

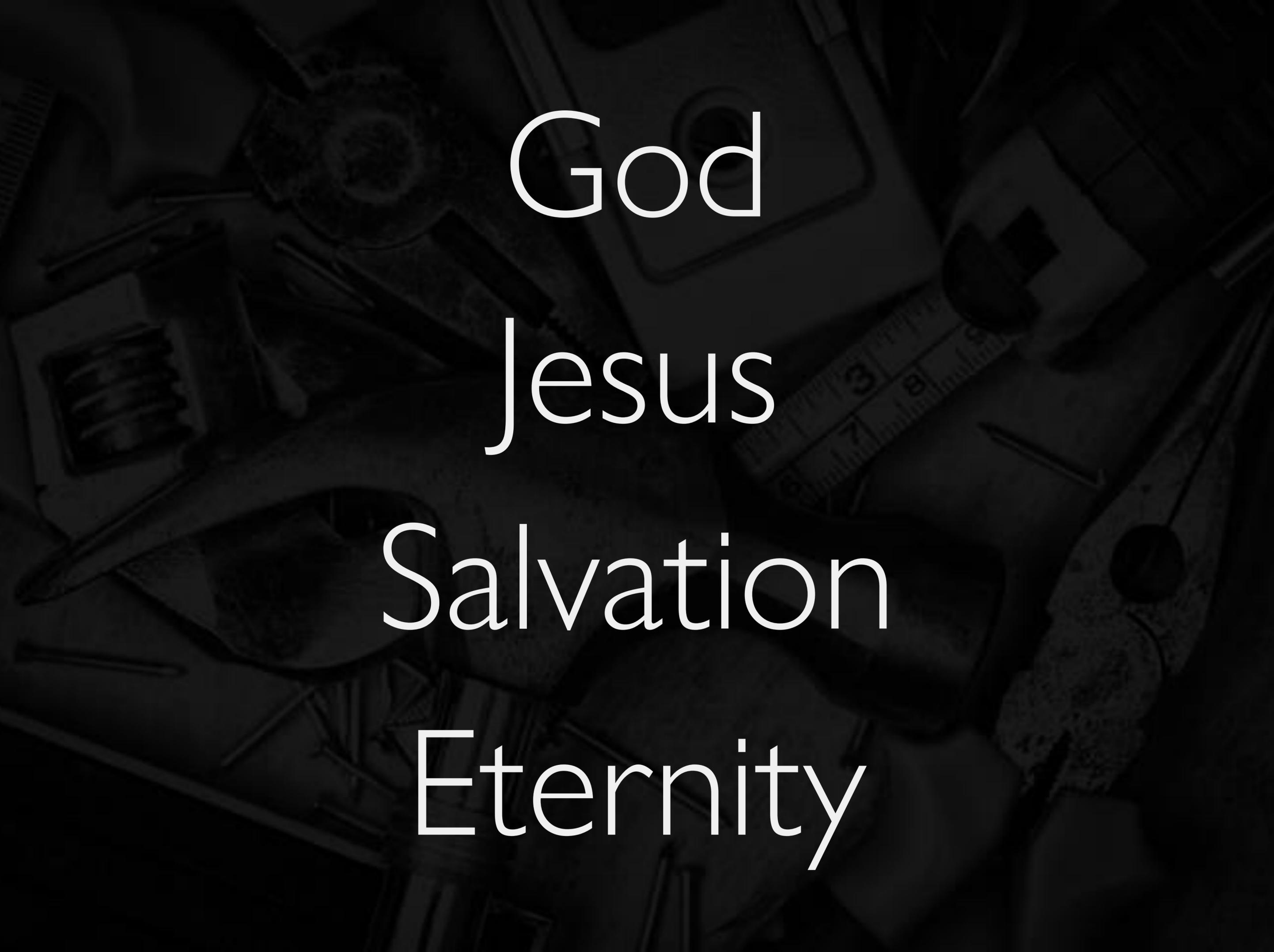


# EQUIPPED

Sharing your faith in a complex world

A background image of a stained glass window with various colored panes (red, yellow, orange, blue) and a bright light source in the upper left corner, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere.

***To Know God  
and Make  
Him Known***



God

Jesus

Salvation

Eternity

# A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Hinduism - “the religion of India”

Sanatana Dharma – “Eternal Way”

- 1500 B.C. - priestly, ritualism, Works

- 500 B.C. – Mysticism, Knowledge

- A.D. 800 - worship of gods,

Devotion



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

- regard the Vedas (ancient texts) as divinely inspired and authoritative
- accept the caste system
- respect the veneration of deities and spirits, protection of cows



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Other religions with roots in Hinduism: Jainism, Buddhism, Sikism, New Age, Christian Science, “Past Lives”



# God

Philosophical Atheism

Pantheistic – everything is god

**Brahman** - “World Soul,” impersonal

- Brahma – personal creator god

- Vishnu – preserver god

- Shiva – destroyer god

# God



Hinduism - Lesser gods are part of ultimate reality, "300 million gods"

Devotion to a god helps bring salvation

Statues of gods are cared for to please the god

Jesus

No place at all in traditional  
teachings

Incarnation of a god (*avatar*)

# Salvation

Each person has a soul (atman) that is actually part of the ultimate reality (brahman), but we fail to recognize our place in the ultimate

# Salvation

Life is an illusion (maya) that keeps us from becoming one with the ultimate reality (brahman)

# Salvation

Reincarnation  
(samsara) is a  
negative concept,  
a repeat of life  
that equals  
continued  
suffering



**samsara**

“How many births are passed, I cannot tell. How many yet to come, no man can say: But this alone I know, and know full well, that pain and grief embitter all the way.”

Indian folk song quoted in “So What’s the Difference?” – Fritz Ridenour



Salvation is...

Release (moksha)  
from the cycle of  
reincarnation via  
karma



samsara

# Salvation

**karma** - the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.

Cause and Effect

Not Judgement or Fate

# Salvation

good karma is earned by...

- Works – Right Rituals
- Monasticism – Right Thoughts
- Worship of a deity, book – Right Worship/Devotion

# Eternity

Ultimate goal is to lose individuality and find release from samsara by joining again with ultimate reality

# Eternity

Like a drop of water in the  
ocean





So What?



God exists and is  
personal



“Then the LORD  
God formed the man  
out of the dust from  
the ground and  
breathed the breath  
of life into his nostrils,  
and the man became  
a living being.”

(Genesis 2:7, CSB)

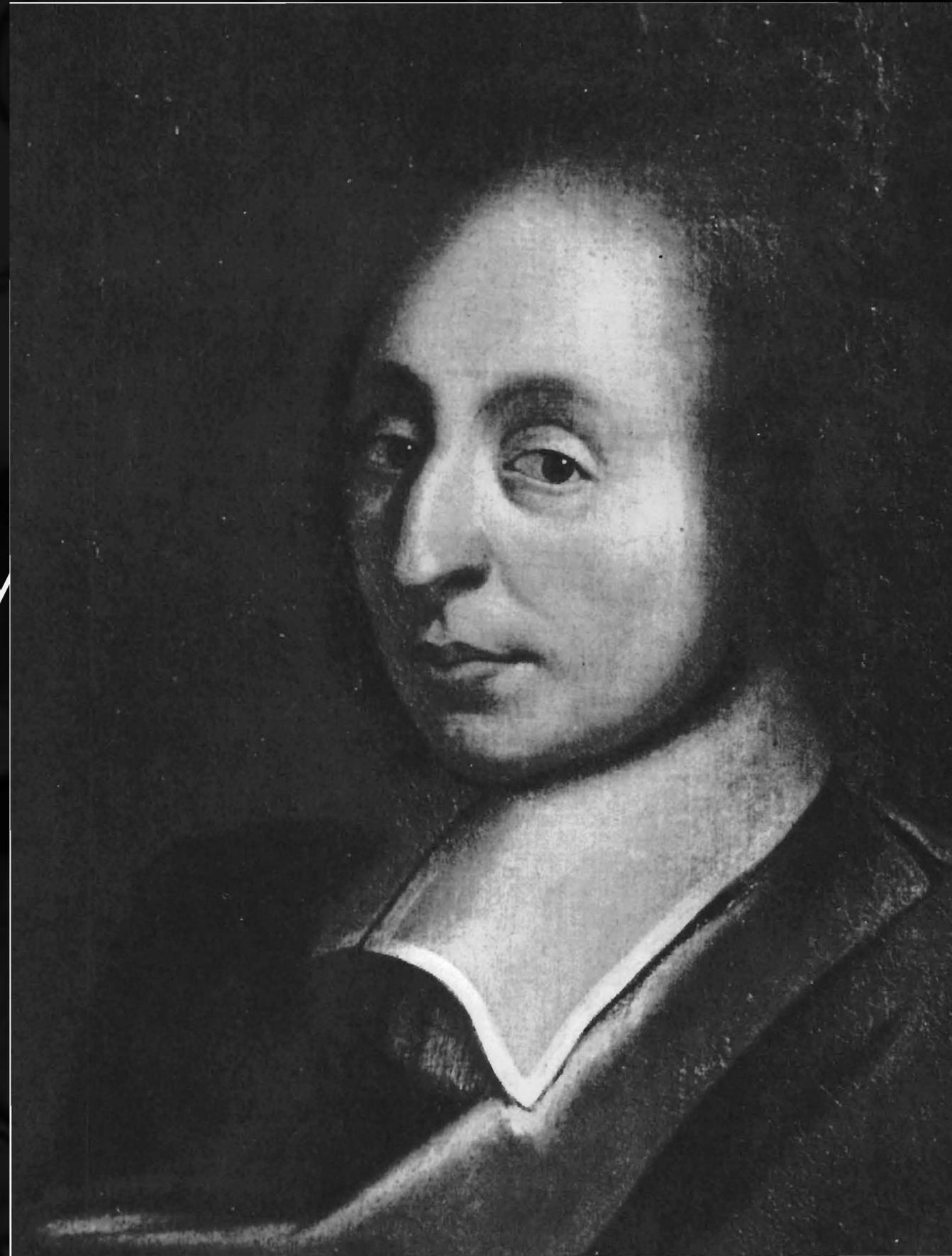
“For it was you who  
created my inward parts;  
you knit me together in  
my mother’s womb.”

(Psalm 139:13, CSB)

Everyone longs for a  
life of meaning and  
connection to a real,  
personal, loving God

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ.”

-Blaise Pascal, Pensees



“He has made everything appropriate in its time.

He has also put eternity in their hearts,

but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end.”

(Ecclesiastes 3:11, CSB)

“From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.

He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

For in him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’”

(Acts 17:26–28, CSB)

Jesus is the One  
God, incarnate, a  
sacrifice for sin

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(John 1:1, CSB)

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.”

(1 Timothy 2:5–6, CSB)

“...so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”

(Hebrews 9:28, CSB)

There is  
no “do  
over”



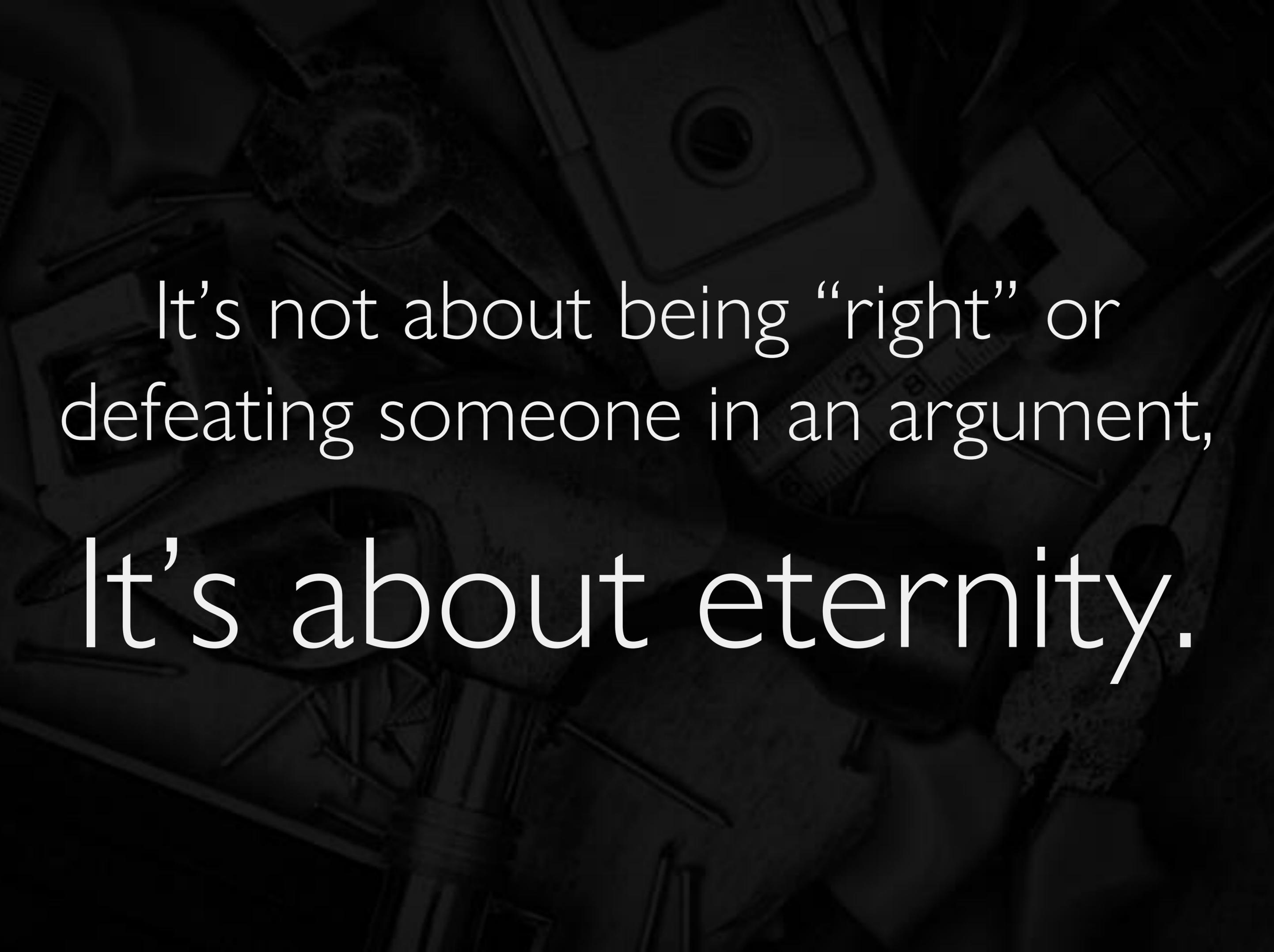
“And just as it is appointed  
for people to die once—and  
after this, judgment—”

(Hebrews 9:27, CSB)

In a world full of  
gods, there is only  
One God who  
cares and calls

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

(Ephesians 4:4–6, CSB)



It's not about being "right" or  
defeating someone in an argument,

It's about eternity.

Share the Person and Gospel of Jesus as the only answer to the problem of pain and suffering in this life and in eternity

Pray for revival in the lives of your friends and show the Gospel through love and compassion