

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

Growing to Maturity

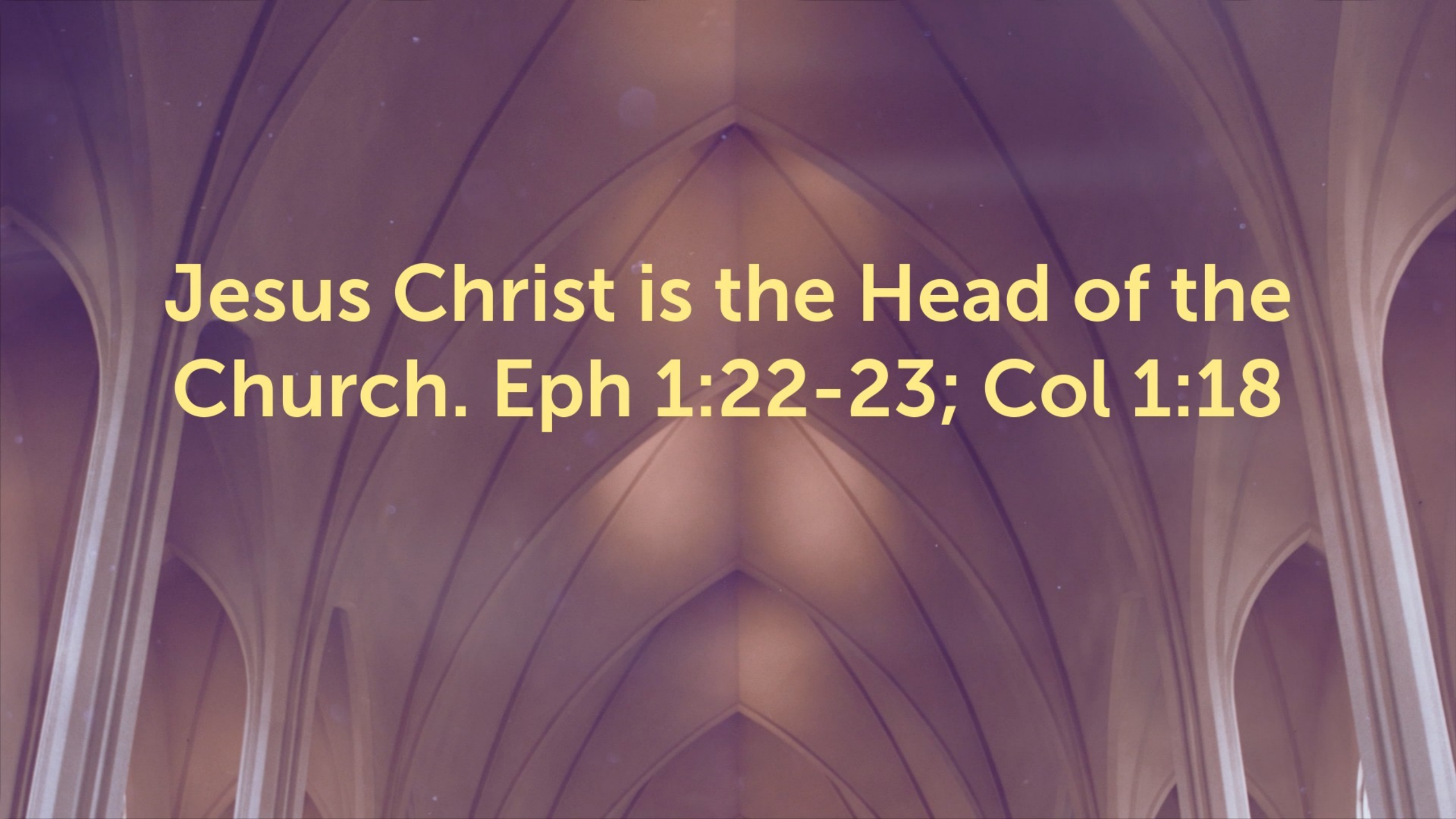
EPHESIANS 4:11-16



A photograph of a church interior, showing a long aisle with a series of arches. In the foreground, there is a dark wooden table with a chalice on it. The lighting is warm and dramatic, with light streaming in from the ends of the aisle.

God has ordained three institutions that man must submit to:

- 1. Government (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:13–17; Titus 3:1)**
- 2. Church leadership**
- 3. Marriage and family relationships (Eph. 5:22–6:4; Col. 3:18–21)**



**Jesus Christ is the Head of the
Church. Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18**

22 And he put all things under
his feet and gave him as head
over all things to the church,

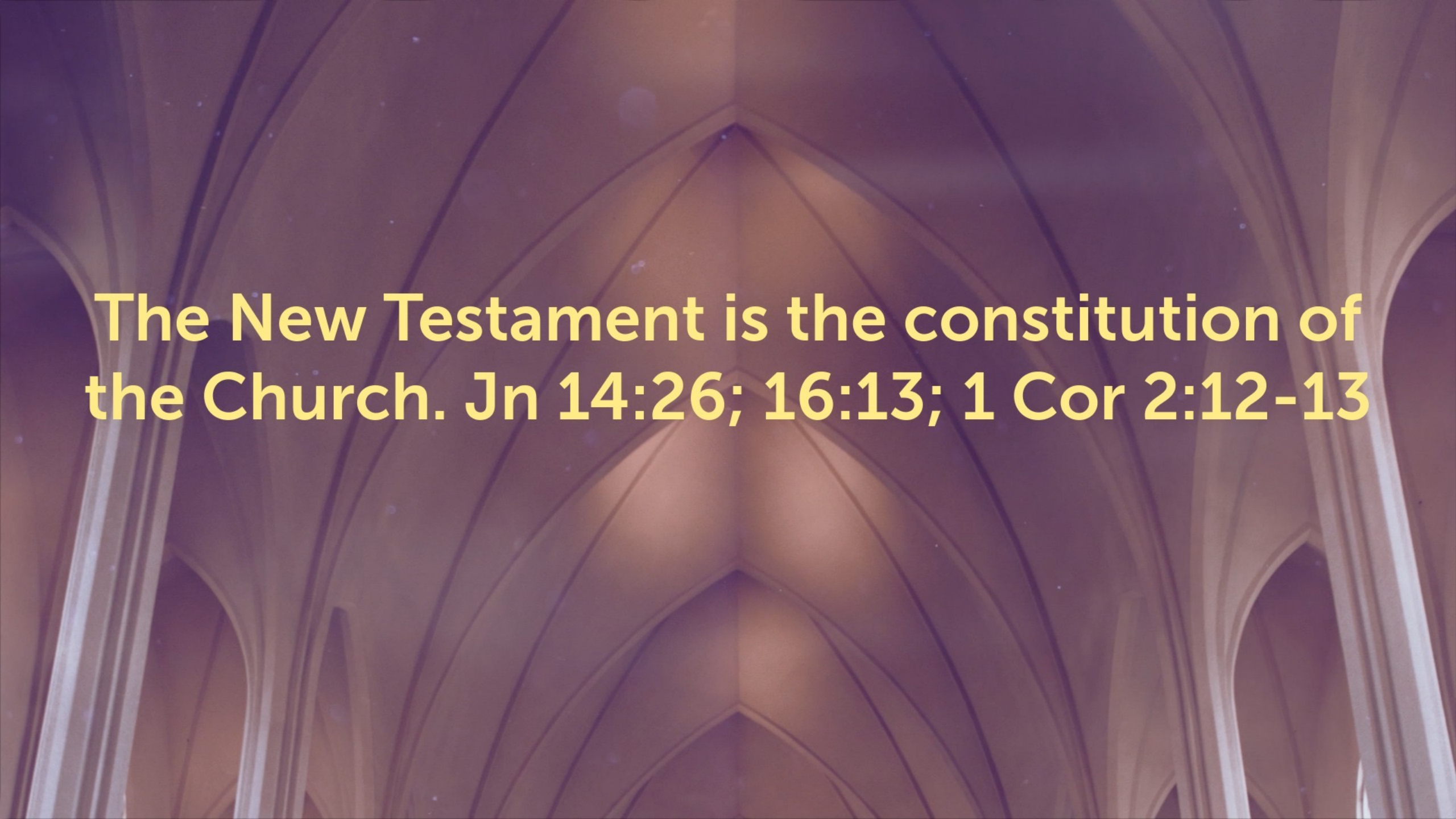
EPHESIANS 1:22-23

23 which is his body, the fullness
of him who fills all in all.

EPHESIANS I:22-23

18 And he is the head of the body,
the church. He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead, that in
everything he might be preeminent.

COLOSSIANS 1:18



**The New Testament is the constitution of
the Church. Jn 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:12-13**

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
he will teach you all things and bring to
your remembrance all that I have said to
you.

JOHN 14:26

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

JOHN 16:13

12 Now we have received not the spirit
of the world, but the Spirit who is
from God, that we might understand
the things freely given us by God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-13

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

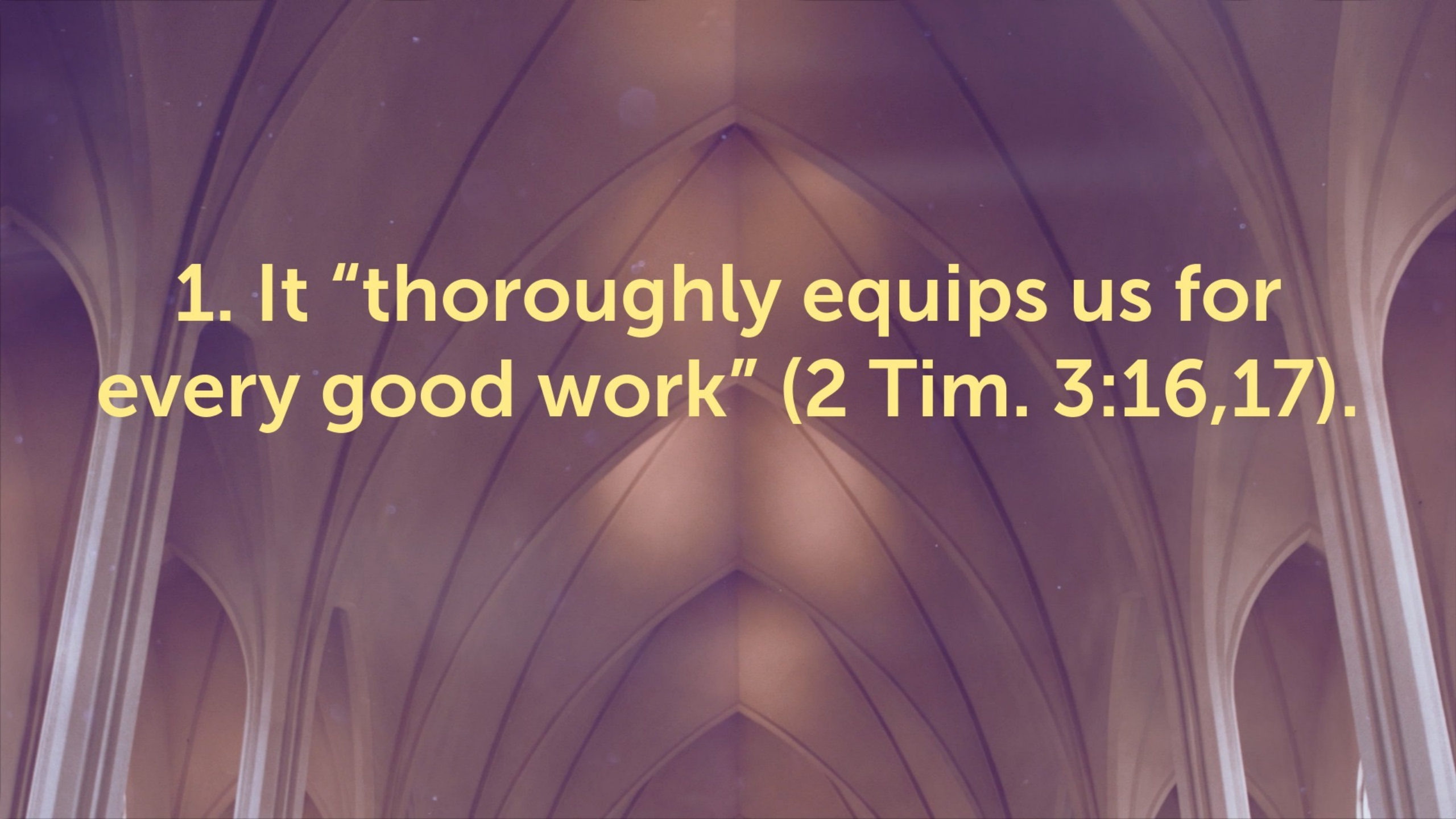
1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-13



God's word is complete (Jas. 1:25).

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

JAMES 1:25



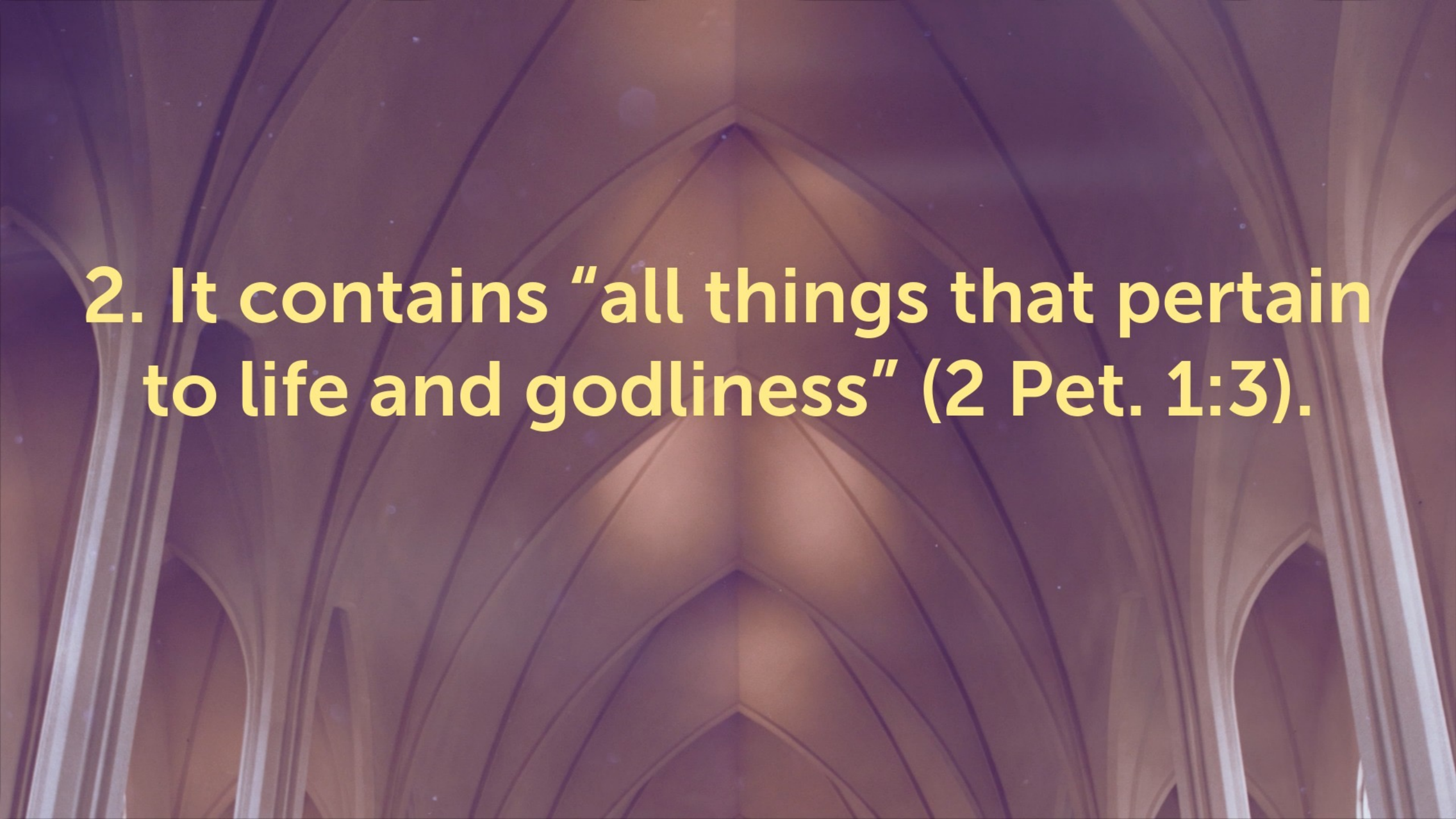
1. It “thoroughly equips us for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16,17).

16 All Scripture is breathed out by
God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness,

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

17 that the man of God may be
complete, equipped for every
good work.

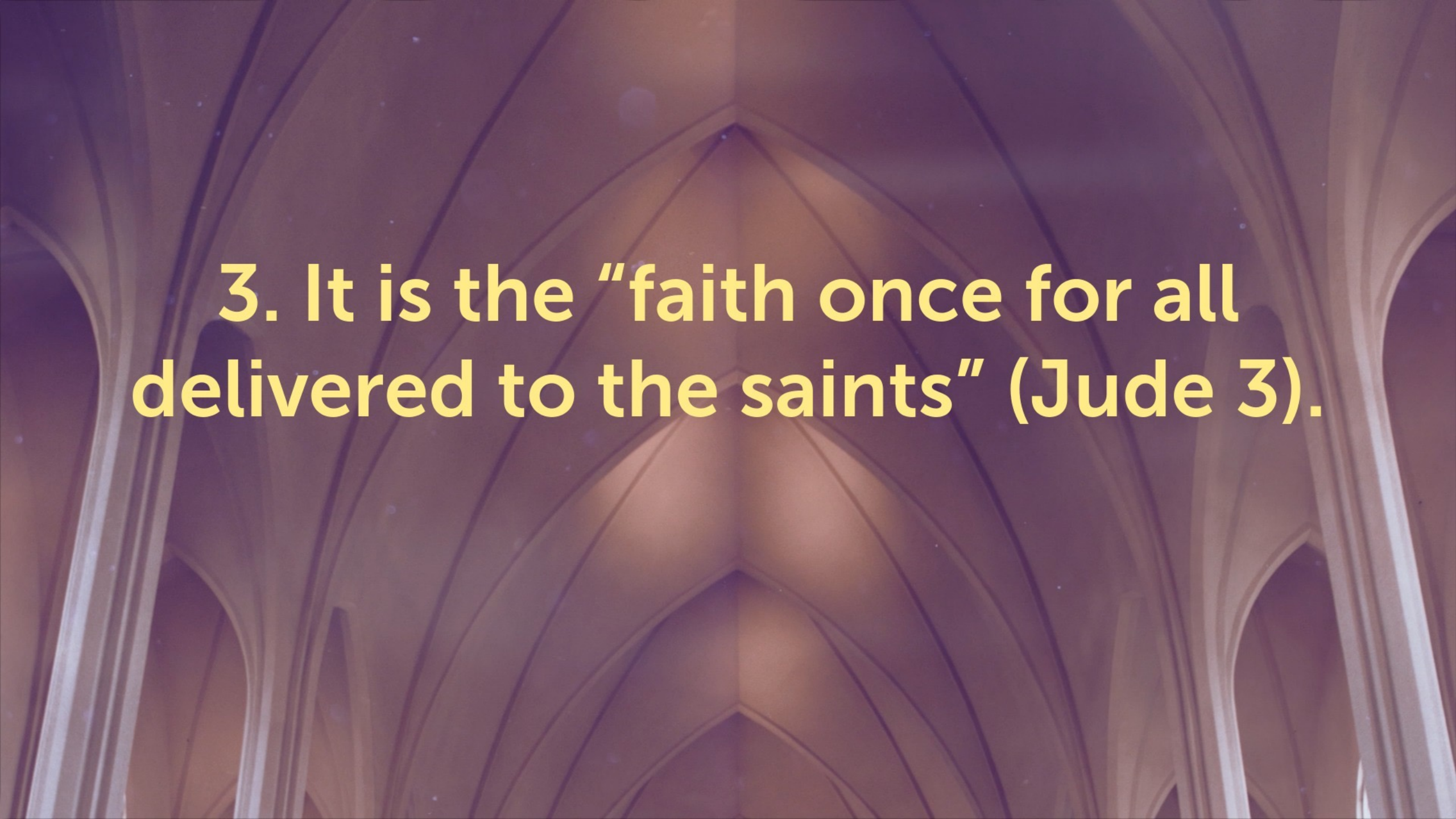
2 TIMOTHY 3:17



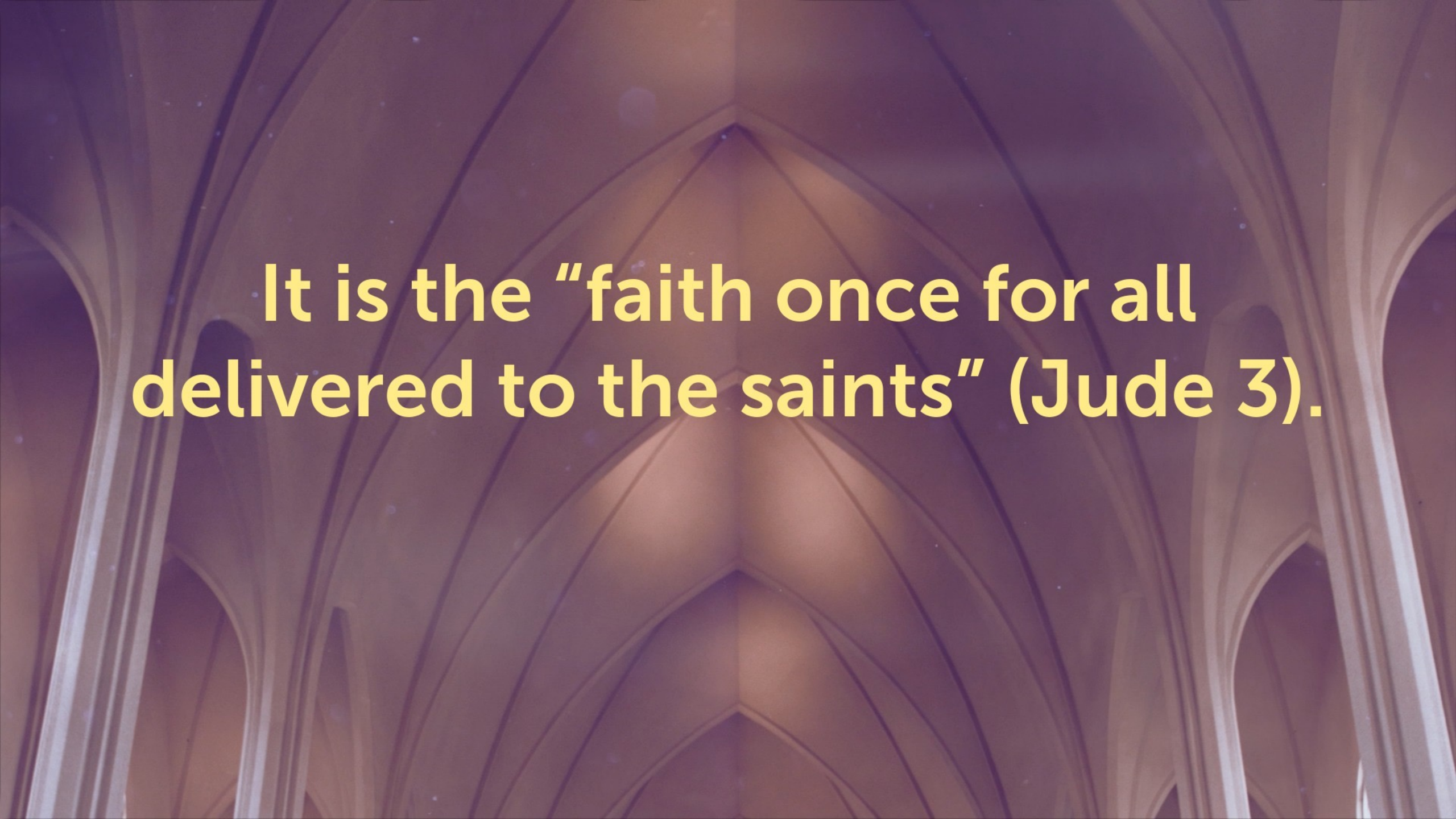
2. It contains "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3).

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

2 PETER 1:3



3. It is the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).



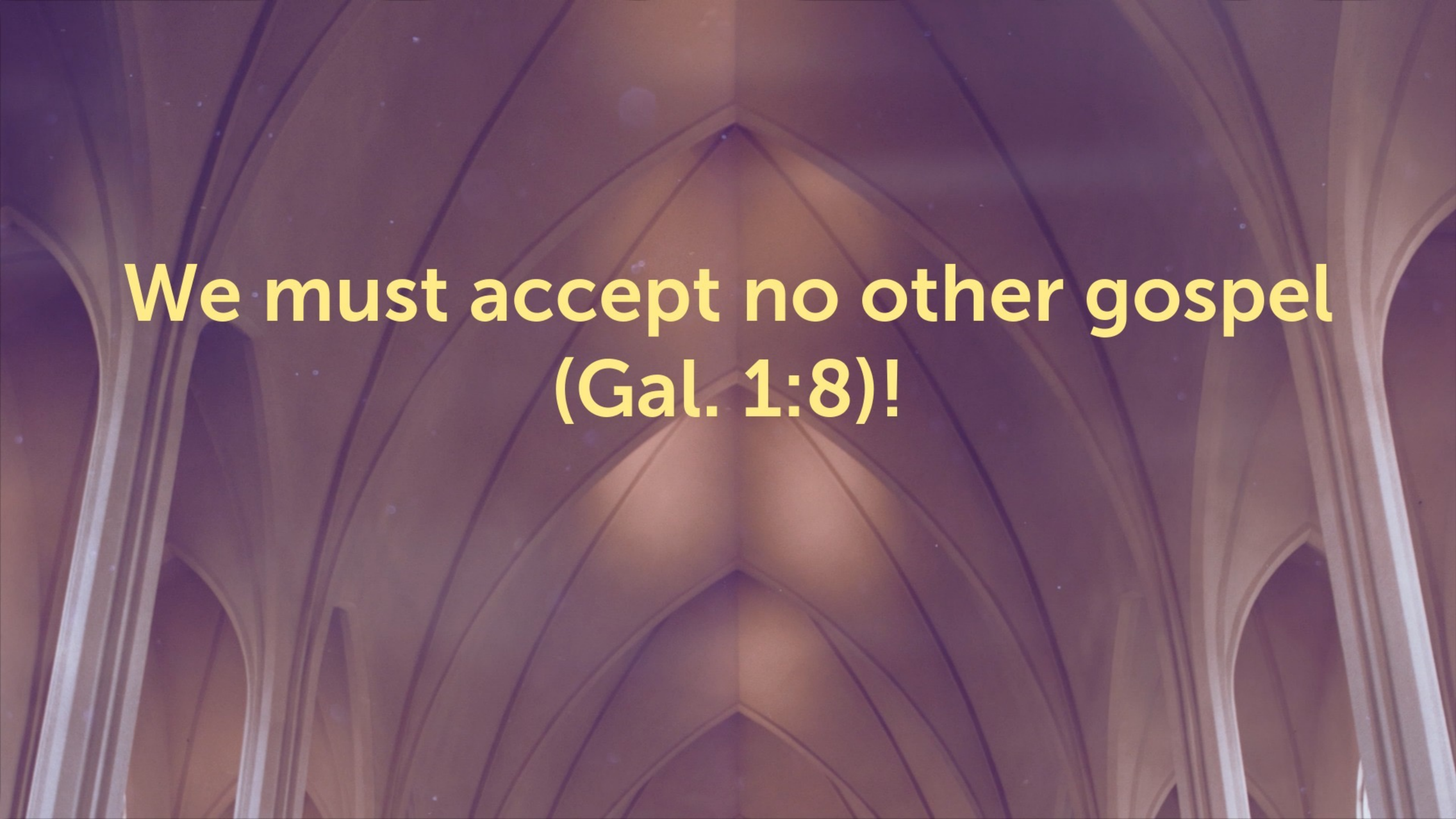
**It is the “faith once for all
delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).**

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

JUDE 3



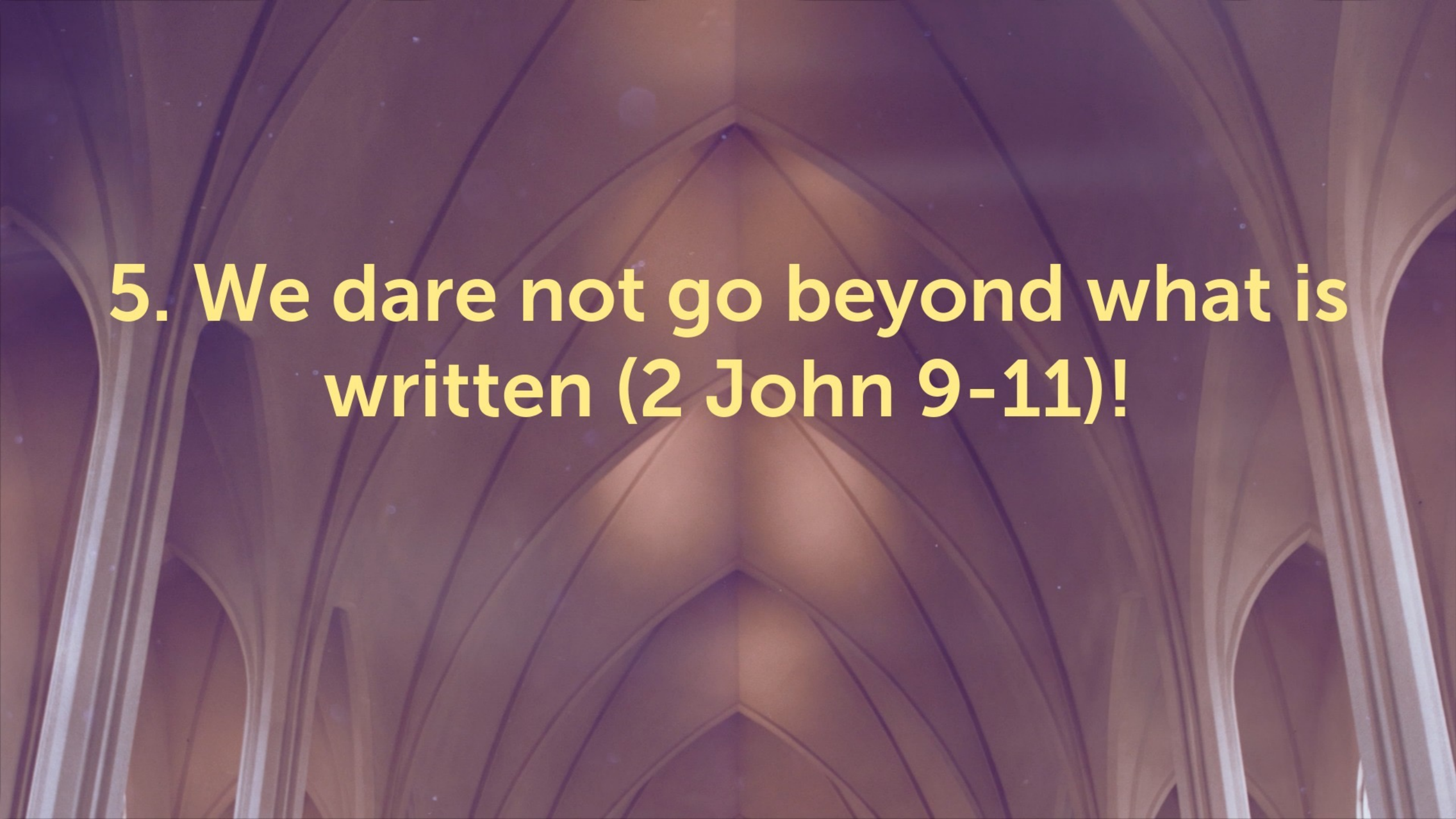
**4. We must accept no other
gospel (Gal. 1:8)!**



**We must accept no other gospel
(Gal. 1:8)!**

8 But even if we or an angel from
heaven should preach to you a
gospel contrary to the one we
preached to you, let him be accursed.

GALATIANS 1:8



5. We dare not go beyond what is written (2 John 9-11)!

9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

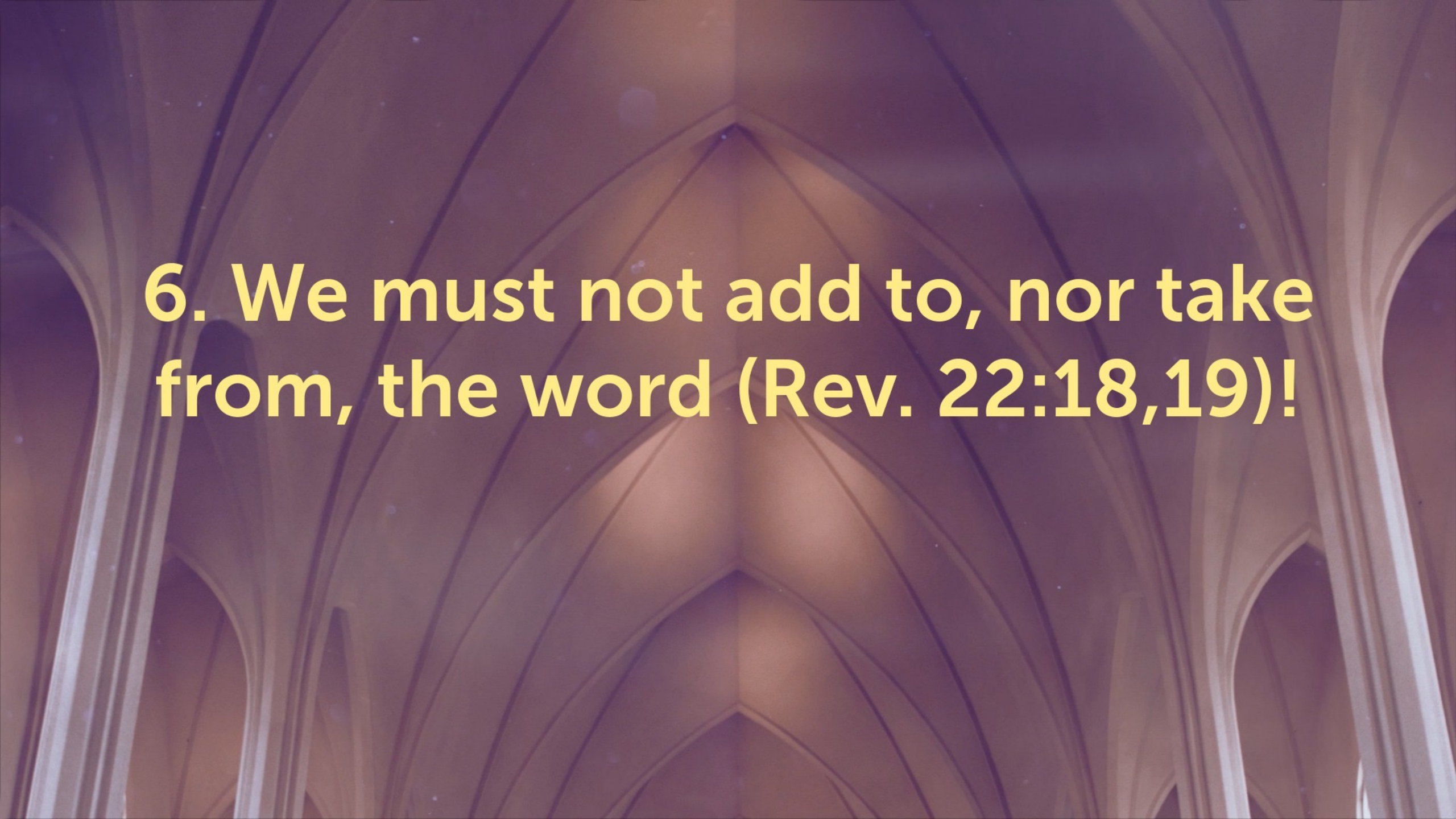
2 JOHN 9-II

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,

2 JOHN 9-11

11 for whoever greets him takes part in his
wicked works.

2 JOHN 9-11



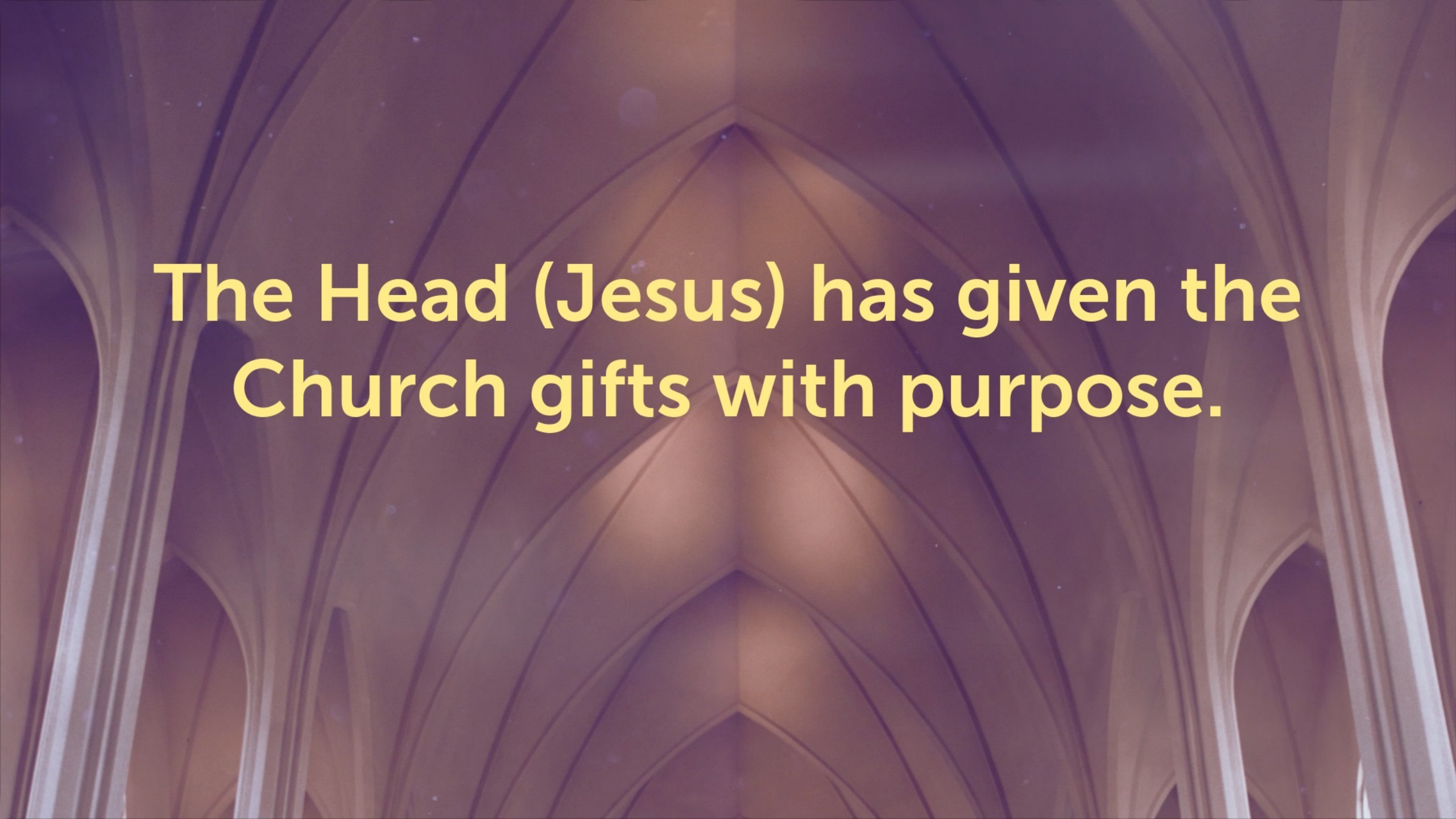
6. We must not add to, nor take from, the word (Rev. 22:18,19)!

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,

REVELATION 22:18

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

REVELATION 22:19



**The Head (Jesus) has given the
Church gifts with purpose.**

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets,
the evangelists, the shepherds and
teachers,

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

12 to equip the saints for the work of
ministry, for building up the body of
Christ,

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

13 until we all attain to the unity of the
faith and of the knowledge of the Son of
God, to mature manhood, to the
measure of the stature of the fullness of
Christ,

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

14 so that we may no longer be children,
tossed to and fro by the waves and
carried about by every wind of doctrine,
by human cunning, by craftiness in
deceitful schemes.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we
are to grow up in every way into him
who is the head, into Christ,

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16


29 But Peter and the apostles
answered, “We must obey God
rather than men.

ACTS 5:29





**A CHURCH EXIST IN ONE OF
FOUR POSSIBLE STATES.**

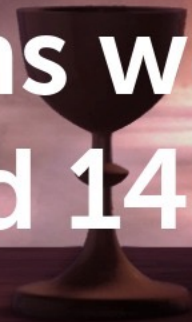


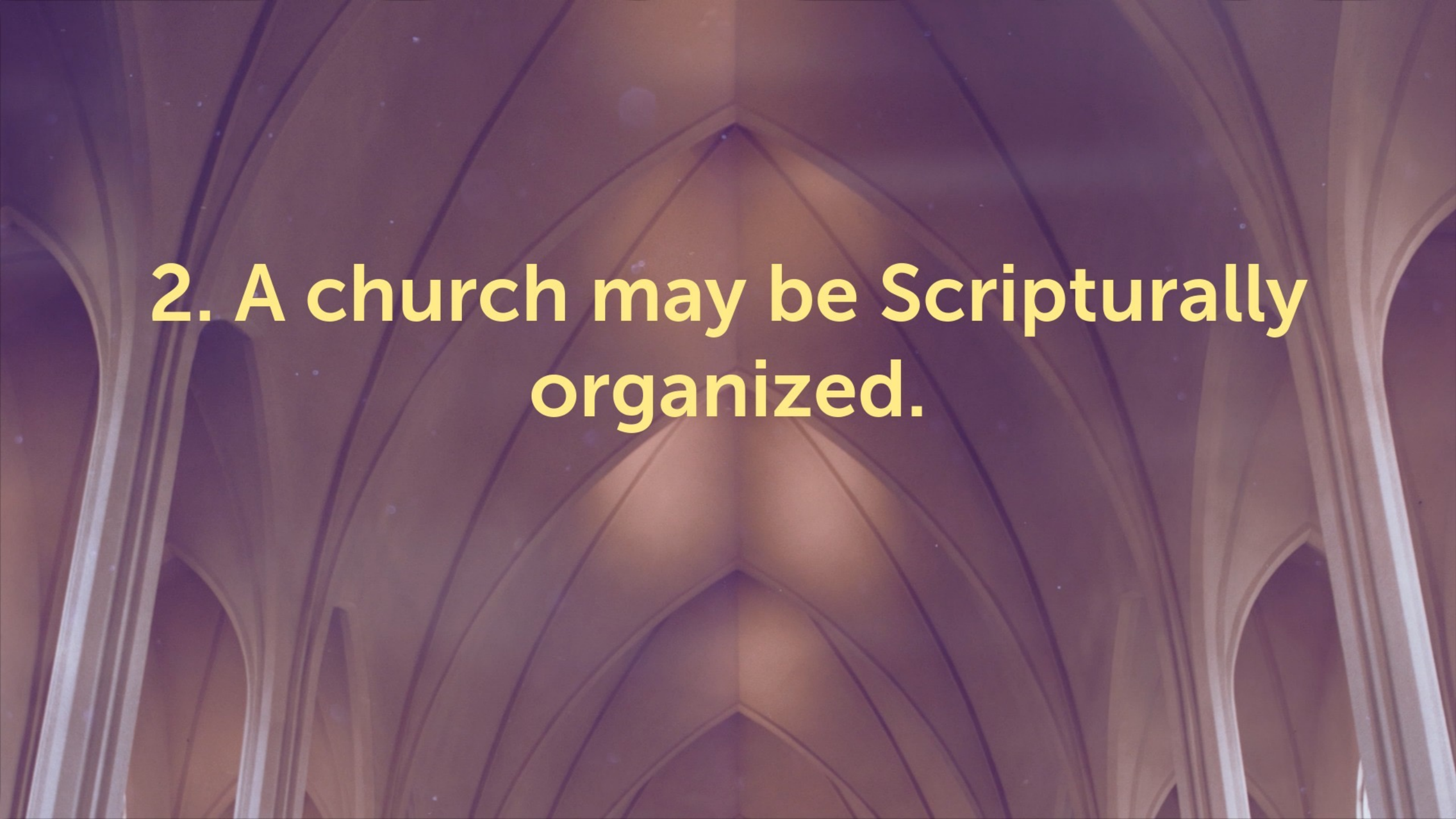
1. A church may be Scripturally unorganized.

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- For a period after the establishment of a congregation, it may not be possible to appoint elders and deacons because no one is yet qualified.



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- The churches established by Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey existed for up to three years before elders and deacons were appointed (Acts 13 and 14).






2. A church may be Scripturally organized.

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- This is the case when a church is able to appoint men who meet the God-given qualifications to serve as elders and deacons.

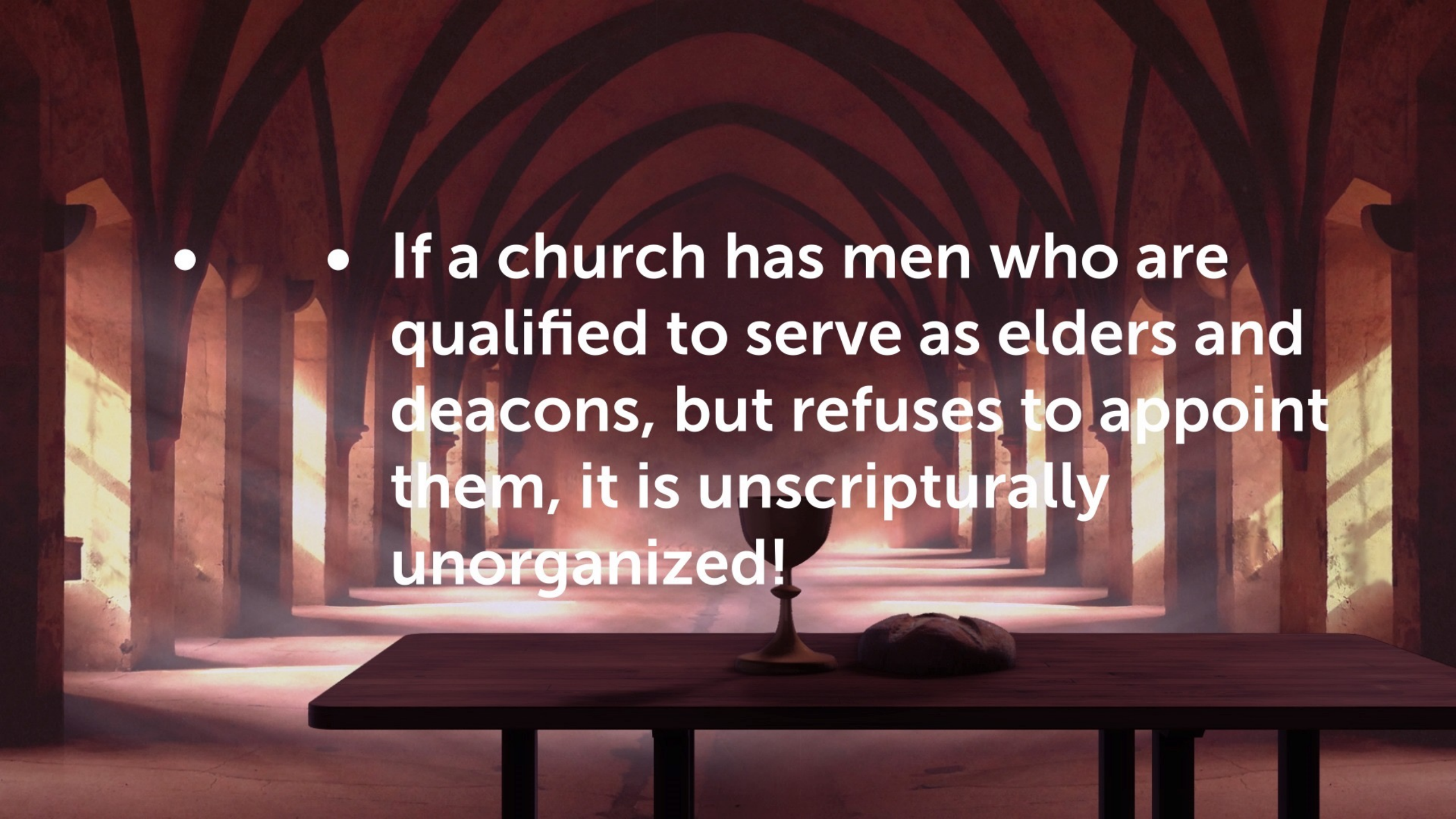


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- **The goal of every congregation should be to have fully qualified elders ruling them and deacons serving them.**



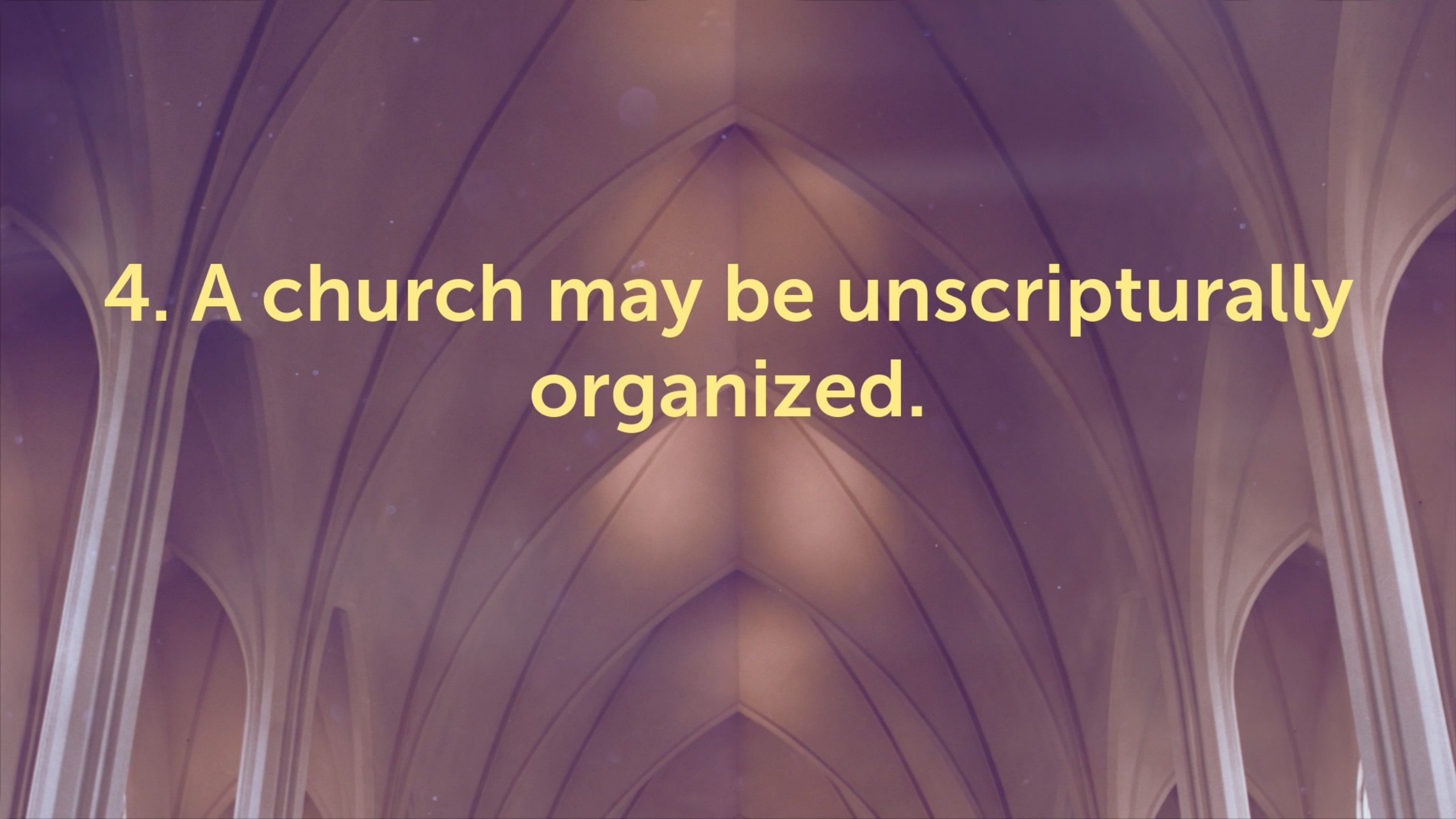


**3. A church may be unscripturally
unorganized.**

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- A photograph of a church interior, showing a long aisle with a series of pointed arches supported by columns. The lighting is warm and dramatic, with light streaming in from the ends of the aisle. In the foreground, a dark wooden table holds a chalice and a loaf of bread, suggesting a communion table. The text is overlaid on the central part of the image.
- - If a church has men who are qualified to serve as elders and deacons, but refuses to appoint them, it is unscripturally unorganized!

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- Sometimes men who run the church by business meetings of the male members are reluctant to give up their power to elders.





4. A church may be unscripturally organized.

- This is the case when a church has unqualified men serving as elders or deacons.



- It would also be the case if a church had only one elder or one deacon, or deacons without elders.



How should the Church operate in the absence of Elders?

