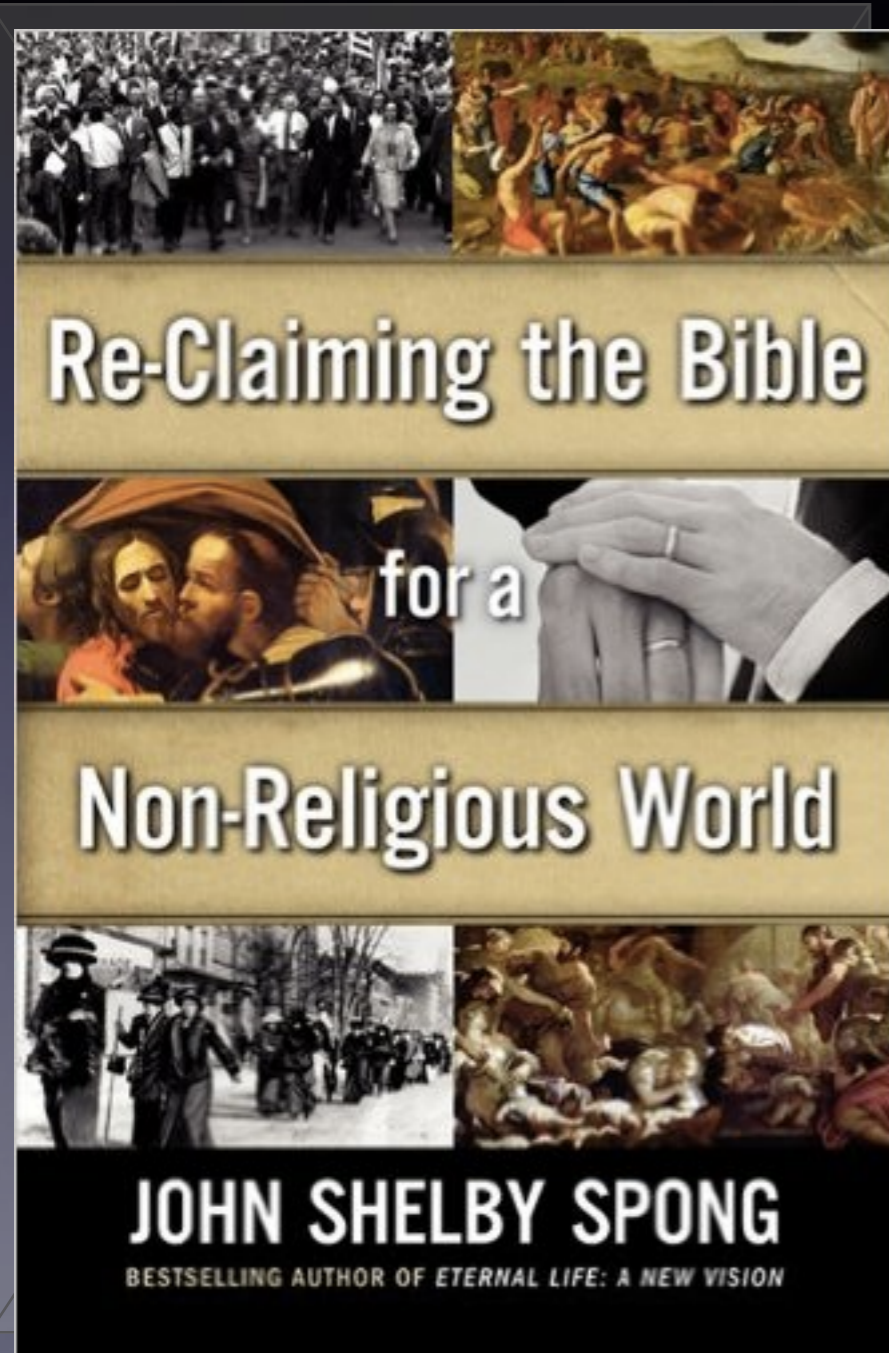


# Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

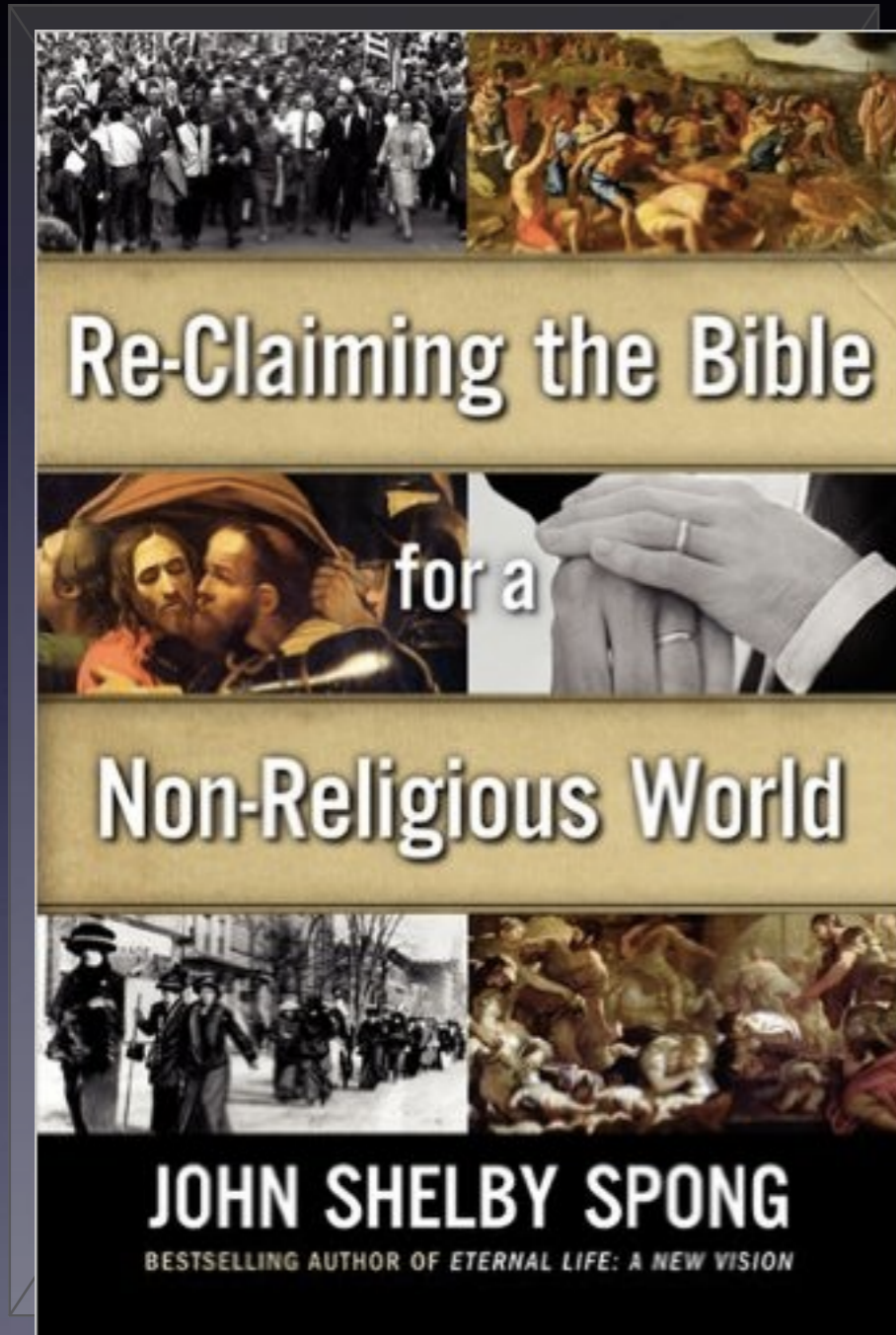
ACTS

Fall 2016

St David's United Church  
Calgary



# Reclaiming the Bible



## Session # 9

- Opening
- Questions
- Overview
- Break
- Videos
- Discussions
- Closing



# Opening



# Starting Remarks

## **ACTS Advent Booksale**

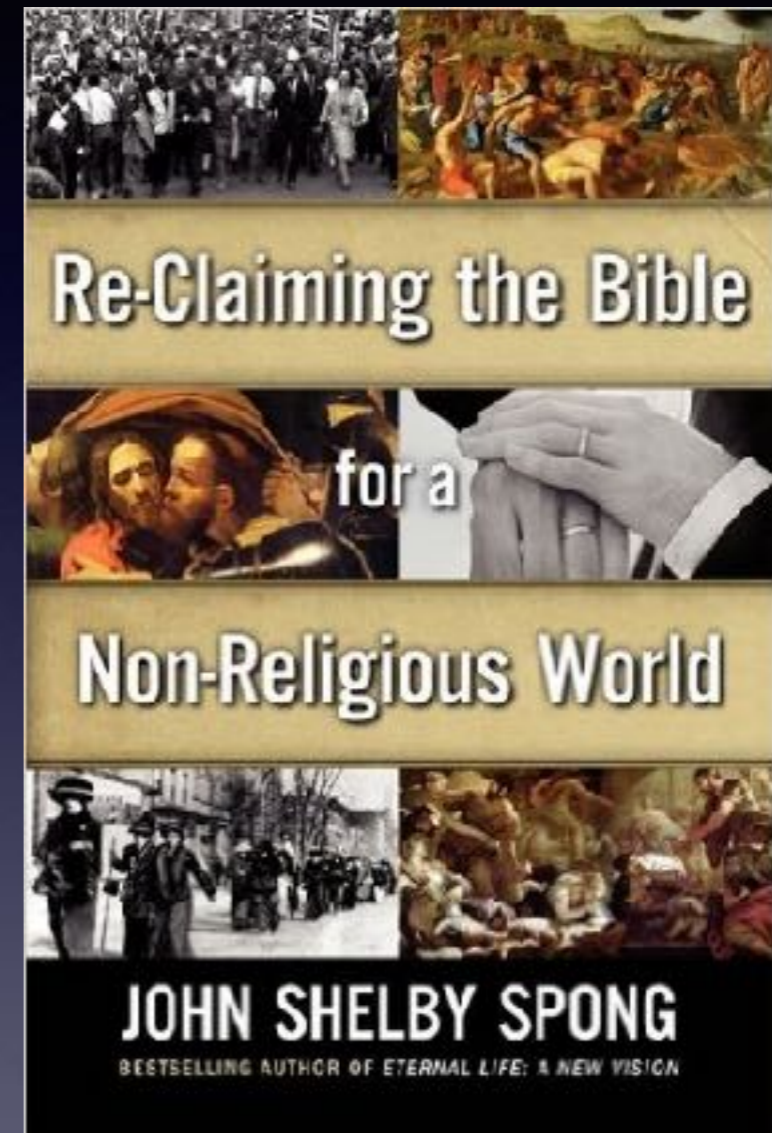
- next 2 Sundays
- 15 books
- Excellent presents for friends and family





# Reclaiming the Bible - Tonight's Focus

- 70-100 CE
- The Pastoral Epistles - I and II Timothy and Titus.
- The Letter to the Hebrews, and The General Epistles - James, I & II Peter, and Jude Last to be written
- Reflect church authority forming and lack authority today



What thoughts do you have about these books from your reading?

# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

- There is an evolution in New Testament teaching as we move through authentic Paul, the Synoptics, and the Pastorals.
- The Pastoral Epistles display a transition from a personal faith experience of Jesus, to belief about him.

# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

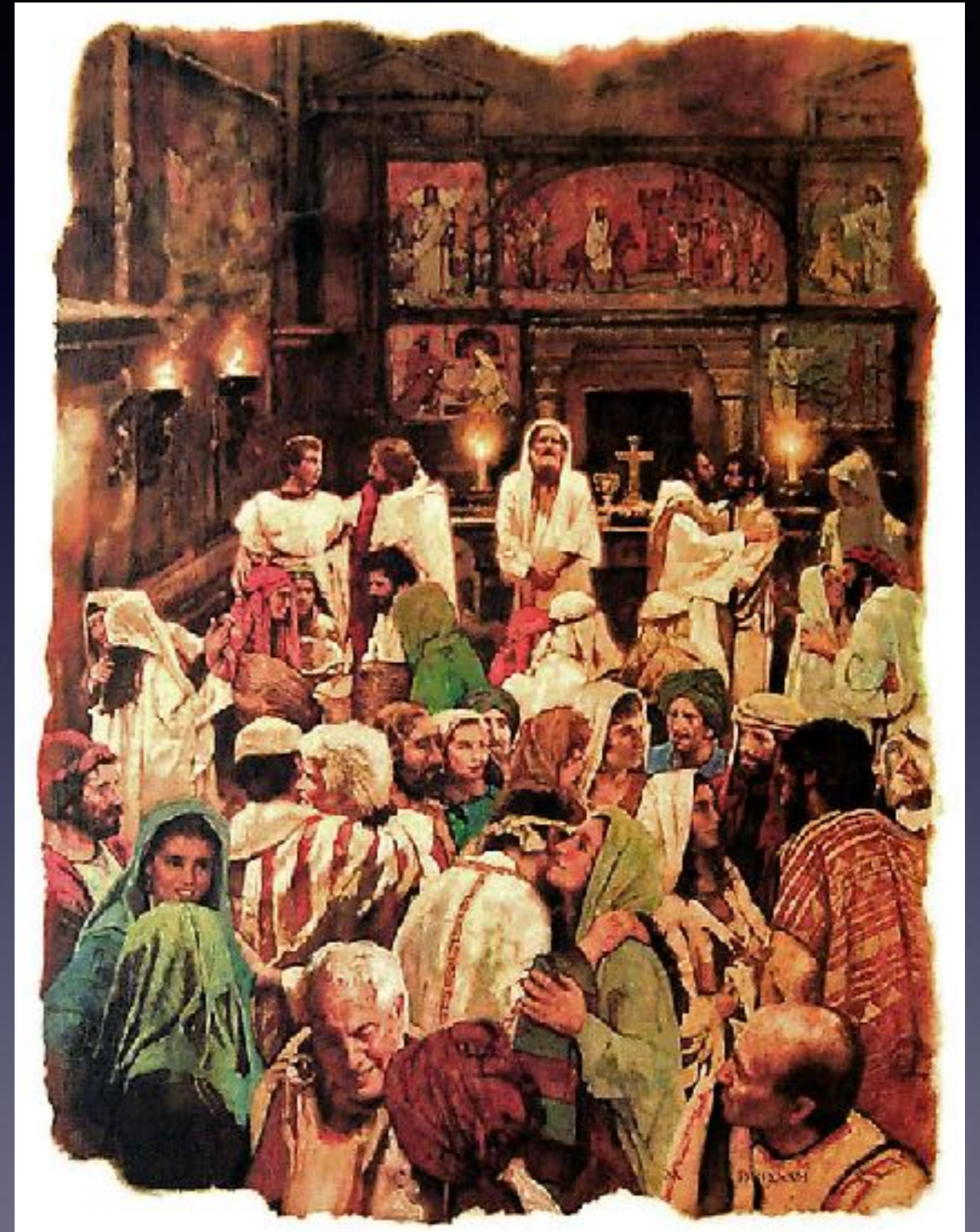
- Missionaries, prophets and teachers become bishops, priests and deacons.
- Spong calls these offices - 'authoritative hierarchs'





# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

- Order and conformity became more valued than the pristine enthusiasm of the first Christians





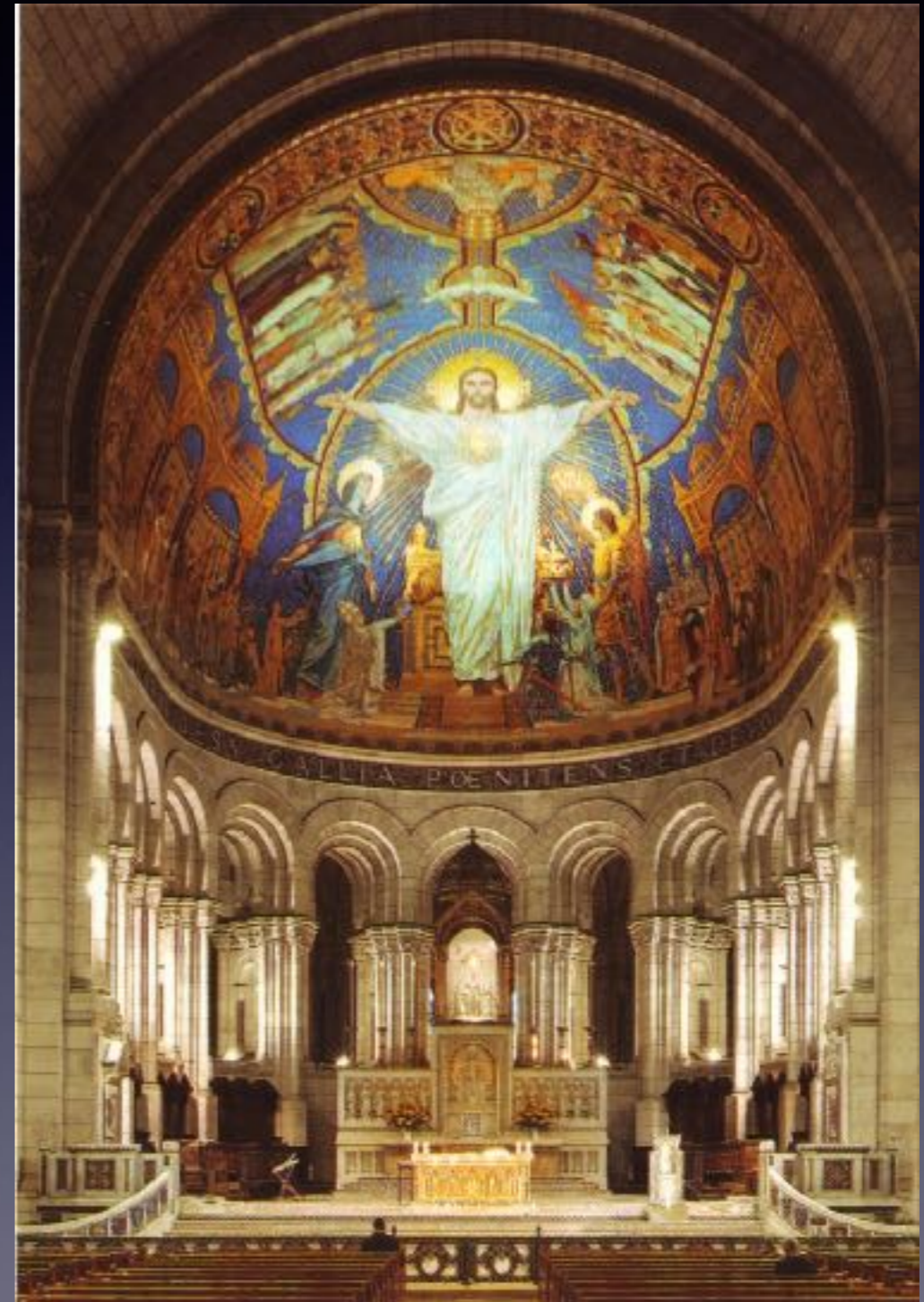
# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

Remember that an important element of the early Jesus community was the conviction of Jesus' imminent return.



# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

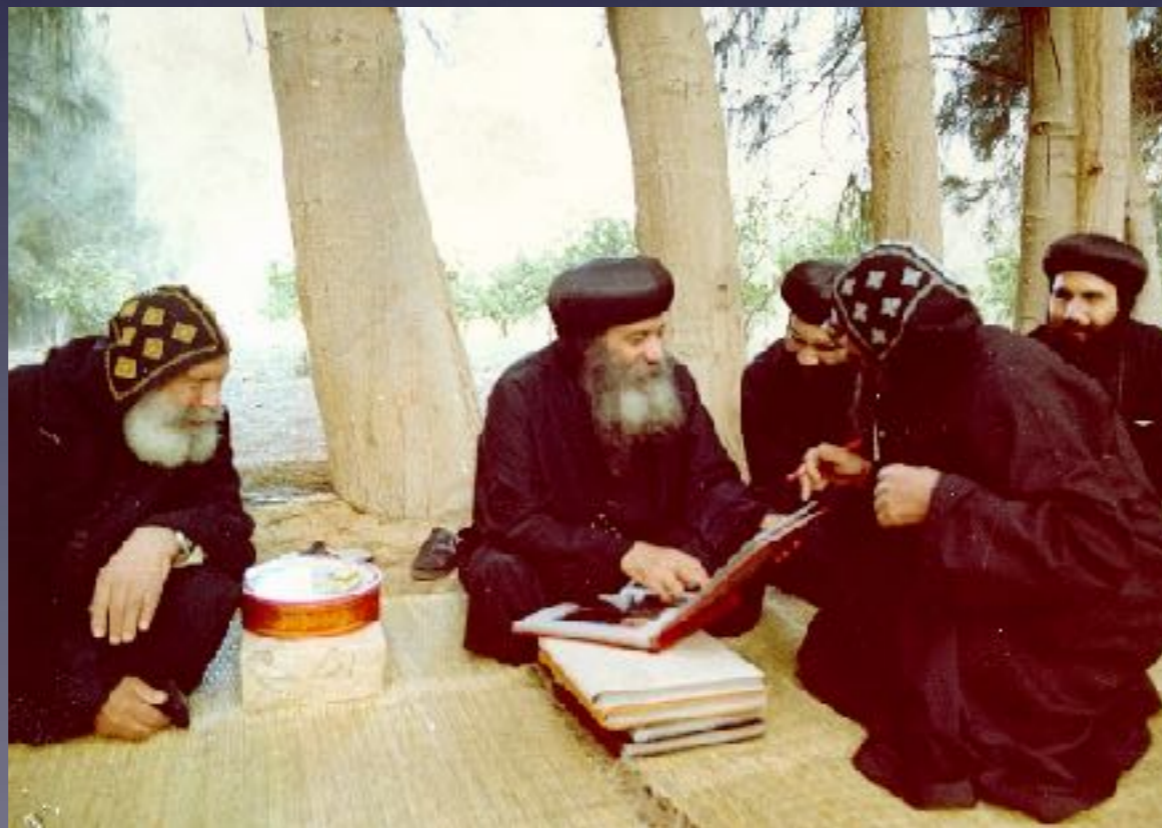
- When that enthusiasm waned, over time, the focus shifted to stability and the refinement of teaching.
- Be prepared! Think and live right in anticipation!





# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

- Paul emerges from 'controversial figure' to 'trusted authority' and the source of 'right teaching'
- The role of bishop emerges as the figure symbolizing unity and defending right teaching in the community.



# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

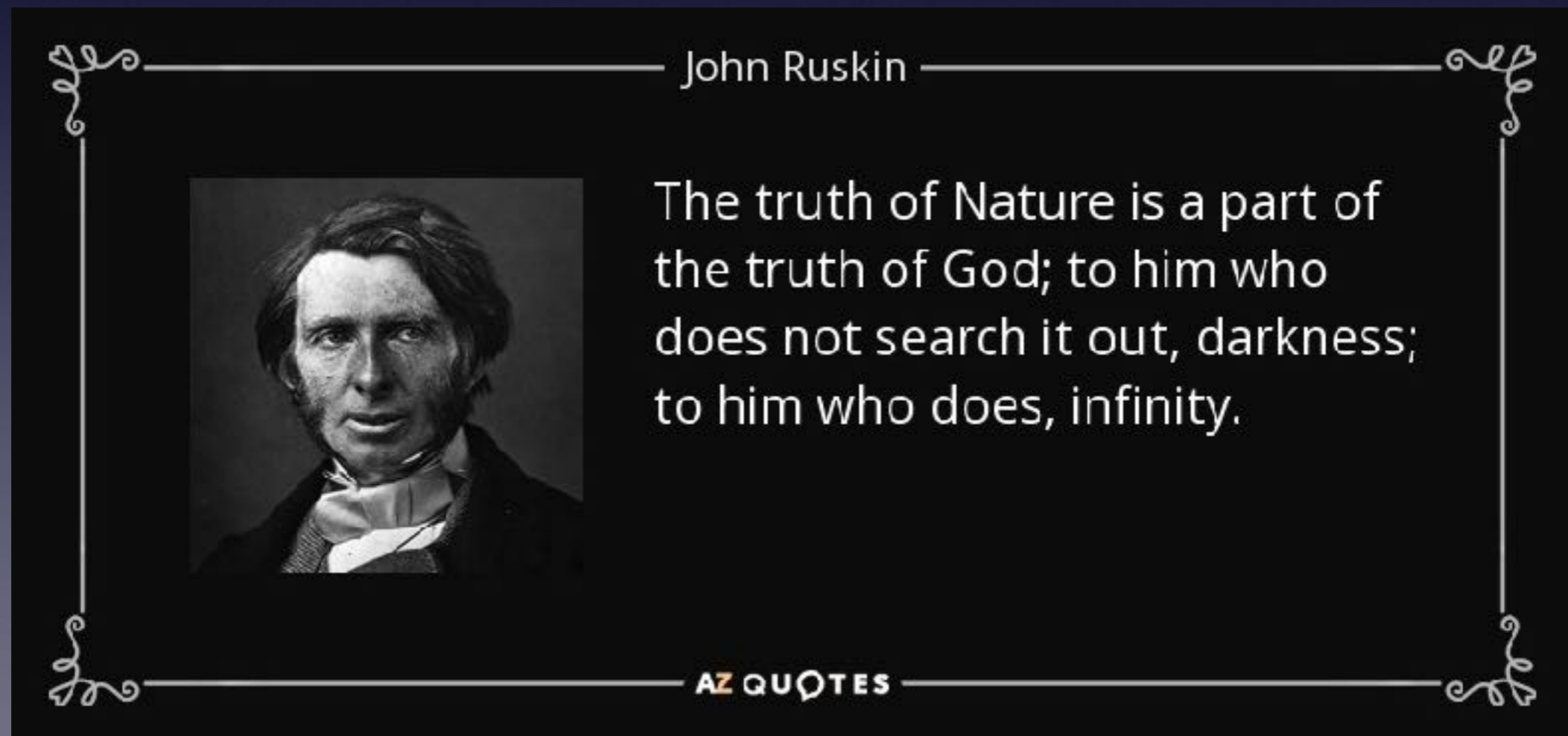
- The rise of Gnosticism posed a significant challenge to emerging Christianity - with its focus on inner authority.
- Spong suggests there are similarities between Gnosticism and Protestantism
- What do you think?





# 1 and II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

- Spong assesses this: No human authority - Bible or Bishop - can capture the truth of God.
- What do you think?



# James, I & II Peter, & Jude

Not all parts of the Bible are equally holy.

Discuss.



**THE LINE BETWEEN  
SECULAR AND  
SACRED IS GRAY.**

@ITSJOELSTEPHENS



# James, I & II Peter, & Jude

- These small letters have little substance compared to other New Testament works.
- James is a counterpoint to Paul on the theology of faith and good works. Is this a positive balance?



# James, I & II Peter, & Jude

Peter emphasises the important of Christian ethics - a focus on actually giving to the poor, not just talking about giving to the poor.

pic - boots for the homeless





# Spong's Concluding Comment

I urge you to read these (less worthwhile) books, once. It will not take more than ten minutes. Then you have done it and will never have to do it again. For some parts of the Bible, once is enough.

Discuss.



Some parts of the Bible are dreadful. In fact, my working title for *The Sins of Scripture* was "The Terrible Text of The Bible."

*John Shelby Spong*

AZ QUOTES

# A Second Naivete

- Ron Rolheiser's paper - handout.
- Re-engaging old familiar stories of the Bible.
- From literalism to myth and new meanings.
- <http://ronrolheiser.com/second-naivete/#.WDHw5HTrvIU>





# A Second Naivete - a Journey

- Naive - Sophisticated - Second Naiveté
- First fervour - Disillusionment - Mature love
- Pre-critical - Critical - Post critical
- Innocence - Loss of innocence - New innocence
- Virgin - Experienced - Revirginized
- Childish - Sophisticated - Childlike
- Happy - Unhappy - Happy

We once were young fools. Then our eyes were opened and we became old fools. The task now is to become holy fools.

# Video - Why is God Hidden?

9m excerpt from

Walking in Light and in Darkness:

Fervor and Dark Nights in Our Spiritual Journey

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

15 June 2016

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3d46R\\_G\\_zg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3d46R_G_zg)





**OBLATE**  
**SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

*Giving You The Tools To Build Up The Kingdom*

WWW.OST.EDU



Expulsion From the Garden of Eden - Gustave Doré

## credo 2 - intention

we ever wish the life of simple trusting -  
believing submission is its key,  
and willing to suppress our knowing.

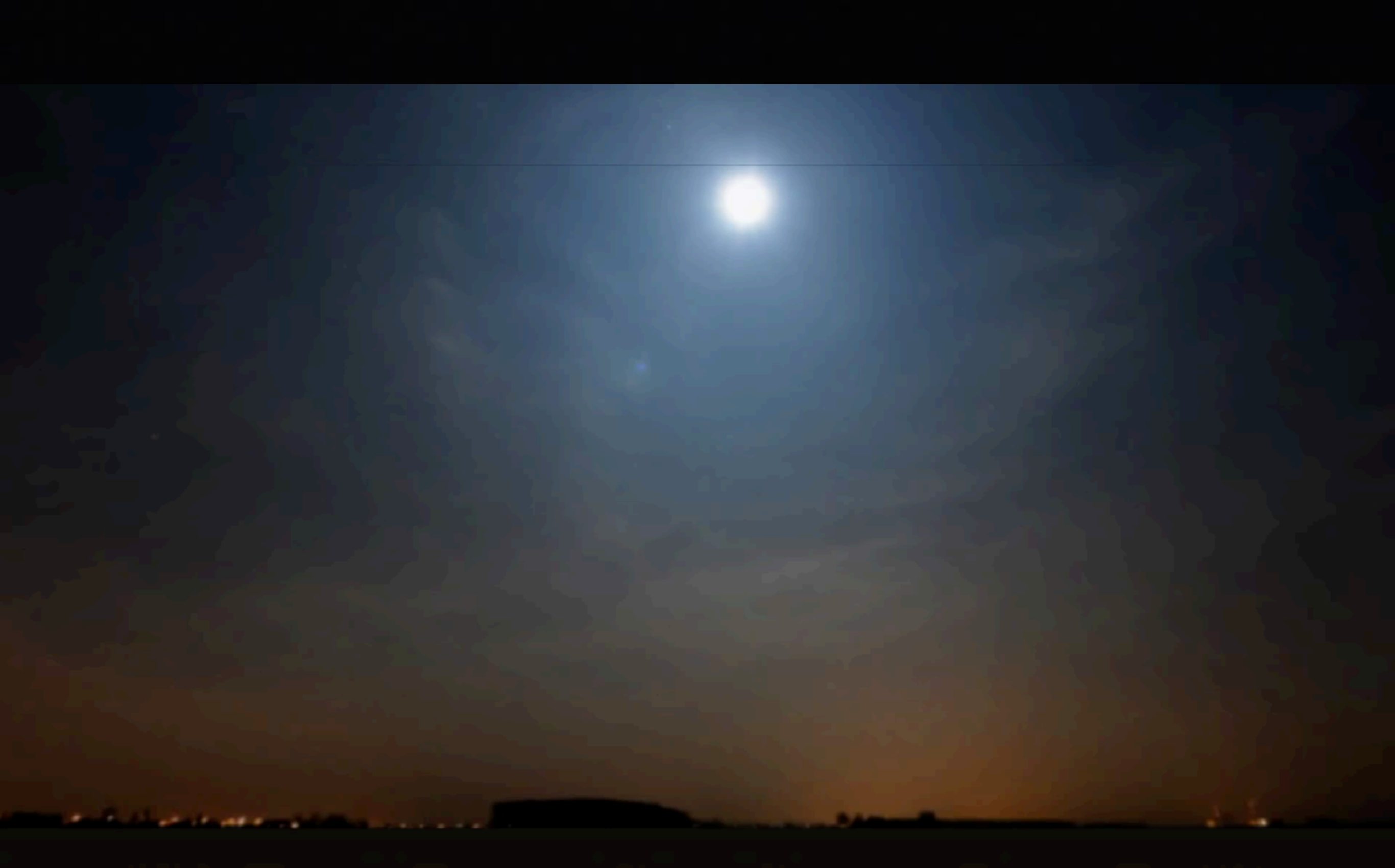
for eden's story was of submission -  
that truth was trust in its simplicity,  
and wanting to know more was rebellion.

there is a nexus of awareness that has no name -  
that has given the human race it's illuminated ones,  
through insight, conversion, and dark nights of the soul.

they describe not submission but relationship -  
these saints, these avatars, these prophets,  
do not believe, but come to know we are not alone.

for good action comes from clear intention,  
where compassion guides understanding.

credo considers what is - after considering what is not.  
what follows when we have come to feel excluded because submission was not enough?



Break



# Discussion Questions

Has the institutionalization of the church been a positive influence.

# Next Readings

## SESSION 10

**PART XII - THE JOHANNINE CORPUS**  
**Chapter 55 - 59**

## Study Website

<http://rtb.stdavidscalgary.net>

# Tour Turkey 2013 - Ephesus - Excerpts

- Virgin Mary Site
- Ephesus - Ruins
- Library of Celsus
- Great Theatre







Next  
-  
Virgin Mary

[Back to Tour Menu](#)





### Meryem Ana'ya Övgü Duası

Selam sana Aziz Kraliçe, Aziz Theotokos, Meryem, Sen ki iffetinle Kiliseyi oluşturdun ve Göksel Kutsal Peder seni seçti,  
Sevgili Kutsal Oğul ve Teselli verici Kutsal Ruh'la birlikte seni kutsadı. Sen daima tüm lütuflarla ve iyiliklerle dolusun,  
Selam sana, Allah'ın Sarayı, Selam sana, Allah'ın Kutsal Efkariyeti Kutusu, Selam sana Allah'ın evi,  
Selam sana Allah'ın giysisi, Selam sana Allah'ın Hizmetkârı Selam sana.  
Ey Kutsal erdemler, hepinize selam olsun, Kutsal Ruh'un lütfu ve nuruyla müminlerin kalplerini ayandırın ve  
vefasızlıklarını Allah'a sadakata dönüştürün.

Assisi'li Aziz Fransuva



06.05.2013 08:10







I pray for the disbelief  
to turn into faith,  
the hate to love,  
the ignorance to  
learning, the fear  
to faith. Thank you  
for all you do, and  
I pray for hope  
and love in the hearts  
of those who lack it.  
Most of all, I pray for  
the courage to act.





BU ENİ  
BİRİ  
OLAM

BU ENİ  
BİRİ  
OLAM









Next

-

Ephesus - City Ruins

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18.04.2013 03:25













148

06.05.2013 10:07









06.05.2013 10:24























ΕΥΔΙΚΙΗΣ ΜΩ  
ΛΟΙΟΣ ΔΟΦΡΟΣΥΝΗΣ  
ΑΡΕΤΑΩΝ ΜΑΡ  
ΤΥΣ ΕΓΩ ΣΤΗ  
ΛΗΘΕΥ ΔΟΣΙ  
ΩΙΤ ΕΛΕΘΩ





# Next - Library of Celsus

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MAY/ 6/2013















Menorah, seven branched  
candlestick Judaic Symbol,  
incised on the steps of the  
Celsus - Library  
Roman Imperial Period













ΑΡΕΤΗ  
ΚΕΛΕΟΥ



The background image shows the Great Theatre of Ephesus, a large ancient Roman theatre. The structure is made of light-colored stone and features a prominent facade with a series of columns and arches. The theatre is partially ruined, with some sections missing. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered, some walking and some standing, providing a sense of scale to the massive structure. The sky is clear and blue.

# Next - Great Theatre

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MAY/ 6/2013













MAY/ 6/2013



# Closing

