



Part 3

**7 HABITS OF
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE
CHURCHES**

Revelation 2:12-17

modern day
TURKEY

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Thyatira

Sardis

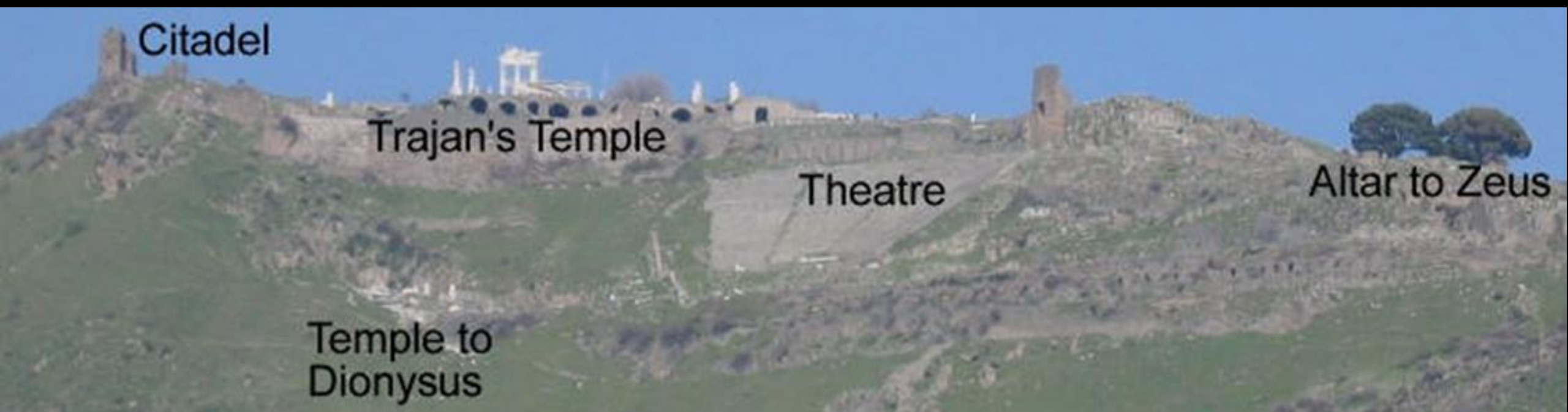
Philadelphia

Laodicea



“ius gladii”

right of the sword



Citadel

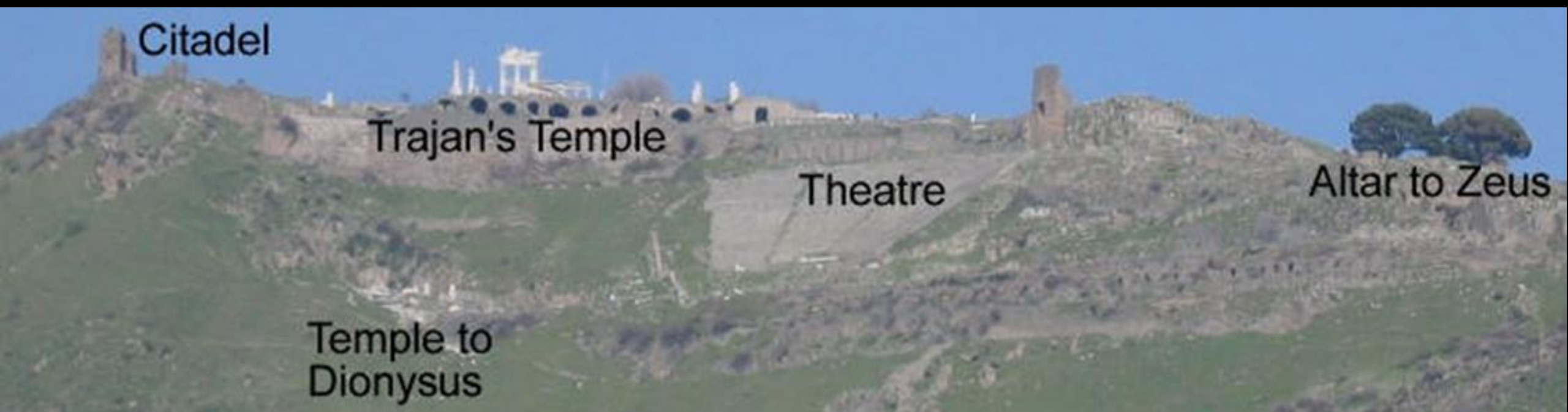
Trajan's Temple

Theatre

Altar to Zeus

Temple to
Dionysus





Citadel

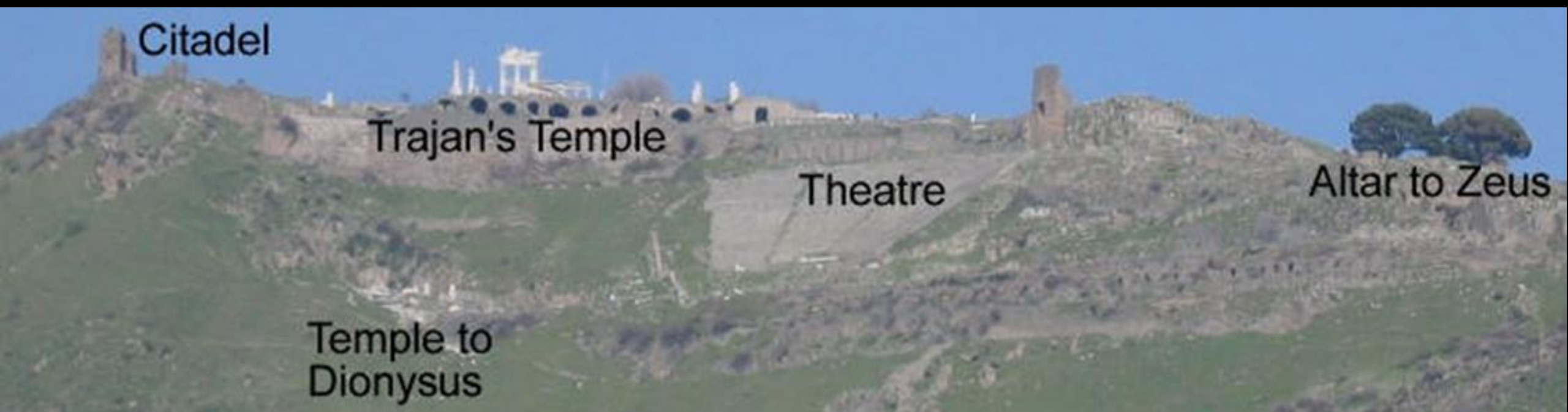
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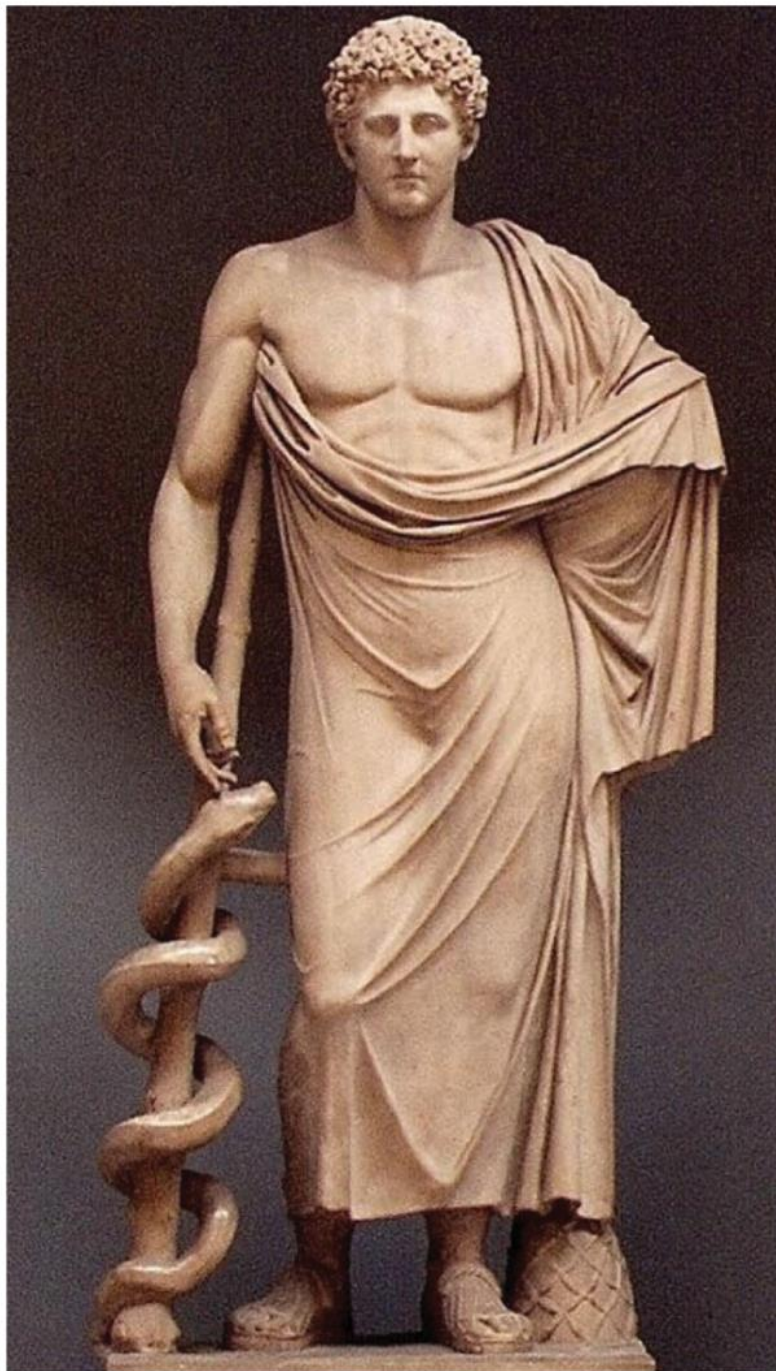
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Keywords

Authority (*vs. 12*)

Faithfulness (*vs. 13*)

Danger (*vv. 14-15*)

Repentance (*vs. 16*)


Promise (*vs. 17*)

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1. Authority (vs. 12)

*Never lose track of the
authority of Jesus.*

A warm, golden-hour street scene. In the foreground, a cobblestone path leads into the distance. To the left, a stone wall is visible. A black lantern with a warm glow is mounted on a post. The background shows a street lined with buildings, with a bright light source (likely the sun) creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. A large, rounded yellow rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing white text.

**When Jesus speaks,
He doesn't negotiate;
He rules.**



2. Faithfulness (vs. 13)

Faithfulness in a hostile culture is possible, but it must be guarded.



**You can live in a
messed-up culture
and still love Jesus.**



3. Danger (vs. 14-15)

*Small compromises create
big spiritual blind spots.*

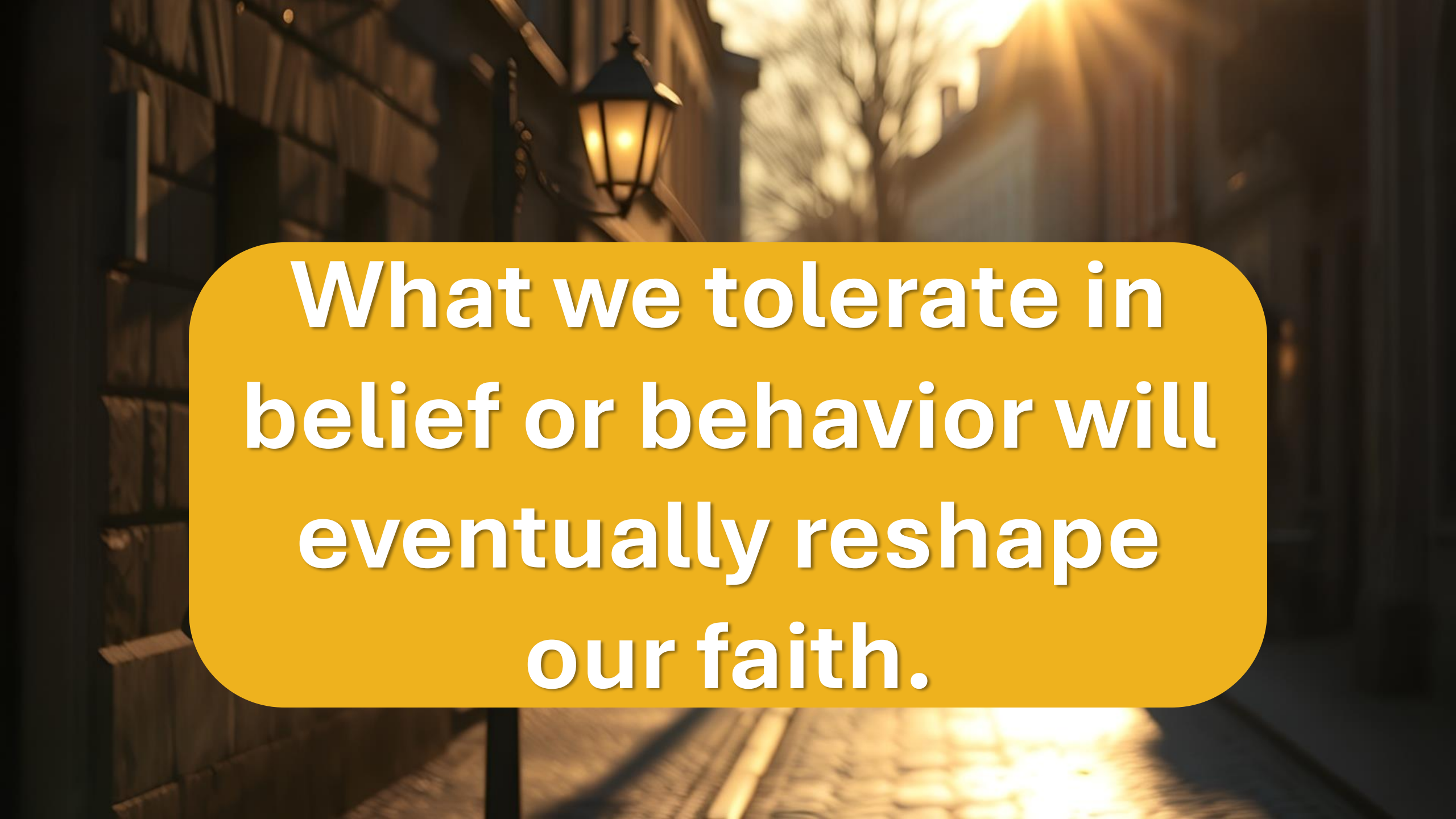


3. Danger (vs. 14-15)

- The compromise of *allegiance*
- The compromise of *behavior*
- The compromise of *doctrine*

A warm, golden-hour street scene. On the left, a stone wall is visible. A black lantern with a glowing light hangs from a post. The path is made of cobblestones and leads into the distance. The sun is low in the sky, creating a strong glow and long shadows.

**Truth doesn't adapt to
culture; culture must
answer to truth.**



**What we tolerate in
belief or behavior will
eventually reshape
our faith.**

4. Repentance (vs. 16)

Repentance is how God lovingly corrects drift before it becomes ruin.

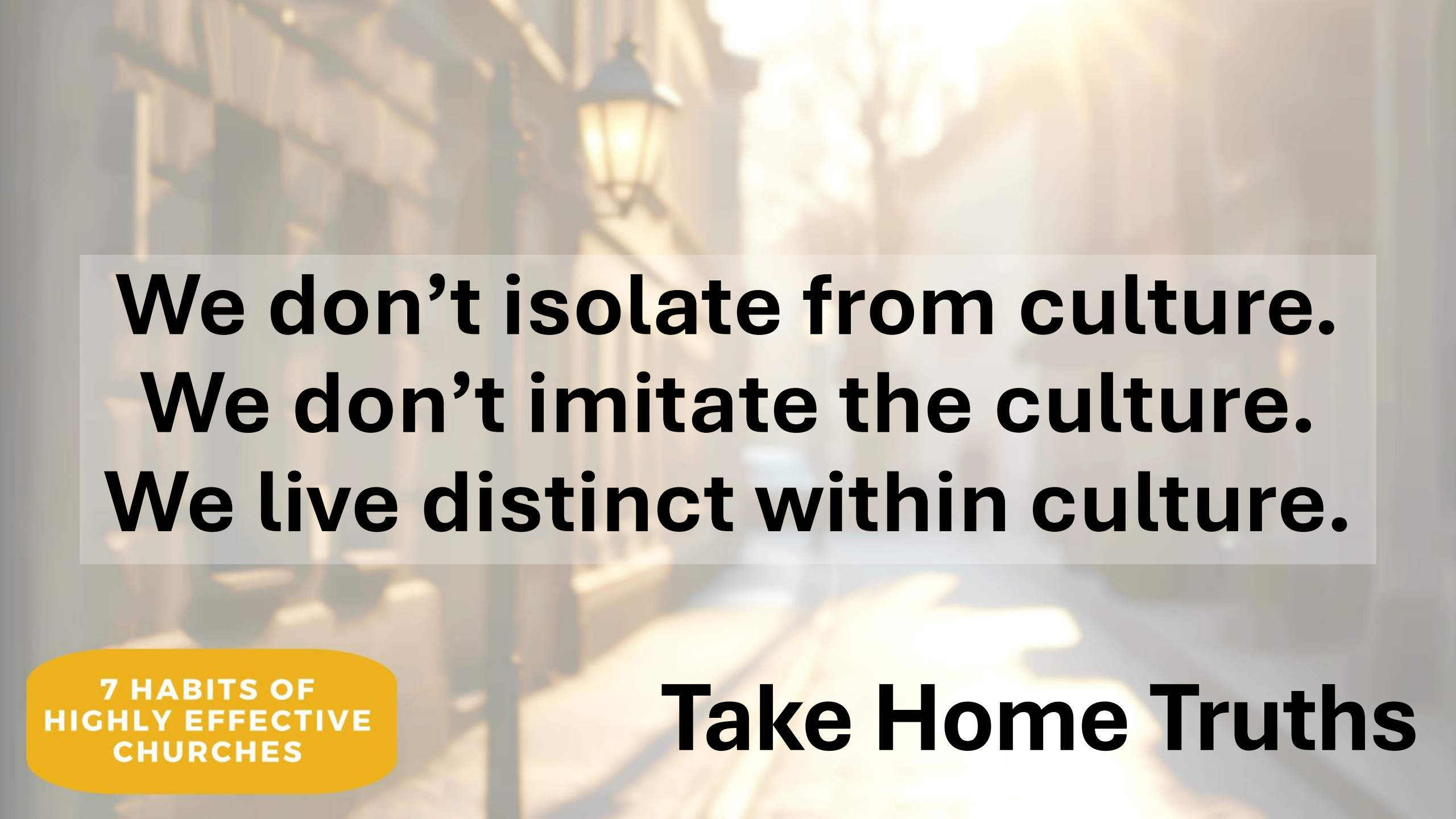


5. Promise (vs. 17)

*Anything surrendered for Christ
is replaced with something better.*

Lessons:

- 1. A church can be brave and still be comprised.**
- 2. Compromise (doctrine or moral) is often subtle and progressive.**
- 3. Tolerance is not the same as love.**
- 4. We can never look the other way in areas of purity (moral or doctrinal).**
- 5. The greatest threat to the church isn't persecution, its assimilation.**



**We don't isolate from culture.
We don't imitate the culture.
We live distinct within culture.**

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Take Home Truths

- 1. Where have I softened truth to avoid tension?**
- 2. What behaviors have I justified instead of surrendered?**
- 3. What have I been explaining instead of surrendering?**
- 4. What's become “normal” that shouldn't be?**
- 5. What voices have I allowed to shape my convictions?**

Week

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Pergamos (2:12-17) ...

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13) ...

Laodicea (3:14-22)

Diagnostic Question

Do I love Jesus as deeply as when I first followed Him?

Am I faithful to God when obedience is costly?

Where am I tolerating compromise in truth or practice?

Is my love matched by personal holiness?

Am I spiritually alive—or just busy and respectable?

Am I obeying God even when I feel weak?

What am I relying on more than Christ?