

A photograph of a prison cell. The cell is viewed through a set of vertical metal bars. In the center of the cell, there is a black rectangular sign with white text. The sign is mounted on a white wall. The ceiling is a perforated metal grid. The floor is also visible through the bars.

**PRISON,
PREVENTION,
& PRAYER**

Acts 4:1-31

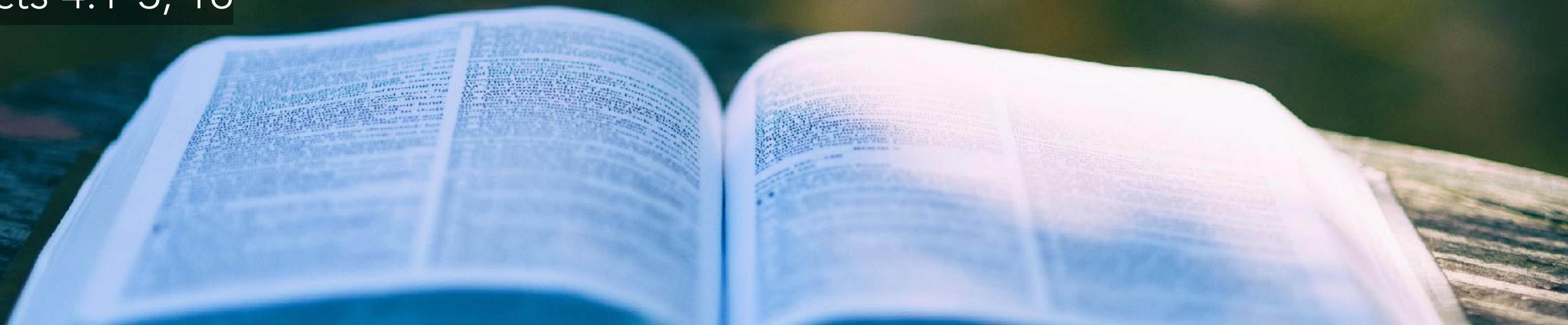
DON'T PANIC!
Opposition will come



1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:1-3, 18

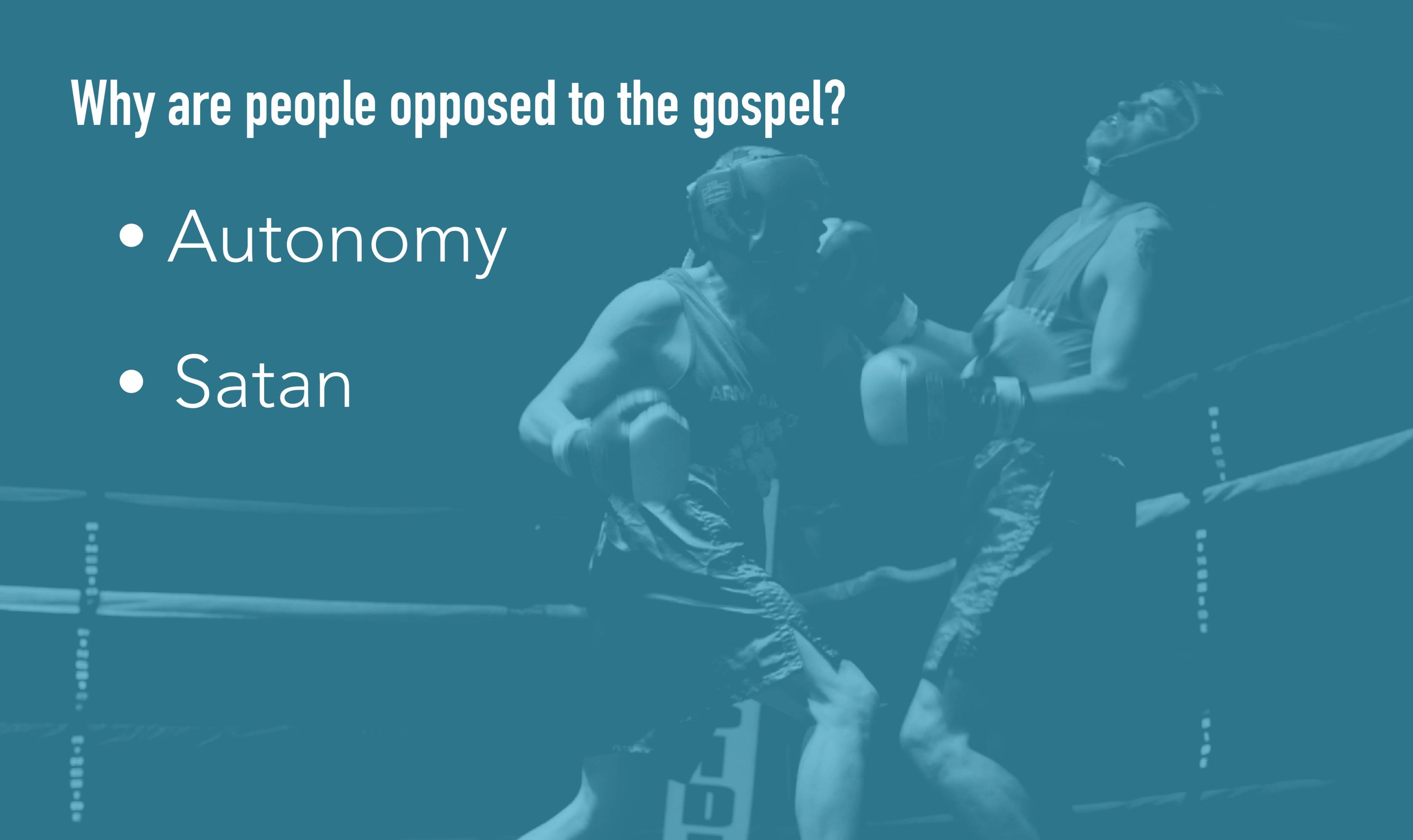


Opposition is to be expected

- Remember what I told you: “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15:20
- In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12

Why are people opposed to the gospel?

- Autonomy
- Satan





Is the devil happy with the early Christians . . .

A. Sharing the gospel?

B. Not sharing the gospel?

A photograph of two boxers in a ring, one in a dark stance and the other in a light stance, with a green overlay. The text "Embrace opposition" is centered in white.

Embrace opposition

1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 **But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.**

Acts 4:1-4





DON'T PANIC!
The Holy Spirit will give courage

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished... Acts 4:13

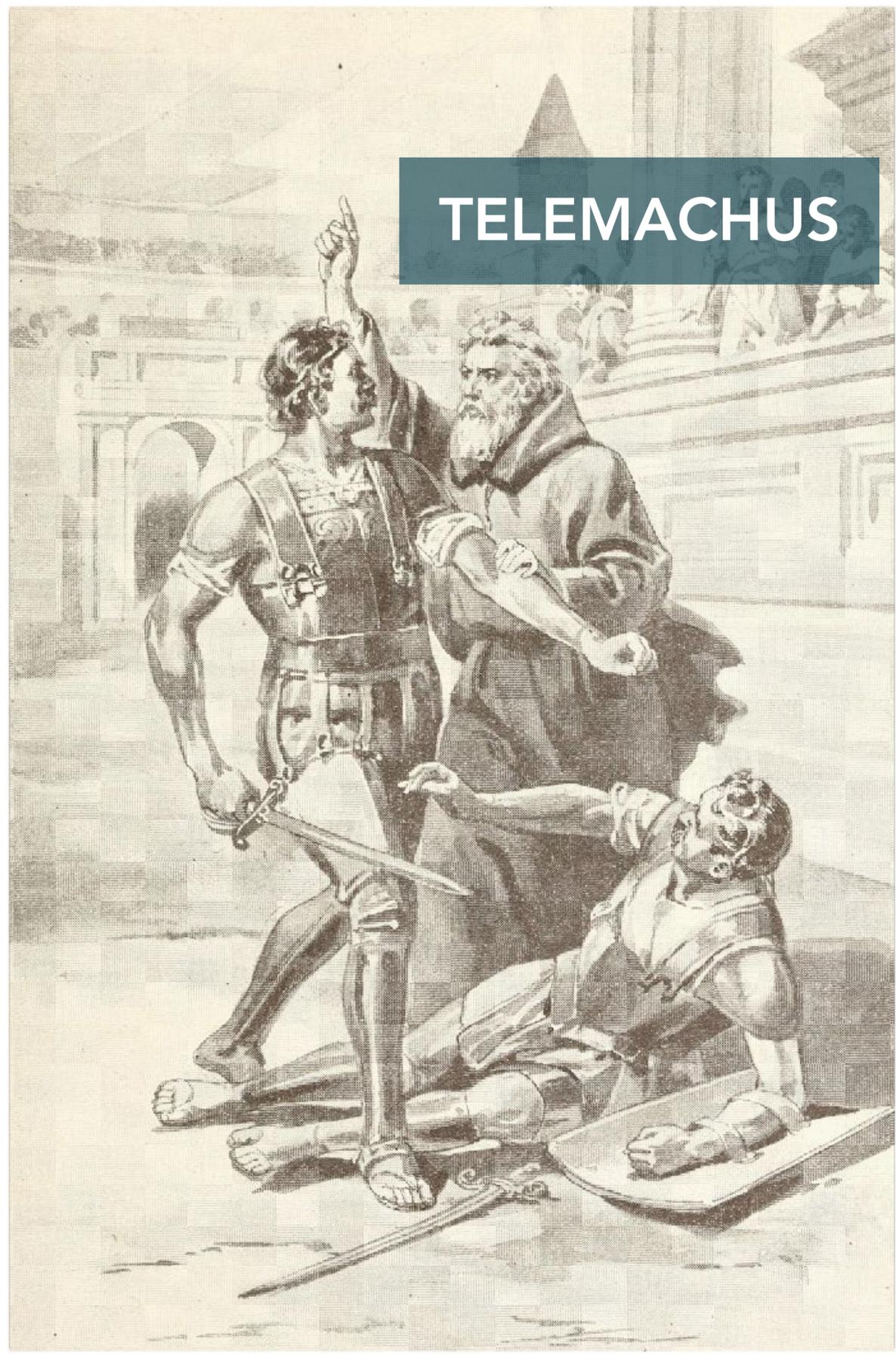
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people... Acts 4:8



A person is rappelling down a rope next to a crane boom. The background is a solid green color. The text "The Holy Spirit will give us courage!" is overlaid on the image.

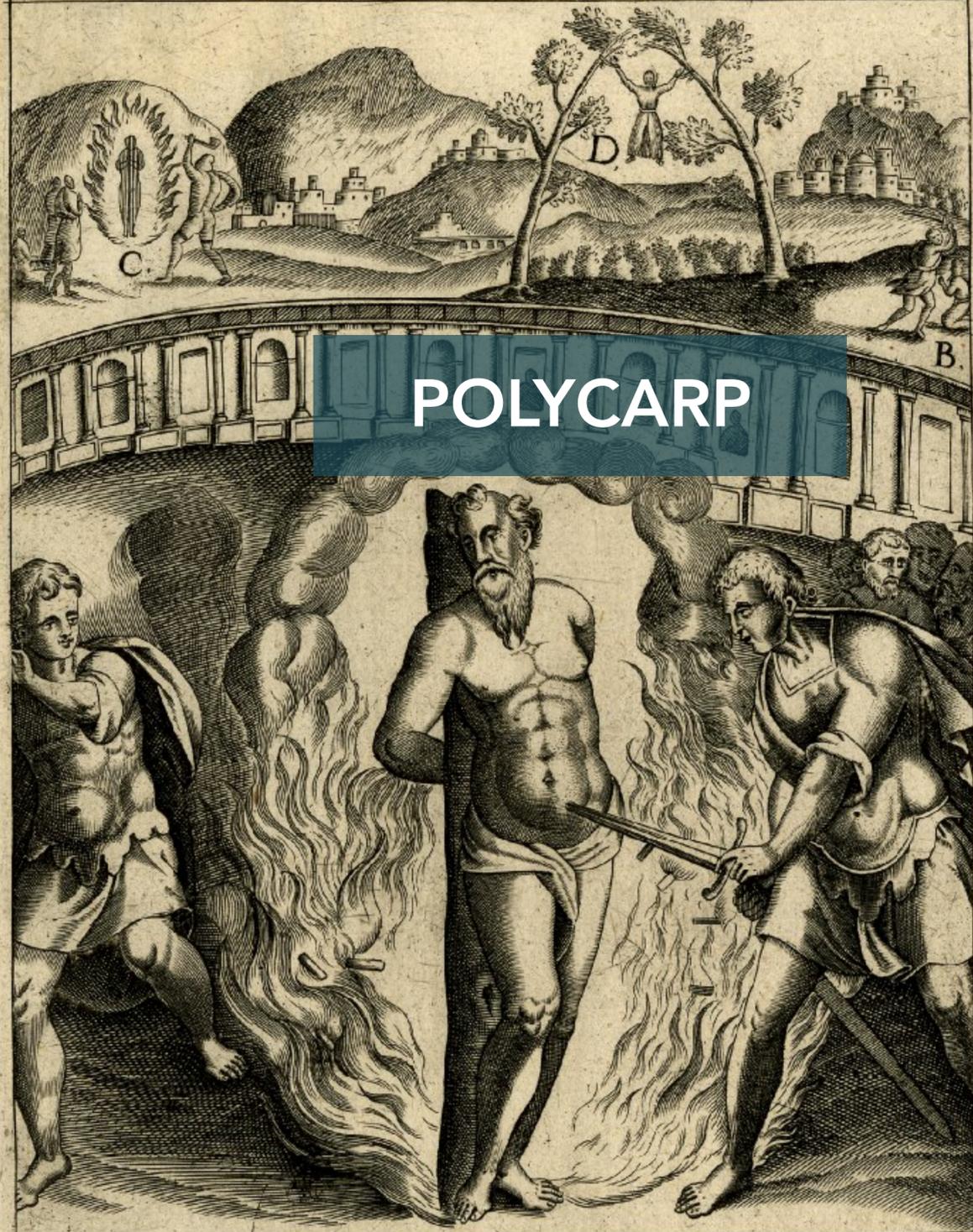
**The Holy Spirit will give
us courage!**

TELEMACHUS



IN MEDIO IGNIS NON SUM AESTIVATUS, ECCLES. II.

POLYCARP



M. ANTONINO . VERO . IMP. -
A. POLYCARPVS ad rogam damnatus, cum flamma corpus eius refugeret:
gladio confoditur, B. IUSTINVS Philosophus capitis damnatur,
C. VICTOR conicitur in fornacem et securi percuntur,
D. CORONA ad duarum arborum ramos alligata discerpitur. n.

11 'When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.' Luke 12:11-12

12 'But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. Luke 21:12-15



DON'T PANIC!
Come together and pray

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

Acts 4:23-24a



24b 'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.'" 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Acts 4:24b-28

That 'oh no' feeling...

Don't panic...

- Pray! Pray scripture-soaked prayers (v25-26)
- Pray for boldness (v29)
- Pray for God to heal and do signs and wonders (v30)
- Pray together (v24)

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:31

