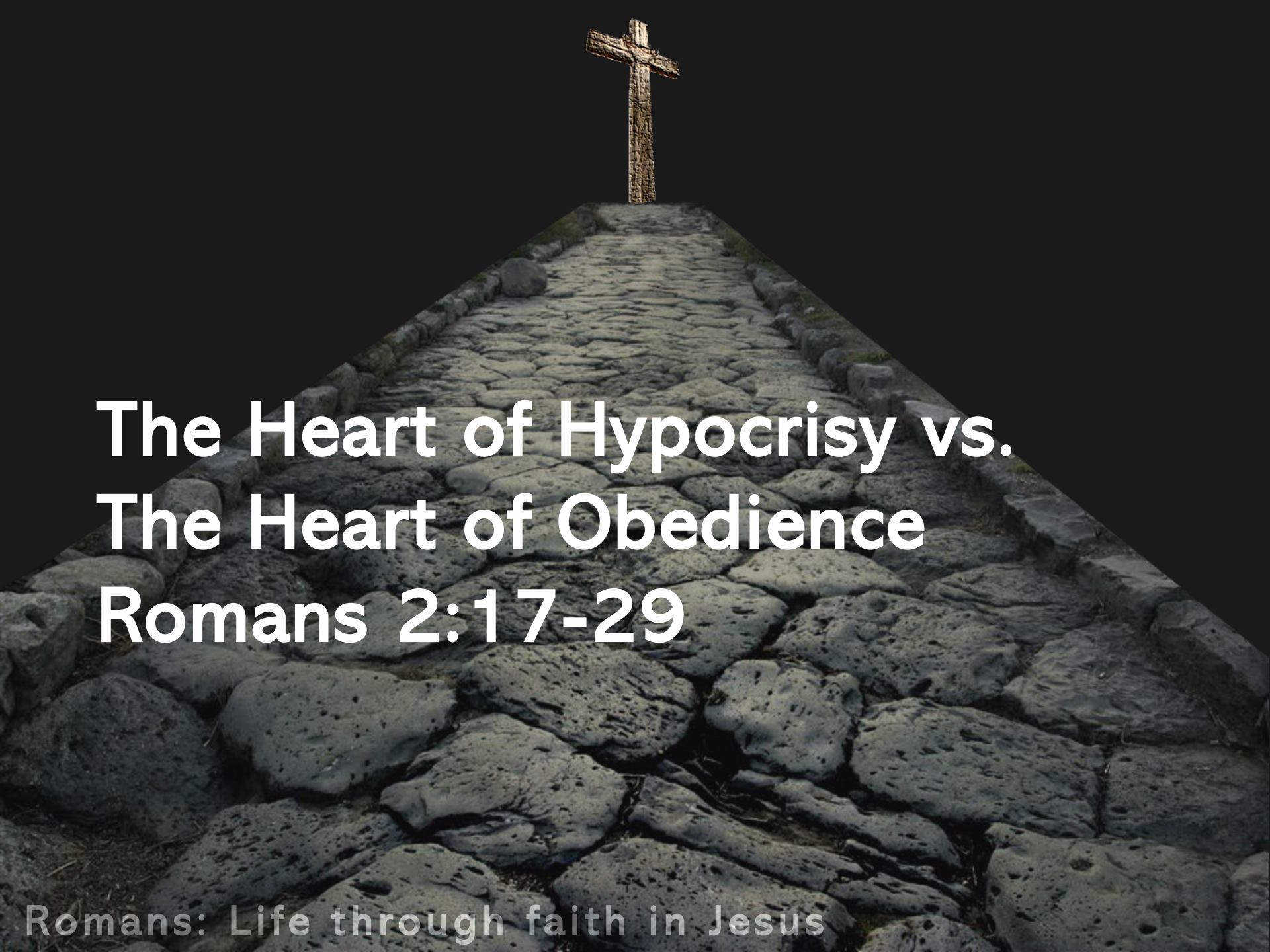
A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross at the horizon. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid black sky.

# Romans: Life through faith in Jesus



A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross in the distance. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid dark grey.

# **The Heart of Hypocrisy vs. The Heart of Obedience Romans 2:17-29**

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A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Romans 2

<sup>17</sup> Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God;<sup>18</sup> if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;<sup>19</sup> if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,<sup>20</sup> an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—

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## Romans 2

<sup>21</sup> you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?<sup>22</sup> You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup> You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?<sup>24</sup> As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

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A stone cross stands at the end of a stone path that leads towards it. The path is made of large, irregular stones and is flanked by a low stone wall. The background is a dark, solid color.

## Romans 2

<sup>25</sup> Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. <sup>26</sup> So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?



A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Romans 2

<sup>27</sup> The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

<sup>28</sup> A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.



## Romans 2

<sup>29</sup> No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.



A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross in the distance. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid dark color.

# The Heart of Hypocrisy vs. The Heart of Obedience

Romans: Life through faith in Jesus





# 1. The Heart of Hypocrisy among the Jews.

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A wooden cross stands at the end of a stone path that leads towards a tomb entrance. The path is made of large, irregular stones and is flanked by a low stone wall. The background is dark, suggesting a night scene or a cave interior.

## Ezek. 36:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Again the word of the LORD came to me:<sup>17</sup> “Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight.<sup>18</sup> So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols.



A wooden cross stands at the end of a stone path that recedes into a dark background. The path is made of irregular stones and leads towards the cross, which is centered at the top of the frame.

## Ezek. 36:16-21

<sup>19</sup> I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions.<sup>20</sup> And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the LORD's people, and yet they had to leave his land.'<sup>21</sup> I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.



A stone cross stands at the end of a path made of irregular stones, leading towards it. The background is dark.

## Matthew 23

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup> “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup> So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

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## Matthew 23

<sup>5</sup> “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; <sup>6</sup> they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; <sup>7</sup> they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.





## Matthew 23

<sup>8</sup> “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup> And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

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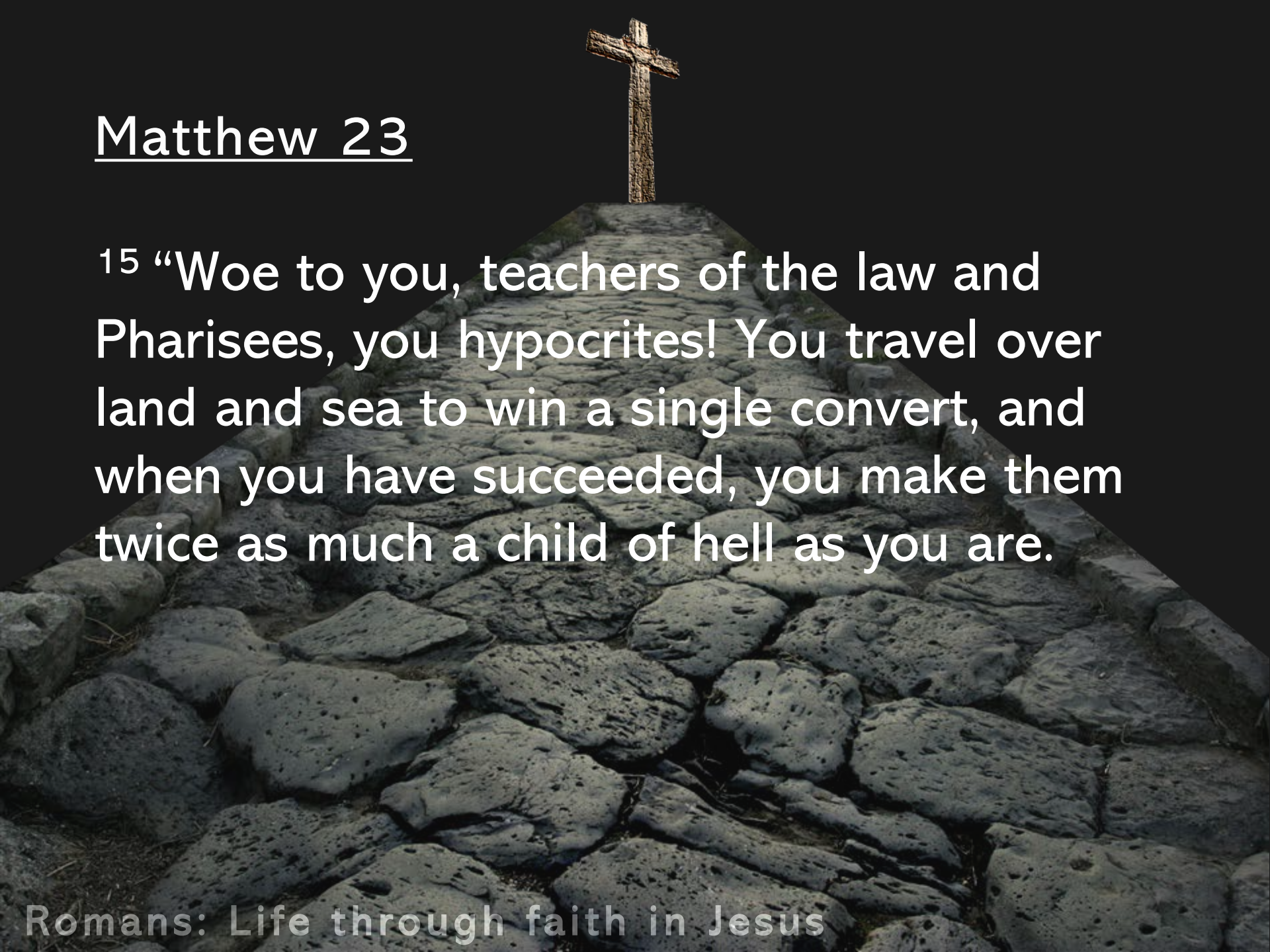


## Matthew 23

<sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.



## Matthew 23



<sup>15</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.



A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads towards the cross, which is set against a dark, solid background. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood or stone.

## Matthew 23

<sup>16</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’ <sup>17</sup> You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> You also say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.’





## Matthew 23

<sup>19</sup> You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. <sup>21</sup> And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. <sup>22</sup> And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.



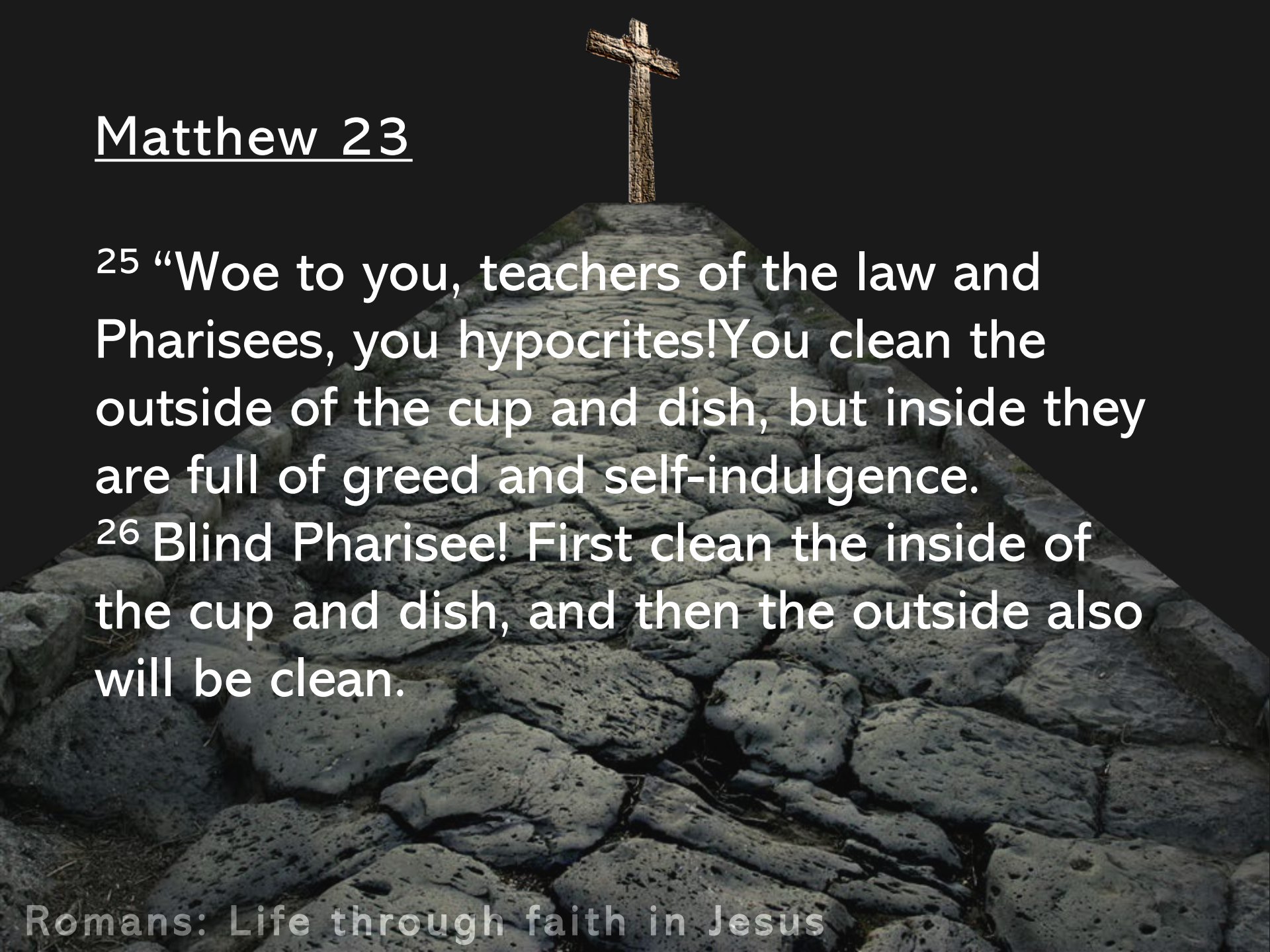
A stone cross stands at the end of a path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Matthew 23

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.



## Matthew 23



<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

<sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.





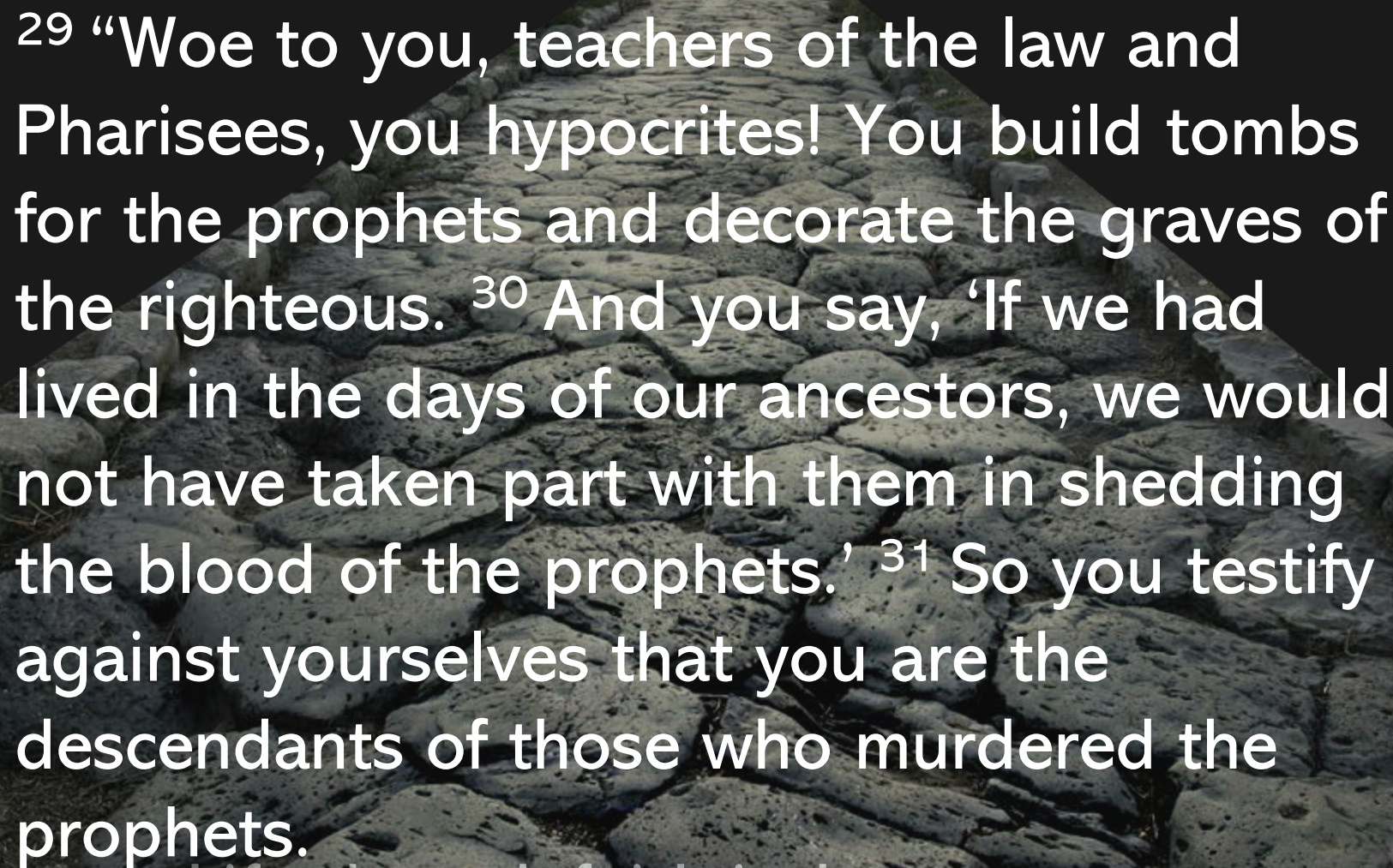
## Matthew 23

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

<sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.



## Matthew 23



<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. <sup>30</sup> And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ <sup>31</sup> So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets.

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## Matthew 23

<sup>32</sup> Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

<sup>33</sup> “You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?”



A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross in the distance. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid dark color.

## 2. The Heart of Obedience that God wants.

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A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of dark, irregular cobblestones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Romans 2:17

The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.



## Romans 2:29

No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly;  
and circumcision is circumcision of the  
heart...



A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of dark, irregular cobblestones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.



A wooden cross stands at the end of a stone path that recedes into the distance. The path is made of large, irregular stones and is flanked by dark, shadowed areas. The background is a solid dark color.

## Jer. 9:25-26

<sup>25</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when I will punish all who are circumcised only  
in the flesh— <sup>26</sup> Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon,  
Moab and all who live in the wilderness in  
distant places. For all these nations are really  
uncircumcised, and even the whole house of  
Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”



A stone cross stands at the end of a long, straight path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

Jer. 4:4

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord,  
circumcise your hearts,  
you people of Judah and inhabitants of  
Jerusalem,  
or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire  
because of the evil you have done—  
burn with no one to quench it.



A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross at the end. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid dark color.

### 3. The Heart of Hypocrisy among us.

Romans: Life through faith in Jesus





## Romans 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.



A stone cross stands at the end of a path made of irregular stones, leading towards it. The background is dark.

## Matt 7:21-23

[Jesus said], <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

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A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross in the distance. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid black sky.

# 4. The Heart of Obedience through Jesus

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A stone cross stands at the end of a path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Phil 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;



A stone cross stands at the end of a path made of large, irregular stones. The path leads from the bottom of the frame towards the cross, which is centered at the top. The background is a solid dark color.

## Phil 2:5-8

- <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.
- <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!



## Luke 22:42

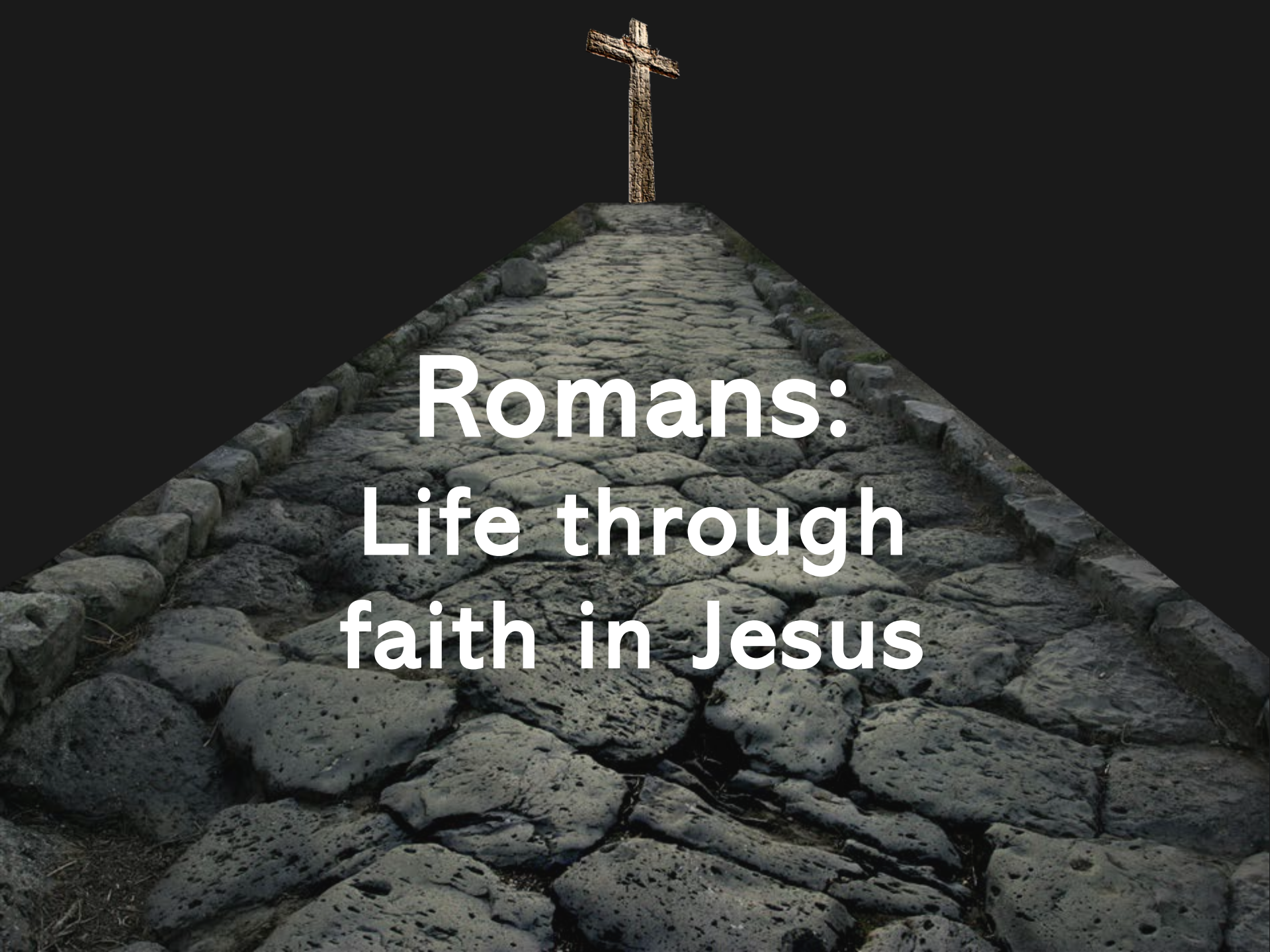
[Jesus said,] <sup>42</sup> “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”



## 2 Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!



A perspective view of a stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones, leading towards a wooden cross at the horizon. The path is flanked by low stone walls. The background is a solid dark grey.

# Romans: Life through faith in Jesus