

A man in a dark suit and purple tie stands on the edge of a rocky cliff, talking on a mobile phone. The cliff is illuminated by warm, golden light, and its reflection is visible in the water below. In the background, there is a large body of water and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

What Does It Mean to be a Christian?

Colossians 1:1-7

Series: The Road Less Traveled

There is much in the world that seems to indicate life is meaningless, the world is hopeless and we are fighting a losing battle. Actually, this pessimistic view comes from people of all ages.



Colossians 1:1-8 (NASB)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are at Colossae*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.



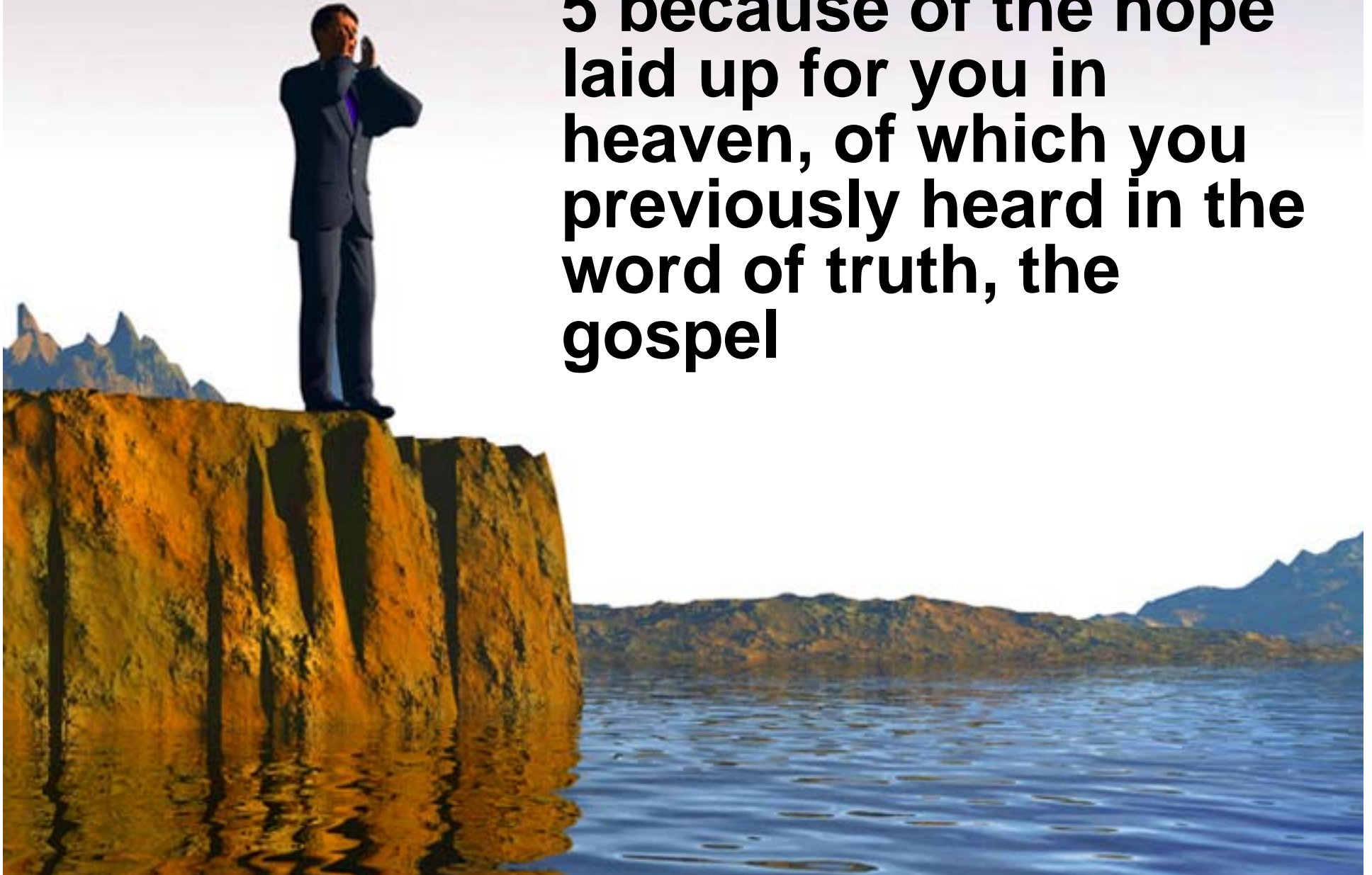
Colossians 1:1-8 (NASB)



**3 We give thanks to
God, the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ,
praying always for you,
4 since we heard of
your faith in Christ
Jesus and the love
which you have for all
the saints;**

Colossians 1:1-8 (NASB)

**5 because of the hope
laid up for you in
heaven, of which you
previously heard in the
word of truth, the
gospel**



Colossians 1:1-8 (NASB)

6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;



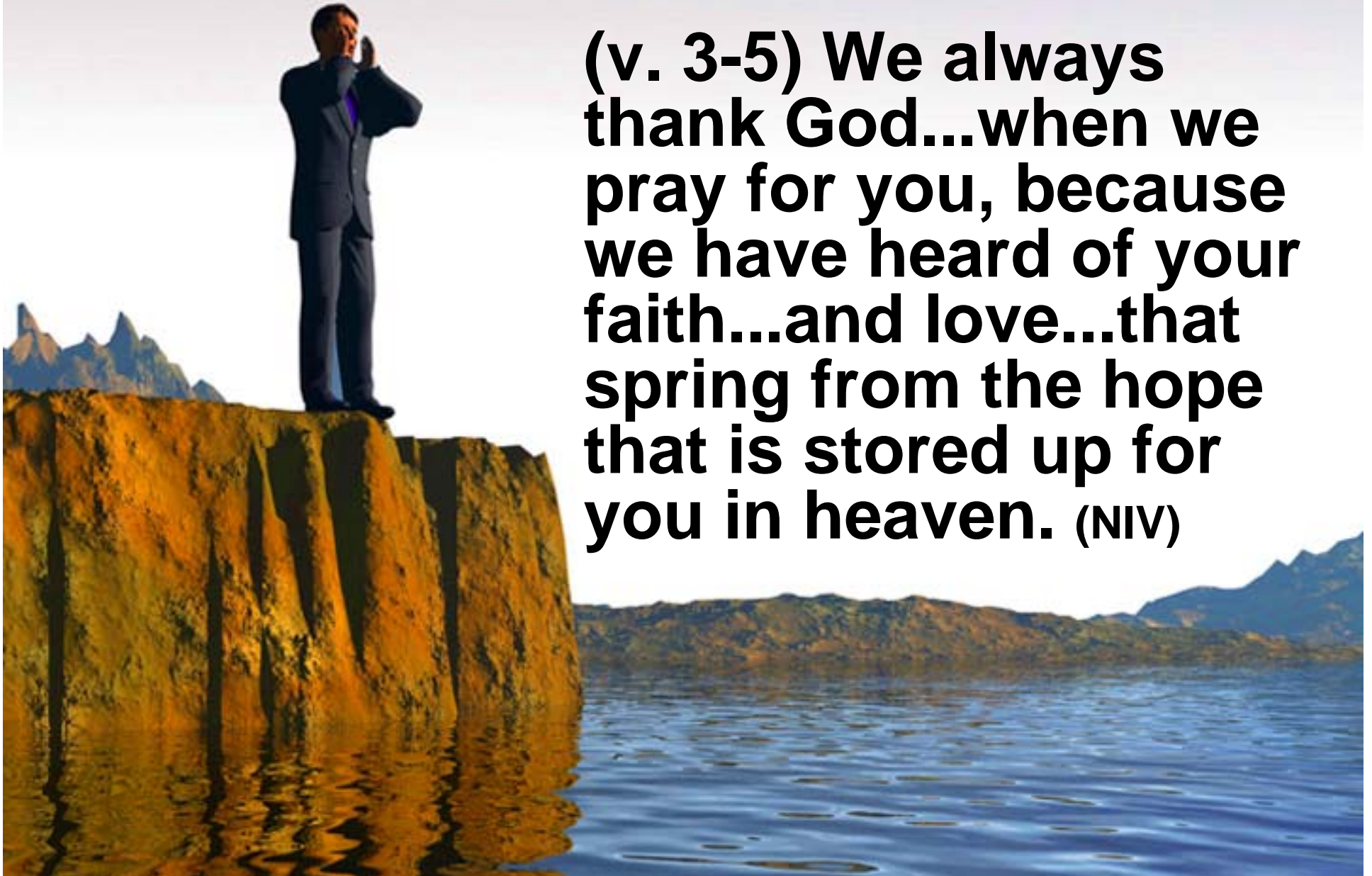
Colossians 1:1-8 (NASB)

**7 just as you learned *it*
from Epaphras, our
beloved fellow bond-
servant, who is a
faithful servant of
Christ on our behalf,
8 and he also informed
us of your love in the
Spirit.**

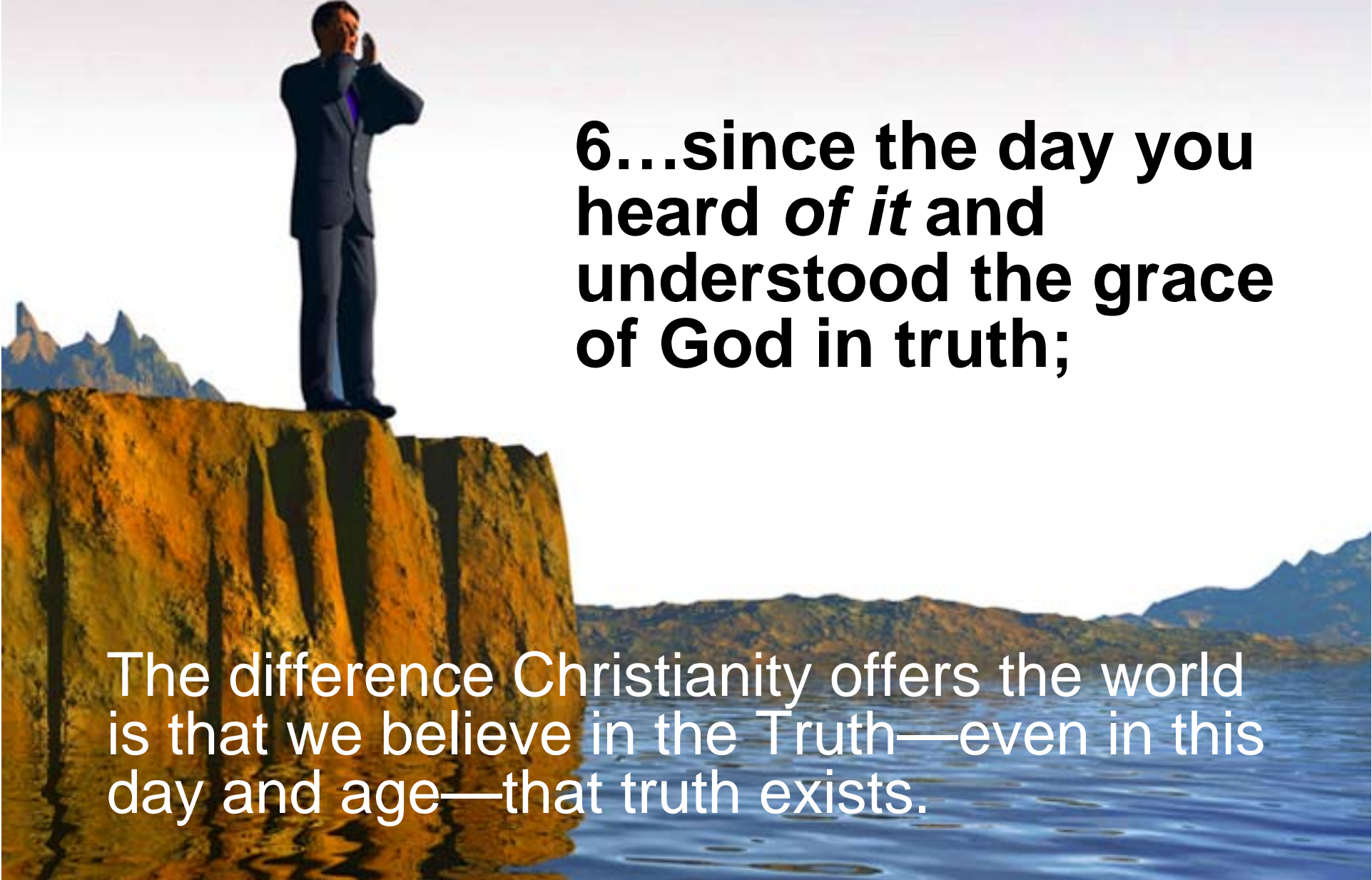


1. We Can Be Optimistic

(v. 3-5) We always thank God...when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith...and love...that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. (NIV)



2. We Can Handle the Truth

A man in a dark suit and purple tie stands on the edge of a high, rocky cliff. He is looking out over a vast landscape that includes a blue body of water in the foreground and distant, hazy mountains under a clear sky. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

6...since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

The difference Christianity offers the world is that we believe in the Truth—even in this day and age—that truth exists.

3. We Have the Ability to Get Results.



6...constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace...

What does it mean? It means that when we choose to follow Jesus, we don't waste our life in futility.

Christianity?

More than anything this world has to offer, following Christ eliminates despair and fills our life with meaning.

