

A man in a blue shirt and dark pants stands on a path, looking towards three crosses on a hill under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The scene is rendered in a painterly style with soft lighting and a mix of colors like purple, green, and brown.

When Christianity is not Christianity

Colossians 2:16-23

Series: The Road Less Traveled



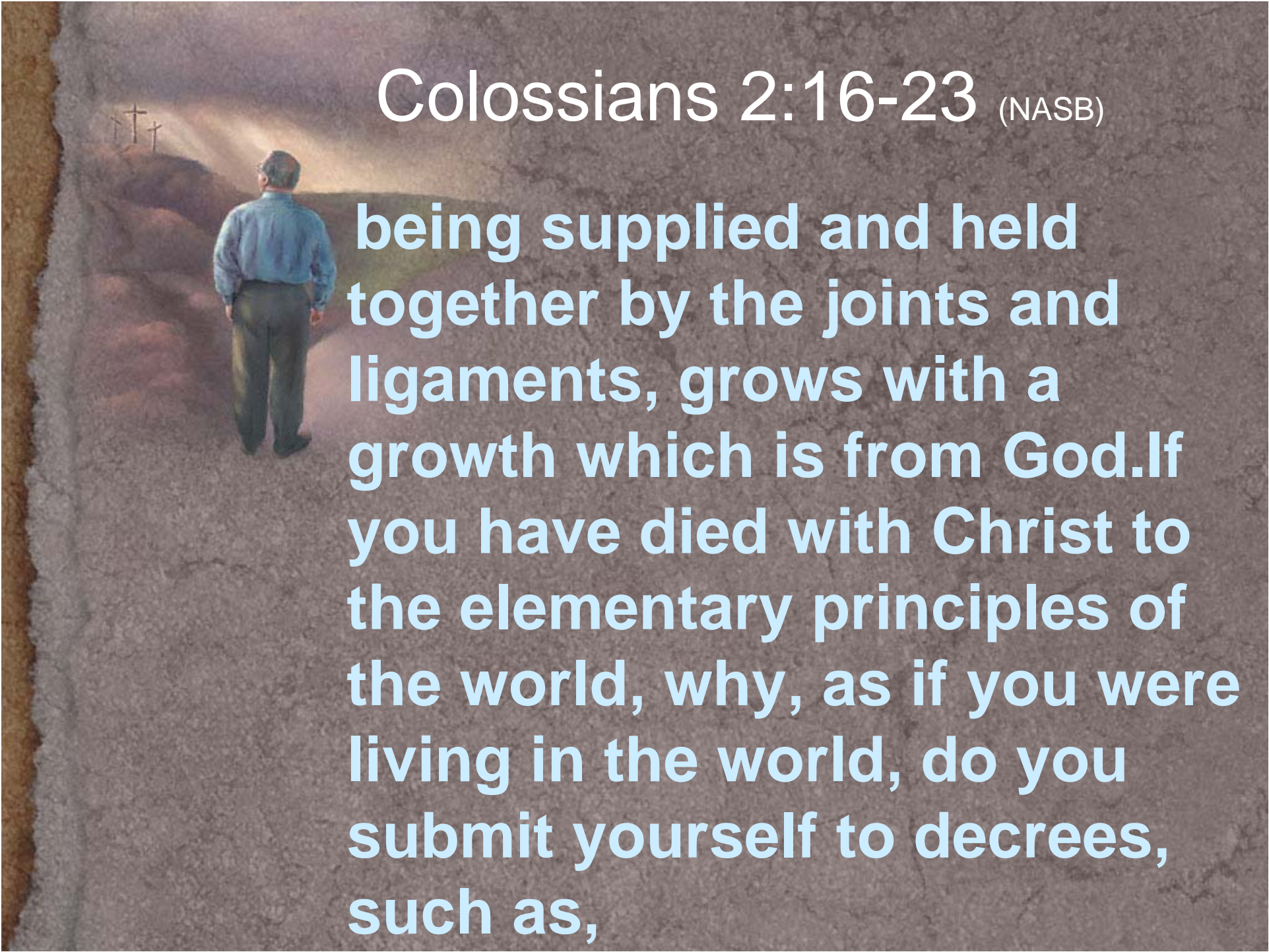
Colossians 2:16-23 (NASB)

Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.



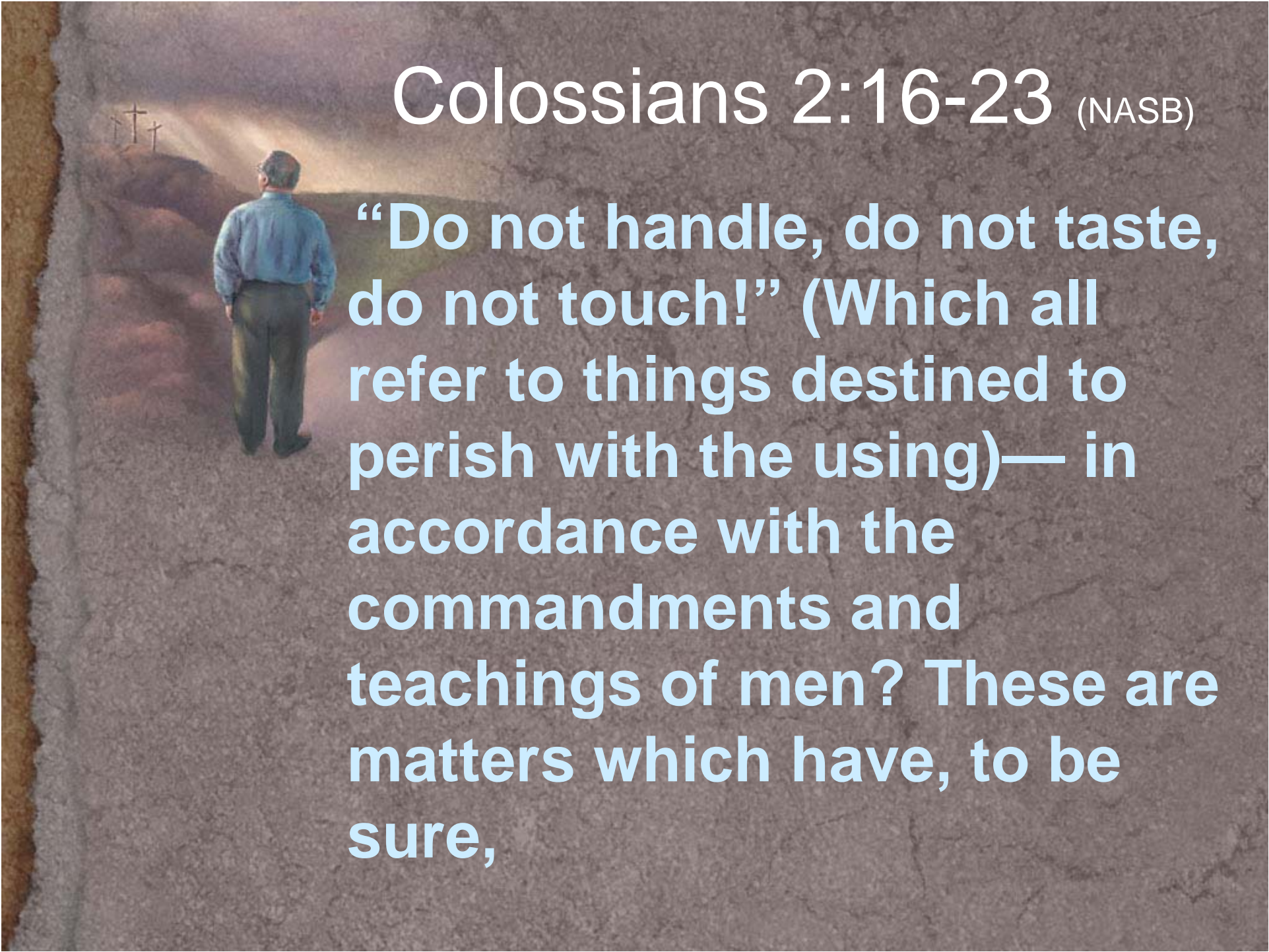
Colossians 2:16-23 (NASB)

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body,

A man in a blue shirt and dark pants stands on a path leading to a hill with three crosses under a bright light.

Colossians 2:16-23 (NASB)

being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,



Colossians 2:16-23 (NASB)

“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” (Which all refer to things destined to perish with the using)— in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure,



Colossians 2:16-23 (NASB)

the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

A man in a blue shirt and dark pants stands on a path, looking towards a hill with three crosses under a bright light. The scene is set in a hazy, atmospheric landscape with a path leading towards a hill. On the hill, three crosses are visible, and a bright light emanates from behind them, creating a halo effect. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

1. Legalistic Christianity

Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 16–17

Inwardly rebellious and disobedient Christians, or even non Christians, can conform to a set of external performance standards or rituals.



2. Mystic Christianity

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by ... the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head,

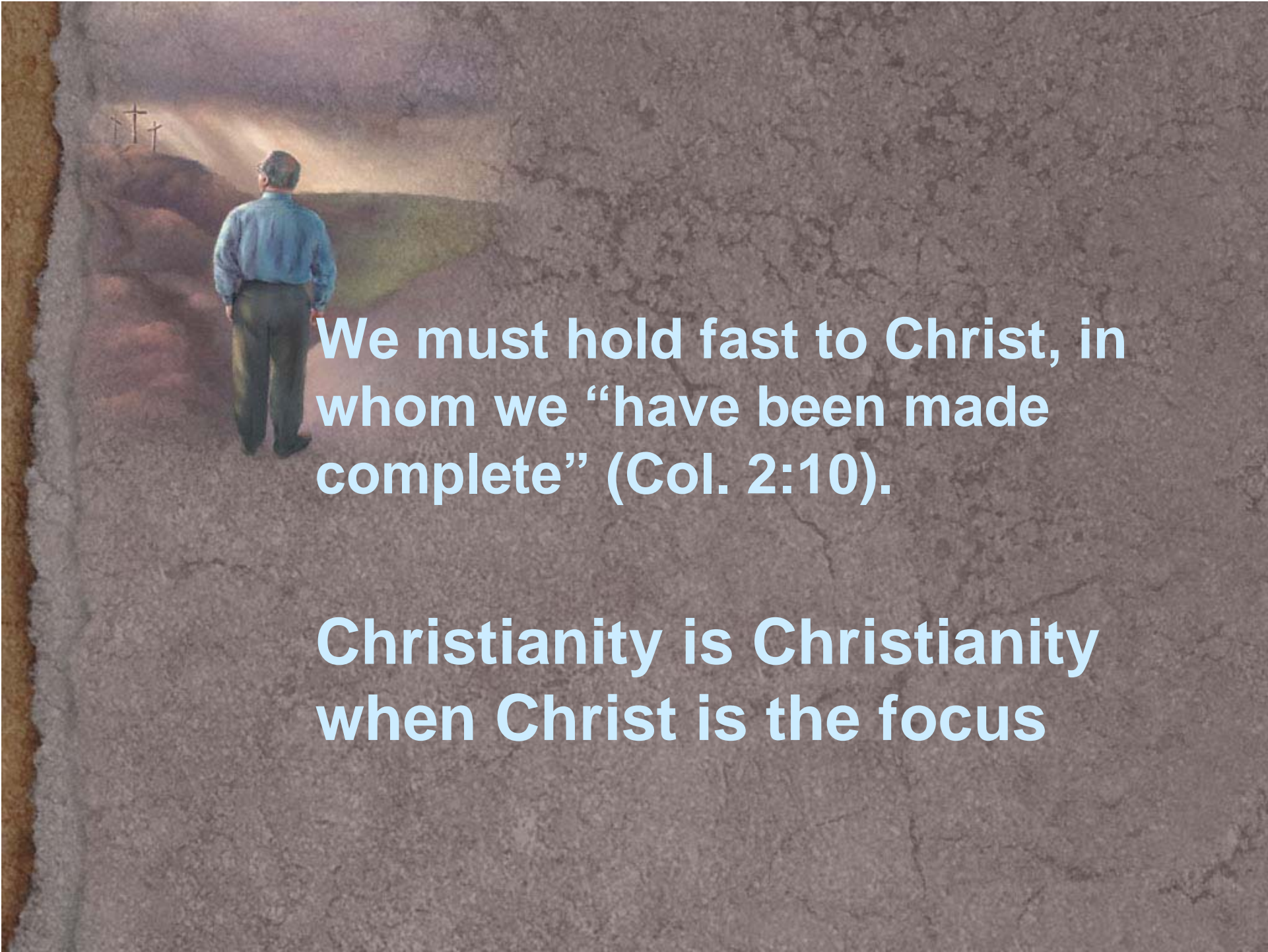
There is a tendency in human nature to move from objectivity to subjectivity—to shift the focus from Christ to experience.



3. Self Denial Christianity

If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why... do you submit yourself to decrees, ...which have... the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body.

Asceticism might make a person appear spiritual, because of its emphasis on humility and poverty, but it serves only to gratify the flesh.



We must hold fast to Christ, in whom we “have been made complete” (Col. 2:10).

Christianity is Christianity when Christ is the focus