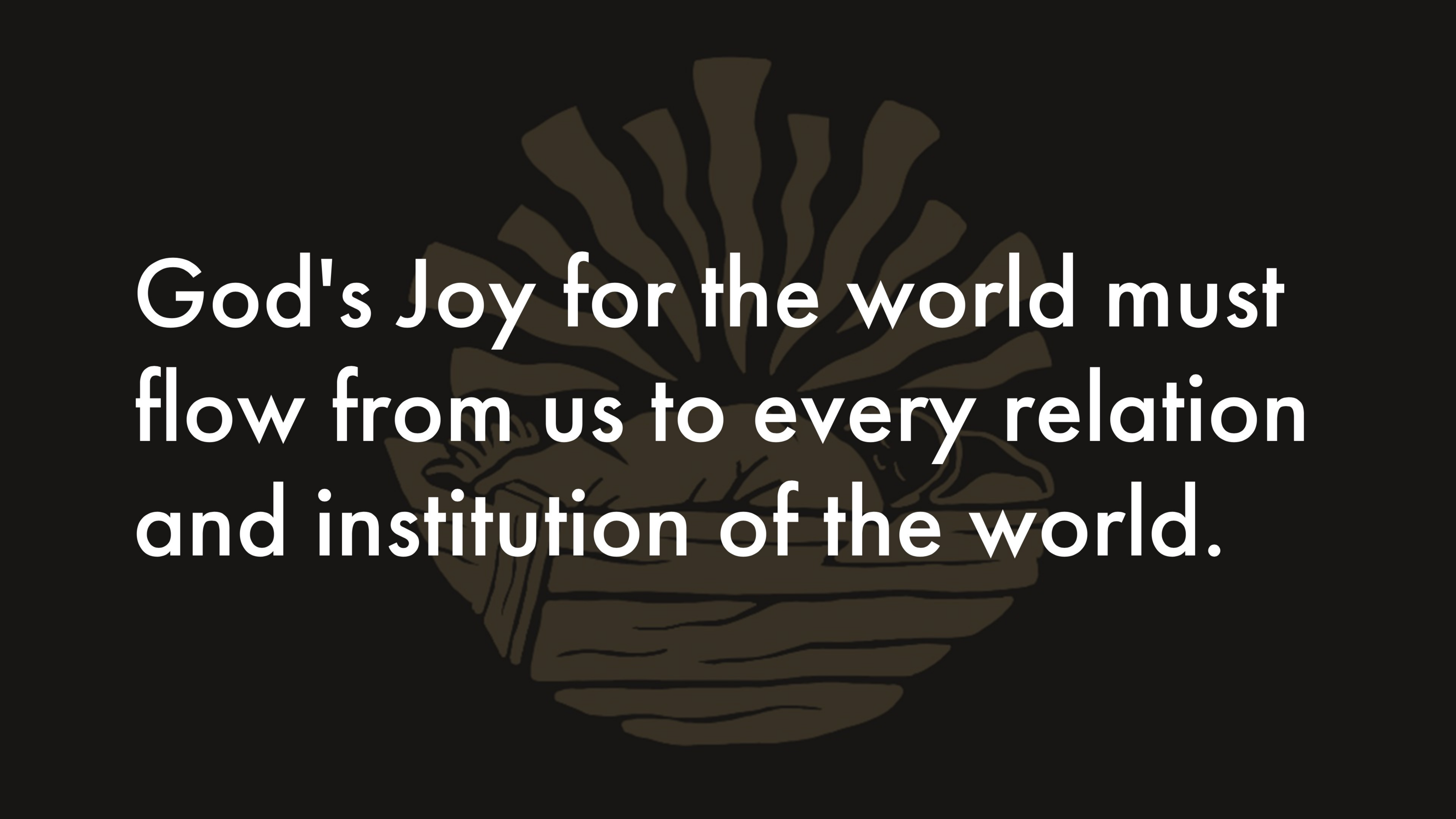
He comes to make his
blessings flow;

Far as The Curse is found...

Emperor Julian

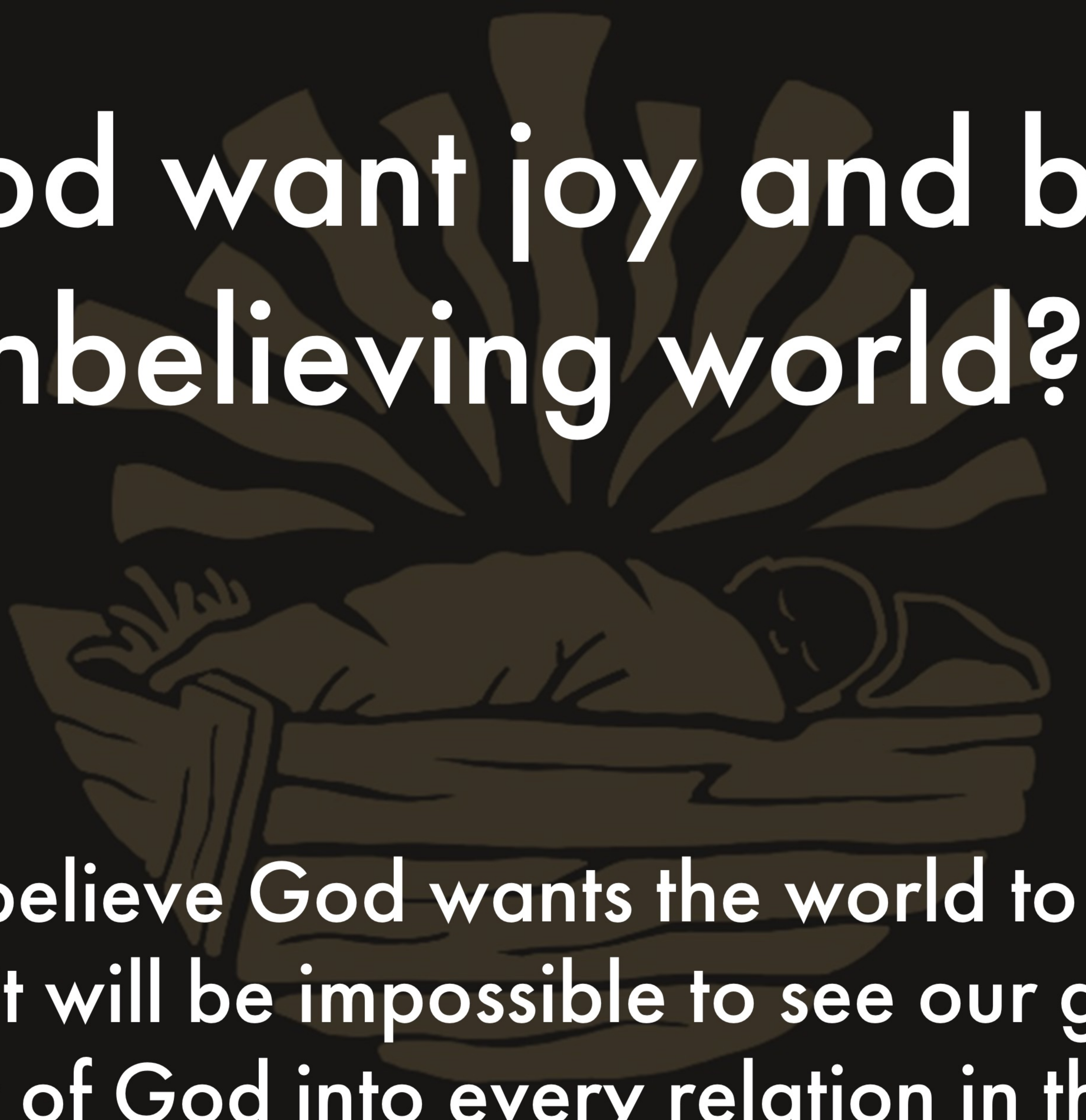
"The Apostate"
4th century

"The Christian faith has been *specially advanced* through their loving service rendered to strangers, and through their care for the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not a single Jew who is a beggar, and that the godless Galileans care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render them."



God's Joy for the world must
flow from us to every relation
and institution of the world.

Does God want joy and blessing for an unbelieving world?



If you believe God wants the world to have only
curse, it will be impossible to see our goal as bringing
the Joy of God into every relation in the world.

Jeremiah 29:4-13

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease..."

"...Also, *seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*" ...This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

John 17:13-18

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, **so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.** I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **My prayer is not that you take them out of the world** but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.**"

The Joy of God must flow from us to the institutions and relations of life.

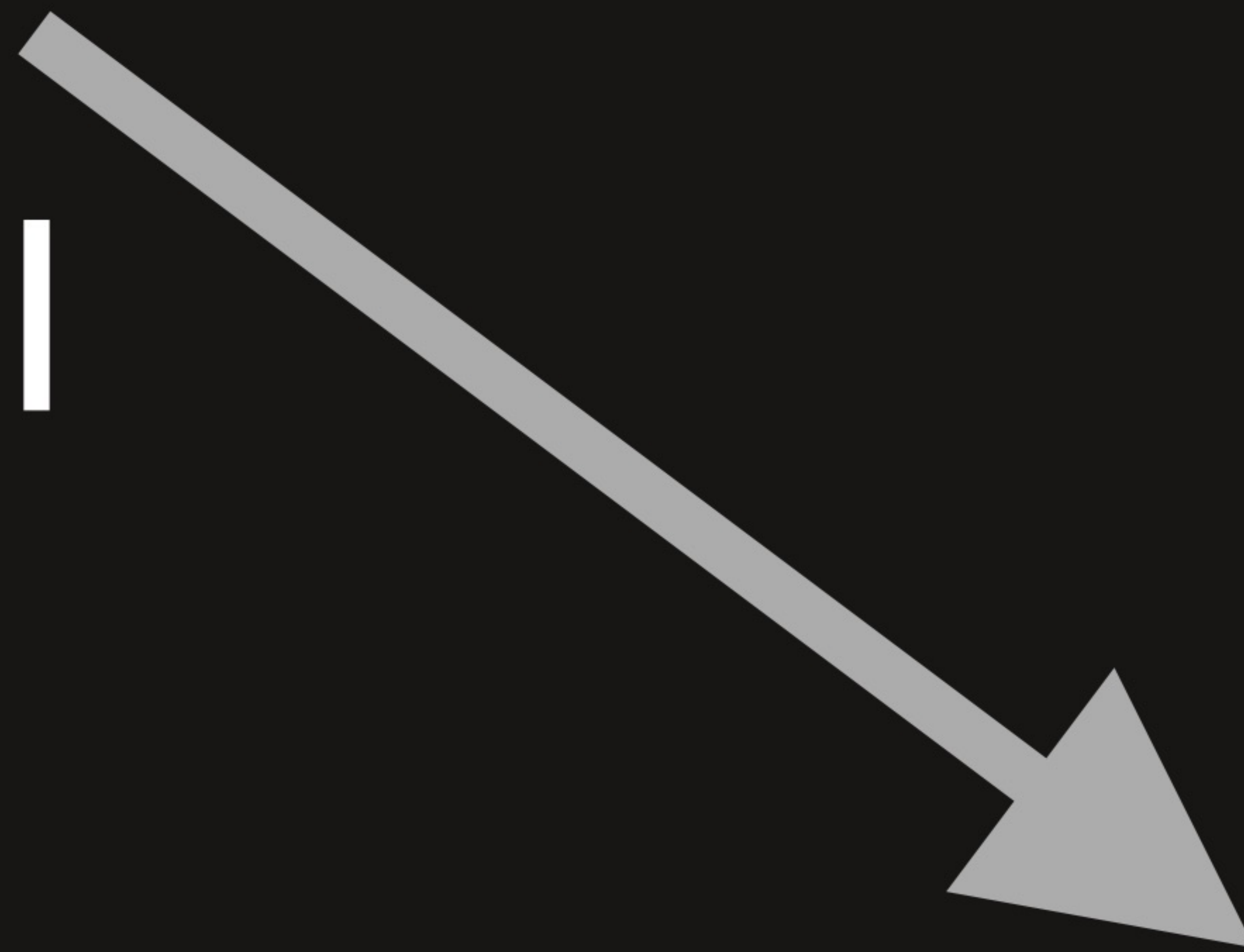
3 Relations and Institutions:

- 1. Sex and Family**
- 2. Work and Economy**
- 3. Citizenship and Community**

Sex and Family

Sexuality Everywhere, February 15-16

Materialist
vs
Theological



The "Medicalization" of sex

vs

a Comprehensive, Transcendent, and Permanent union.

Work and Economics

Work isn't just about spread sheets, promotions, and winning.

Economy is a complex moral system of the exchange of our productivity.



Play, rest, and worship are all acts for their own ends.

Only work is to accomplish a good beyond the activity itself.

Citizenship and Community

The "Deeper Politics"
"Barbaric" and "Civilized" peoples
Civil Society and Social Capital
Subsidiarity and Relationships





JOY TO THE WORLD



Fullness

Fruitfulness

Flourishing

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.



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