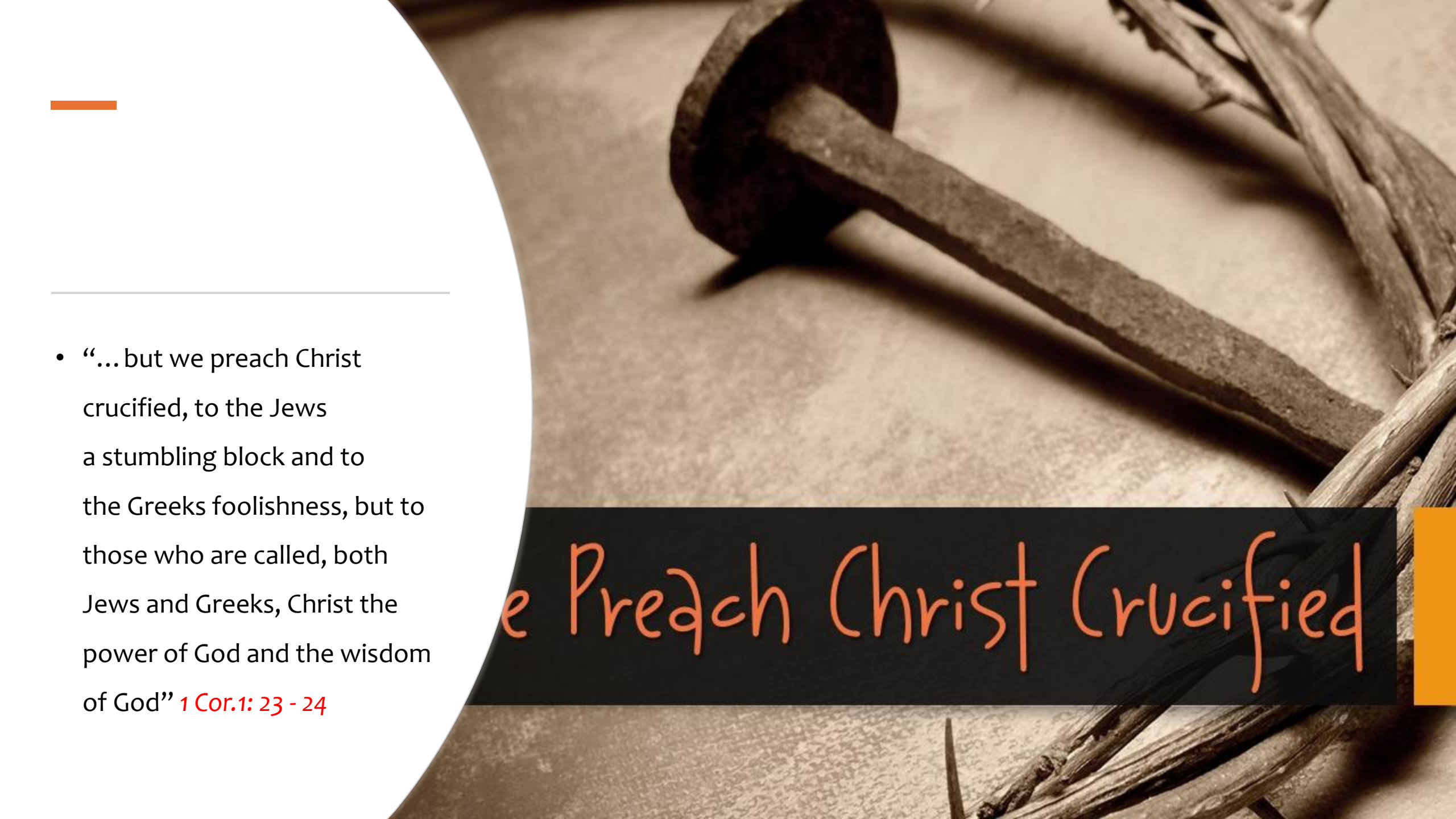


**“HE IS NOT
HERE; HE IS
RISEN”**

Matthew 28: 6

**“The Cross First ...Then the
Resurrection”**



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- The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of a wooden cross. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, one horizontal and one vertical, resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark, semi-transparent banner with orange text. On the left side, there is a white circular area containing a list item. A small orange horizontal bar is located at the top left of the white area.
- “...but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” *1 Cor.1: 23 - 24*

Preach Christ Crucified

1. The Cross is the Door not the end

- The Cross was never meant to be a tragic ending—it is the gateway to life.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ did not stumble into the Cross unwillingly. He embraced it deliberately. “For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross...” *Hebrews 12:2*
- The Cross, then, is not meaningless pain—it is purposeful suffering.



2. Understanding the Cross changes how we see life

- Before we accept the Cross, we resist suffering.
- We complain, question, and sometimes even lose hope. But once we understand the Cross, everything changes:
 - ✓ Trials become opportunities for growth
 - ✓ Pain becomes a path to purification
 - ✓ Waiting becomes a season of preparation
- The Cross teaches us that God is not absent in suffering—He is present within it. “He who flees from affliction flees from God” St. Paul the Simple

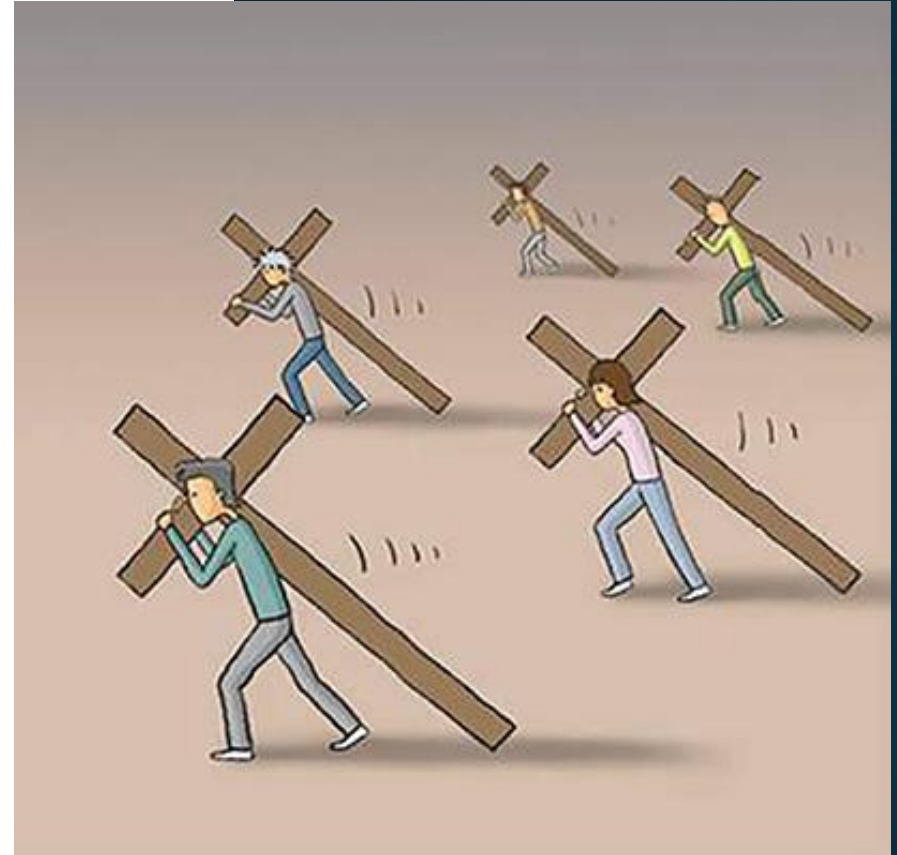


3. Acceptance of the Cross is personal

- It is one thing to admire the Cross of Christ, and another to carry our own cross. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” *Luke 9:23*



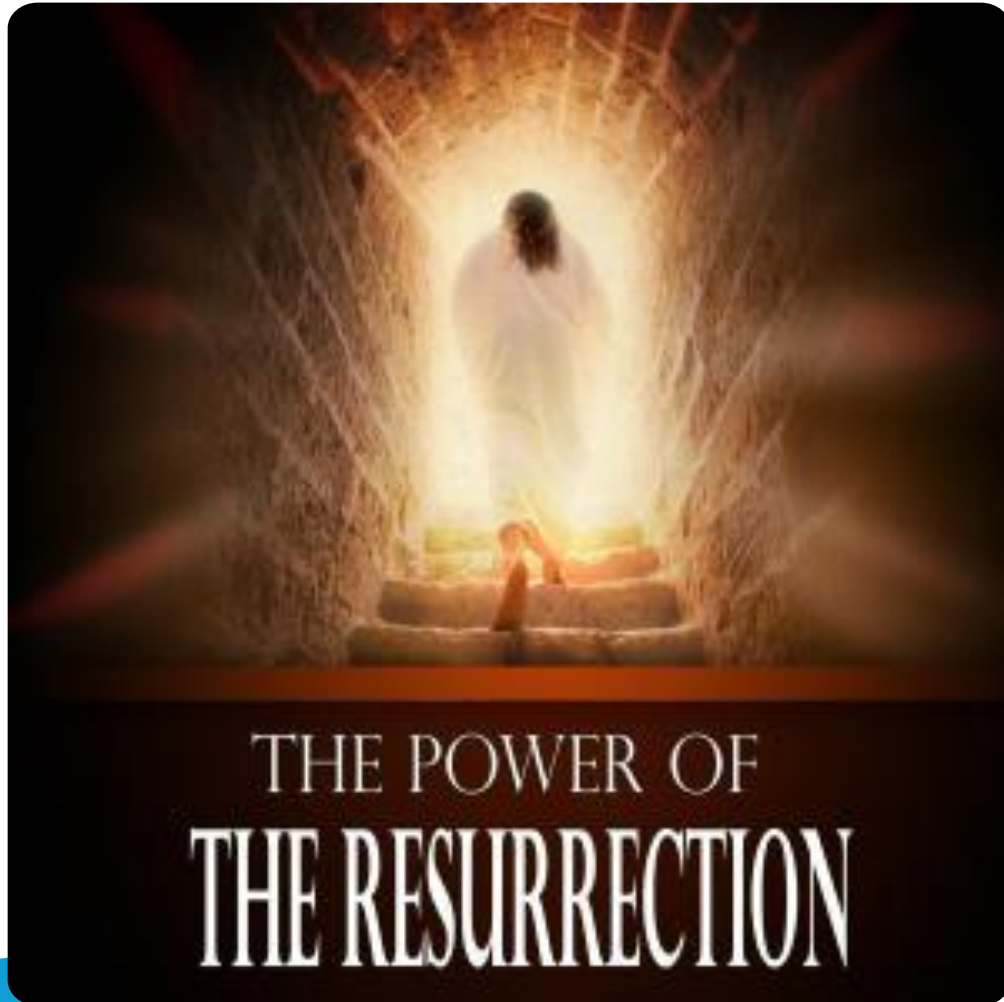
- Each of us has crosses to bear:
 - ✓ A struggle we didn't choose
 - ✓ A body that needs to be brought under subjection
 - ✓ A situation we cannot control
 - ✓ A hurt to forgive
 - ✓ A temptation to resist
 - ✓ An urge to conformity to the world to overcome
 - ✓ An Ego to humble and fight against



4. Without the Cross, Resurrection Joy Becomes Superficial

- If we try to skip the Cross, we misunderstand the Resurrection.
- The joy of Resurrection is not mere happiness—it is victory after battle, light after darkness, life after death.
- Those who truly rejoice in the Resurrection are those who have:
 - ✓ Fasted, suffered, and prayed with Christ
 - ✓ Struggled in faith
 - ✓ Persevered through hardship
- Only then does the Resurrection become real, deep, and transformative.





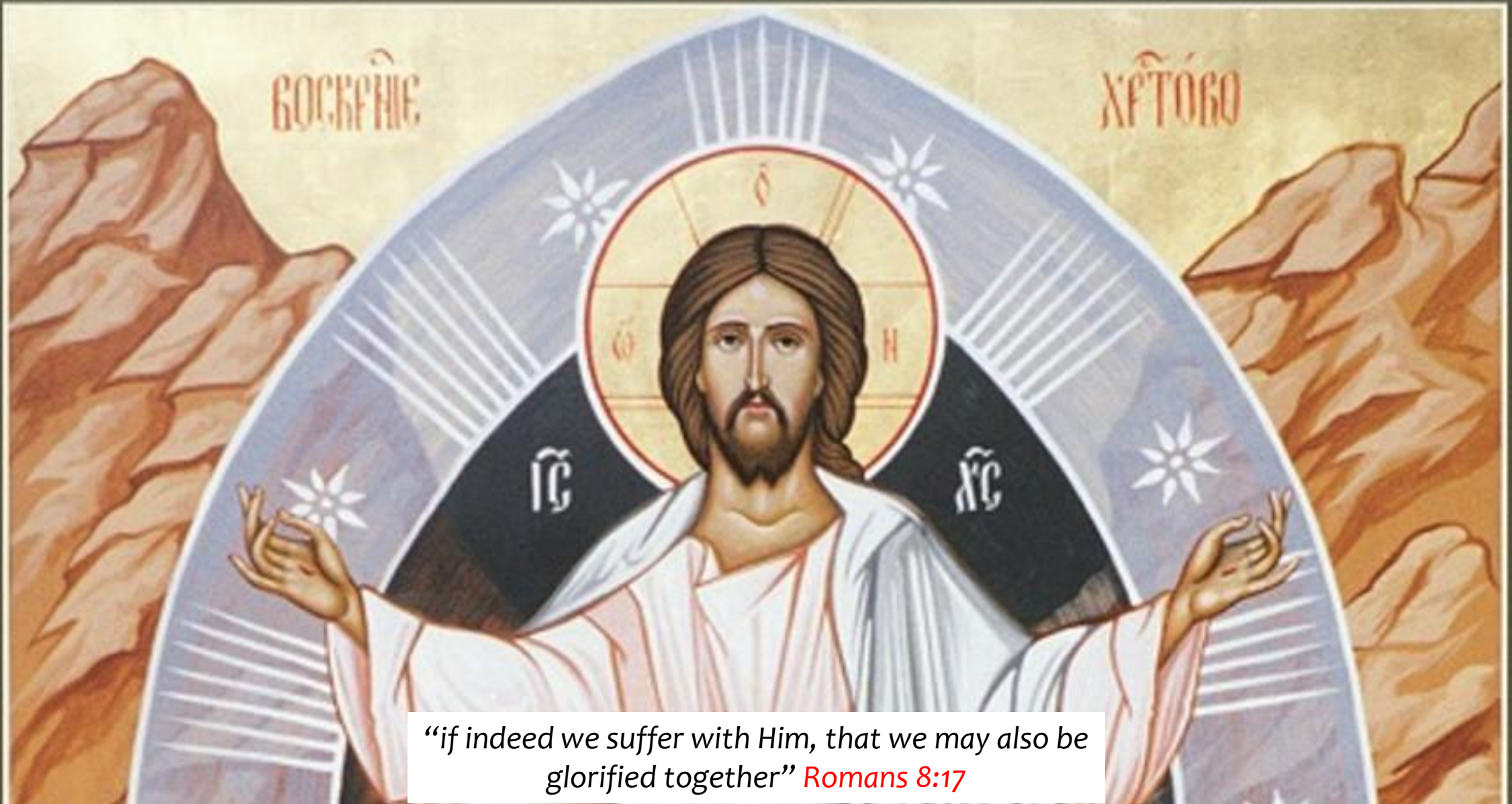
5. The Power of the Resurrection Flows Through the Cross

- The Resurrection is not just an event—it is power.
- This power is experienced only by those who are united with Christ in His suffering. “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings...”
Philippians 3:10
- You cannot separate power of the Resurrection from the Fellowship of His sufferings.



6. The Cross Produces the Resurrection Within Us

- When we accept the Cross:
 - ✓ Our pride dies → humility rises
 - ✓ Our selfishness dies → love rises
 - ✓ Our fear dies → faith rises
 - ✓ Patience is born from hardship
 - ✓ Faith grows through trials
 - ✓ Love deepens through sacrifice
- Abba Moses saying after he was questioned why he didn't respond after he was insulted "I have died to myself—why should a dead man defend himself?"



“if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” **Romans 8:17**