

NO MATTER WHAT

A Study in Philippians.
A Challenge in Joy.



**NO
MATTER
WHAT:**

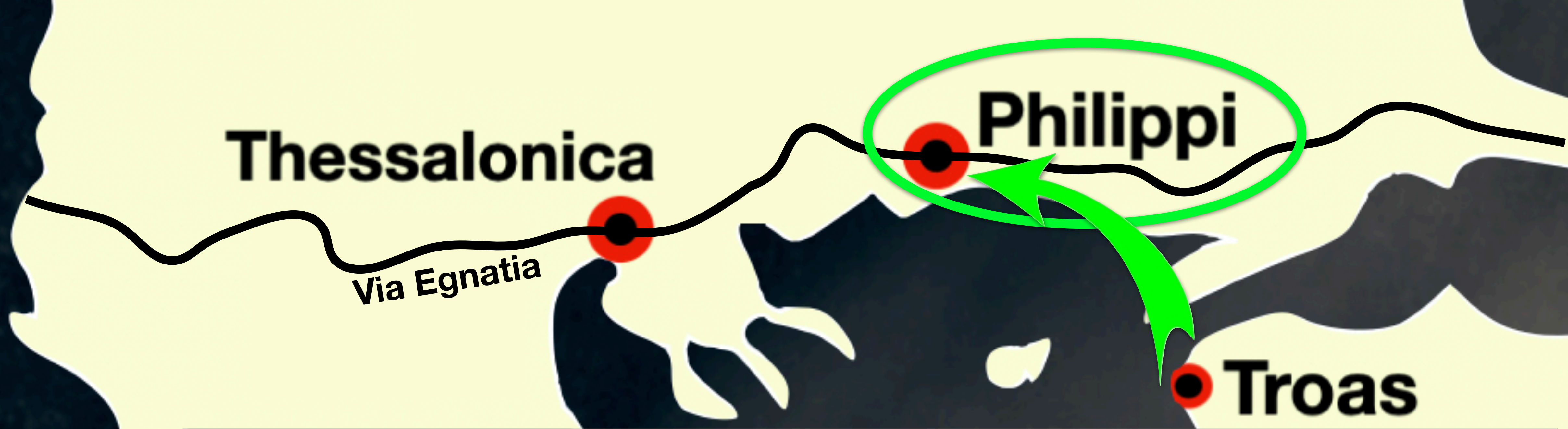
**Well-Placed
Confidence**

Philippians 3:1-21



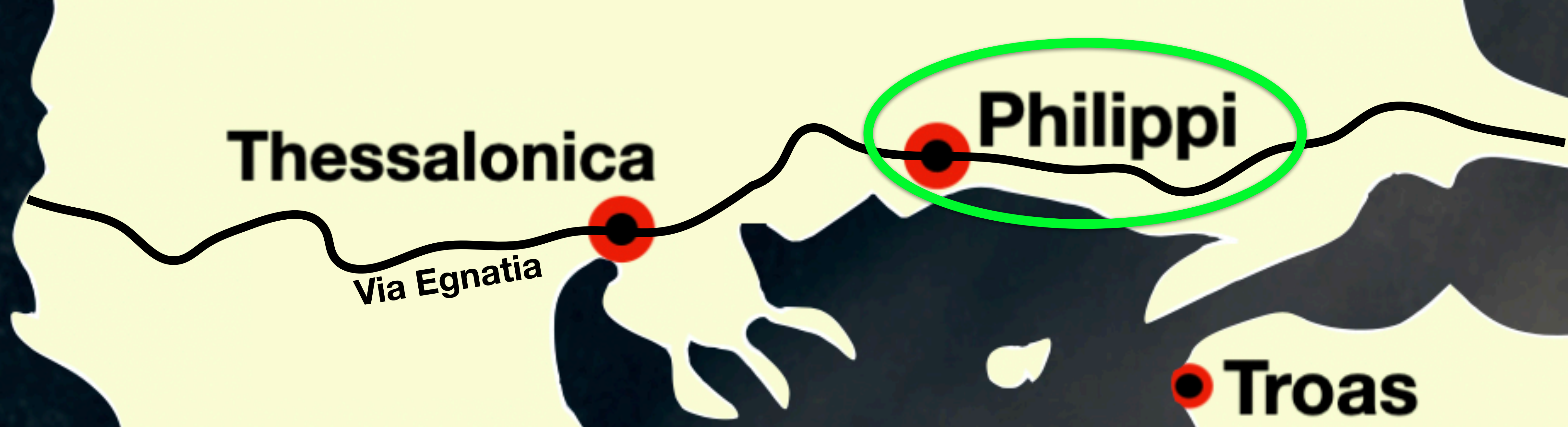


The year is 50AD.
Paul is on his 2nd missionary journey.
He's in Troas, trusting the Lord to lead him.



Acts 16

- Lydia
- Demon possessed woman
- Roman jailer



Thessalonica

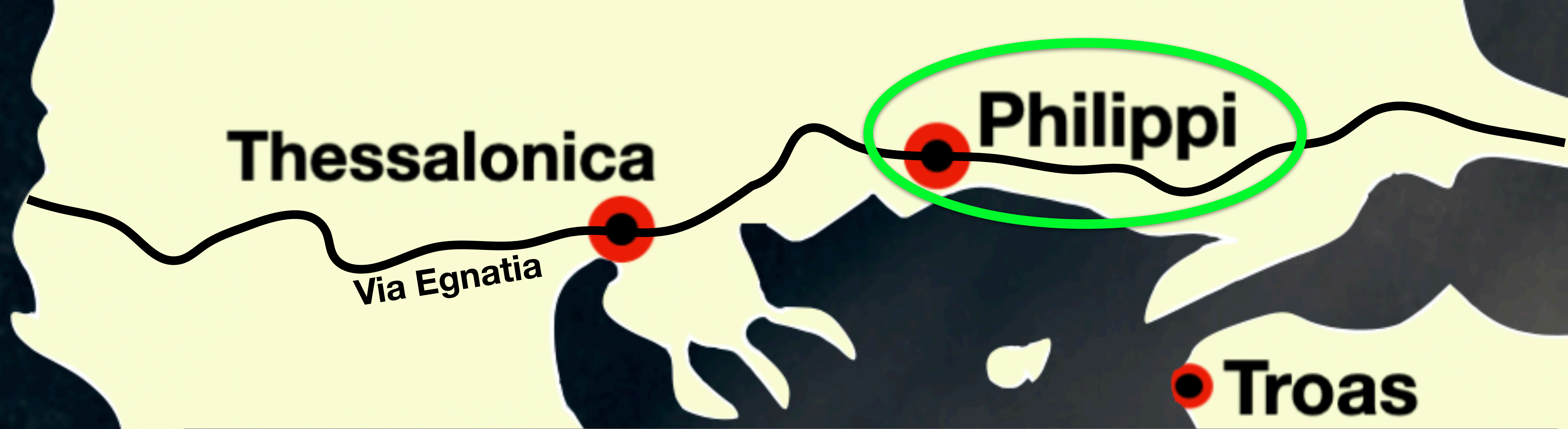
Via Egnatia

Philippi

Troas

The church in Philippi isn't exactly the "Who's Who list of Religious Leaders."

Enpho



Over the next 10 years, the church grows. They genuinely care for Paul. They're faithful.

Ephe

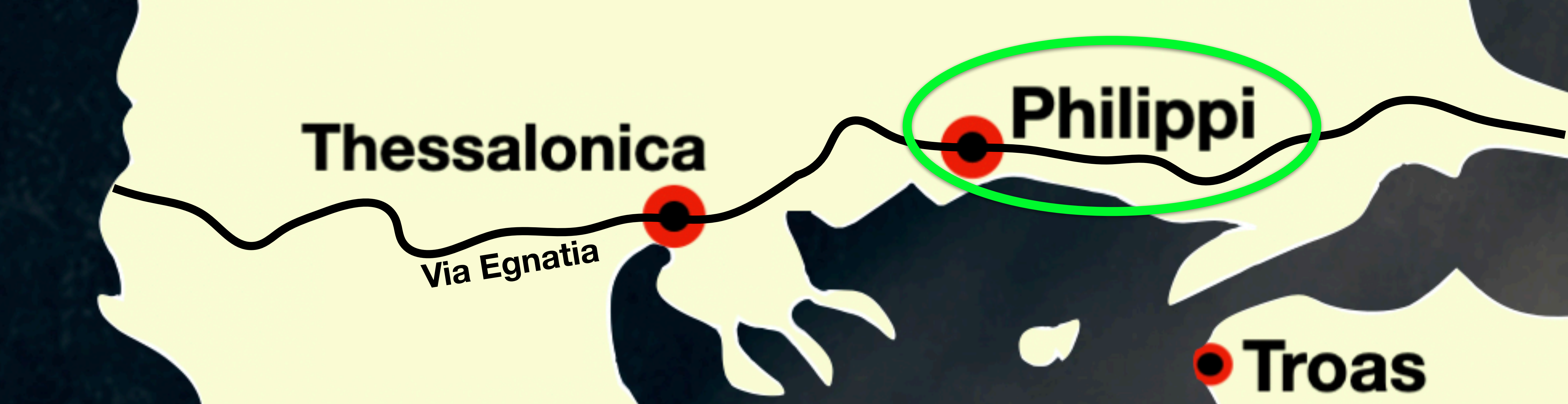


They're a melting pot of people who are in love with Jesus. They bring Paul joy!

Enpho



**But everywhere Paul goes... “
Judaistic teachers” come behind
and bring confusion.**



They teach that you have to keep the Old Testament law to really be a Christian.

Enpho



Paul isn't very happy about it.

Enpho

Philippians 3:1-4

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by His Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

We who are the circumcision

- True believers. Children of God.

1. who serve God by His Spirit

2. who boast in Christ Jesus

3. who put no confidence in the flesh

Putting confidence in **the flesh**

- **What we do.**
 - Our works. Our "good deeds".
 - Believing we can earn God's favor.
- **Who we are.**
 - Our ancestry. Our status. Our ethnicity.

Paul uses himself as an example (vv. 4-6):

Confidence in "The Flesh"

- Circumcised on 8th day
- Of the "people of Israel"
- Of the tribe of Benjamin
- A "Hebrew of Hebrews"
- A Pharisee
- Fanatically zealous
- A "faultless" law keeper

True believers / Children of God

- Serve God by His Spirit
- Boast in Christ Jesus
- Put no confidence in "the flesh"

Paul uses himself as an example (vv. 4-6):

Confidence in "The Flesh"

True believers / Children of God

- Circumcised on 8th day
- Of the "people of Israel"
- Of the tribe of Benjamin
- A "Hebrew of Hebrews"
- A Pharisee
- Fanatically zealous
- A "faultless" law keeper

- Serve God by His Spirit
- Boast in Christ Jesus
- Put no confidence in "the flesh"

GARBAGE!

Paul uses himself as an example (vv. 4-6):

Confidence in "The Flesh"

True believers / Children of God

- Circumcised on 8th day
- Of the "people of Israel"
- Of the tribe of Benjamin
- A "Hebrew of Hebrews"
- A Pharisee
- Fanatically zealous
- A "faultless" law keeper

GARBAGE!

**Knowing Christ
on the
Basis of Faith**

(vv. 9-10)

Knowing Christ on the Basis of Faith (vv. 9-10)


1. This isn't an easy journey. (v. 10)

**2. We can't be controlled by
our past. (vv. 12-14)**

Instead, we...

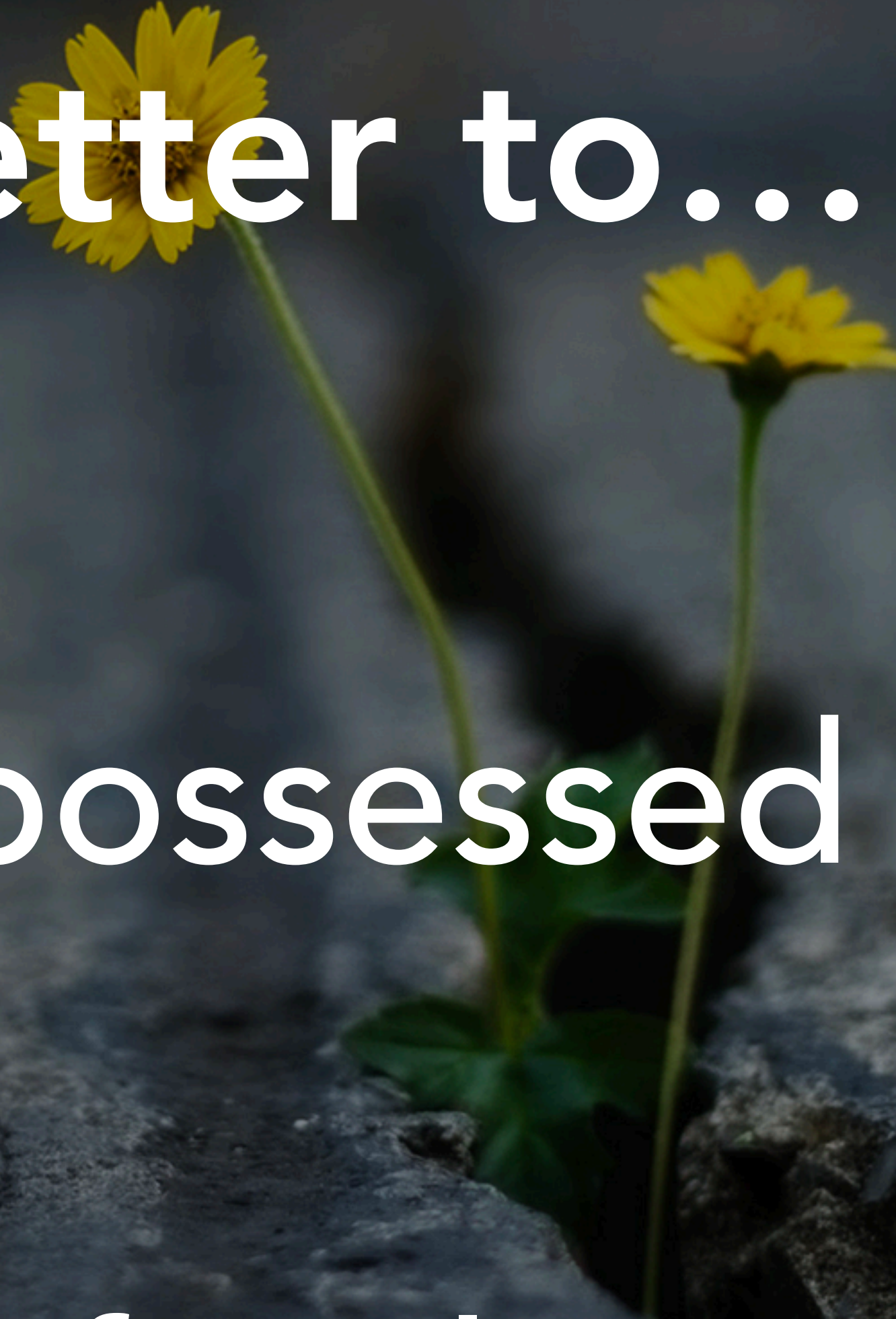
**Follow in the
footsteps of Godly
examples. (v. 17)**



The background of the image shows two bright yellow daisy-like flowers with dark centers, growing from a narrow crack in a dark, textured, greyish surface. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the flowers against the dark background.

**Remember that heaven
is our home. (vv. 20-21)**

And let's not forget who
Paul was writing this letter to...



- Lydia & her family.
- A previously demon-possessed woman.
- A Roman jailer & his family.

The Lord can use you to make an eternal difference in “the world” around you.

- Rejoice.
- Don't look backwards.
- Expect a struggle.
- Don't give up.

