



ROMAINS

a new family of faith in the age of empire



ROMANS
CHAPTER
14

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 10-POINTER!

**If you don't follow Jesus,
do whatever you want.**

**If you are a follower of
Jesus, do what He says.**

How do we know what Jesus says?

**Communally,
we seek the Holy Spirit &
study the Holy Scriptures.**

ROMANS 14:1

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

REMINDER #1

Do not quarrel over disputable matters.



INDISPUTABLE BELIEFS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

Divinity of Jesus Christ

Original Sin and its impact

Church as salvific community

Trinity, the essence of God

Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Incarnation of Jesus Christ

New creation for those in Jesus Christ

Eschatology, the return of Jesus Christ

**SERMON SERIES FROM
FEBRUARY 2021**

WHAT IS DISPUTABLE?

How do we know what Jesus says?

Communally, we seek the Holy Spirit & study the Holy Scriptures.

Issues with a

→ **Lack of consensus,**
→ **Differing convictions,**
→ **& Biblical tension.**

ROMANS 14:2-6

One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.



VS



VICTIM

**SOMEONE WHO CULTIVATES THEIR HARDSHIP
TO GENERATE SYMPATHY & MORAL OUTRAGE**

BULLY

**SOMEONE WHO LEVERAGES THEIR MORAL
OUTRAGE TO DEMEAN, MOCK, & ABUSE OTHERS**

ROMANS 14:2-6

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike.



*Cultural Distinctives
of Jewish People*

- 1. Practice the Sabbath*
- 2. Eat a Kosher Diet*
- 3. Practice Circumcision*

ROMANS 14:2-6

Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

REMINDER #2

You are not qualified to evaluate other people's obedience.

ROMANS 14:7-9

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.

Romans 12:4-5

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, **and each member belongs to all the others.**

ROMANS 14:7-9

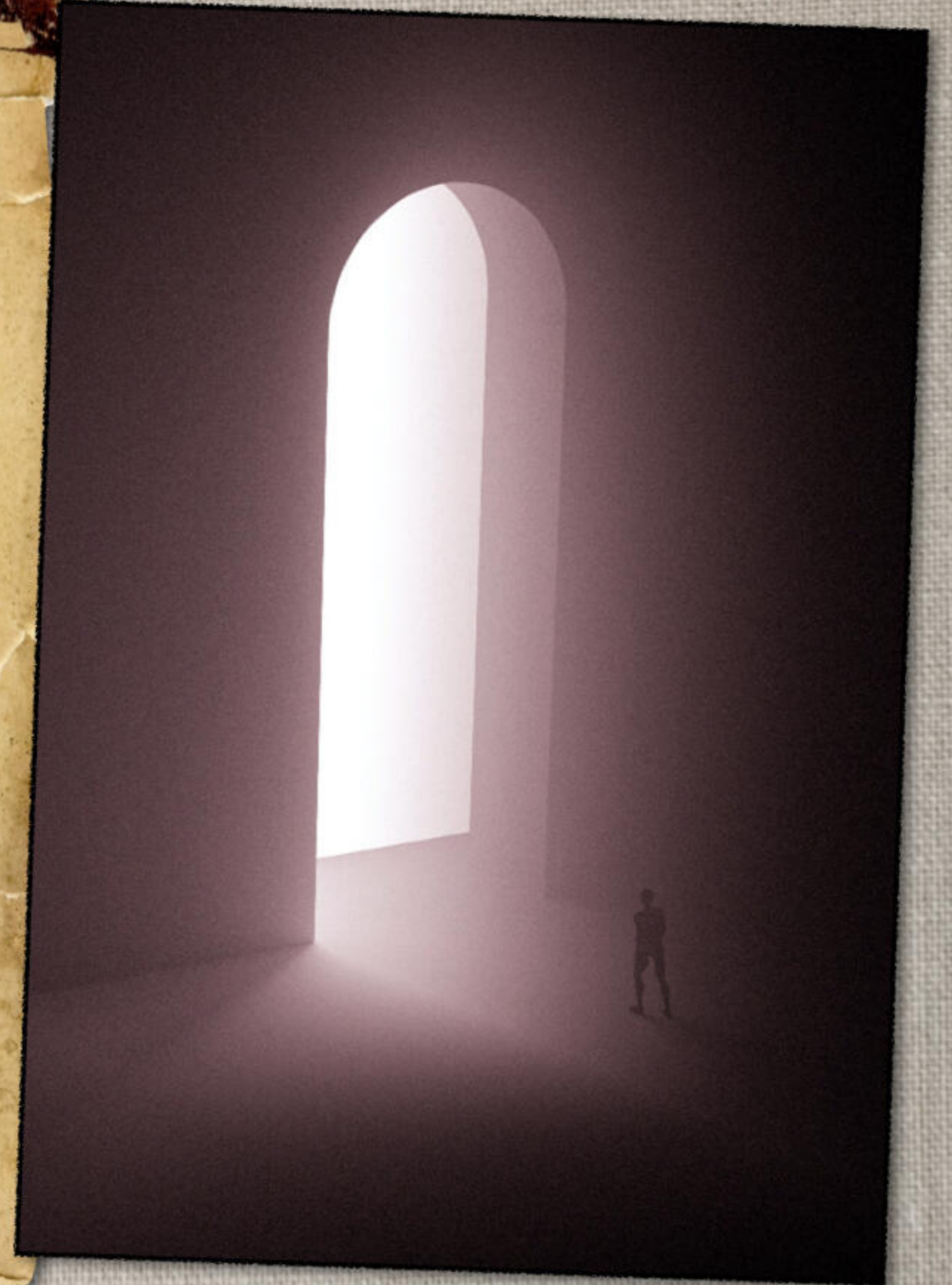
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

REMINDER #3

*We belong to God
and to one another.*

ROMANS 14:10-12

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.



ROMANS 14:10-12

It is written: “As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”
So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

REMINDER #4

*Each of us will give
an account of our
lives to God*

ROMANS 14:13-16

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

ROMANS 14:13-16

I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.



ROMANS 14:13-16

If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

REMINDER #5

You can have a correct view and still be wrong.

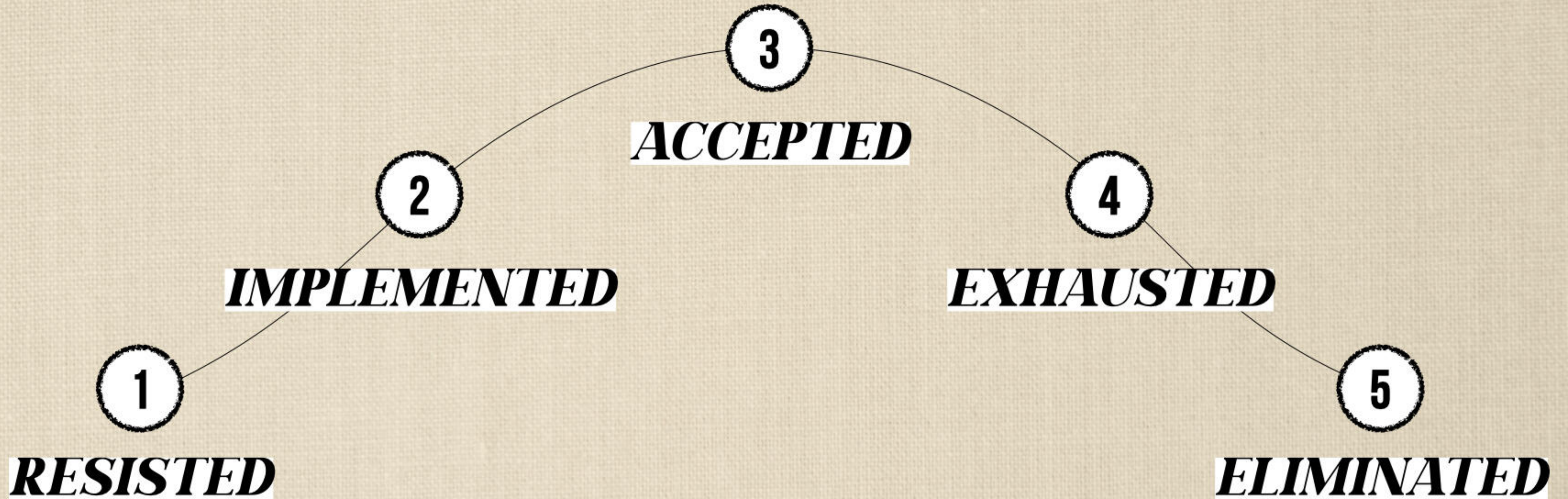
ROMANS 14:17-18

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

REMINDER #6

Christ's coming Kingdom is so much bigger than today's controversy.

LIFE-CYCLE OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES



I am no music scholar, but I feel I know appropriate church music when I hear it. Last Sunday's new song - if you can call it that - sounded like a sentimental love ballad one would expect to hear crooned in a saloon. If you insist on exposing us to rubbish like this - in God's house! - don't be surprised if many of the faithful look for a new place to worship. The hymns we grew up with are all we need.

ROMANS 14:19-21

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.



ROMANS 14:19-21

All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

REMINDER #7

The health of the family is more important than wants and rights of the individual.

ROMANS 14:22-23

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

REMINDER #8

*Overcome your
addiction to
justifying yourself.*

ROMANS 15:1-12

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”



ROMANS 15:1-12

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.



ROMANS 15:1-12

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



ROMANS 15:1-12

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.



ROMANS 15:1-12

As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."



ROMANS 15:1-12

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

REMINDER #9

*For God's sake
accept one another.*

ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

REMINDER #10

The Holy Spirit fills us with joy, peace, and hope.



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