

DAY 2 : DARE TO SPEAK UP



Saul at Stephen's stoning



Saul the Pharisee

Saul getting the warrant of arrest from the high priest



Saul's conversion



Jesus blinded Saul



Ananias laid hands on Saul



Scales fell from Saul's eyes



Saul rose and got baptised

DARE TO SPEAK UP

Acts 9:19b-30

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- Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.
- ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.
- ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

Acts 9:19b-30

- ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.
- ²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him,
- ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.
- ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Acts 9:19b-30

- ²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.
- ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:19b-30

- ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.
- ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews,^[a] but they tried to kill him.
- ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.





Enemy of Christians



TRANSFORMATION OF SAUL TO PAUL

Saul Faced Skeptical Astonishment

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- ²⁰ **At once** he began to preach in the synagogues that **Jesus is the Son of God**.
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Saul hated followers of Christ
Transformed
Enemy – God flipped him

At once he began to preach



Common excuses :-
I am not good enough, insufficient knowledge, no theological degree yet etc.
Your story of how Christ changed your life

Saul was proclaiming the name he persecuted



Complete change of allegiance
This must have taken a lot of courage for Saul



Christ changes our lives when we encounter Him



1. Have we encountered Christ in our lives?
2. Are we willing to allow our lives to be changed?
3. Are we willing to sacrifice anything for our Saviour?

Saul Faced Persecution

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Saul's Time in Arabia

- ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.
- **Galatians 1:15-19**
- ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased
- ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.
- ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. **Later I returned to Damascus.**
- ¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days.
- ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother.
- ²³ **After many days** had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him,

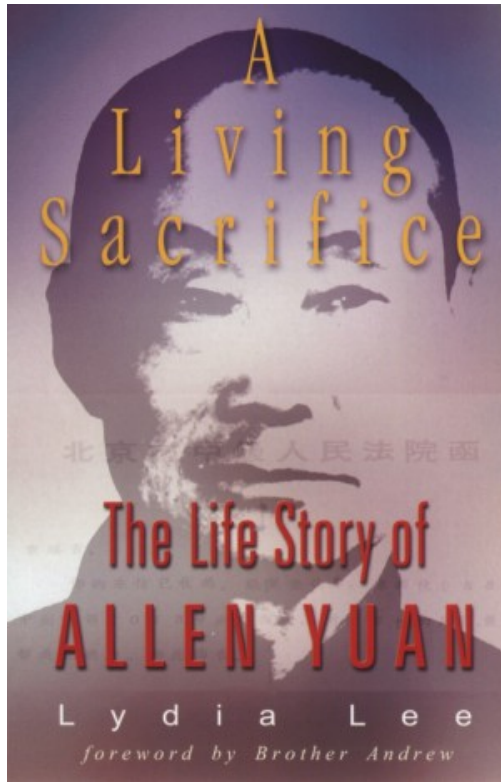


Verse 24 tells us that Saul was aware of the plot to kill him but that did not stop him



But his **followers** took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Persecution in more recent years in China

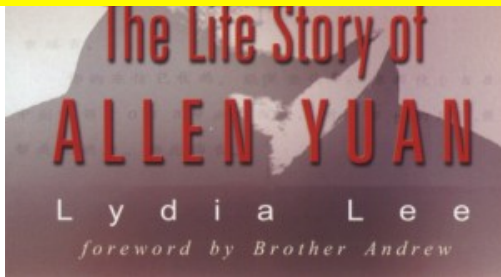


**In 1949, there were approximately 700,000 Christians in China
Today there are at least 40 million Christians in China and growing at a tremendous rate**

Persecution in more recent years in China

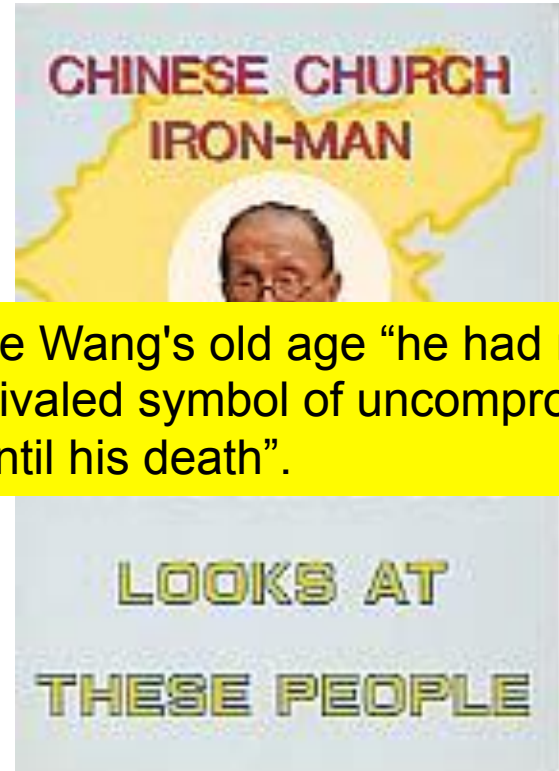
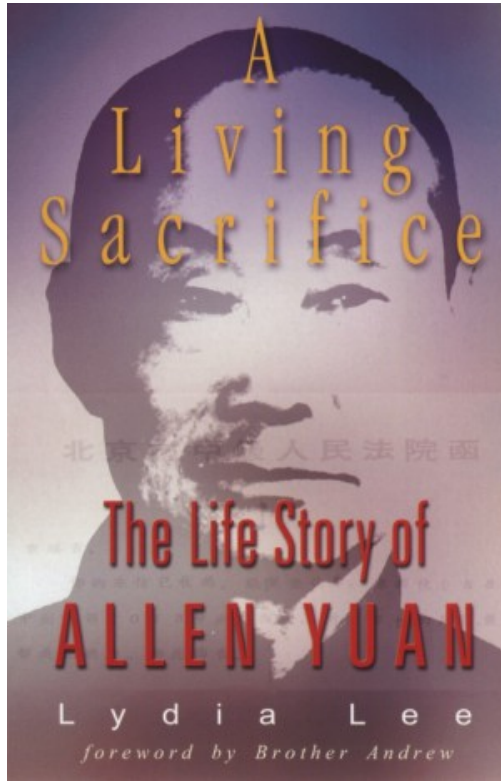


"As we live each day, we want to work for Him [Jesus] until He returns, as we know He is coming soon. If He comes today, I am fully prepared, as everybody must give an account."



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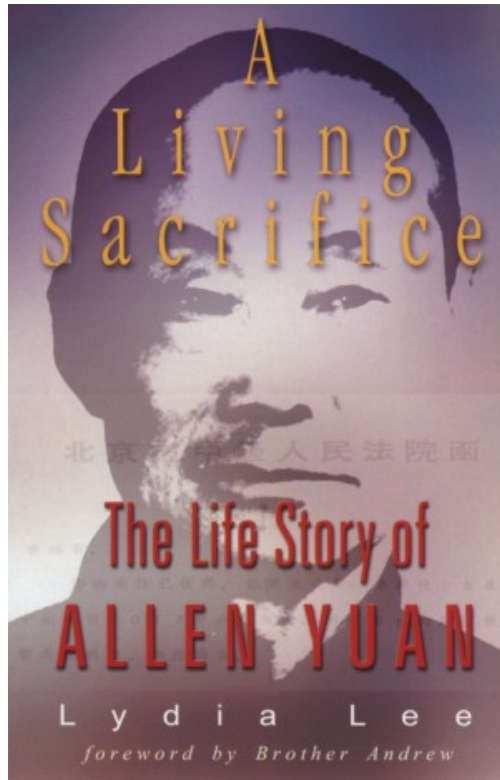
Persecution in more recent years in China



Despite Wang's old age "he had remained an unrivaled symbol of uncompromising faith until his death".

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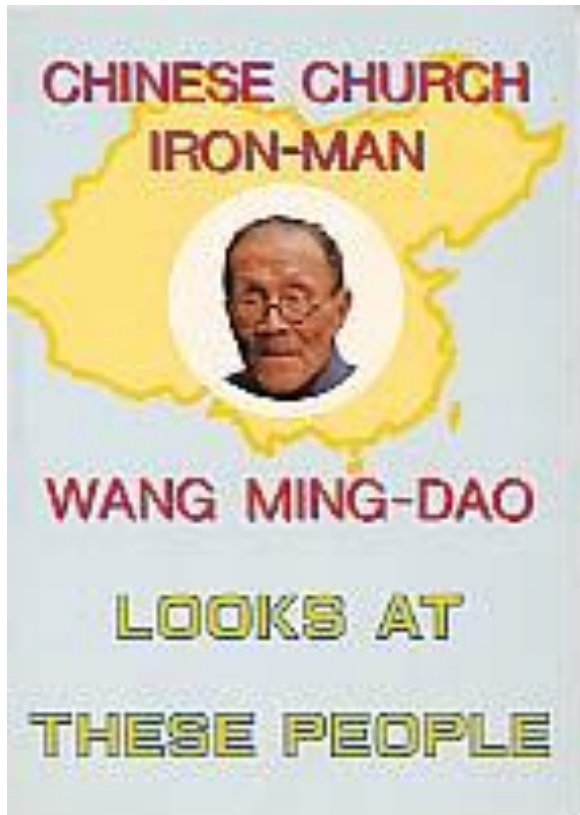


Imprisoned for 22 years for his faith
Chinese policy changed.

But he continued to spread the gospel from
his own home. He taped sermons and
distributed them. He was still working for
Christ in his late eighties.

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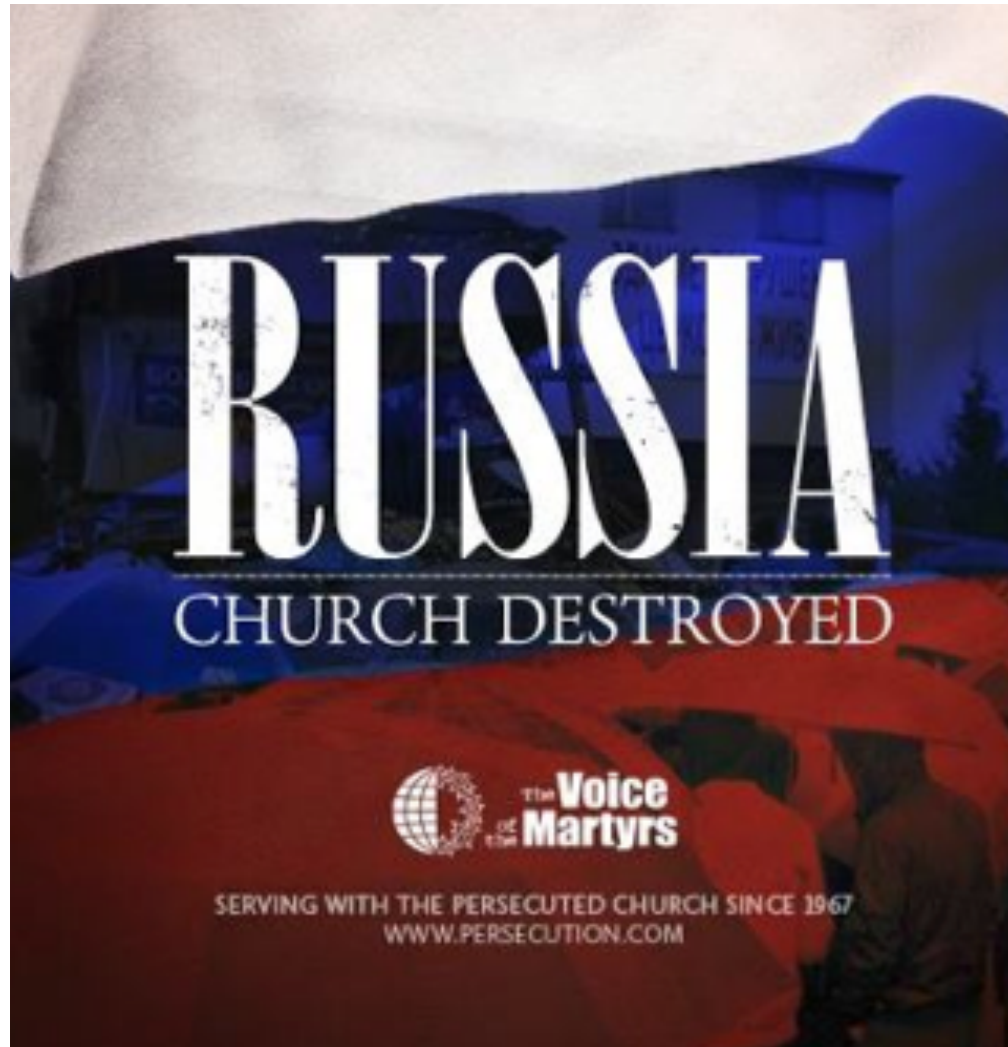


Imprisoned from 1955 to 1980

Despite Wang's old age "he had remained an unrivaled symbol of uncompromising faith until his death".

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Russian Pastor : Dare to speak up



Saul was imprisoned numerous times



I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. [21](#) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:20-21)

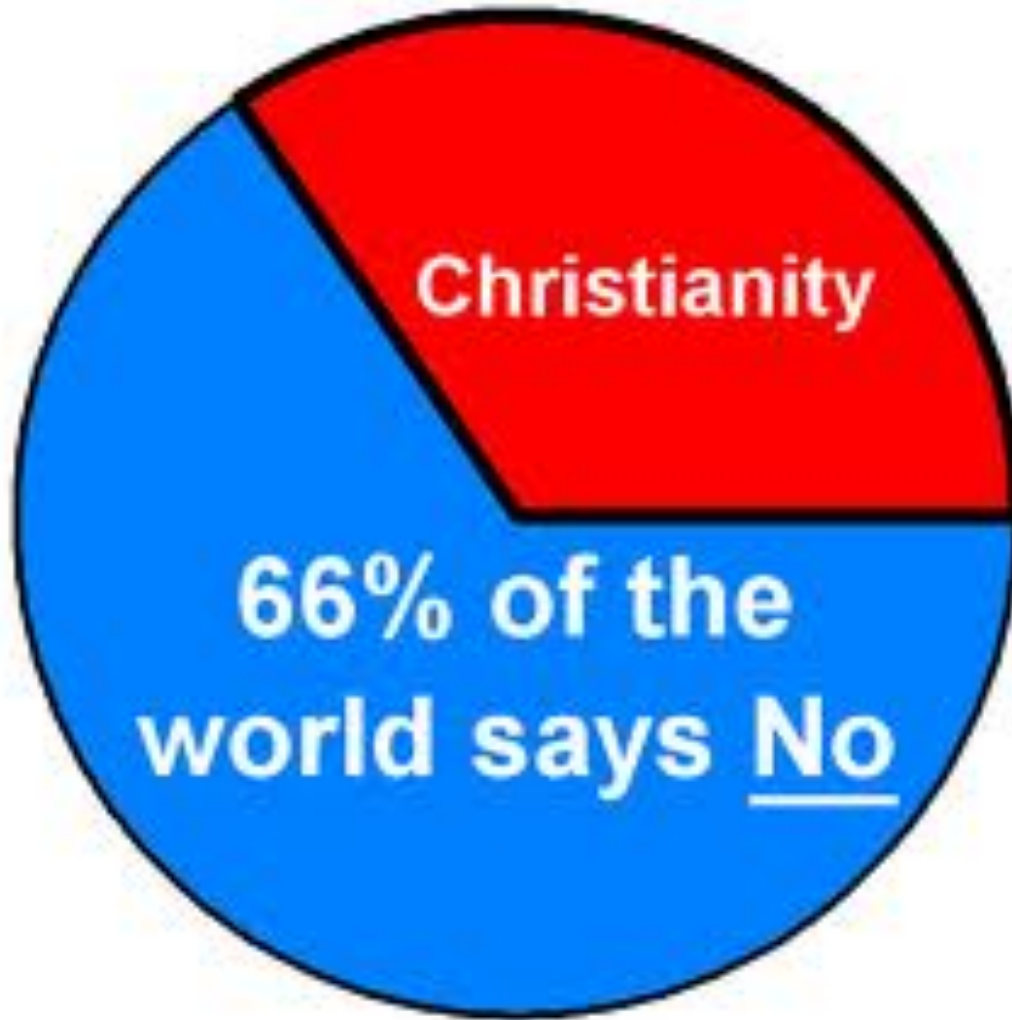
Saul Faced Rejection

- ²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, **but they were all afraid of him**, not believing that he really was a disciple.
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Fear of rejection



Rejected by the world



Rejected by other disciples



Barnabas



²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Barnabas personally introduced Saul and vouched for Saul's conversion and new lifestyle.

Barnabas : Son of Encouragement Acts 4:36

Levite, native of the island of Cyprus, named Joseph before the disciples called him Barnabas

Referee

Saul Faced Rejection

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Be a Barnabas to others





Paul and Timothy



Phil 2:22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel

Be a Barnabas to the VBS kids



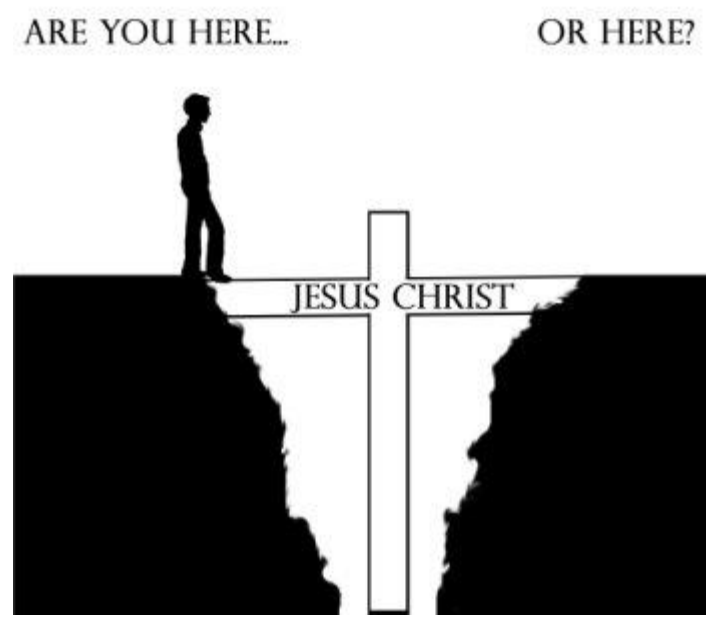
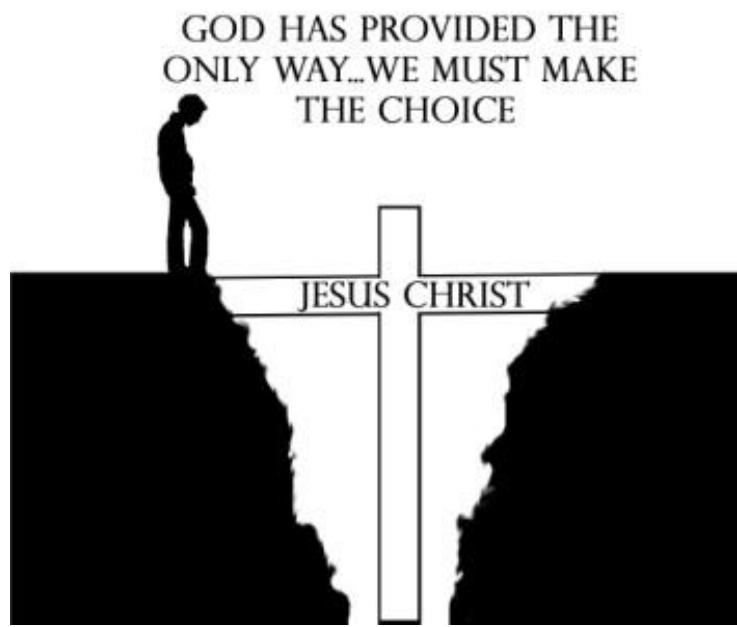
Lesson from Saul

- 1) We can speak up boldly about God and His work in the face of difficult situation:-
 - When facing skeptical astonishment
 - When facing persecution
 - When facing rejection
- 2) Be a Barnabas to others
- 3) What drives Saul to share the Gospel

Saul's Sacrifices



- Philippians 3:4-7
- If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5**circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
- **6**as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.
- **7**But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.



PAUL'S LAST WORDS



2 TIMOTHY 1-4



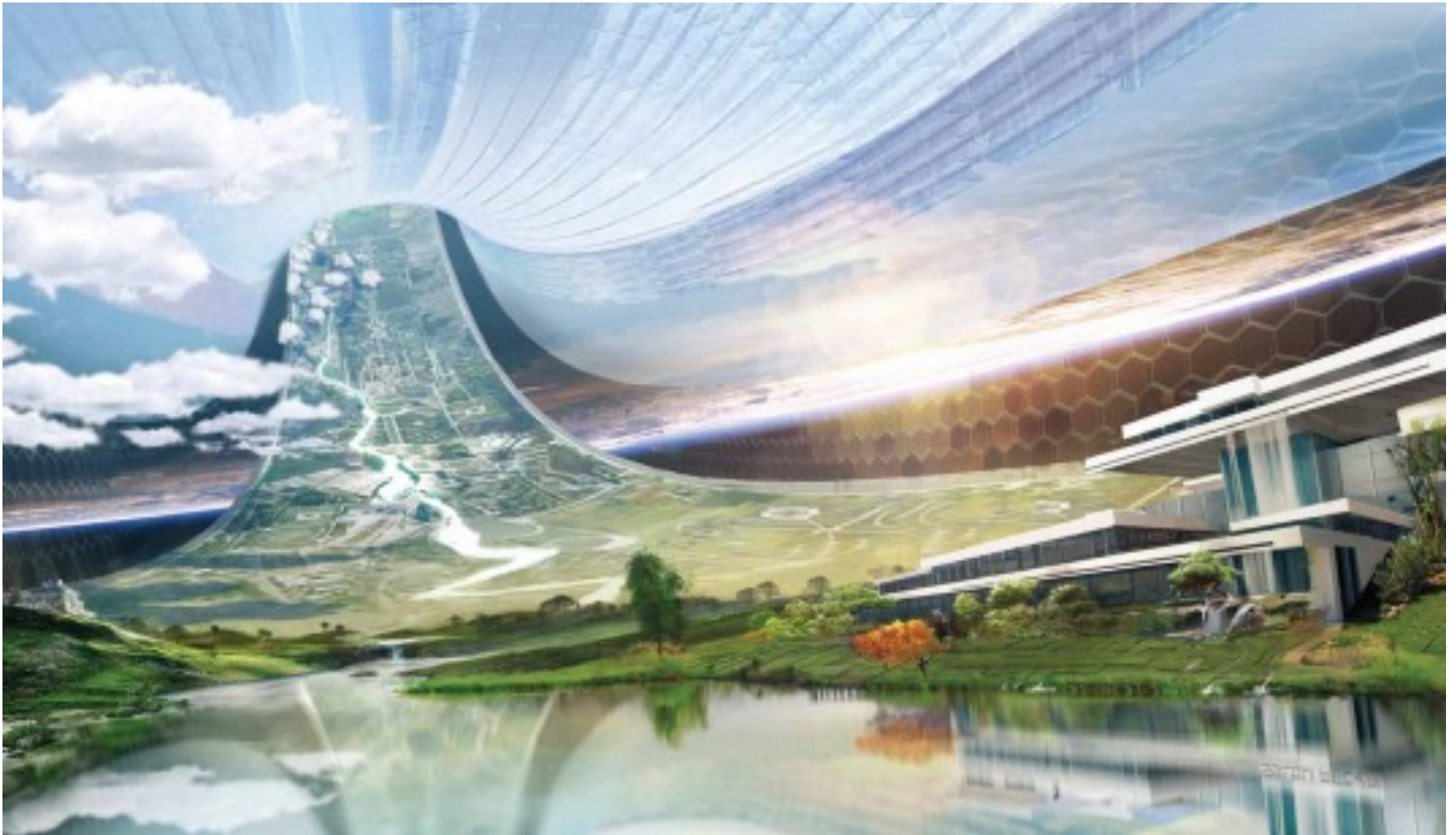
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing

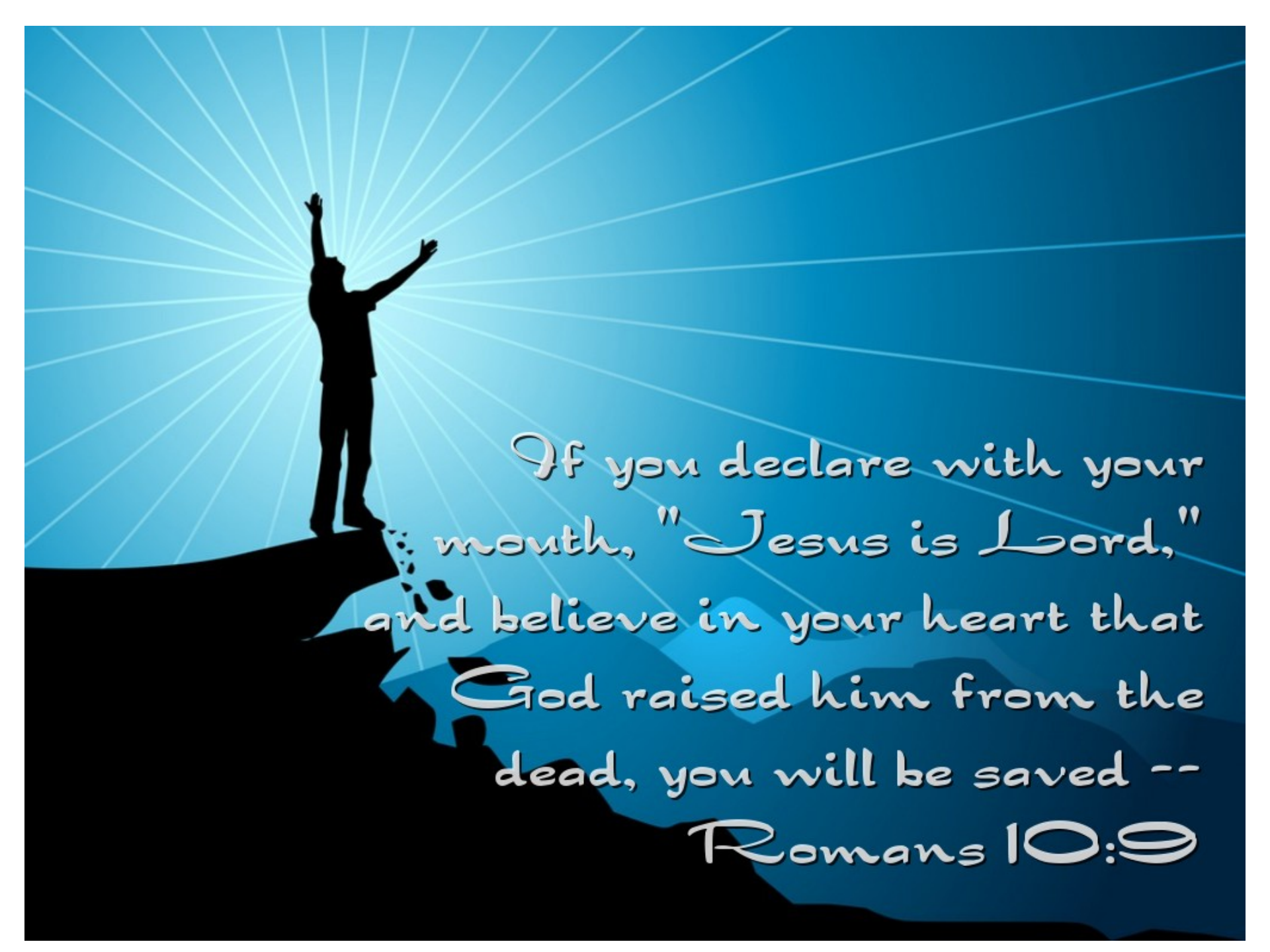
2 Timothy 4:7-8



the abode of the blessed after death in Greek religious belief. paradise

What is the Space Station in your life that you think can save you?



A silhouette of a person standing on a dark, jagged rock formation. The person's arms are raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a gradient of blue, with numerous thin, white, radiating lines emanating from behind the person, creating a halo effect. The overall scene is set against a dark blue sky with faint, distant mountain silhouettes.

If you declare with your
mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the
dead, you will be saved --

Romans 10:9

VIEW OF ETERNITY



“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Revelation 21:4 (KJV)