



SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 – 16



PHILIPPIANS

Assurance as demotivation



**Worldly assurances
demotivate human beings.**



Not often improved by 'believing in something'.

Produces:

1. **Nominalism**: in name only
2. **Zealotry**: objectified/abstracted passion
3. **Piety**: deep affection that motivates good

What's the similarity?

Nominalism

Piety

Dishonesty

Passion

Zealotry

**What does
this have
to do with:**

Surely Christianity
doesn't produce zealots
and nominalism?





True salvation motivates piety

Real assurance motivates pressing on

Especially Concerning:

Justification

Faith in Jesus sets us right with God

Glorification

God will resurrect his own to eternal life



**Worldly Assurance
Demotivates Piety**

Philippians 3:17 – 21

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

How does this happen?

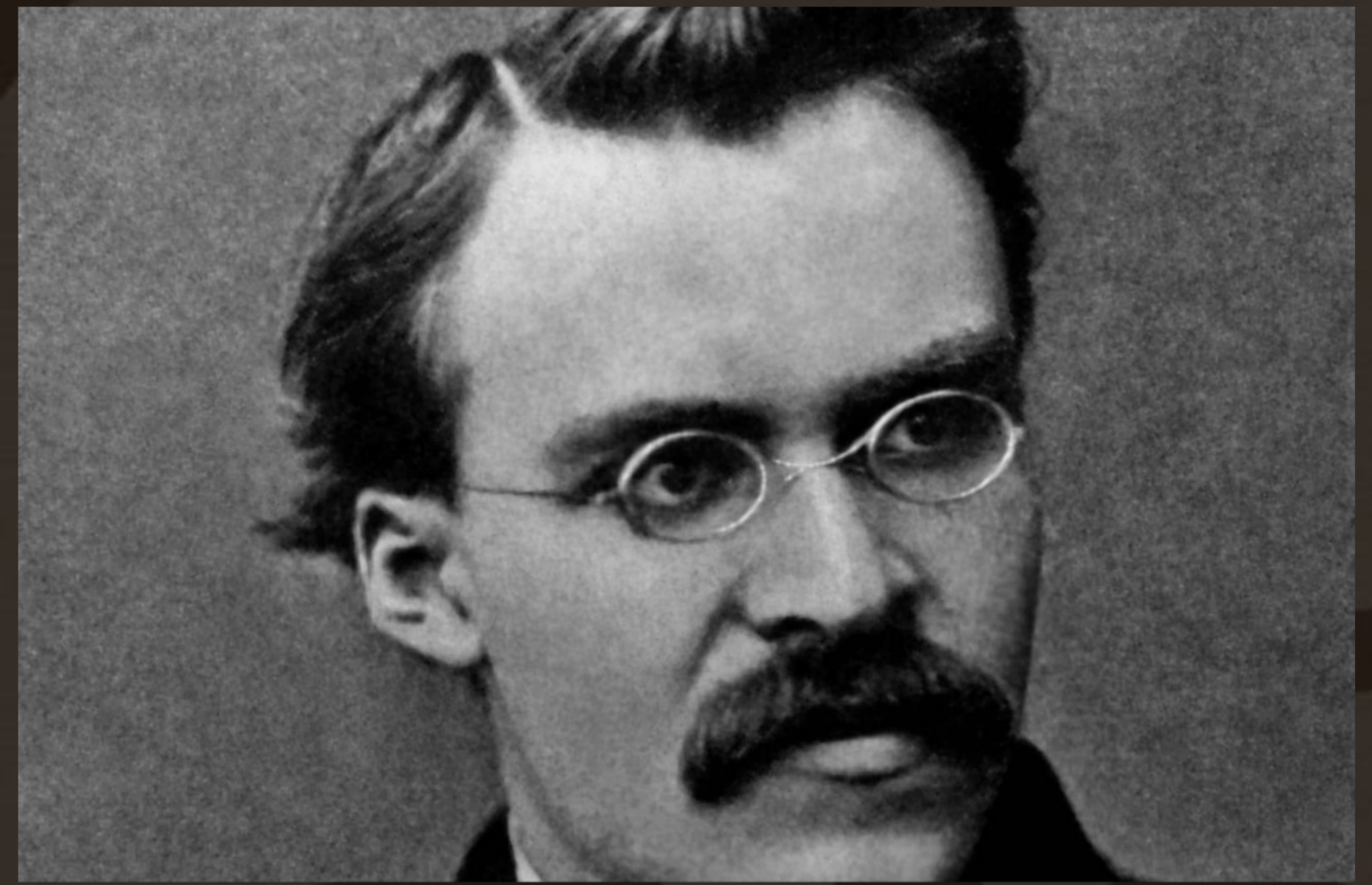
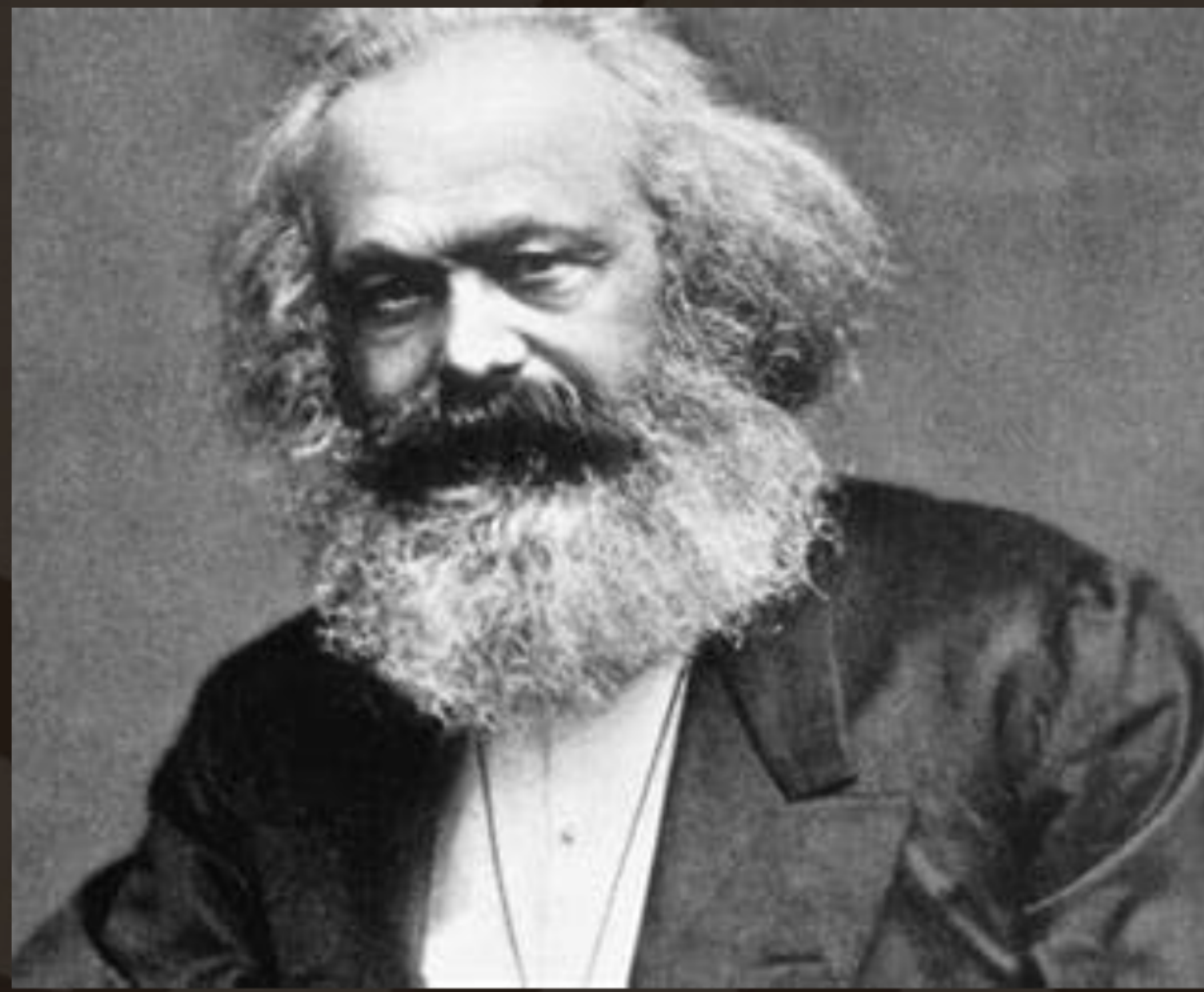
There is a way of believing that frees you to pursue the Flesh and World, and a kind that frees you from pursuit of them.

Justification Misused

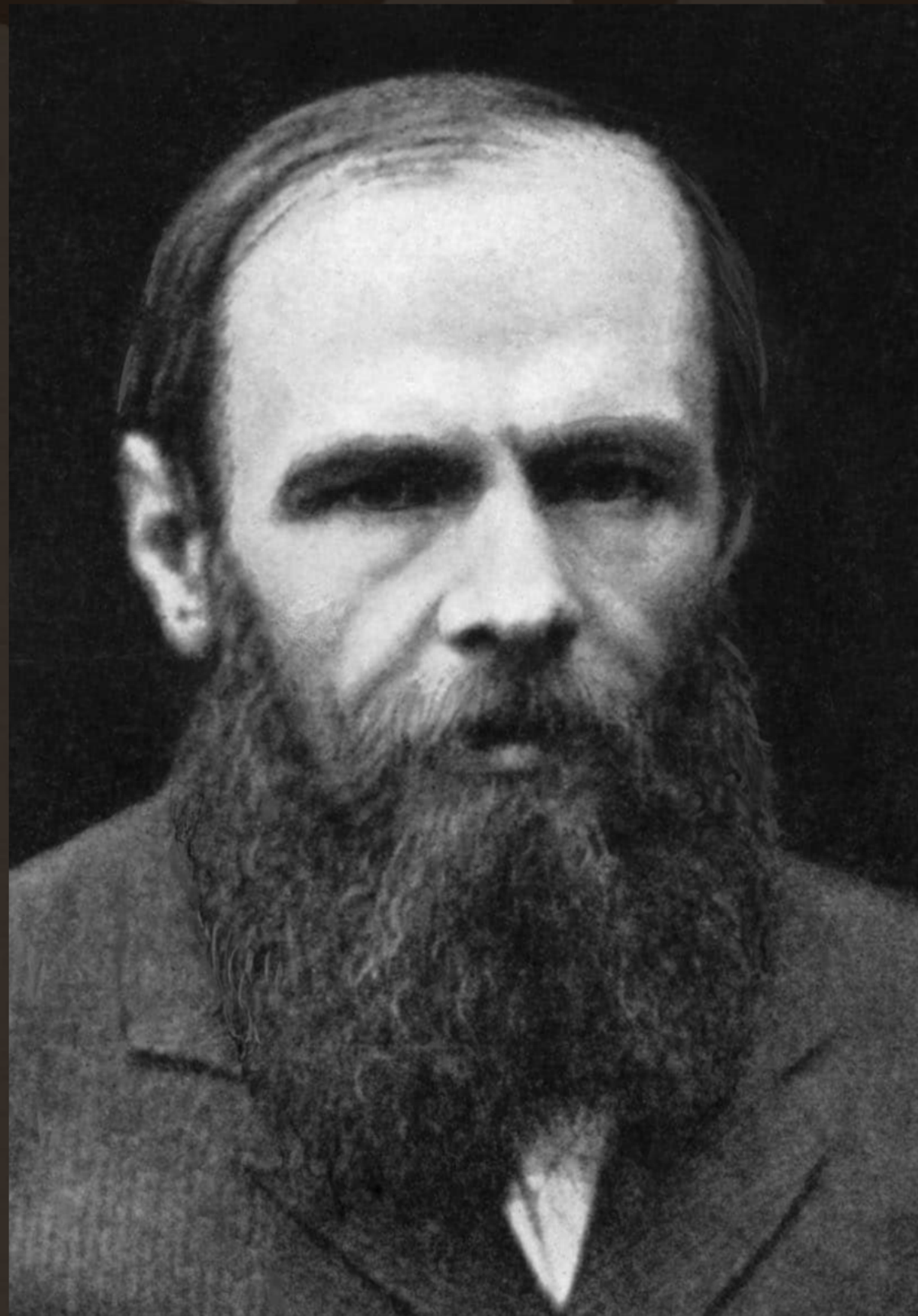
Jesus died for my moral reconciliation with God, therefore my moral growth is irrelevant to my spirituality. My moral obligation is affirming doctrine, and maybe legalism.

Glorification Misused

Jesus rose so I would rise, and so I don't need ot worry about my mortality or the continued presence of indwelling sin. He'll take all that away later.



The Great Critique

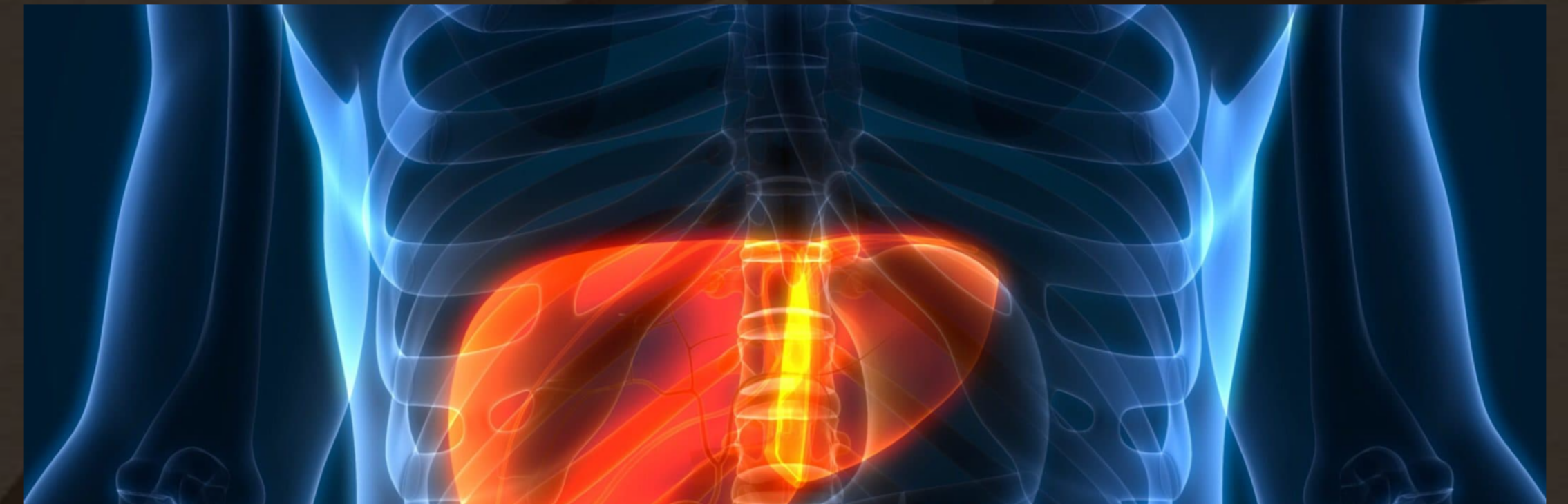


Relations to Grace

Predatory



Transformational





**Gospel assurance can
empower real piety**

Justification and Glorification are for **NOW**

Philippians 3:12 – 15

Not that I have **already** obtained all this, or have **already** been made perfect, but I **press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me**. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have **taken hold** of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining towards** what is ahead, I **press on towards the goal to win the prize** for which God has called me **heavenwards** in Christ Jesus. All of us who are **mature** should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

3 salves against infection

1. Salvation is all one thing
2. Union with Christ is experiential and relational
3. The past and present push and pull the present





1.
**Salvation Is All
One Thing**

SALVATION

We are...



Chosen



Called



Given new life



Converted



Justified



Adopted



Sanctified (still happening)



Glorified (not yet)



2. Union With Christ is Experiential and Relational

Philippians 3:10 – 11

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3.

Justification and Glorification Push and Pull the Present.

Philippians 3:14

...win the prize for which

God has called me heavenwards

in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:8 – 9

I consider them rubbish, 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 is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

So what?

1.

**Believing in an Ideology
Doesn't Make Piety**

You are not immune to zealotry or nominalism

So what?

2.

**What is your relation to
Grace and therefore God?**

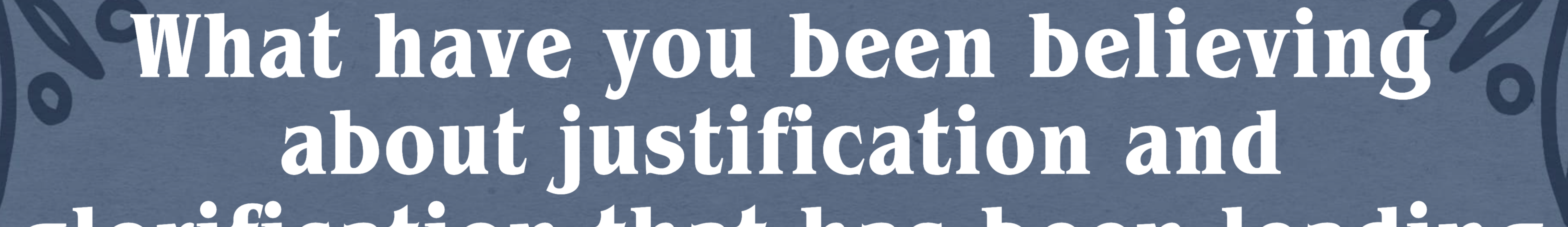
Does your way of believing kill or enable
worldliness and flesh?

So what?

**Does the way you believe
motivate pressing on and in?**



PHILIPPIANS



**What have you been believing
about justification and
glorification that has been leading
you to nominalism or zealotry?**



**How can you believe in a way that
motivates pursuing Christ rather
than the Flesh and World?**