


# WEIGHT OF THE WORLD



**1 and 2 Peter \* THE HEIGHTS FREE CHURCH**

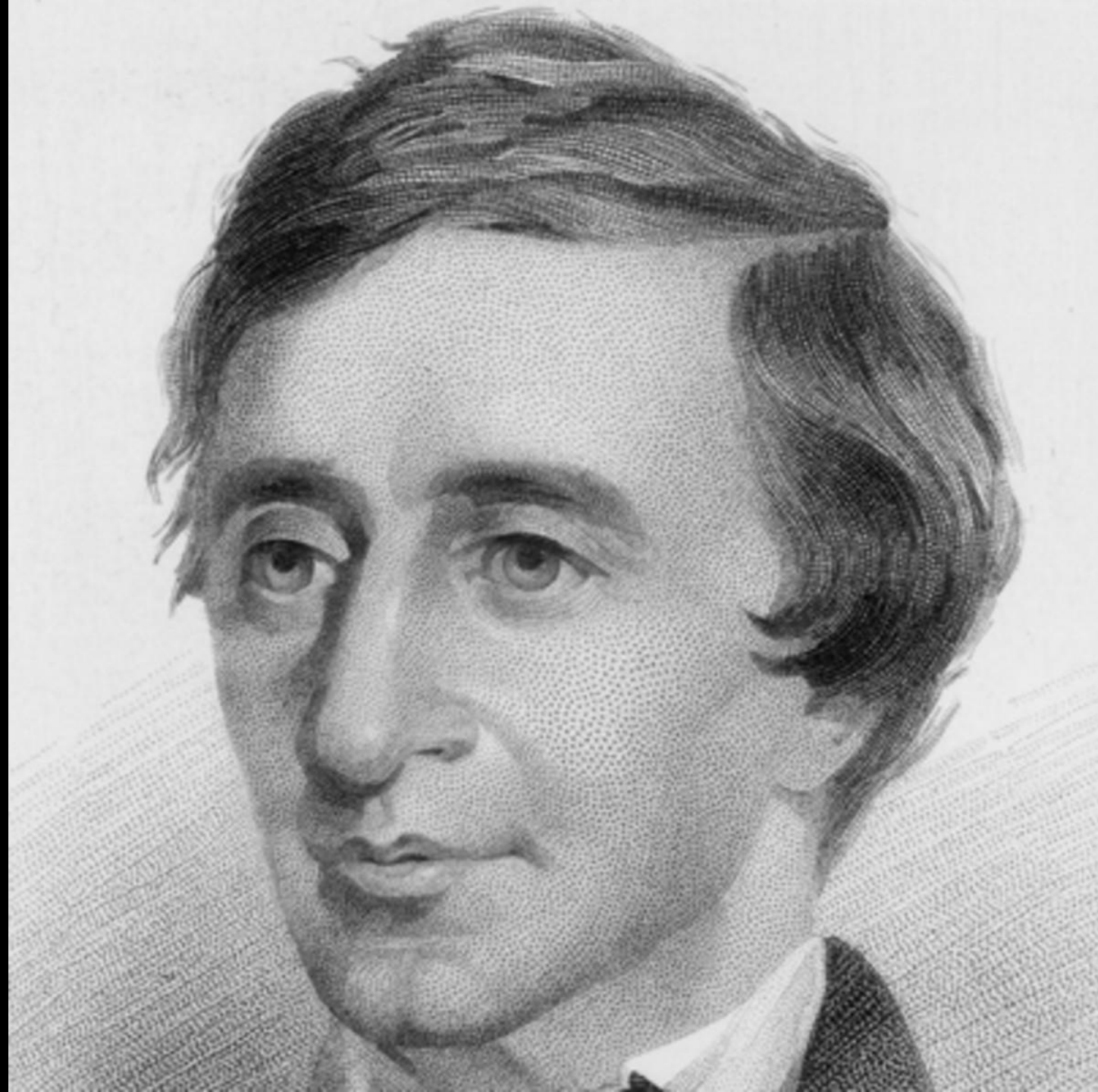












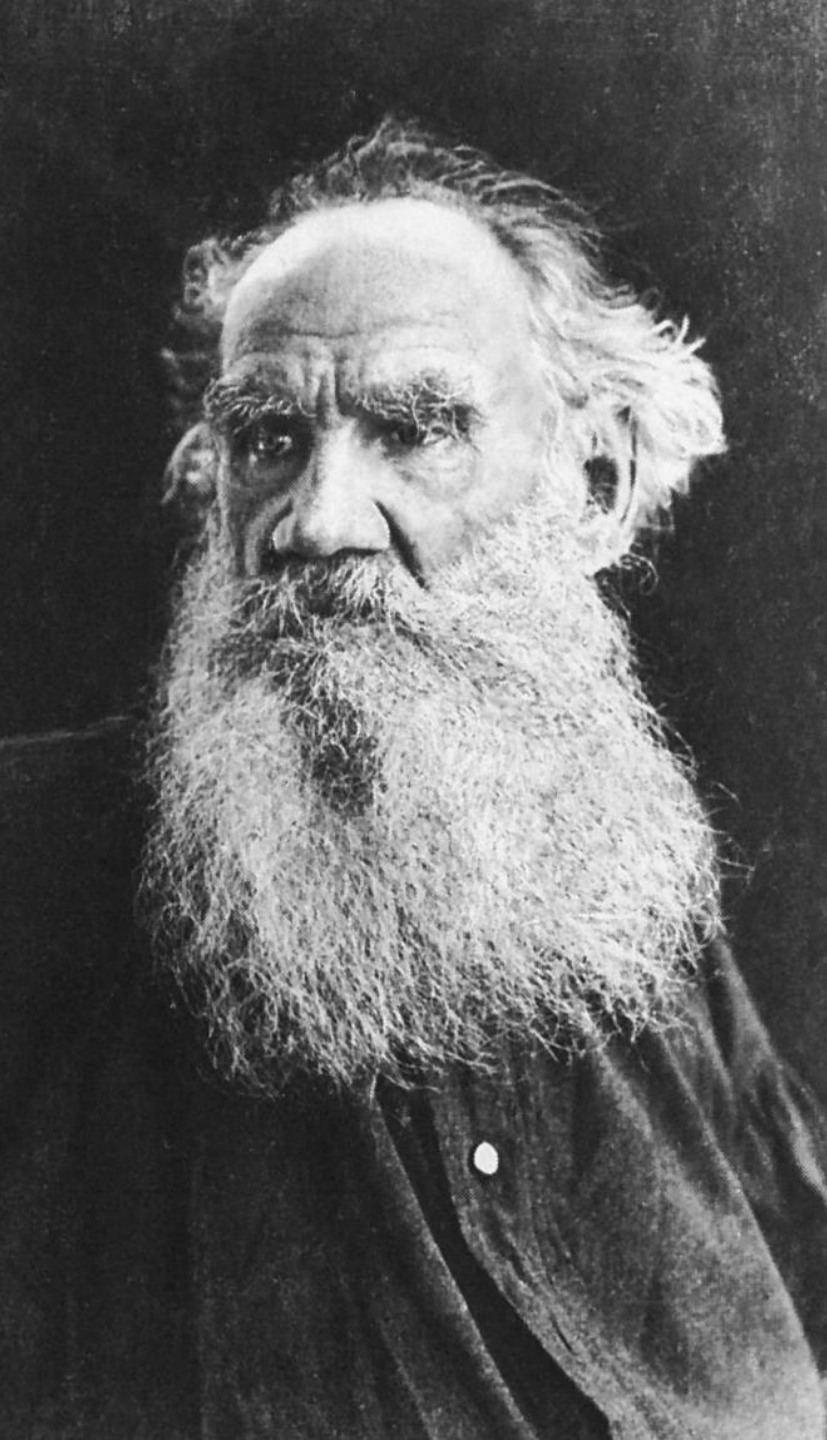


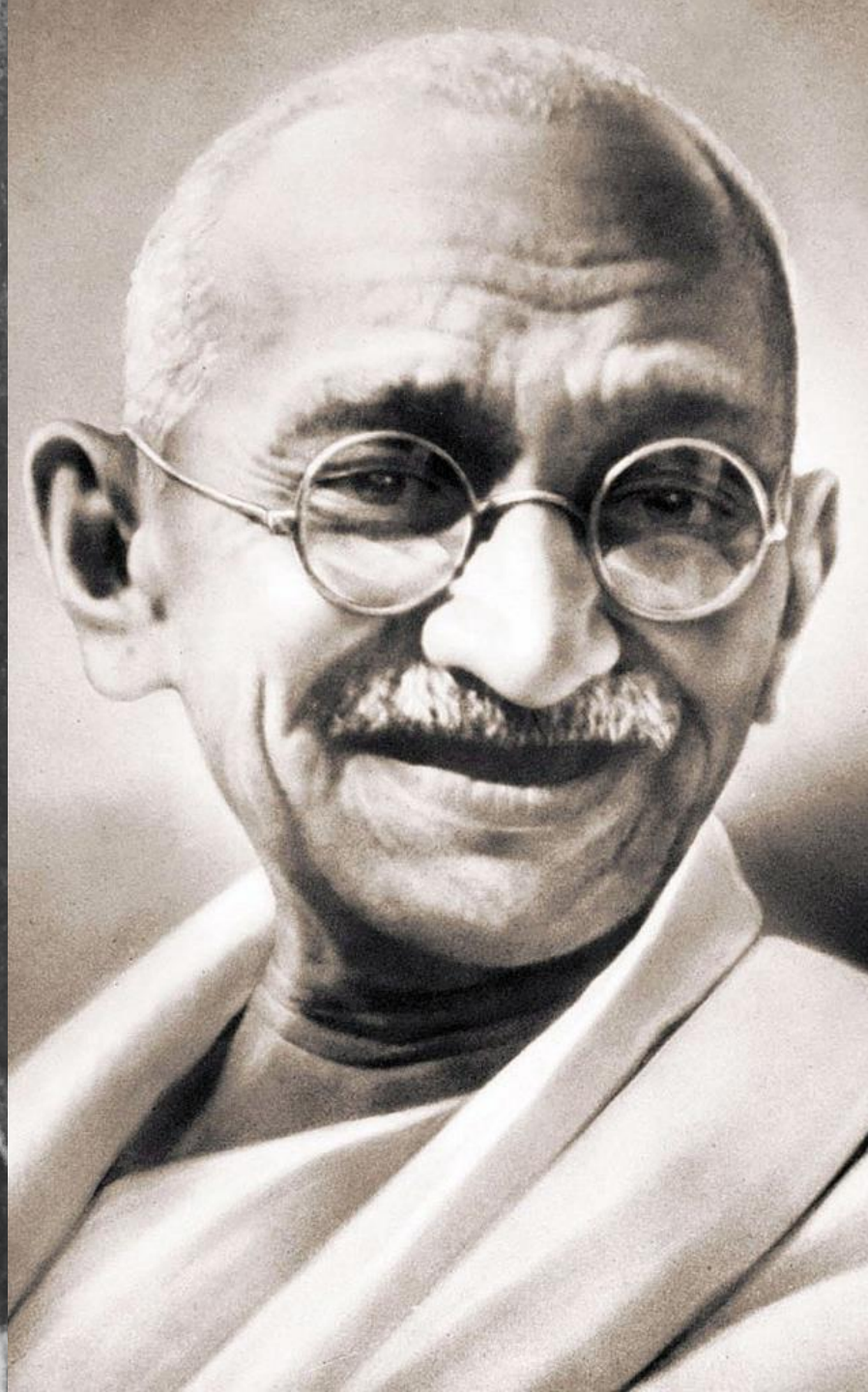
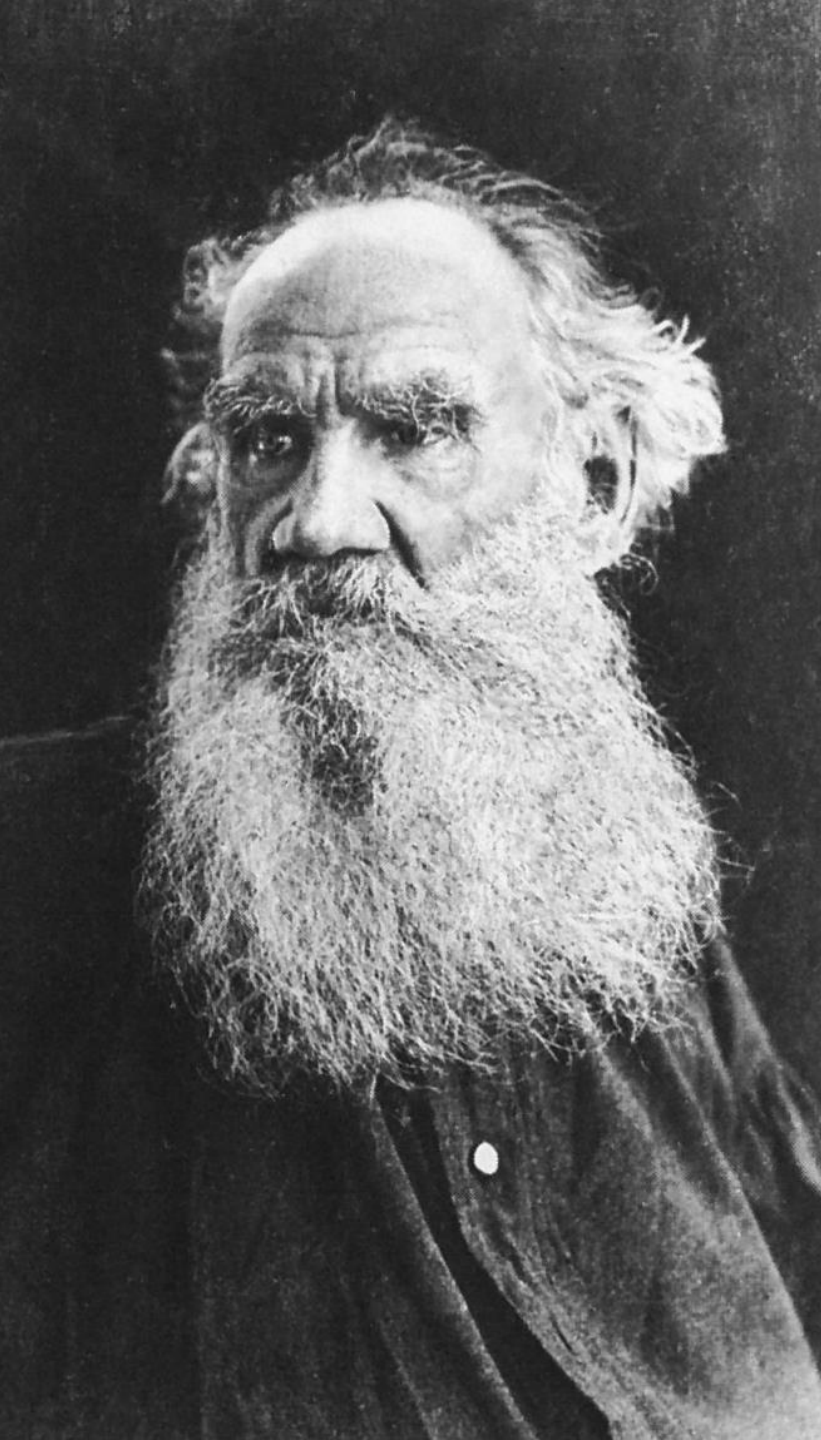


“Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think is right.”

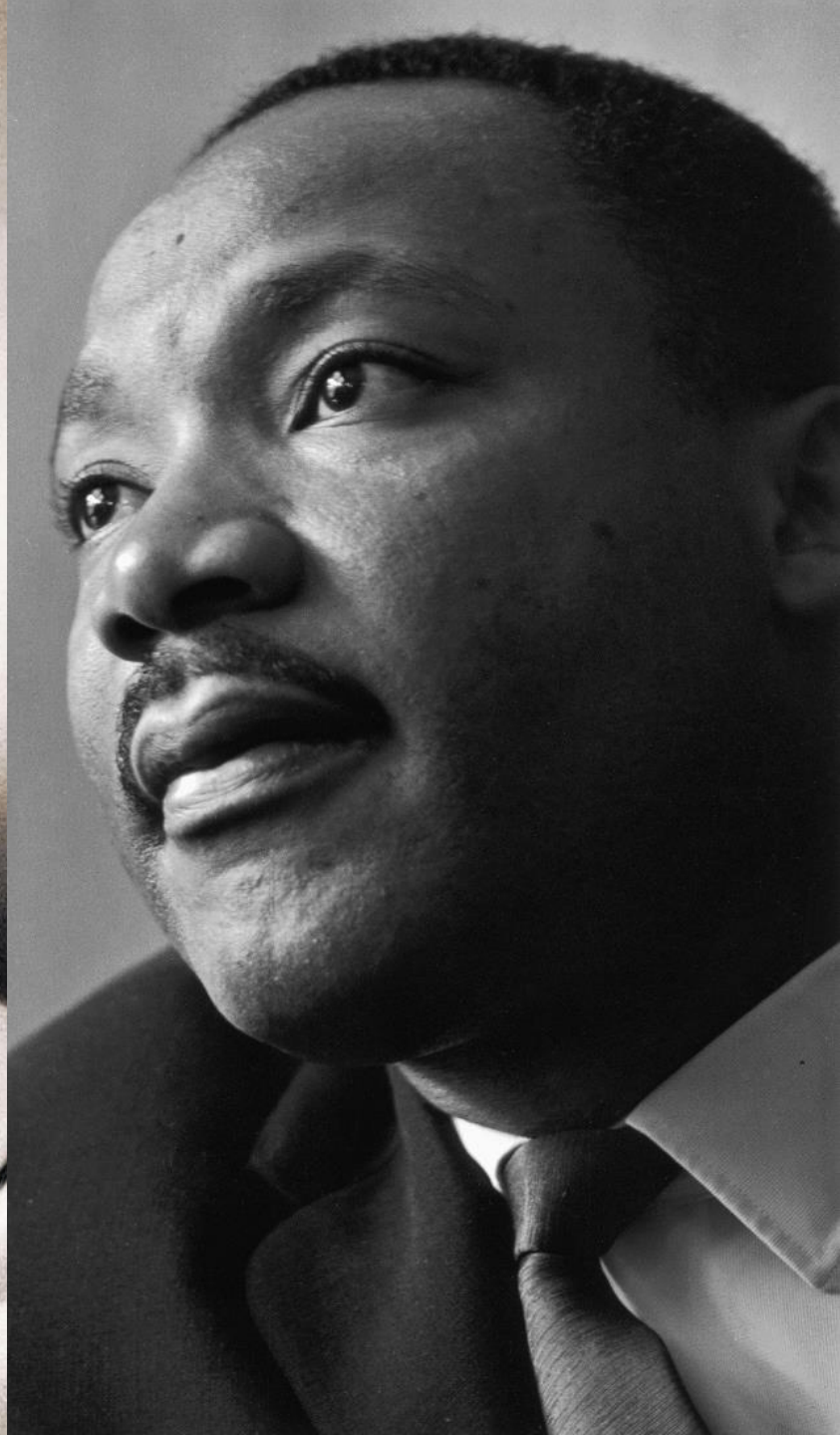
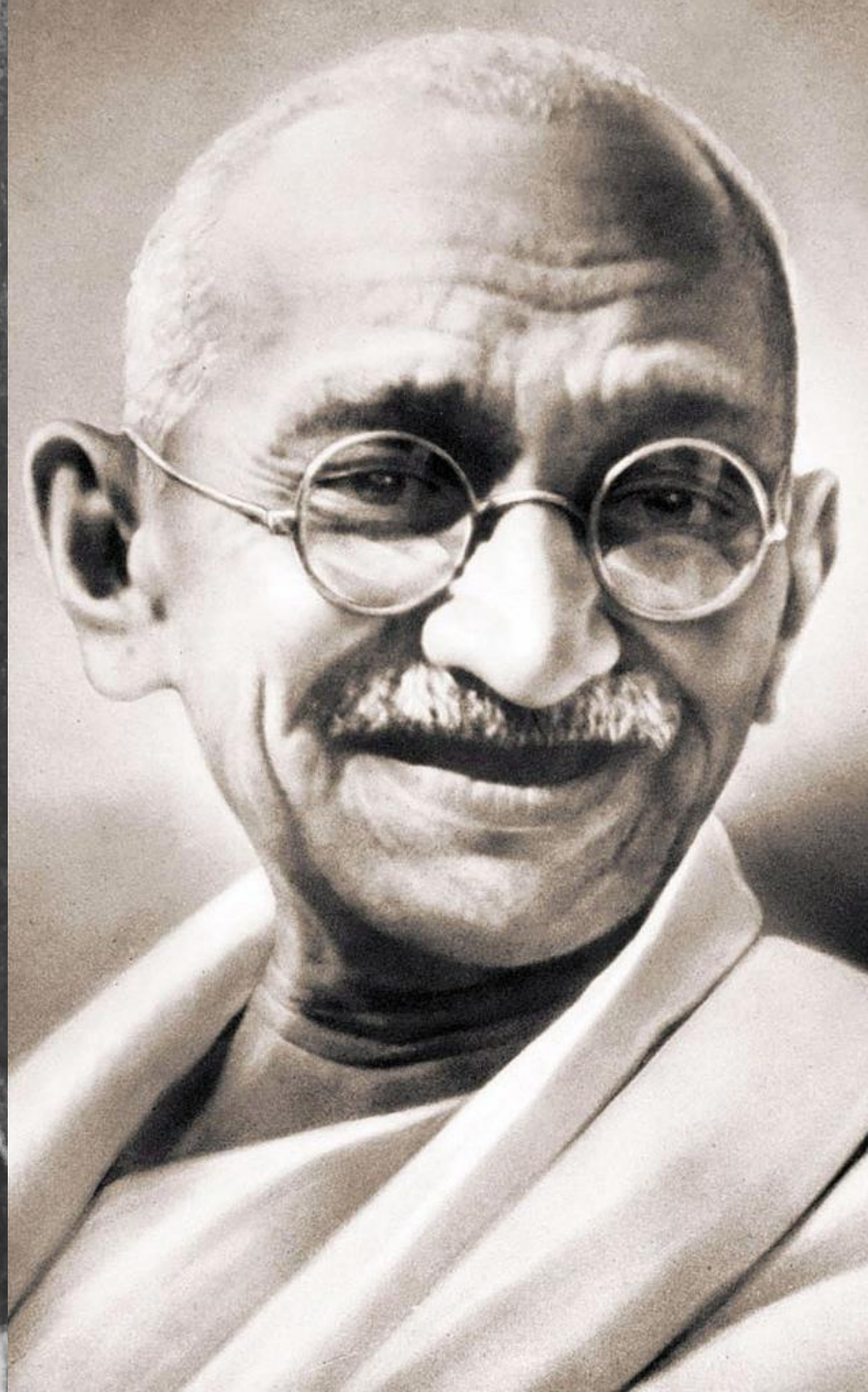
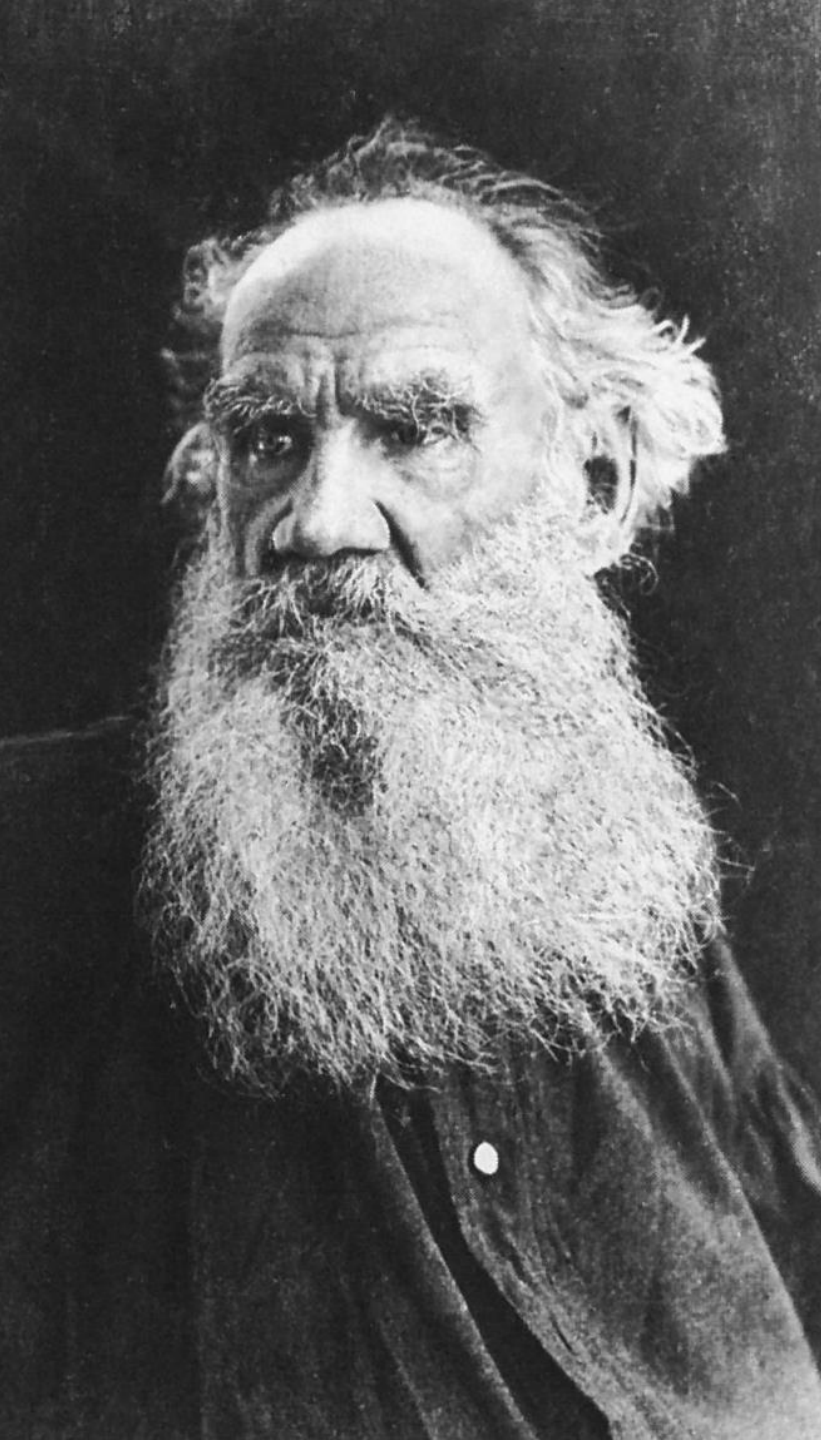
(From Henry David Thoreau's *Civil Disobedience*)











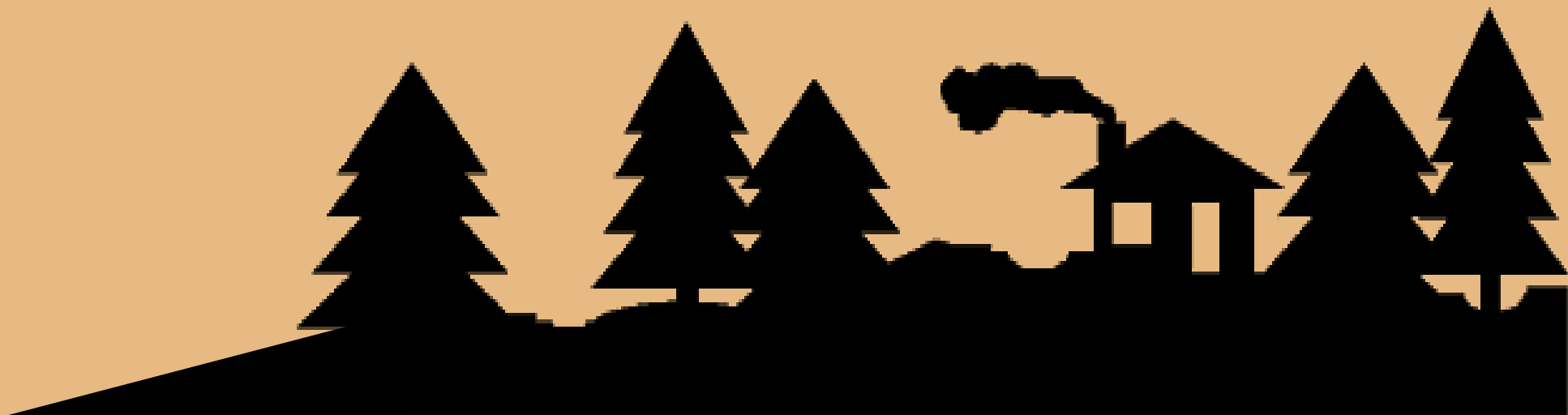





# THE TAXMAN COMETH

1 PETER 2:12-25

JANUARY 24, 2021



# WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

A graphic of the Earth, showing the Americas, is positioned in the center. A small, black silhouette of a person is at the bottom, holding the Earth up with their arms. The person is in a crouched position, looking up at the globe. The text 'WEIGHT OF THE WORLD' is written in large, brown, block letters with a slight shadow, surrounding the central image.

**1 and 2 Peter \* THE HEIGHTS FREE CHURCH**



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1 PETER 2:12-25

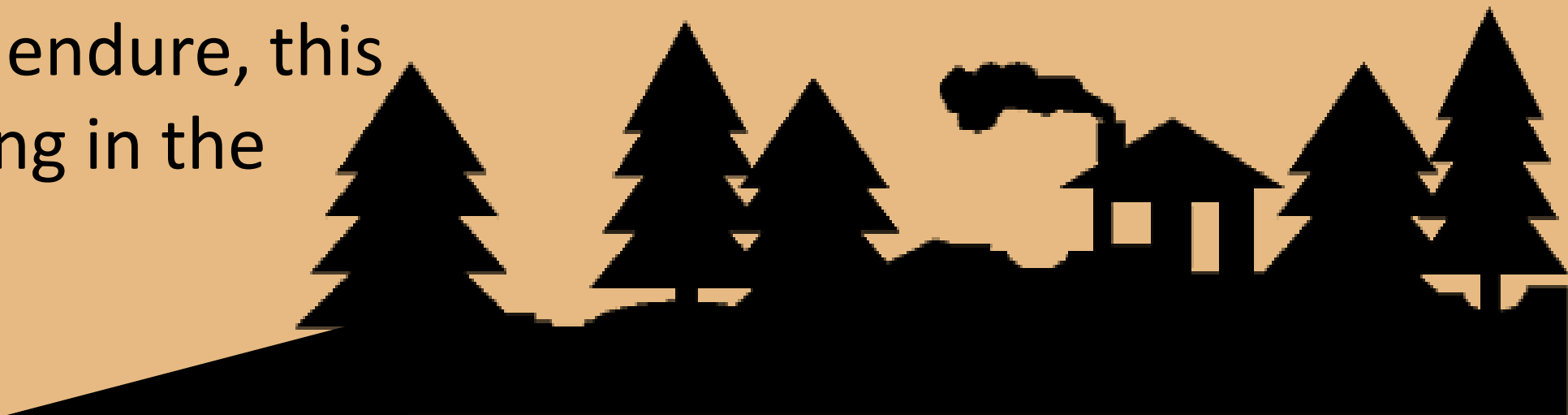
JANUARY 24, 2021



1 Peter 2:12-25 (ESV): “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. **13** Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people...”



“...**16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. **19** For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **20** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God....”





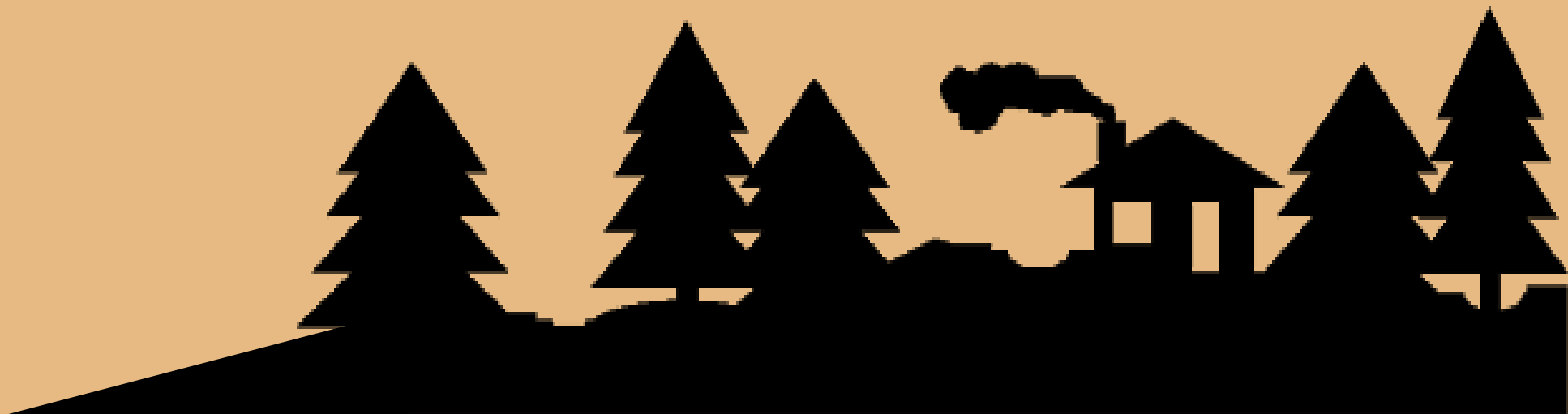
“...**21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”



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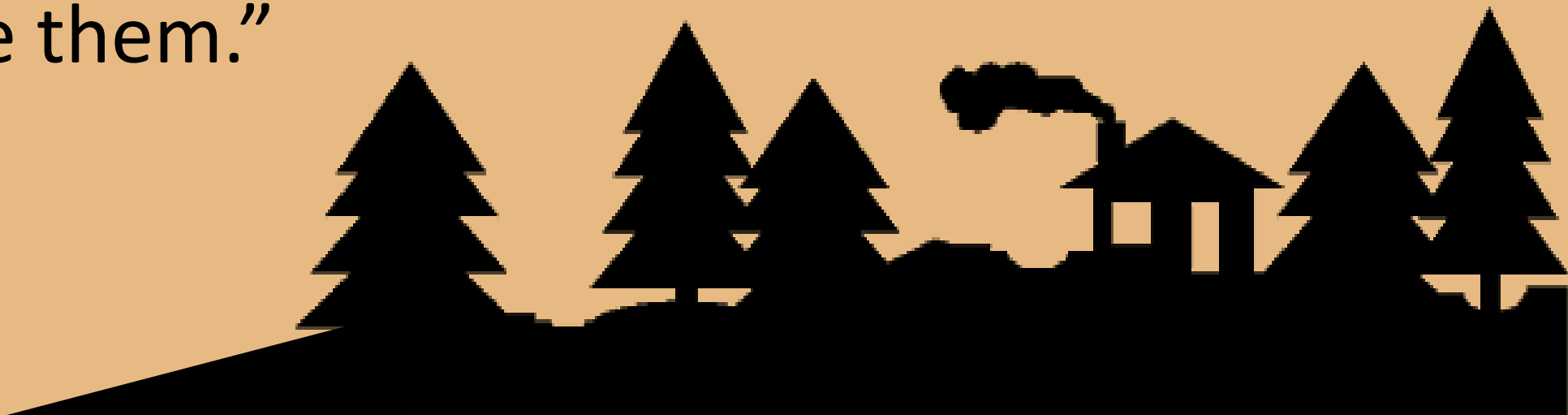


1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV): “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”





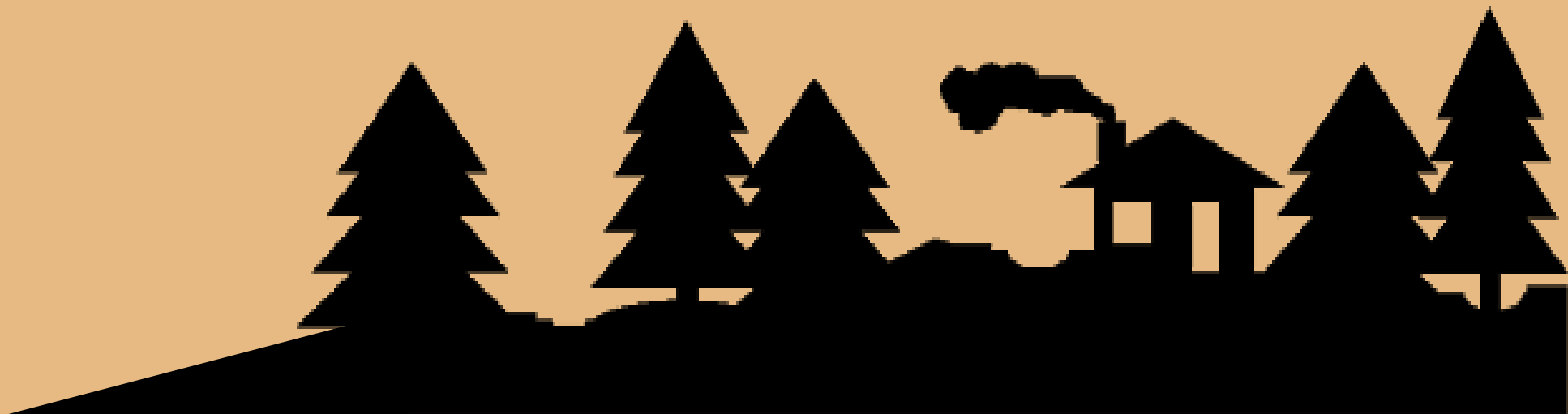
Matthew 23:1-4 (ESV): “Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: **2** ‘The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. **3** So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. **4** They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.”



Acts 16:31 (ESV): “Believe in the Lord  
Jesus, and you will be saved.”



John 19:10-11 (ESV): “So Pilate said to him, ‘You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?’ **11** Jesus answered him, ‘You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.’”





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1 PETER 2:12-25

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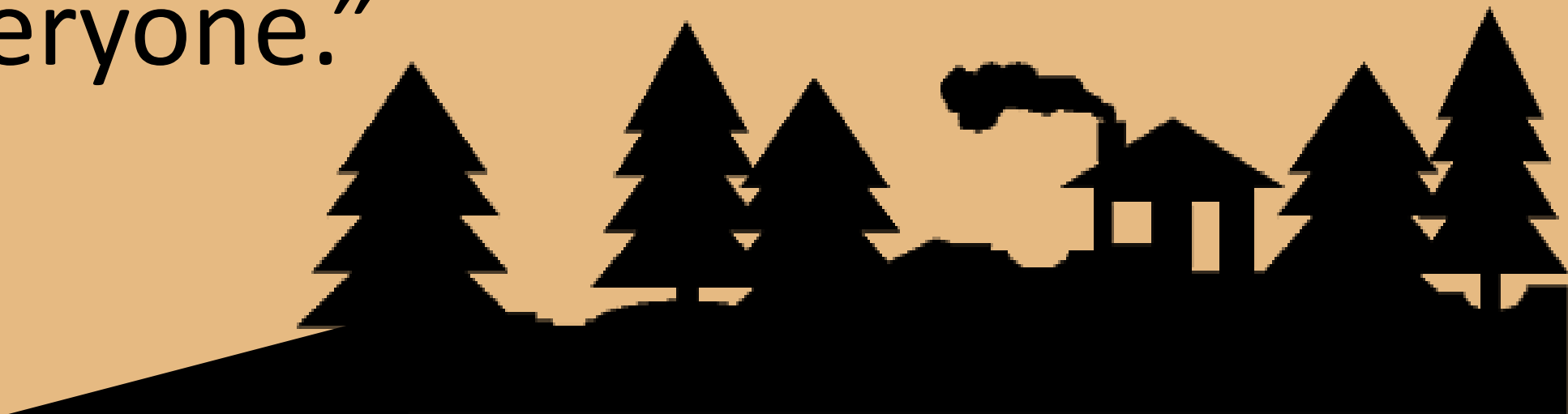


RIGHT  
TRUMPS  
MIGHT.

MAIN POINT

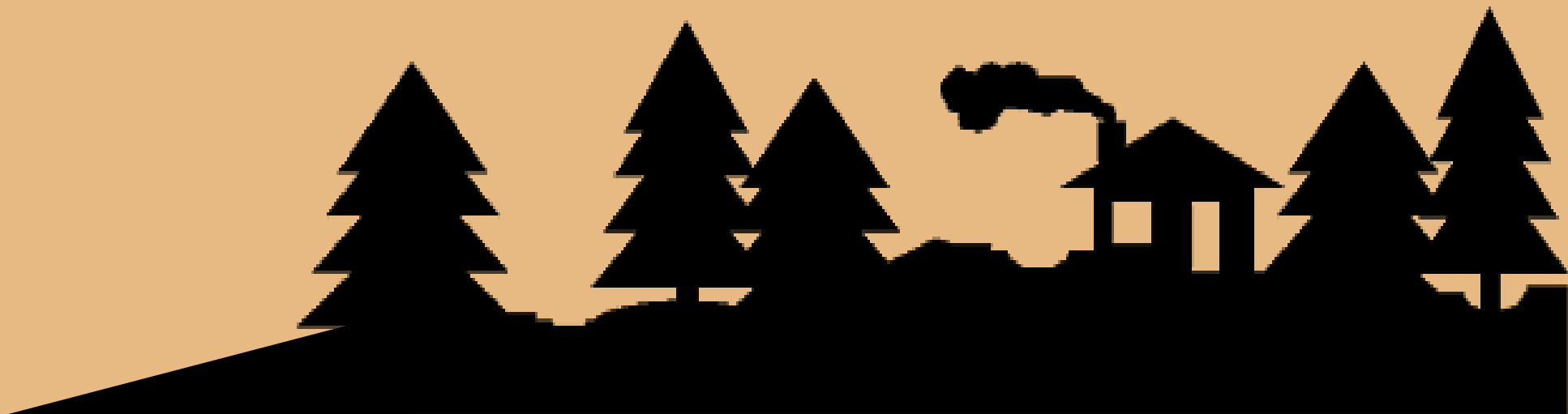


Titus 3:1-2 (NIV): “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, **2** to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.”





Romans 13:3 (NIV): “For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.”



Acts 5:29 (ESV): “Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”







“The commission shall grant a written permit for such parade, procession or other public demonstration, prescribing the streets or other public ways which may be used therefor, unless in its judgment the public welfare, peace, safety, health, decency, good order, morals or convenience require that it be refused.”

(Ordinance 1159 of the General Code of Birmingham)











Acts 4:18-21 (ESV): “So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, **20** for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’ **21** And when they had further threatened them, they let them go.”



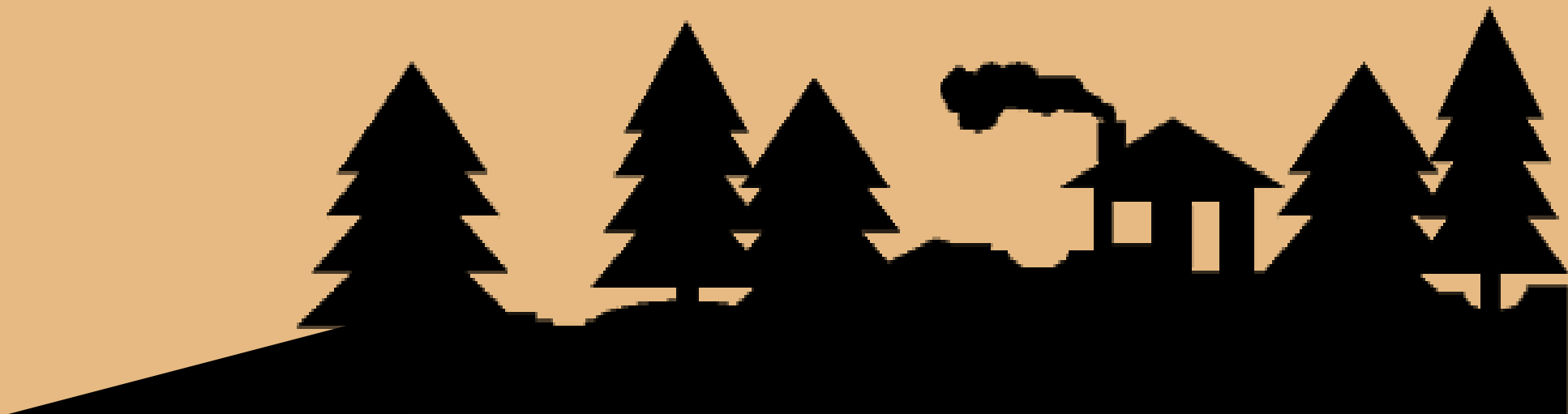
1 Peter 2:17-19 (NKJV): “Fear God. Honor the king. **18** Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. **19** For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.”



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OBEY  
CONSCIENCE  
OVER  
CONSENSUS.

APPLICATION





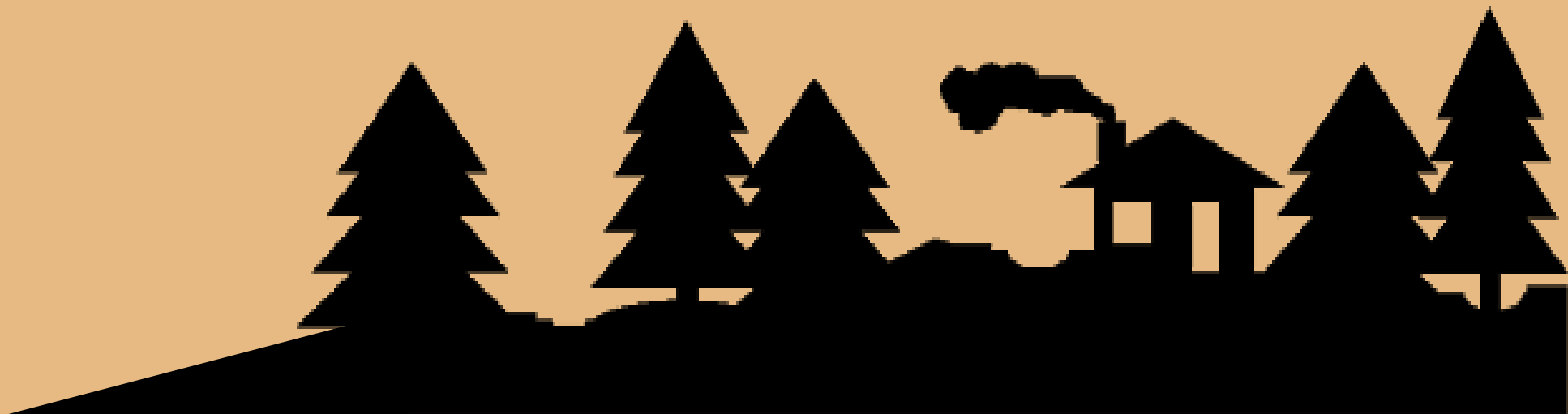
1 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV): “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience.”



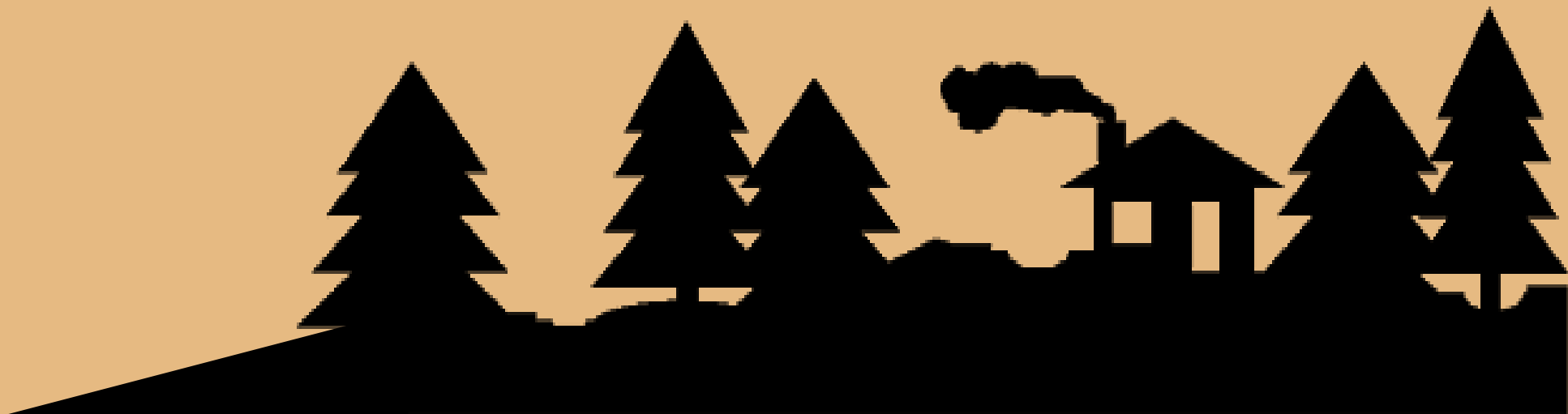
James 2:8 (ESV): “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.”



Romans 13:10 (ESV): “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

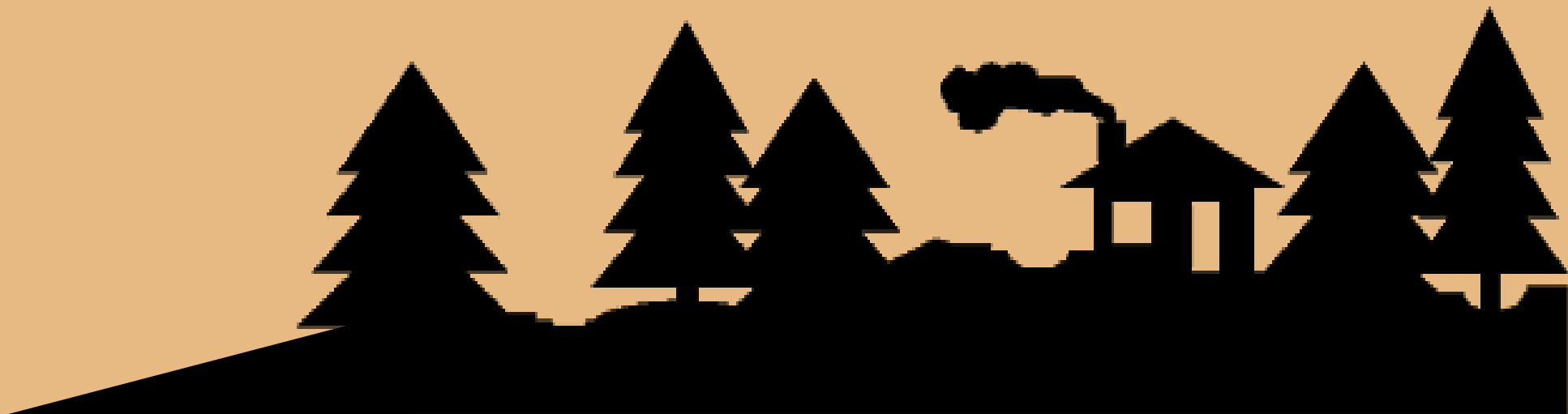


Romans 2:15-15 (ESV): “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them **16** on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”





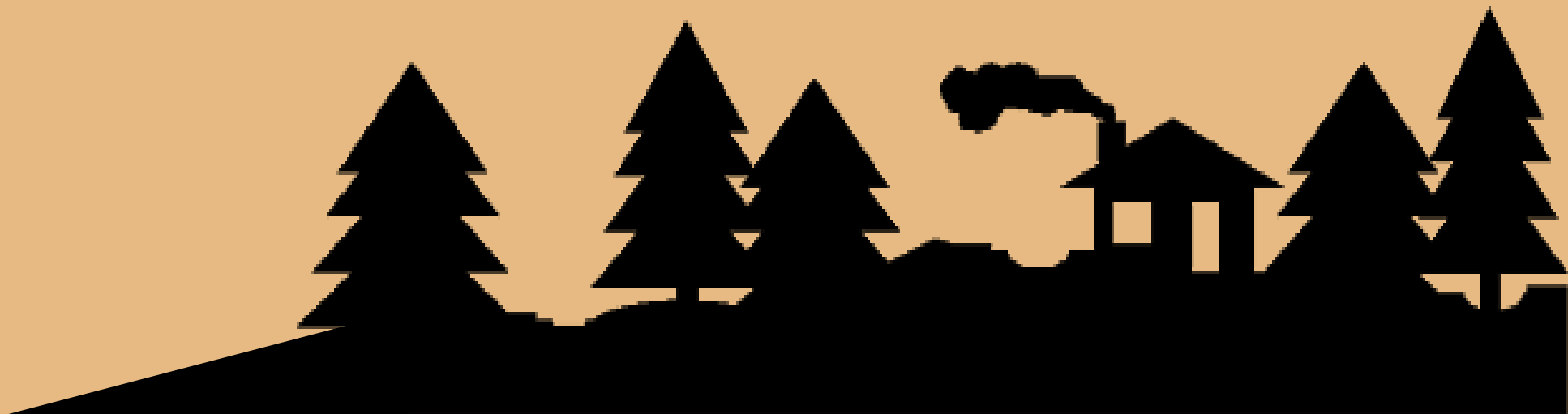
Romans 13:5 (NIV): “Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.”



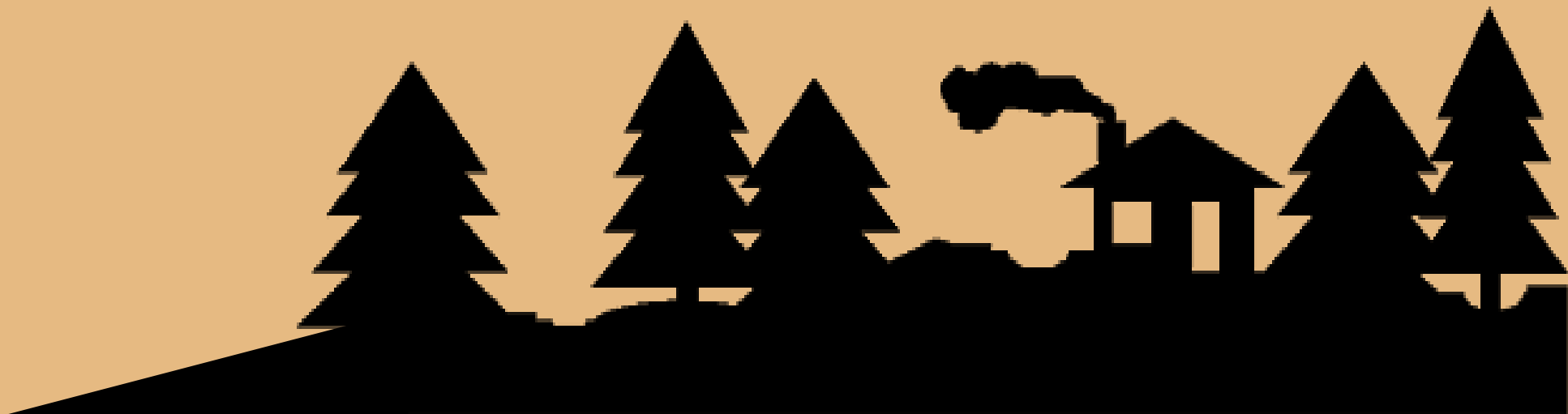
2 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV): “For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God.”



Romans 9:1 (ESV): “I am speaking the truth in Christ – I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit.”

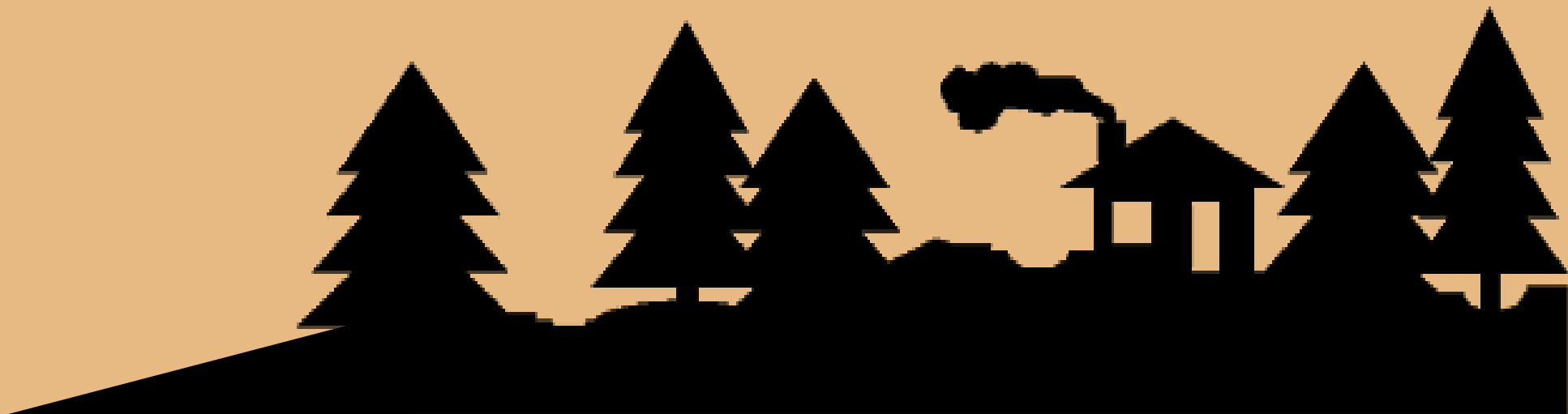


1 Corinthians 10:29 (ESV): “For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience?”





Romans 14:5 (ESV): “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.”



“On some positions cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

(From Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
speech in Washington D.C.,  
February 6, 1968)




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**Next Week: 1 Peter 3:1-7**