







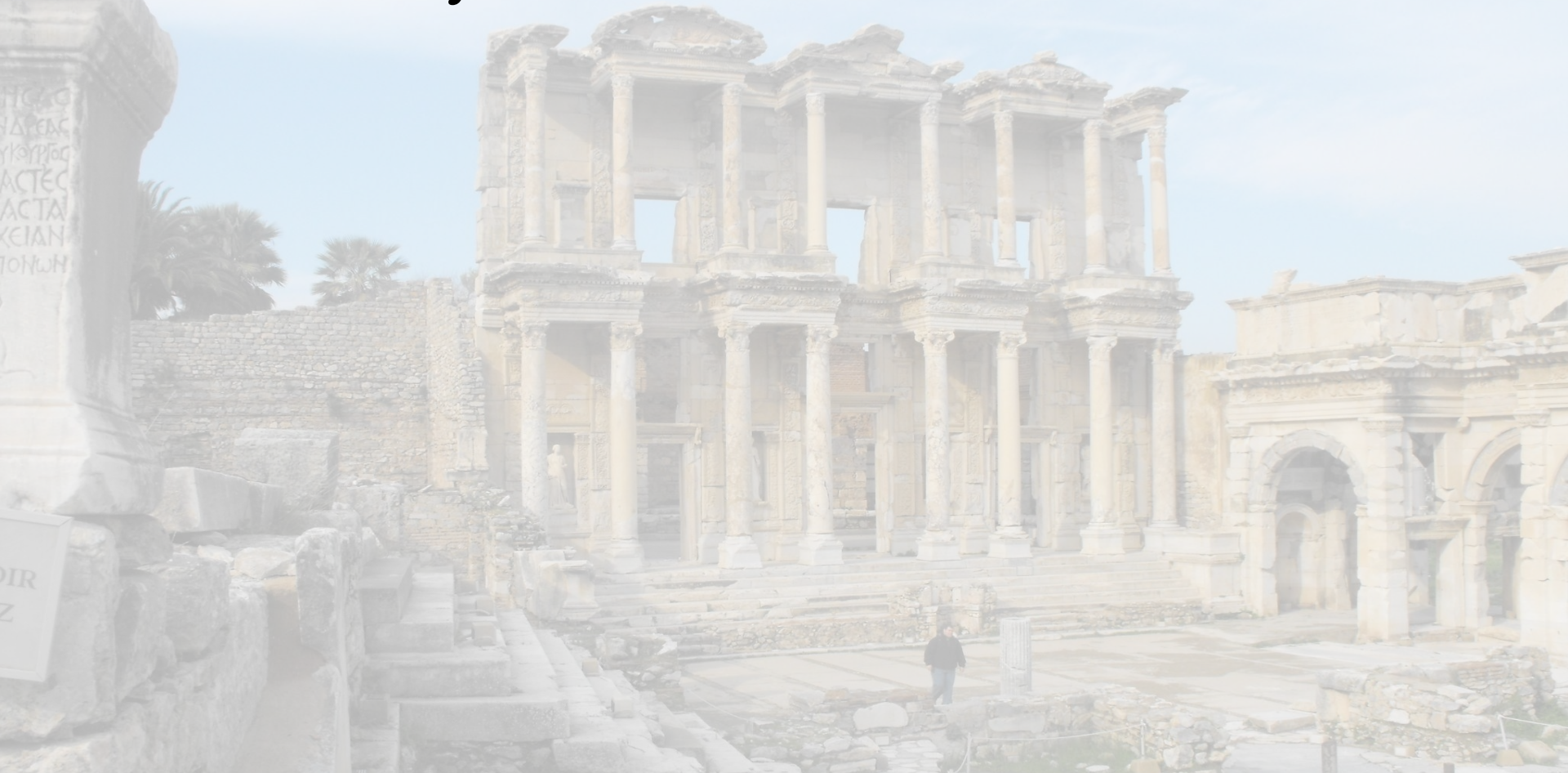
WHO you are informs HOW you behave



Built In Christ Jesus:

**BE Who You ARE
(Ephesians 5:1-8)**

1 WHO are you?



A You are Beloved Children of God

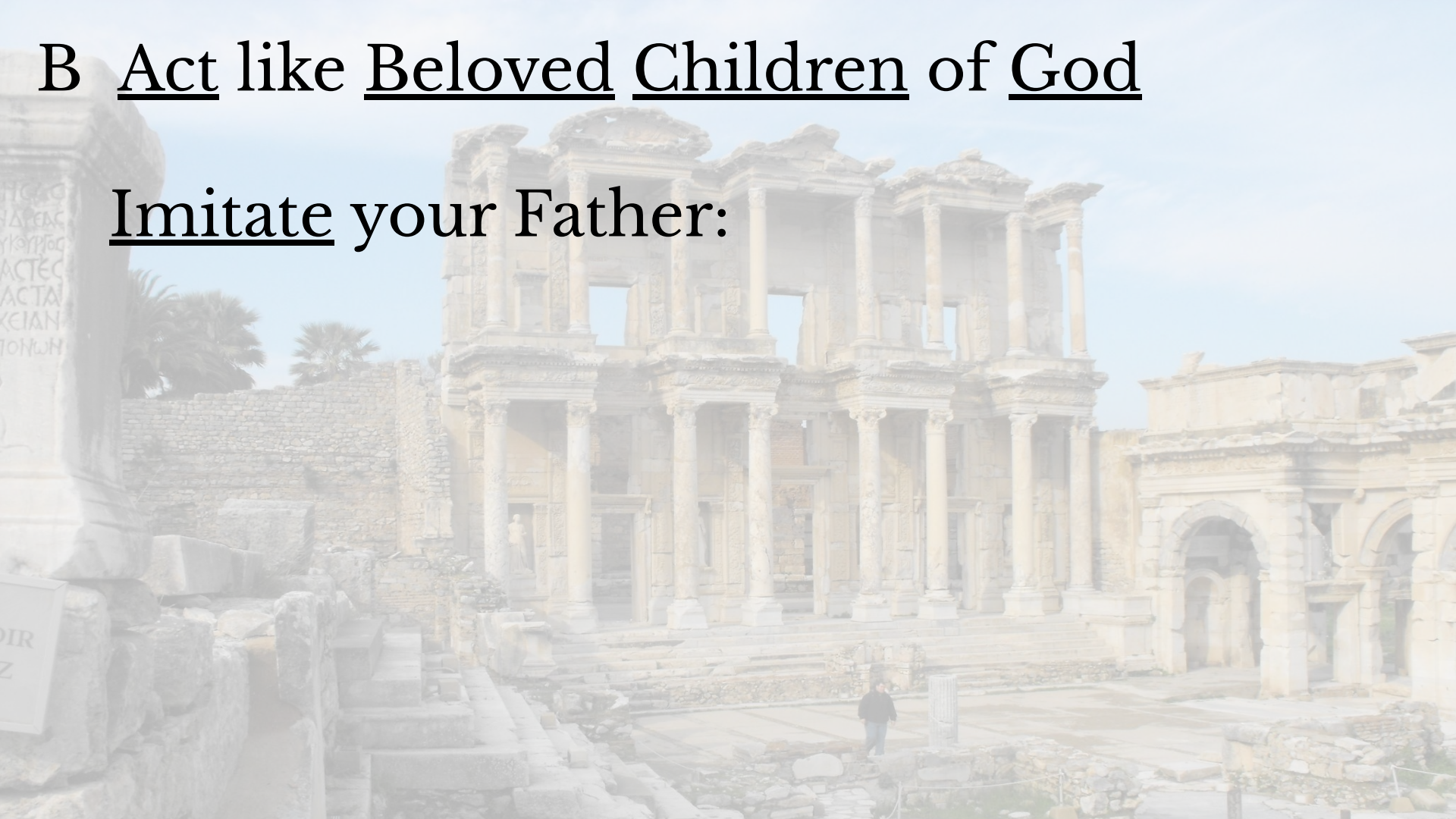


B Act like Beloved Children of God



B Act like Beloved Children of God

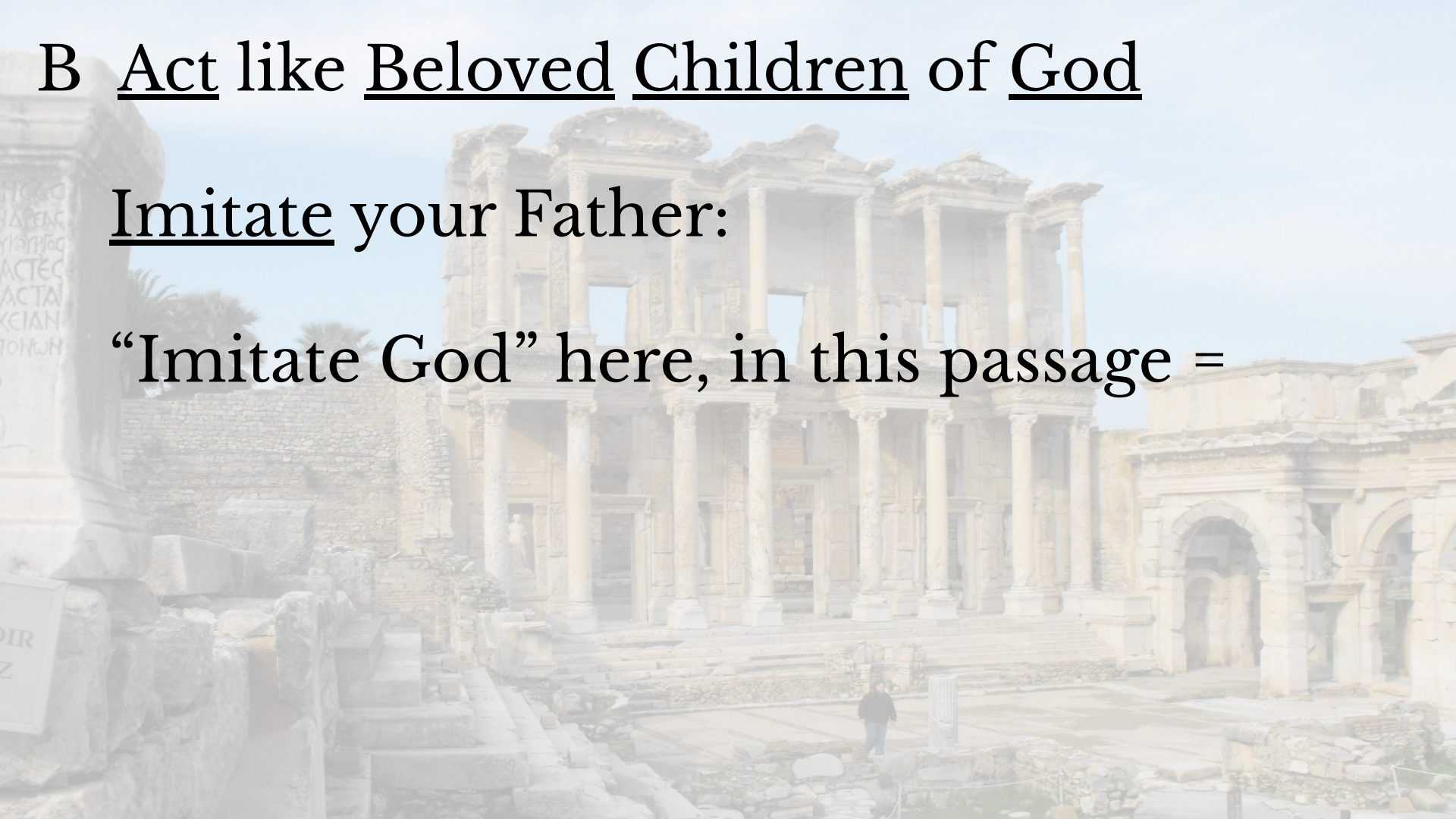
Imitate your Father:



B Act like Beloved Children of God

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“Imitate God” here, in this passage =



B Act like Beloved Children of God

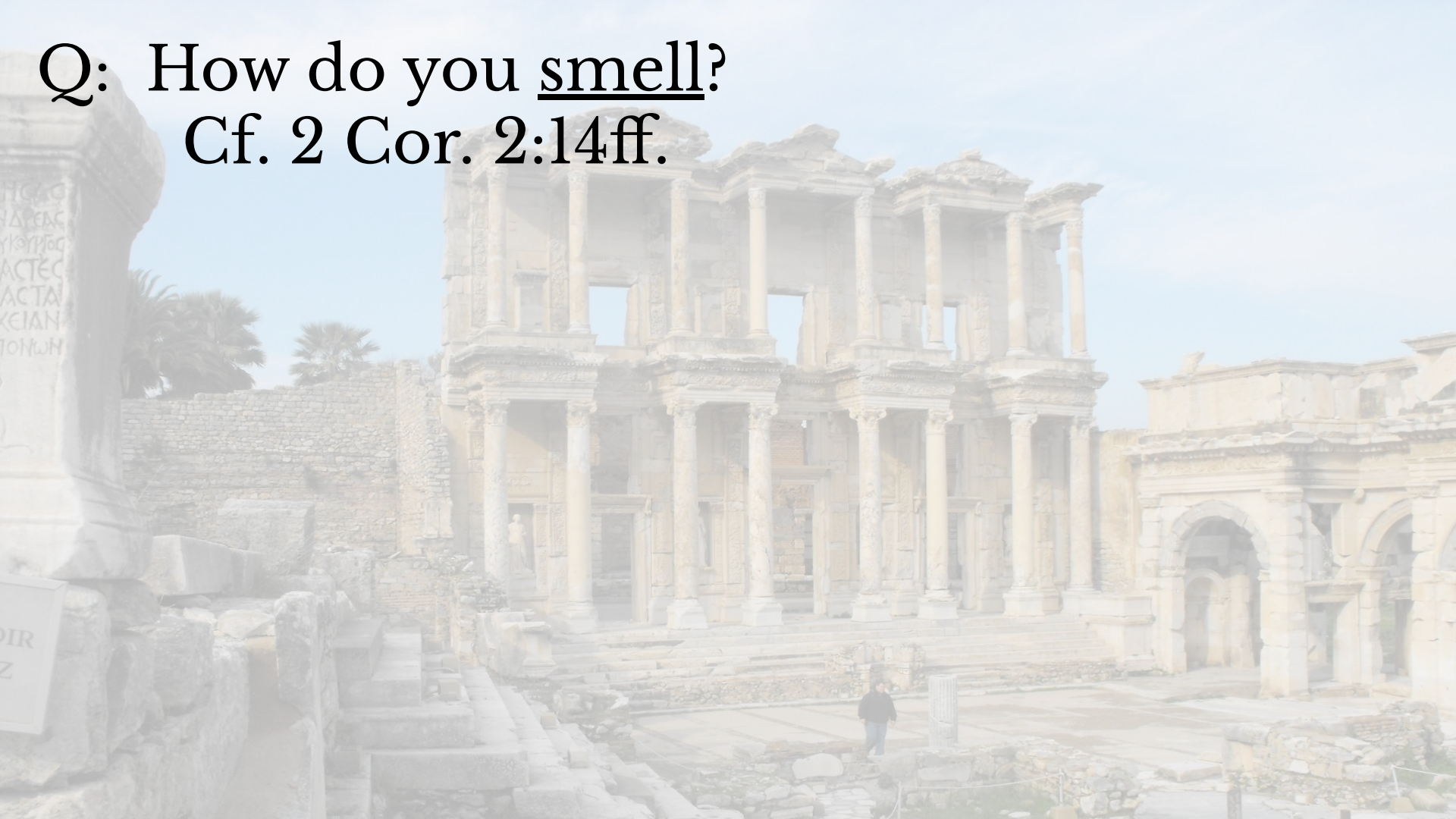
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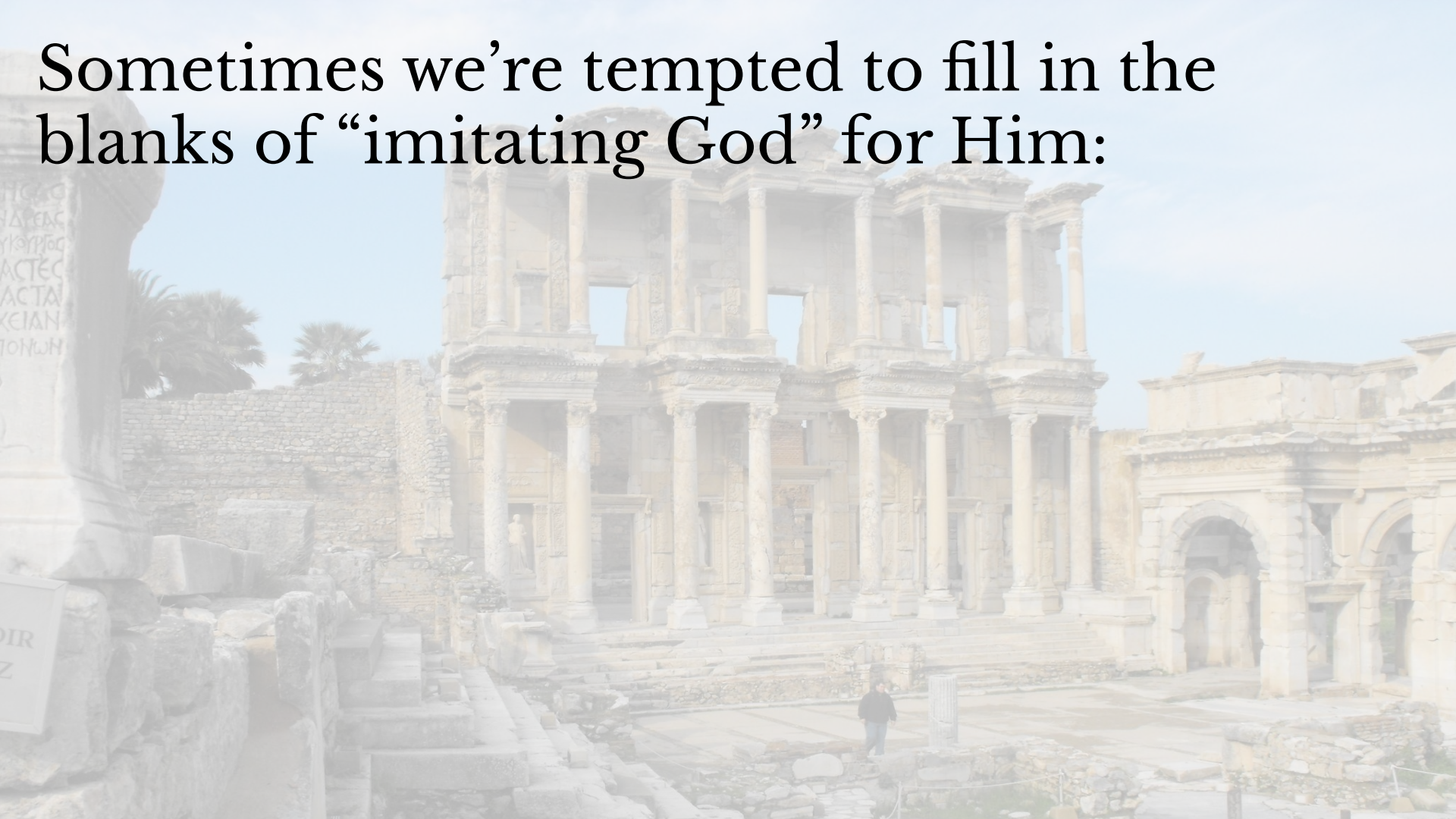
Walk in self-sacrificing love

No greed, no coveting

Q: How do you smell?
Cf. 2 Cor. 2:14ff.



Sometimes we're tempted to fill in the blanks of "imitating God" for Him:



The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored photograph of ancient ruins, likely the Forum of Trajan in Rome. It features several classical columns and arches. On the left side, there is a stone wall with some faint, partially legible text in a non-Latin script, possibly Greek or Hebrew. The overall tone is historical and somewhat somber.

Sometimes we're tempted to fill in the blanks of "imitating God" for Him:

I'm a moral person.

I have rid my life of wanton sin.

We're a decent family.

We're good people.

We treat each other well.

We don't use foul language.

BUT this passage asks:





BUT this passage asks:

Have you offered your life up for others?
Have you made a sacrifice of your
comforts, your pleasures,
your contentment... for others?
Are you living a life of sacrificial love?



But a life of LOVE?

Self-denial
Sacrifice

FOR OTHERS.

Not just self-denial and poverty for the sake of being poor and living humbly.

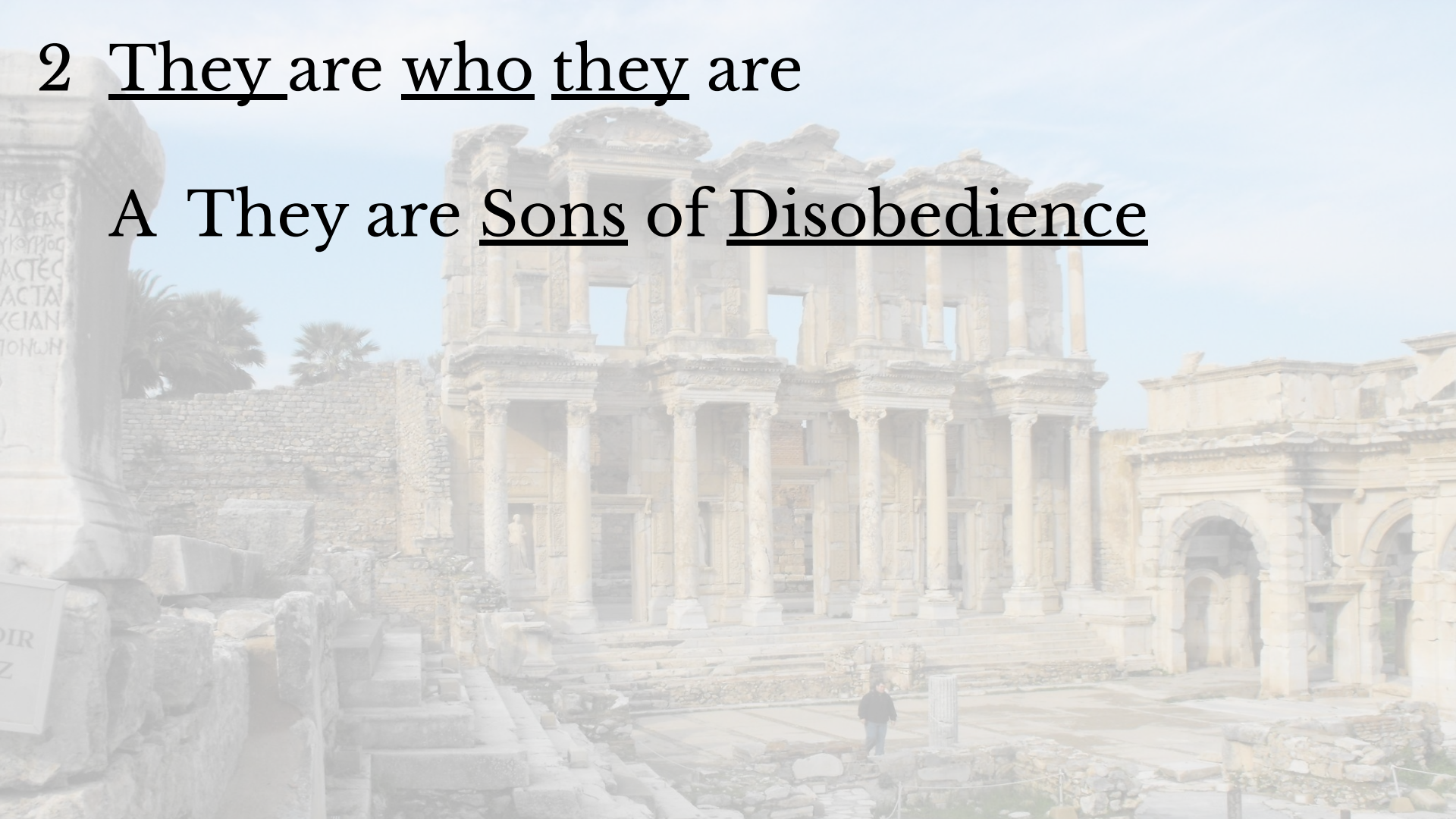
But living for others' sake?

2 They are who they are



2 They are who they are

A They are Sons of Disobedience

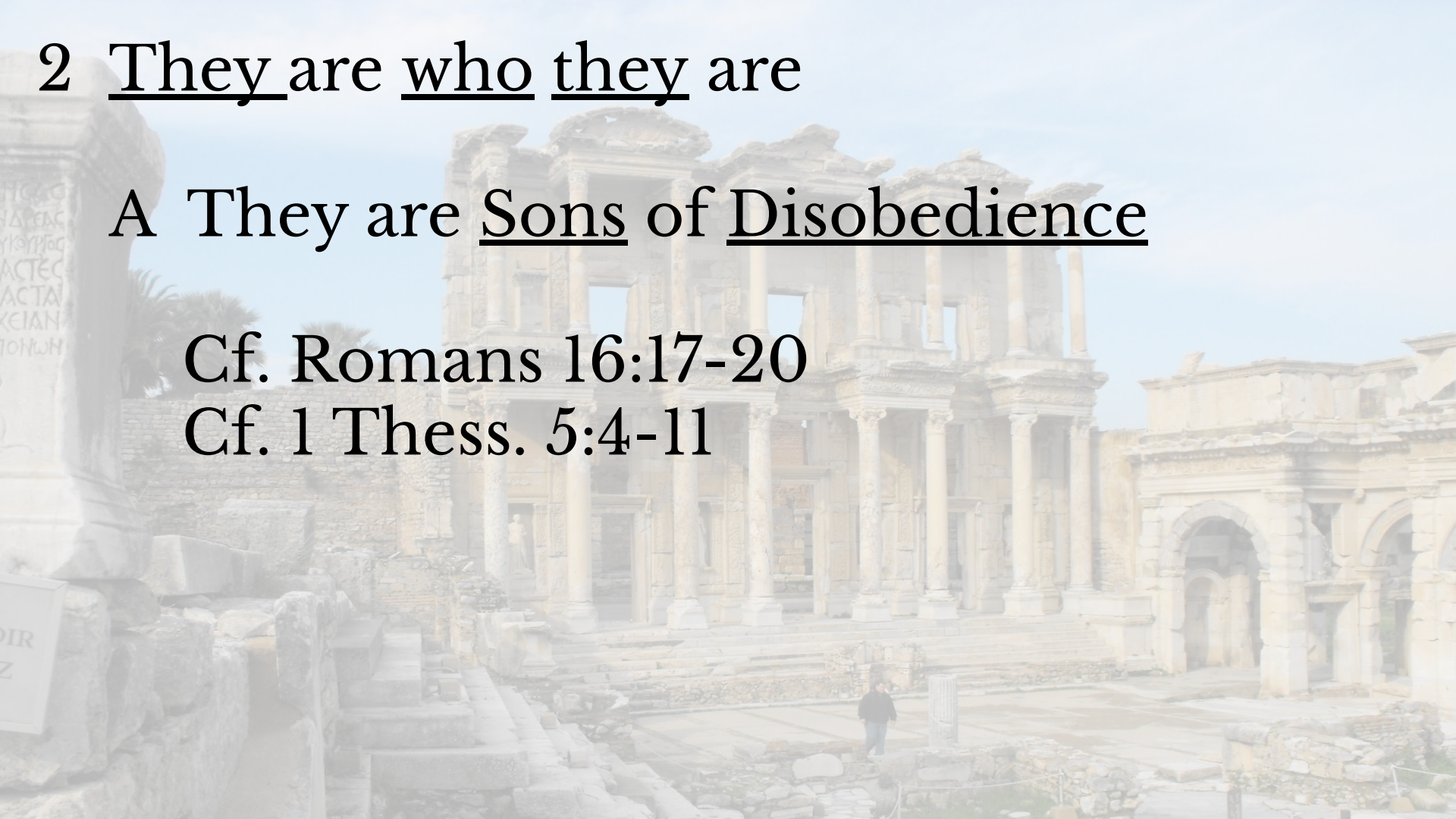


2 They are who they are

A They are Sons of Disobedience

Cf. Romans 16:17-20

Cf. 1 Thess. 5:4-11



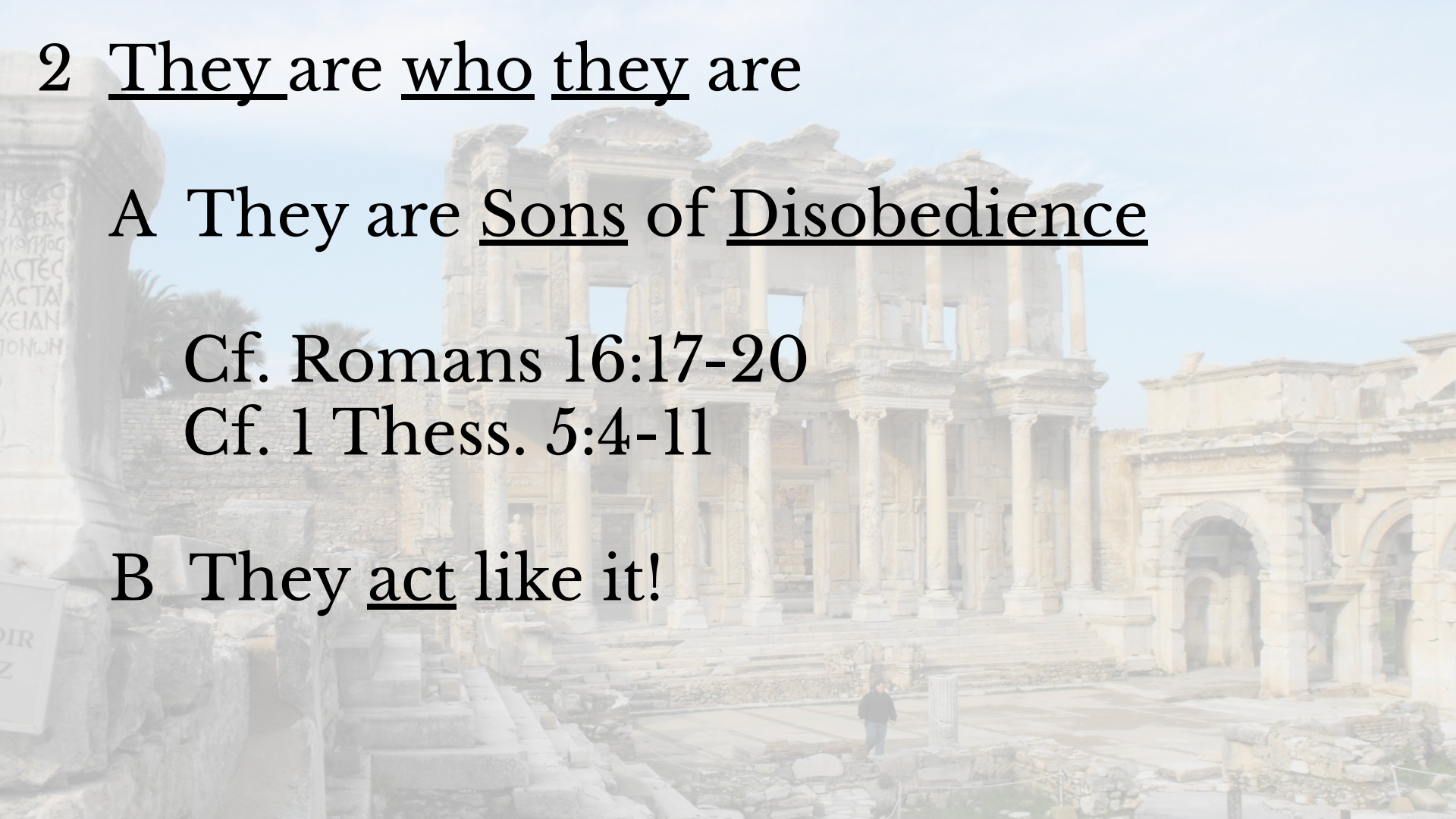
2 They are who they are

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B They act like it!



2 They are who they are

A They are Sons of Disobedience

Cf. Romans 16:17-20

Cf. 1 Thess. 5:4-11

B They act like it!

Cf. 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Cf. Acts 4:24-31

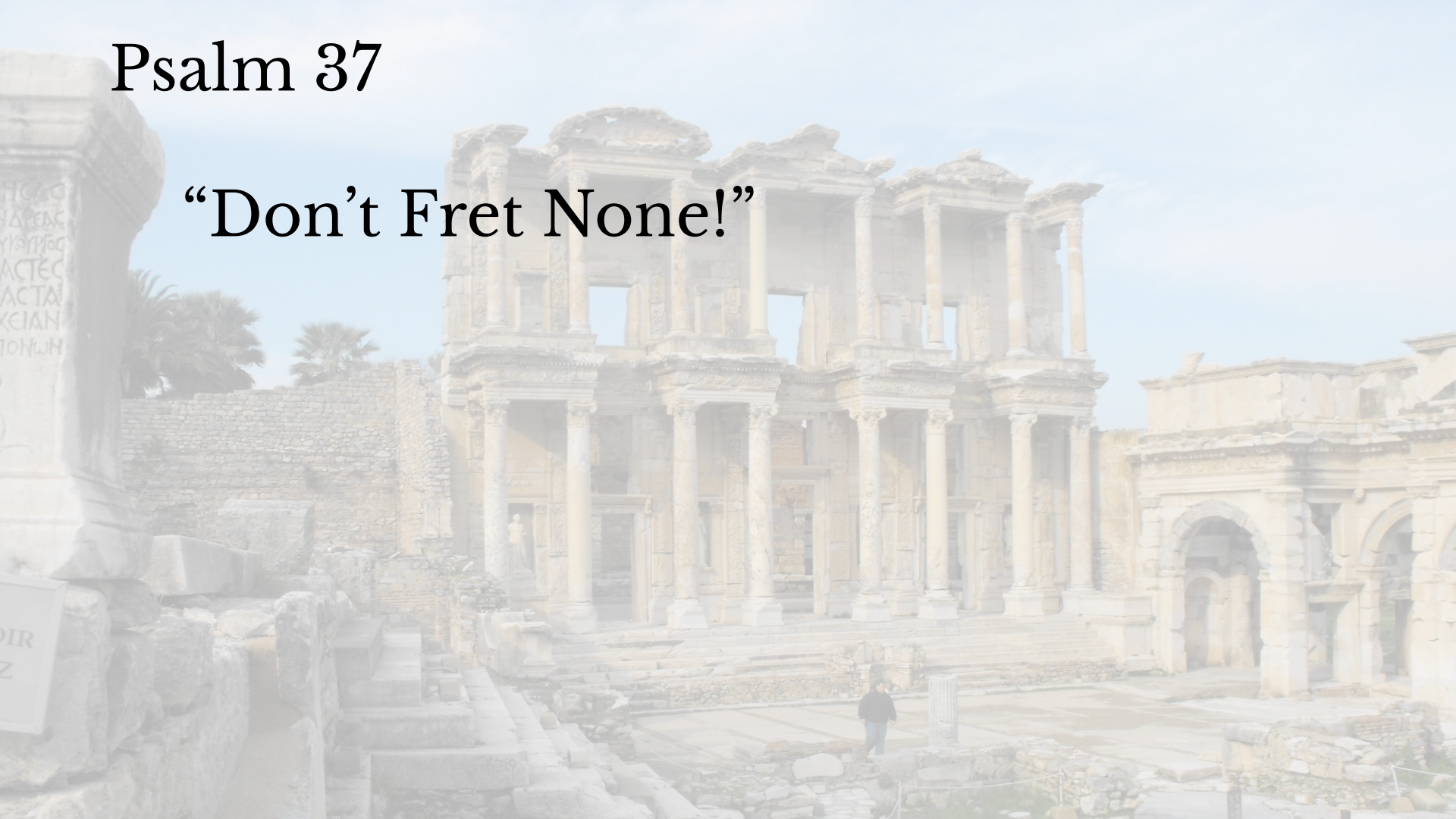
Psalm 37





Psalm 37

“Don’t Fret None!”



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“Don’t Fret None!”

Fret ← *fretan* ← *fressen* ← “to gnaw”

(English) (Old English) (German)

Psalm 37

“Don’t Fret None!”

Fret ⇐ *fretan* ⇐ *fressen* ⇐ “to gnaw”

(English) (Old English) (German)

Hebrew: *charah* – to be kindled and burn
with anger; smolder

Psalm 37

“Don’t Fret None!”

Q: Does God “fret” over evil men?

Q: Does God wring His hands over evil?

Q: Can you imagine God “fuming”?

Psalm 37

“Don’t Fret None!”

Q: Does God “fret” over evil men?

Q: Does God wring His hands over evil?

Q: Can you imagine God “fuming”?

“Imitate your father..”

Psalm 73

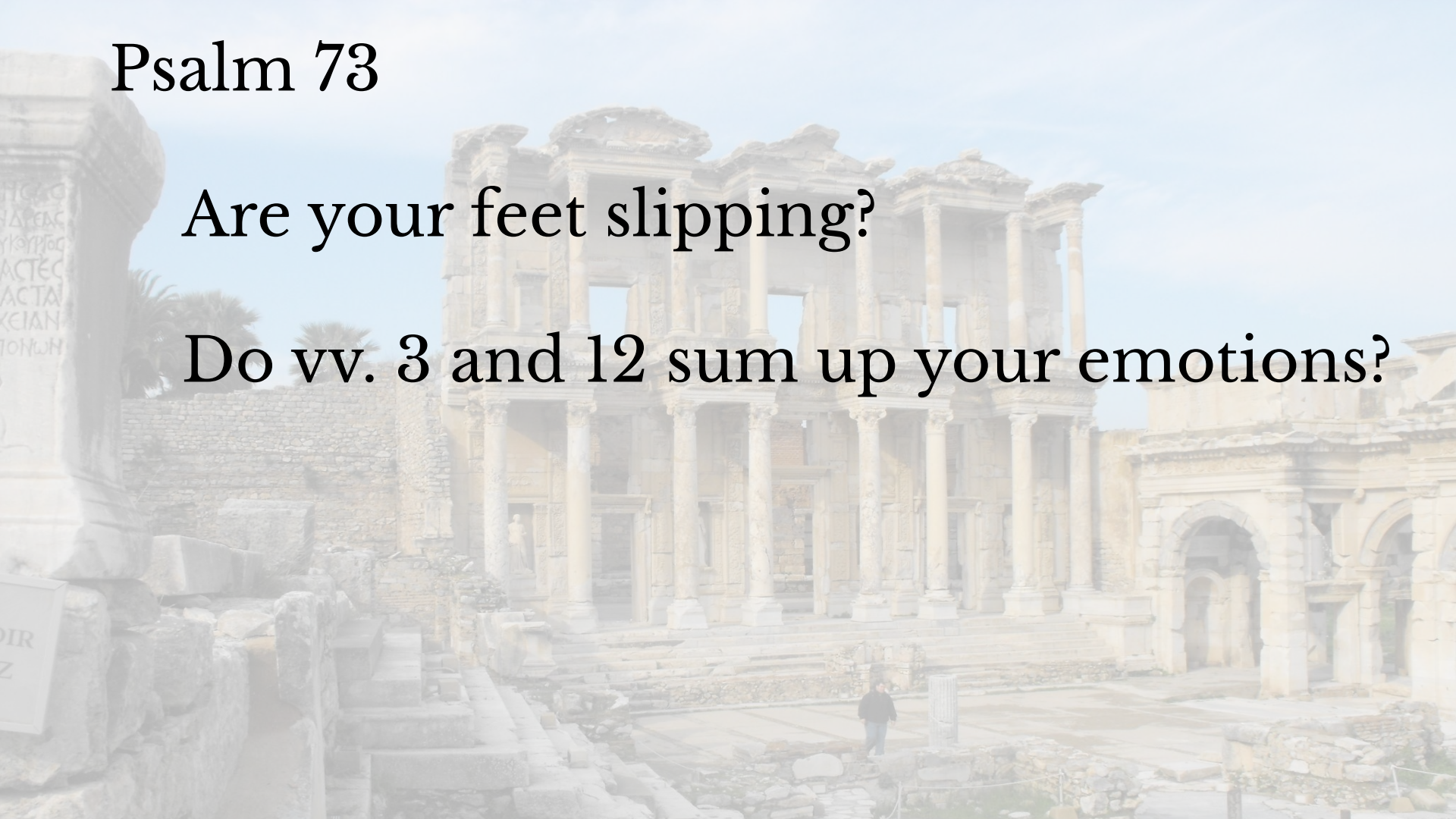
Are your feet slipping?



Psalm 73

Are your feet slipping?

Do vv. 3 and 12 sum up your emotions?



APPLICATION:

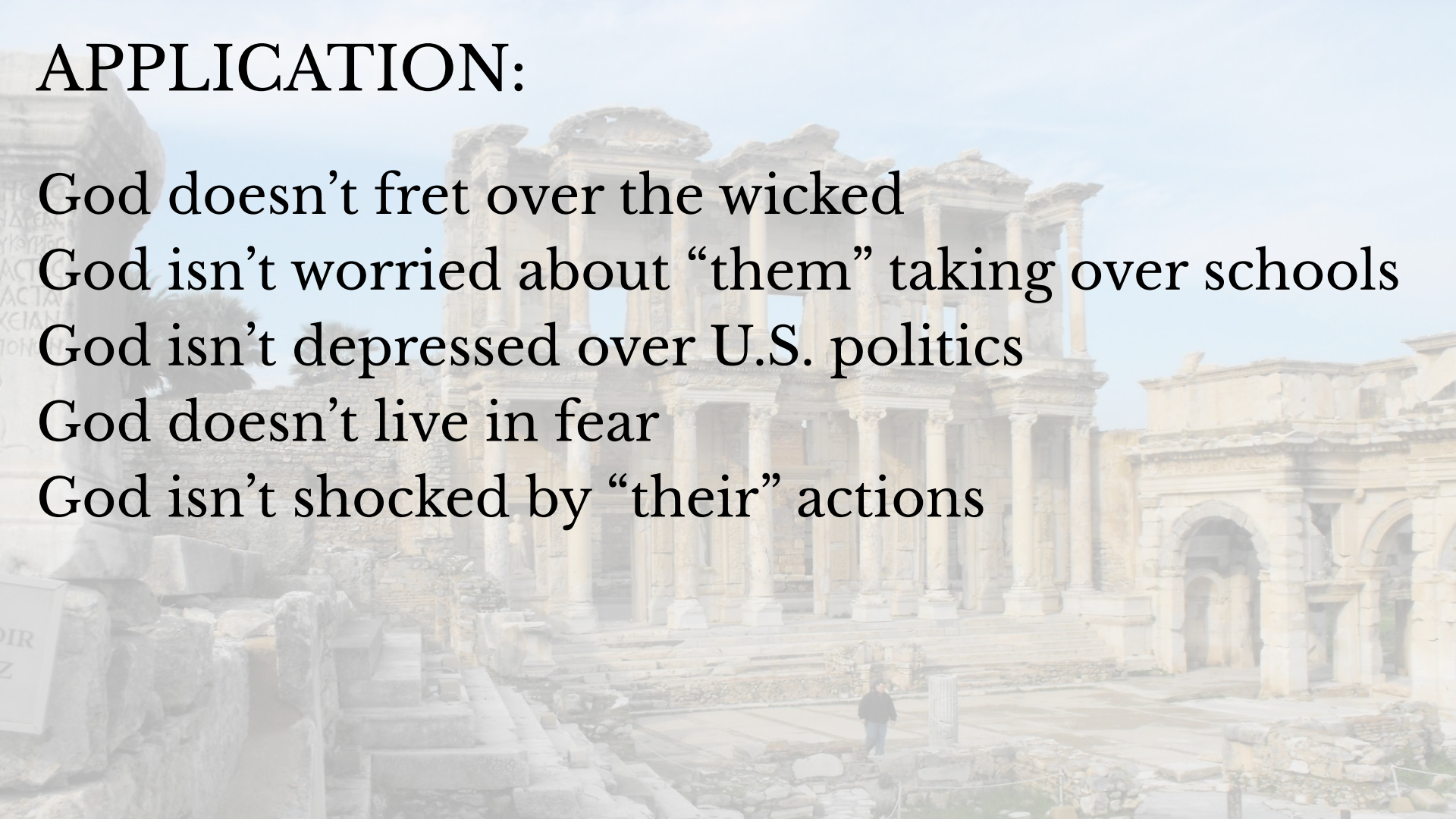
God doesn't fret over the wicked

God isn't worried about "them" taking over schools

God isn't depressed over U.S. politics

God doesn't live in fear

God isn't shocked by "their" actions



APPLICATION:

God doesn't fret over the wicked

God isn't worried about "them" taking over schools

God isn't despairing over U.S. politics

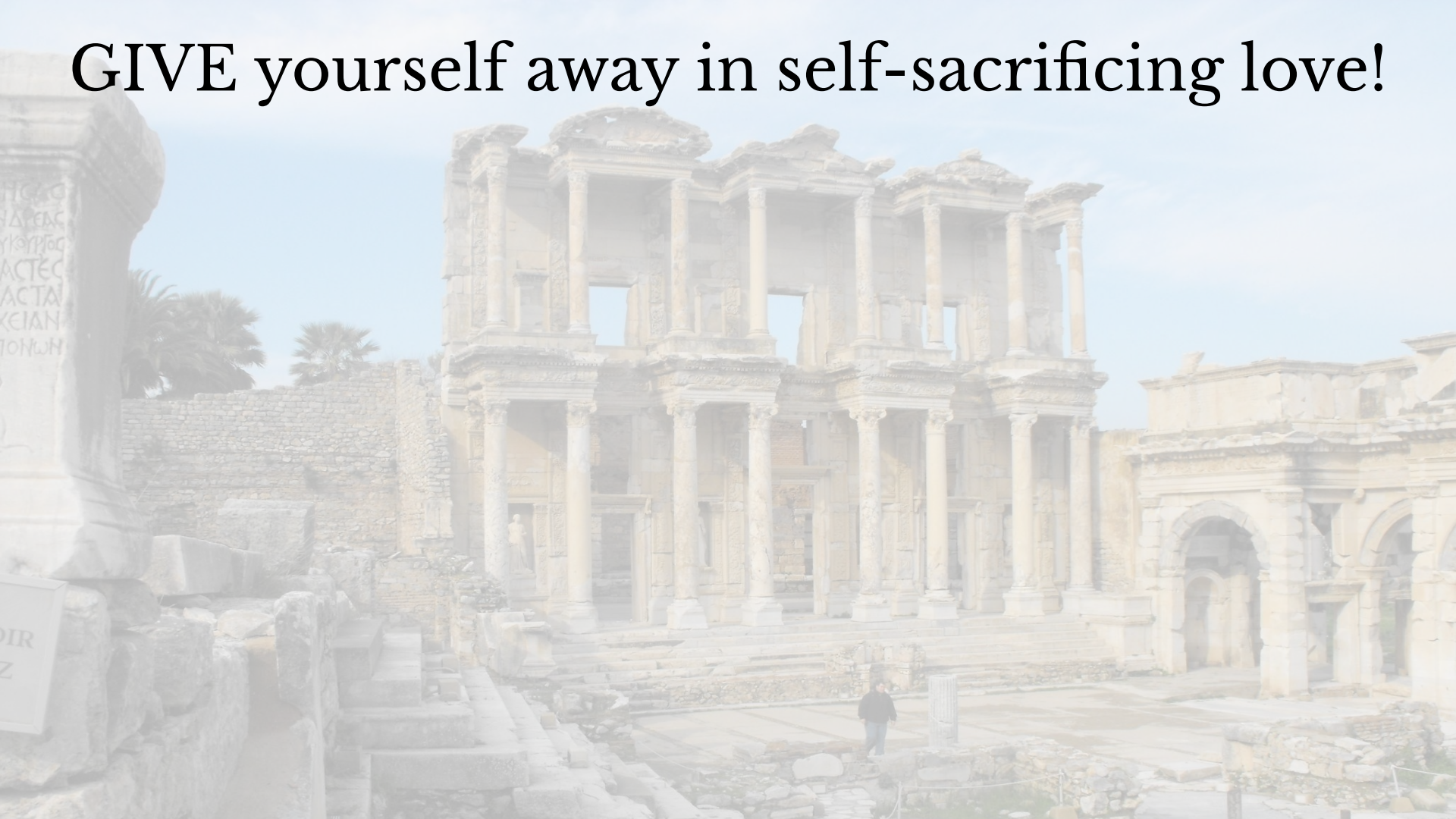
God doesn't live in fear of "them"

God isn't shocked by "their" actions



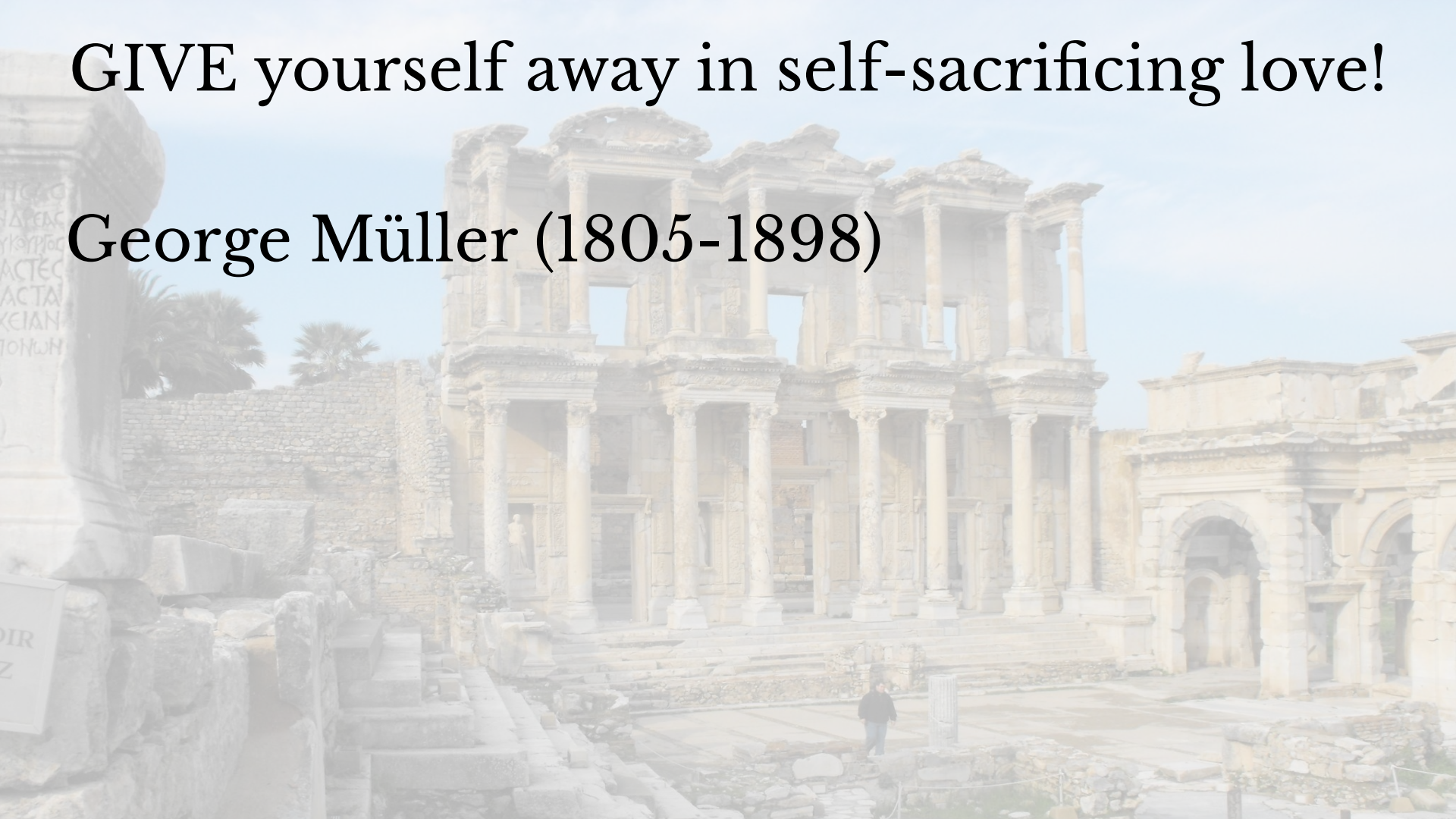
Can you have these characteristics and also be
"imitators of God as beloved children"

GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

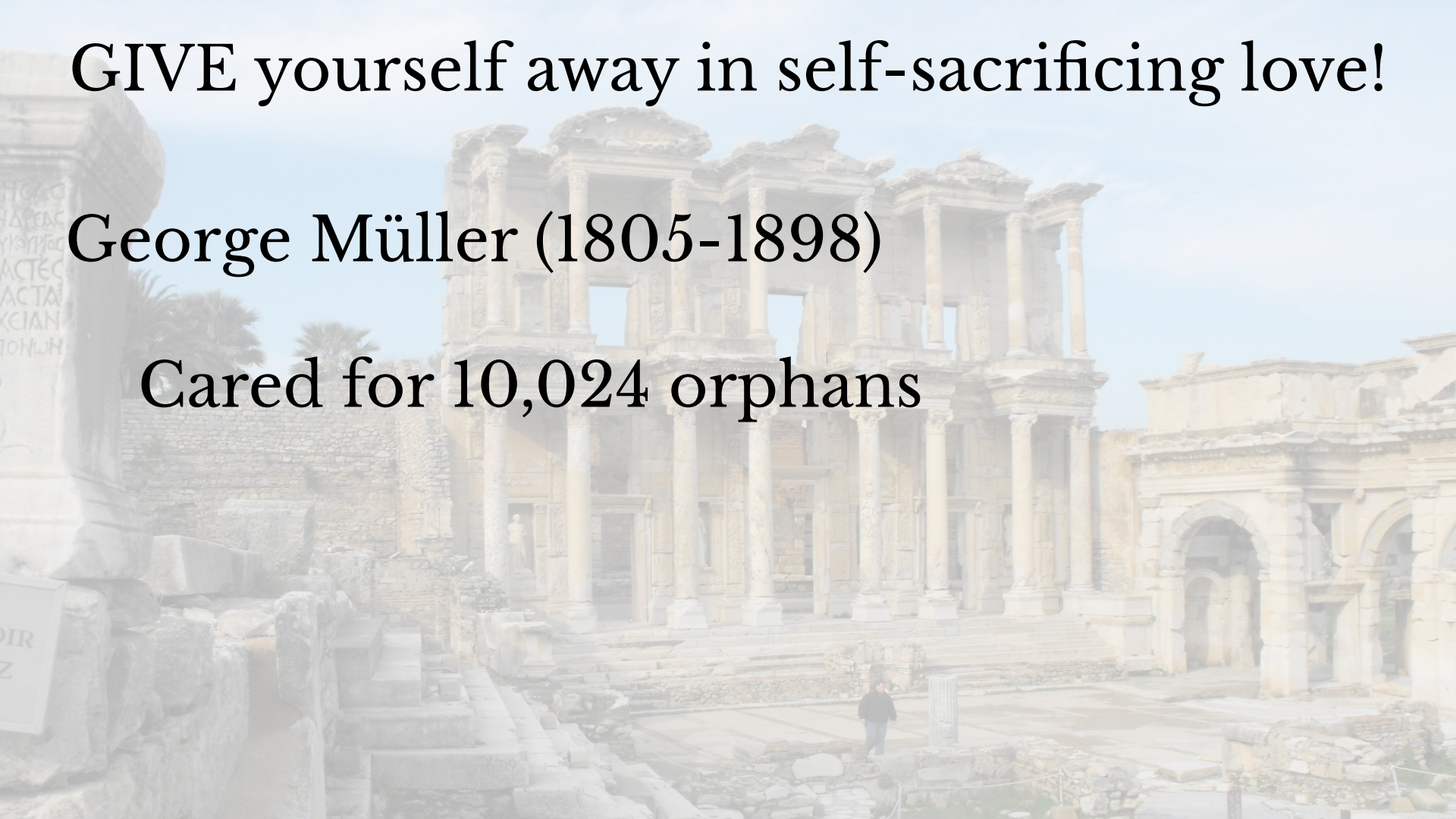
George Müller (1805-1898)



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

George Müller (1805-1898)

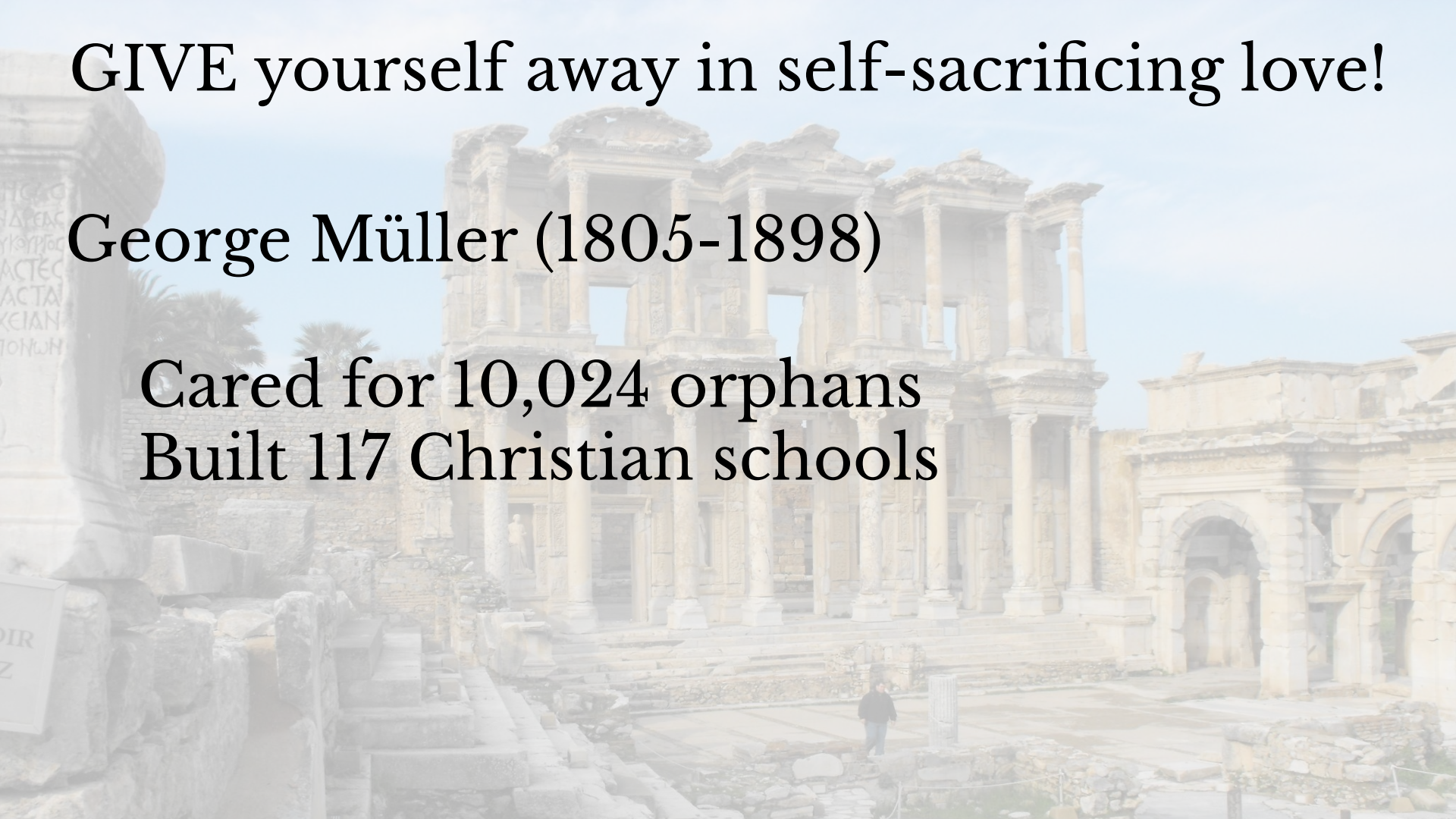
Cared for 10,024 orphans



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

George Müller (1805-1898)

**Cared for 10,024 orphans
Built 117 Christian schools**





GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

George Müller (1805-1898)

Cared for 10,024 orphans

Built 117 Christian schools

Educated 120,000 people in Bible and
general education



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

George Müller (1805-1898)

Cared for 10,000+ orphans

Built 117 Christian schools

Educated 120,000+ people in Bible and
general education

Gave away 1.5 million Bibles



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

George Müller (1805-1898)

Cared for 10,000+ orphans

Built 117 Christian schools

Educated 120,000+ people in Bible and
general education

Gave away 1.5 million Bibles

Changed an entire culture



GIVE yourself away in self-sacrificing love!

“Self-denial is not so much an *impoverishment* as a *postponement*: we make a sacrifice of a present good for the sake of a future and greater good. Therefore, happiness in God is of supreme importance because it is the key to love that sacrifices and takes risks.

“Whatever be done... in the way of giving up, or self-denial, or deadness to the world, should result from the joy we have in God.”