

# APOLOGETICS



The  
Mind's  
Journey  
to  
Heaven



**Aren't all people basically good anyway?**



**Or NOT?**

# Good, Bad or Evil

- What is good? What is evil?
- Who gets to define it?
- We must start with “Does God Exist?” (SEE LESSON 1)
- If so, which one?



# Our Perspective vs God's Perspective

When we say “Basically Good”, what do we mean?

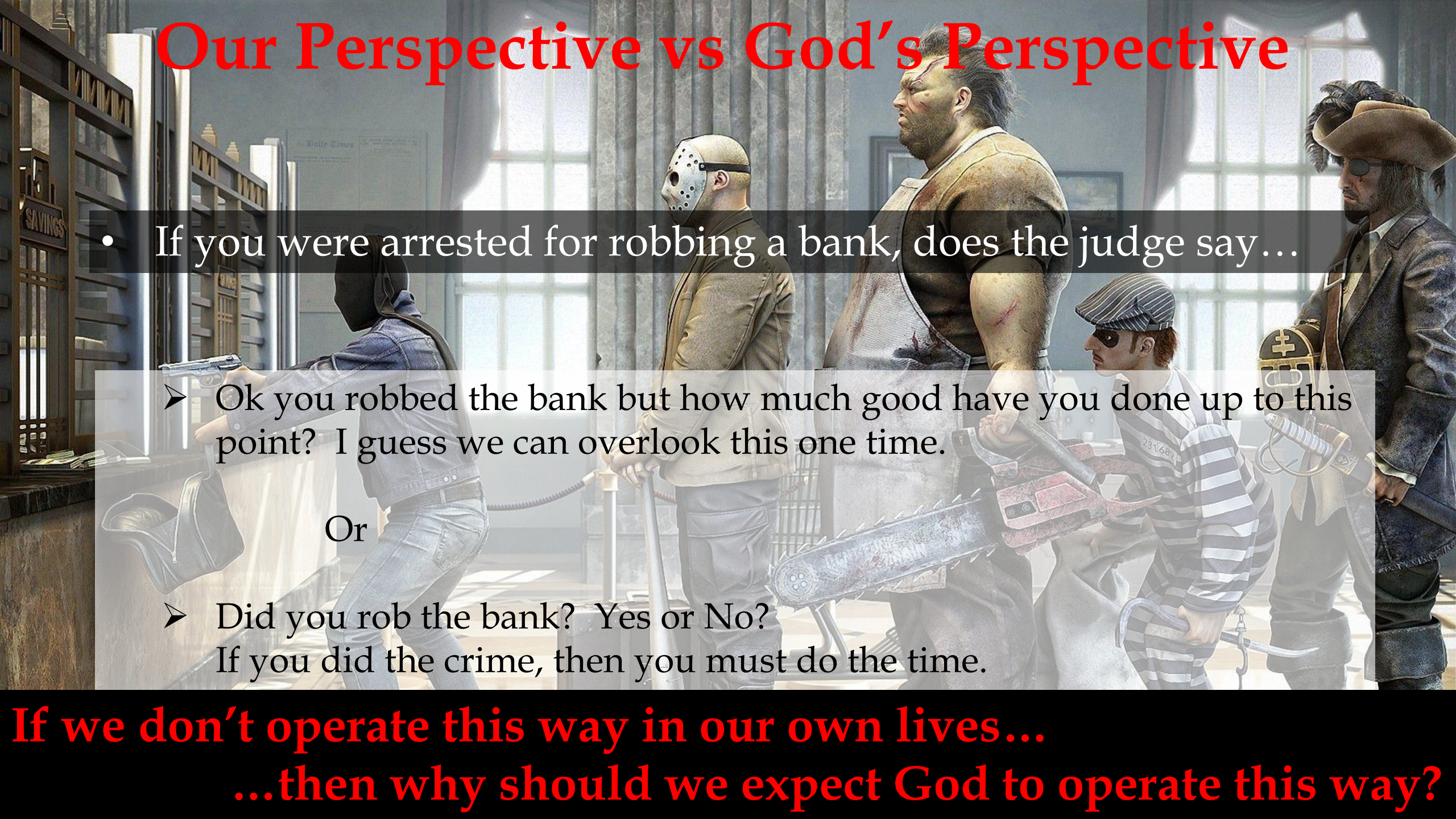
- Not 100% perfection ...as we have done “some” bad things for sure
- But we also have done a lot of good things
- Why should a few negatives outweigh the positives?



*Do we even operate this way in reality? In our personal lives?*



# Our Perspective vs God's Perspective

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- If you were arrested for robbing a bank, does the judge say...
    - Ok you robbed the bank but how much good have you done up to this point? I guess we can overlook this one time.
  - Or
  - Did you rob the bank? Yes or No?  
If you did the crime, then you must do the time.

**If we don't operate this way in our own lives...  
...then why should we expect God to operate this way?**



# Is our scale even heavily weighted towards good?

- Many evils have been done which seemed good “in their eyes”!
  - Slavery, The Holocaust, Religious Inquisitions, 9/11, ISIS caliphate, China’s Communist “great step forward”, Asbestos, etc etc etc.
  - 50% of America will say Abortion is evil...50% of America will say outlawing Abortion is evil. One of the sides is blinded as both can’t be right.
  - The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

*Can we trust our eyes to judge ourselves fairly?*





# Let's look at God's perspective...a little closer

- How does the Bible describe our condition?
  - Fallen and Cursed > Genesis 3
  - Every intention of the heart evil continually > Gen 6:5
  - Fallen short of the glory of God > Rom 3:23
  - Dead in our trespasses...by nature children of wrath > Eph 2:1-3
  - Hostile to God > Rom 8:7
  - Darkened in understanding and alienated from God > Eph 4:18
  - Futile in our thinking > Rom 1:21
  - Slaves of sin > Rom 6:17
  - Obstinate in our rebellion > John 5:40
  - Loved the darkness...did not love the light > John 3:19
  - Foolish, Disobedient, Led astray, Slaves to various passions and pleasures, Passing our days in malice and envy, Hated by others and Hating one another > Titus 3:3
  - Full of evil and madness > Ecc 9:3
  - Separated...alienated... strangers...having no hope...without God > Eph 2:12
  - Wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked > Rev 3:17
  - Perishing > 1 Corinthians 1:18
  - Spiritually Discerned > 1 Corinthians 2:14
  - Liars > Psalm 58:3

**DOESN'T SOUND  
BASICALLY GOOD TO ME!**

**WHY CAN'T WE SEE OUR  
BAD CONDITION?**

**WE HAVE A DEADLY  
VIRUS WHICH BLINDS US!  
IS IT HOPELESS?  
WHAT CAN WE DO?**

# How do we change our prescription for our spiritual glasses?

- Three Things God Gave Us To Help Our Heart To See Our Condition

1. The Rules of Love
2. 10 Commandments
3. The Jesus Flashlight Magnifier





# The Rules of Love

- Major Theme in Bible is that of a lover...
  - Trinity...created in "our" image...Male and Female...Marriage Relationship
  - Jeremiah 2
    - Vs 20 For on every high hill, And under every green tree, You have lain down as a harlot.
    - Vs 24 A wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness, That sniffs the wind in her passion. In the time of her heat who can turn her away? All who seek her will not become weary; In her month they will find her.
    - Vs 35 Yet you said, 'I am innocent; Surely His anger is turned away from me.' Behold, I will enter into judgment with you Because you say, 'I have not sinned.'
  - Jesus and church...groom and bride
  - The Greatest Commandments
    - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and body.
    - Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Why does he use the marriage theme?
  - God created us for the most intimate relationship of all...with HIM!
- Would your lover, wife, husband call you good if...
  - you only celebrated the relationship twice a year and silence otherwise?
  - you repeatedly cheated on them?
  - cursed their name daily?
  - didn't care what pleased them?
  - treated those they loved with disdain, hatred and violence?
- Isn't it true that we don't love God?
- We love football, romance, drugs, sex, power, money, travel, food, beauty, nature, religion....but not God.
- We love the gifts but not the gift giver!

# 10 Commandments Exodus 20:2-17

- 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 “**You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- 4 “**You shall not make for yourself an idol**, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- 7 “**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain**, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.
- 8 “**Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.** 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.
- 12 “**Honor your father and your mother**, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.
- 13 “**You shall not murder.**
- 14 “**You shall not commit adultery.**
- 15 “**You shall not steal.**
- 16 “**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 17 “**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”**



# Jesus Flashlight Magnifier #1

- Sermon on the Mount - How high is the bar?

## Matthew 5

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Matthew 5

20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Matthew 5

21 “You have heard that it was said....thou shalt not...but I say to you...

- Hate = Murder
- Lust = Adultery
- Love your enemy

## Matthew 7

22 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?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’



# Jesus Flashlight Magnifier #2

- If we are basically good, then why weren't the Pharisees good enough?



God's original commands = 613 laws of Moses (called "Torah").

The Mishnah was an oral tradition of commentary on the Mosaic Law that introduced additional, man-made rules that "built a fence" around the Mosaic Law so people wouldn't even come close to breaking God's commandments.

= 1000's of additional laws and sub laws

They were doing their very best to keep ALL of the law.

- John 3:1-21     You must be born again.



Radical transformation

Produced by the Holy Spirit

A completely different nature rooted in the lowest level of who we are and what we desire

We must have a new heart!





# Jesus Flashlight Magnifier #3

- Parable of the Two Sons Luke 15:11-32 It was about the heart!



Salvation



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Repentance

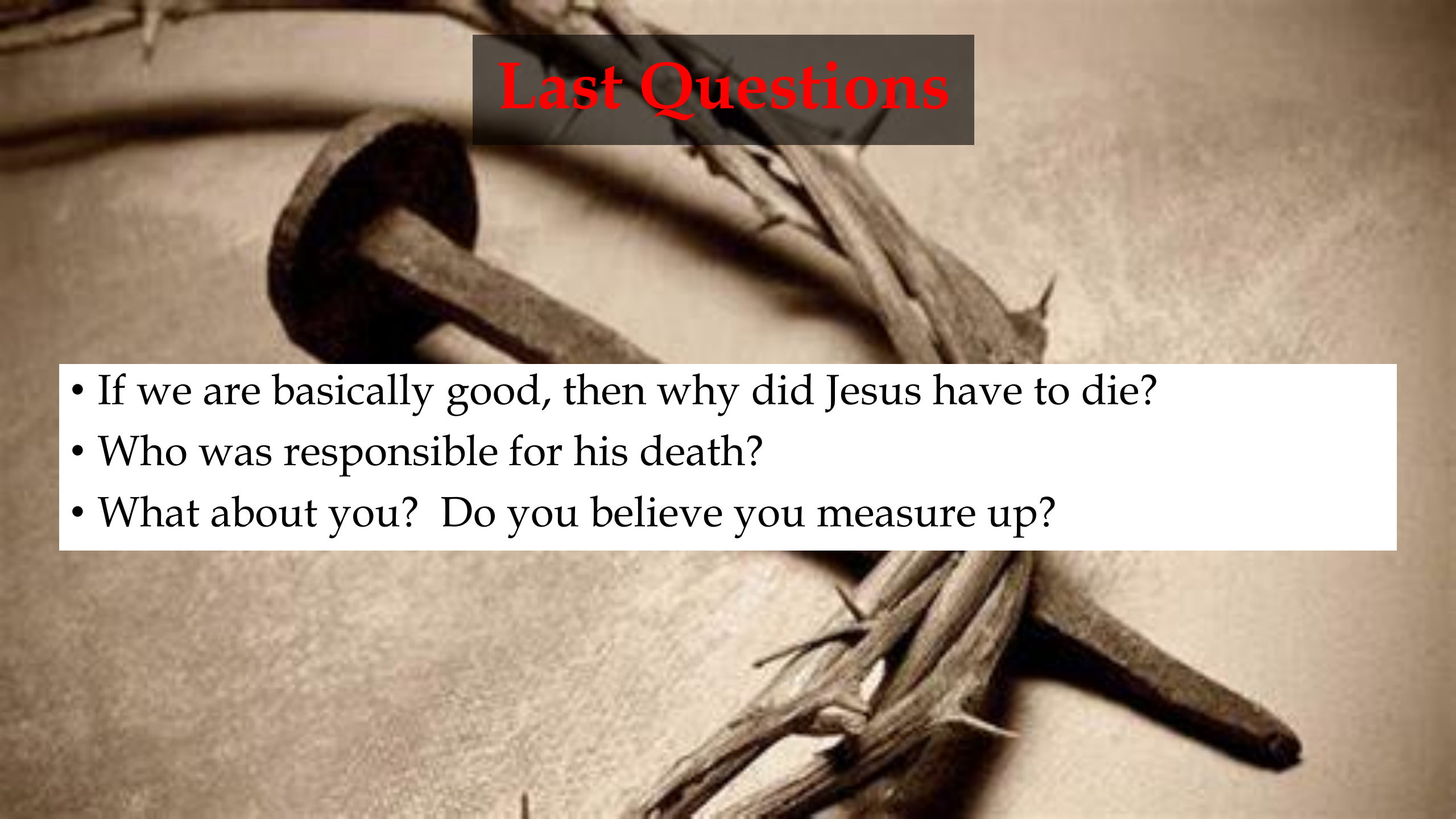


Visible  
Rebellion



Hidden  
Rebellion





# Last Questions

- If we are basically good, then why did Jesus have to die?
- Who was responsible for his death?
- What about you? Do you believe you measure up?



# Where are we going to go?

- Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians

- How do we know God exists?
- Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?
  - Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
  - Evolution has proven that we were not created.
- Can you trust the Bible as accurate?
- How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?
- Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
- Aren't all people basically good?
- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
- Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?
- Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money? Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?
- Optional – Crowd generated questions...open Q&A

- Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith

- Islamic Arguments
- Roman Catholic Arguments
- Hinduism Arguments
- Mormonism Arguments
- Buddhism Arguments