

The Fragrant Gospel

芬芳的福音

Acts 使徒行傳 28:23-31

How do I **react** to those who
take **offense** at the gospel?

我如何回應那些對福音
冒犯又生氣的人？

They arranged to **meet Paul** on a certain day,
and came in even **larger numbers**
to the place where he was staying.

He **witnessed** to them
from morning till evening,
explaining about the **kingdom of God**,

and from the **Law** of Moses
and from the **Prophets**
he tried to **persuade** them about Jesus.

24 Some were **convinced** by what he said,
but others **would not** believe.

25 They **disagreed** among themselves
and began to leave
after Paul had made this final statement:

“The **Holy Spirit** spoke the truth
to your ancestors
when he said through **Isaiah** the prophet:

Acts 28:24-25 (NIV) (p.2/5)

26 “‘Go to this people and say,
“You will be ever **hearing**
but never **understanding**;
you will be ever **seeing** but never **perceiving**.”

27 For this people’s **heart**
has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their **ears**,
and they have closed their **eyes**.

Acts 28:26-27 (NIV) (p.3/5)

“‘Otherwise they might **see** with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and **turn**, and I would **heal** them.’

28 “Therefore I want you to know
that God’s **salvation**
has been sent to the **Gentiles**,
and they will listen!”

Acts 28:27-28 (NIV) (p.4/5)

30 For **two** whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and **welcomed** all who came to see him.

31 He **proclaimed** the kingdom of God and **taught** about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all **boldness** and without hindrance!

Acts 28:30-31 (NIV) (p.5/5)

The Fragrant Gospel (Ac28)

1. Paul's heart: **Persuasion** (v23)

保羅的心：勸導

2. Hearers' response: **Partition** (v24-25)

聽眾的回應：劃分

3. Spirit's prophecy: **Promise** (v26-27)

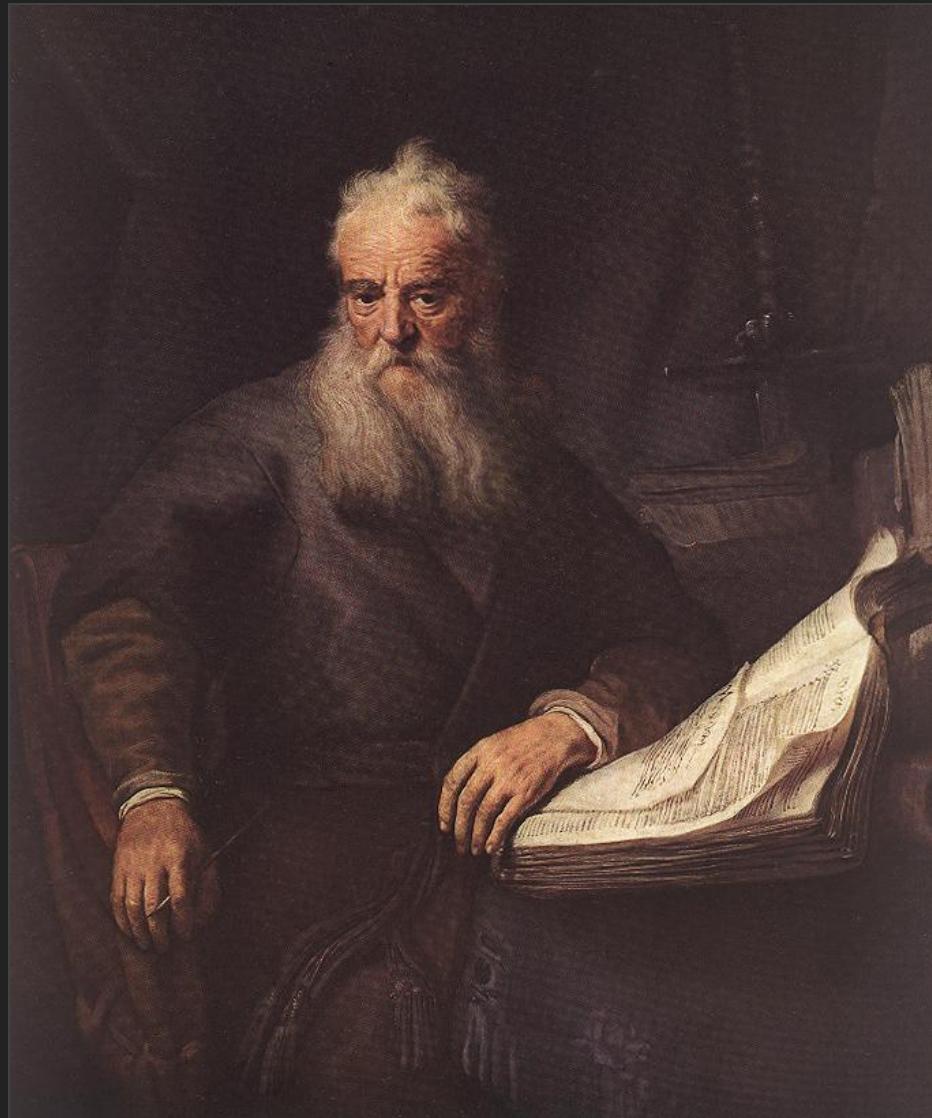
聖靈的預言：應許

4. Paul's lifestyle: **Proclamation** (v28-31)

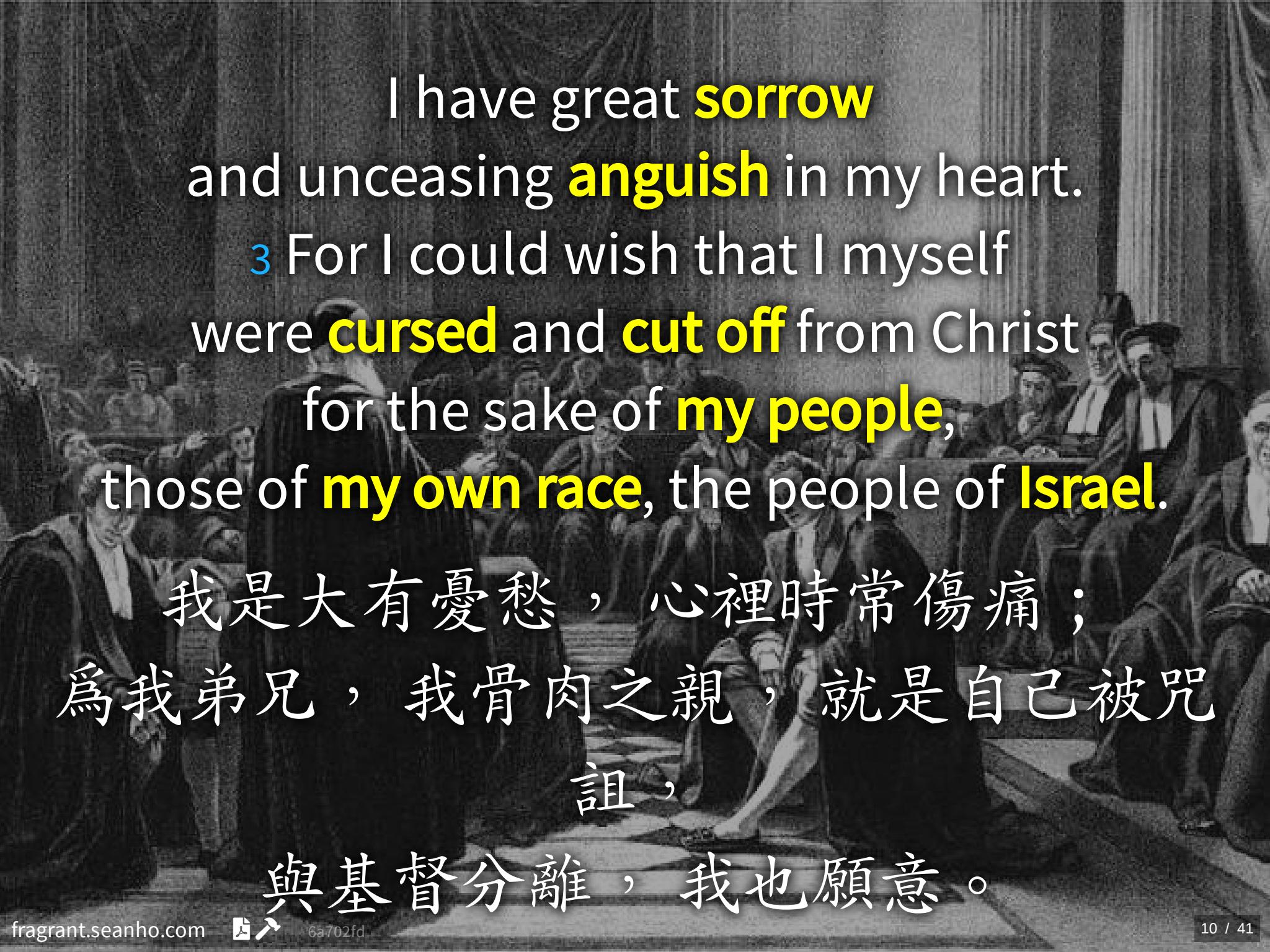
保羅的生活：傳揚

Paul and the Jews

- **Persecution:**
Acts 13-14, 17-18,
21
- **Heart for**
Jews:
Romans 9-11



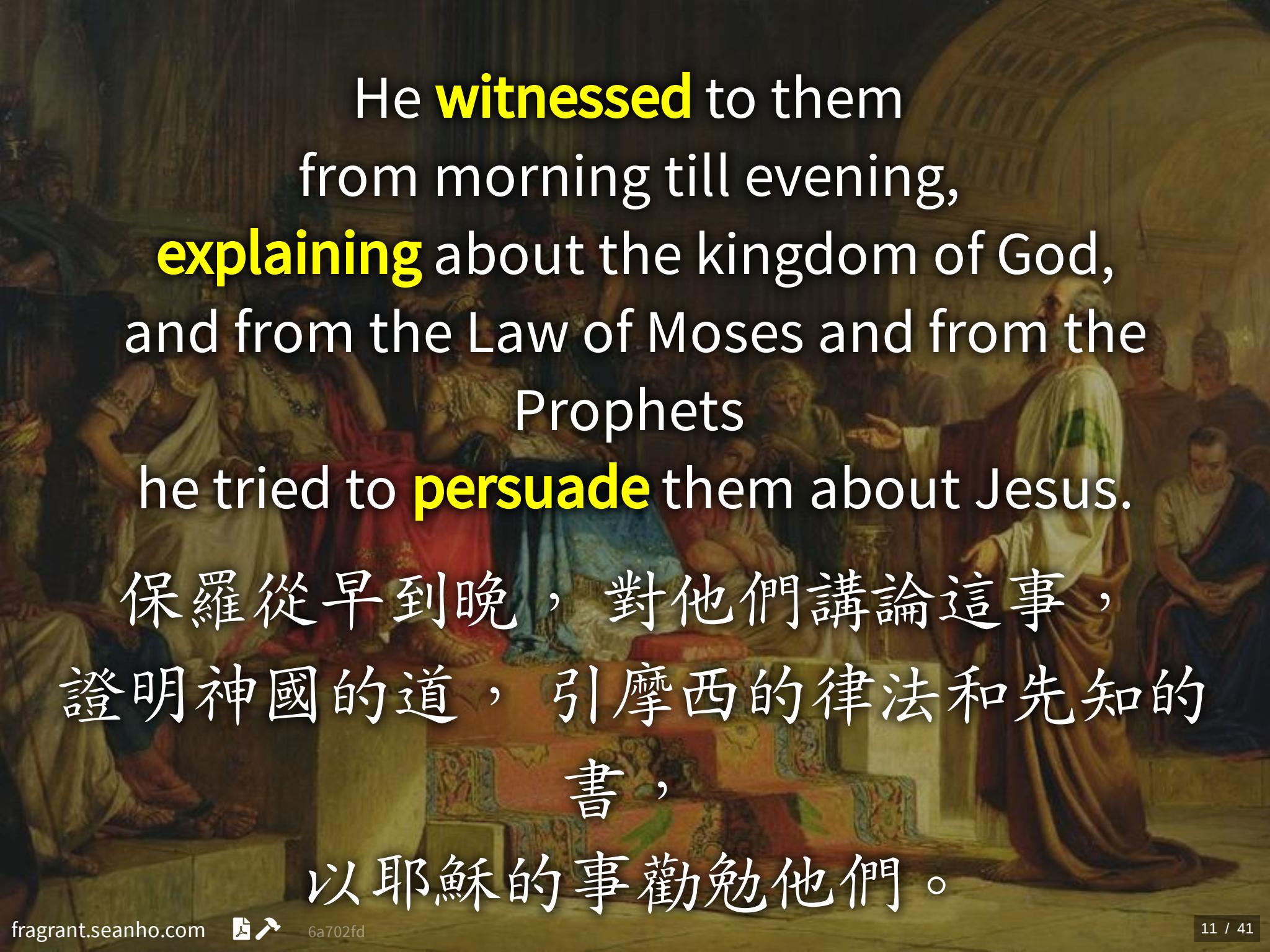
Rembrandt, "Apostle Paul", ~1633



I have great **sorrow**
and unceasing **anguish** in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself
were **cursed** and **cut off** from Christ
for the sake of **my people**,
those of **my own race**, the people of **Israel**.

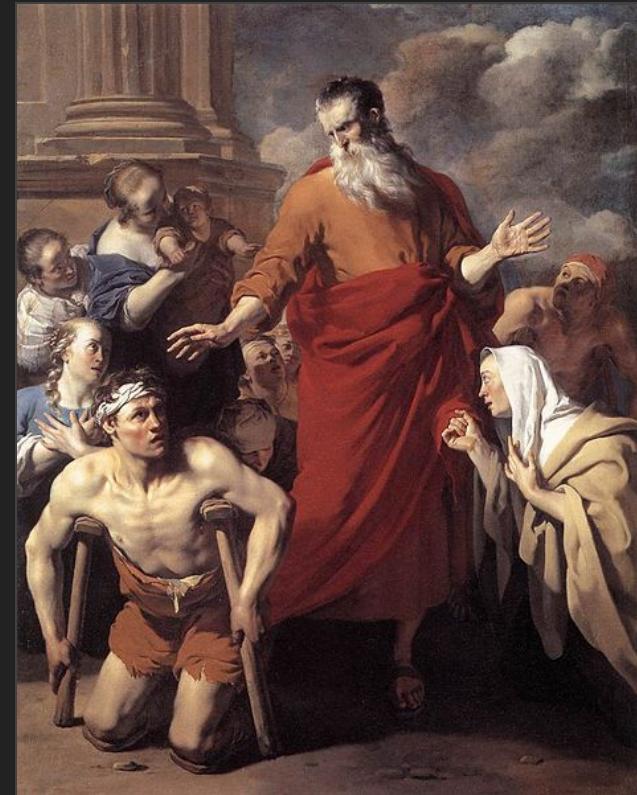
我是大有憂愁，心裡時常傷痛；
爲我弟兄，我骨肉之親，就是自己被咒
詛，
與基督分離，我也願意。



He **witnessed** to them from morning till evening,
explaining about the kingdom of God,
and from the Law of Moses and from the
Prophets
he tried to **persuade** them about Jesus.

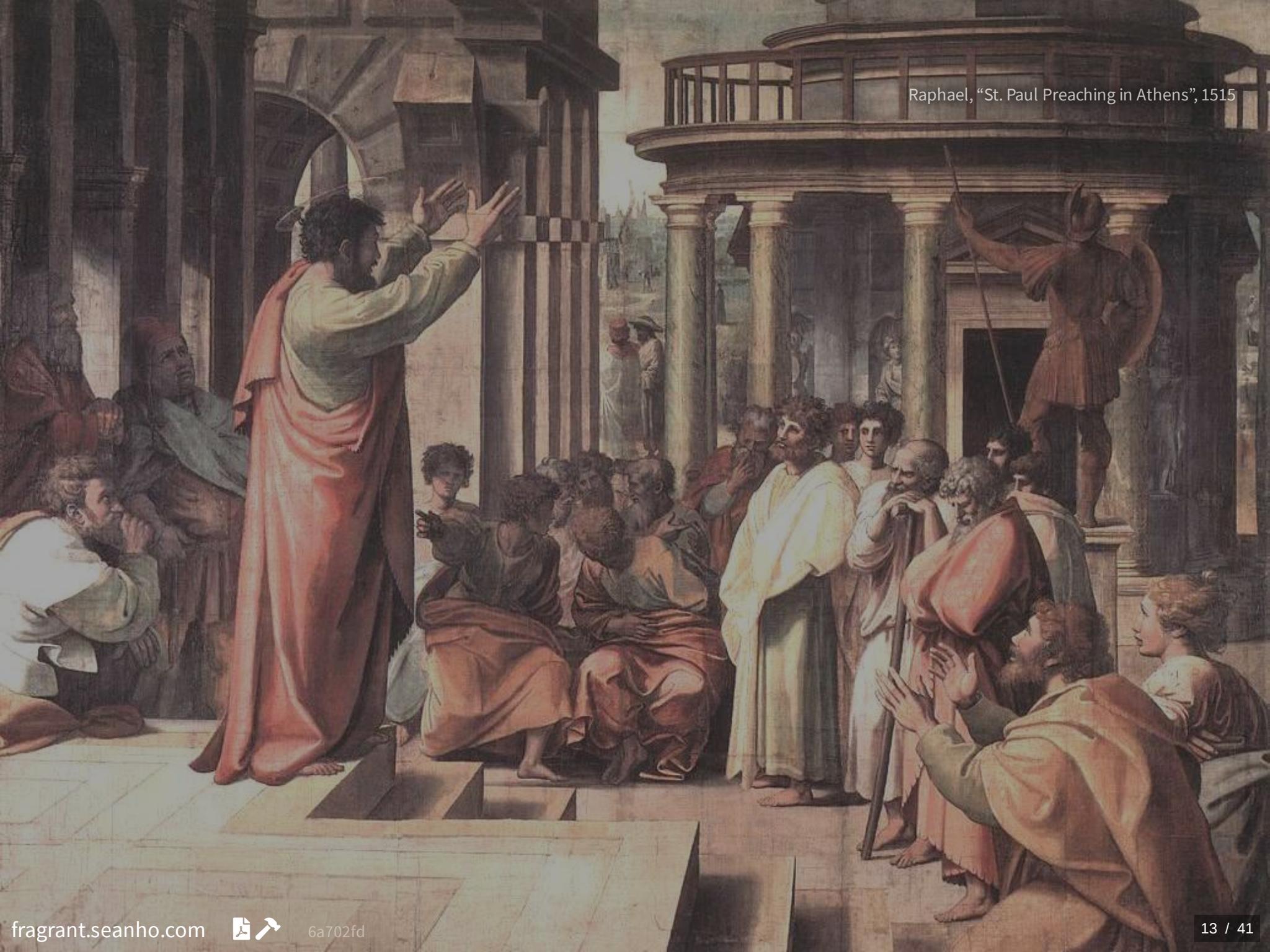
保羅從早到晚，對他們講論這事，
證明神國的道，引摩西的律法和先知的
書，
以耶穌的事勸勉他們。

My **message** and preaching
were
not in **persuasive** words of
wisdom,
but in demonstration of the
Spirit and
of **power**,⁵ so that your **faith**
would
not rest on the **wisdom of men**,
but on the **power of God**.



1 Cor 2:4-5
(NASB/CUV)

Raphael, "St. Paul Preaching in Athens", 1515



“Men of **Athens**, I observe that you are **very religious** ...

... I found an altar,

‘TO AN **UNKNOWN GOD**.’

Therefore what you **worship** in ignorance,

this I **proclaim** to you.”

眾位雅典人哪，
我看你們凡事很敬畏鬼神。

...遇見一座壇，上面寫著未識

Declining Share of Americans Express Absolutely Certain Belief in God

Do you believe in God or a universal spirit? How certain are you about this belief?



Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Acts 使徒行傳

17:22-23

(NASB/CUV)

Do I love my pious
countrymen?
Love them enough
to lay out the gospel
clearly to them?

我愛我敬虔的同胞嗎？
能愛到我願意跟他們

The Fragrant Gospel (Ac28)

1. Paul's heart: Persuasion (v23)

保羅的心：勸導

2. Hearers' response: Partition (v24-25)

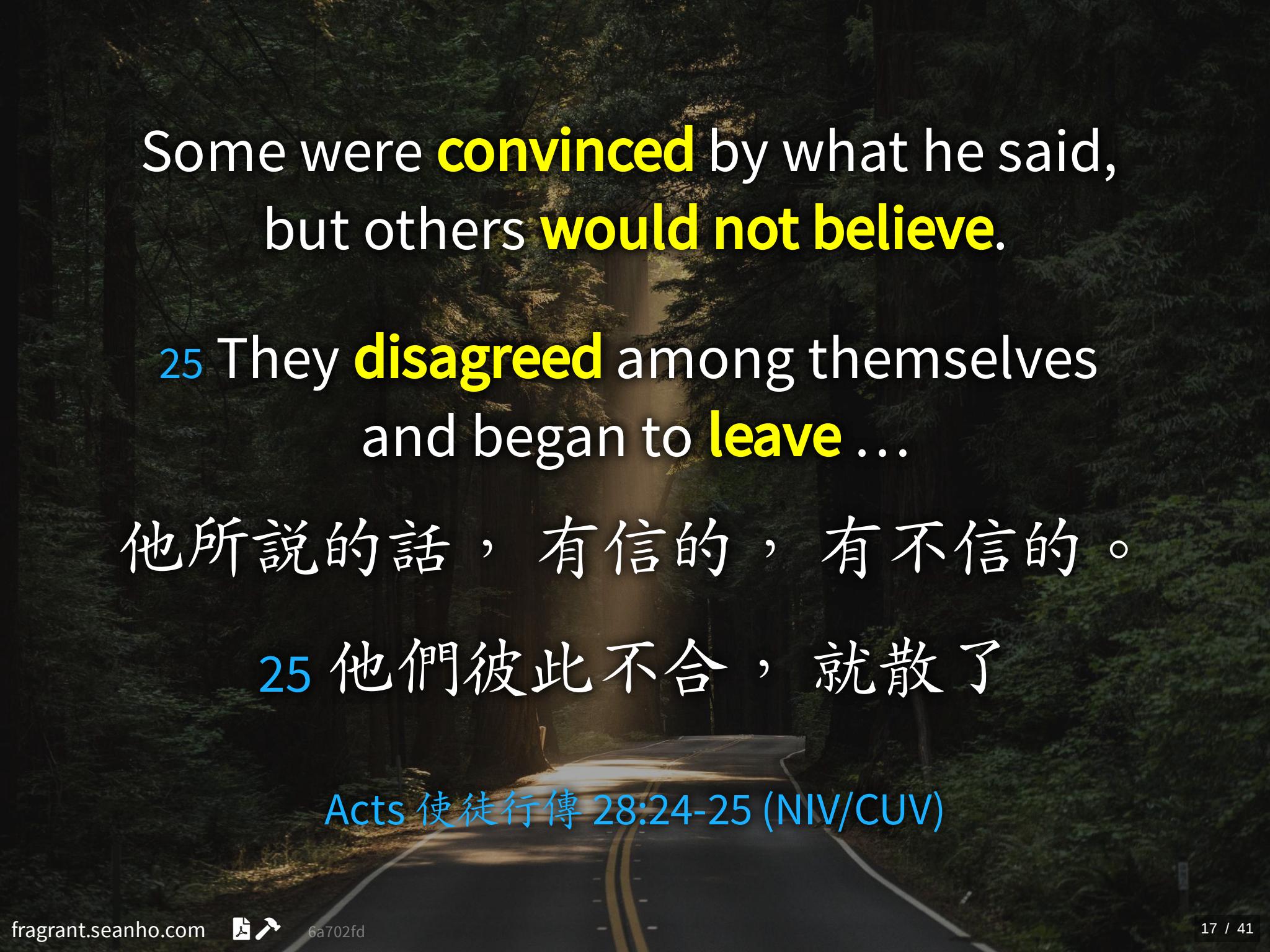
聽眾的回應：劃分

3. Spirit's prophecy: Promise (v26-27)

聖靈的預言：應許

4. Paul's lifestyle: Proclamation (v28-31)

保羅的生活：傳揚

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest road. Sunlight filters down from above, creating bright highlights on the road surface and the surrounding green foliage. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

Some were **convinced** by what he said,
but others **would not believe.**

25 They **disagreed** among themselves
and began to **leave** ...

他所說的話，有信的，有不信的。

25 他們彼此不合，就散了

Acts 使徒行傳 28:24-25 (NIV/CUV)

The Sign of Contradiction

Rembrandt, "Simeon's Song of Praise", 1631



Behold, this child is appointed for
the **fall** and **rising** of many in Israel,
and for a **sign** that is **opposed** –
35 and a **sword** will pierce through your own
soul also –
so that **thoughts** from many hearts may be
revealed.

這孩子被立，是要叫以色列中許多人跌
倒，

許多人興起；又要作毀謗的話柄，

別些外人心裡的意念顯露出來。

Do not suppose that I have come
to bring **peace** to the earth.
I did not come to bring peace, but a **sword**.

你們不要想我來是叫地上太平；
我來並不是叫地上太平，乃是叫地上動刀
兵。

Matthew 馬太 10:34 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)

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Anyone who loves their **father or mother**
more than me is not worthy of me;
anyone who loves their **son or daughter**
more than me is not worthy of me.

愛父母過於愛我的，不配作我的門徒；
愛兒女過於愛我的，不配作我的門徒；

Matthew 馬太 10:37 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/2)

Bryan Dilts

Has the **sword** of Christ's
kingship pierced **my own**
soul?

Am I willing to let it **divide** my
loved ones?

基督君王的刀劍
已經刺透我的靈魂嗎？

The Fragrant Gospel (Ac28)

1. Paul's heart: Persuasion (v23)

保羅的心：勸導

2. Hearers' response: Partition (v24-25)

聽眾的回應：劃分

3. **Spirit's prophecy: Promise** (v26-27)

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保羅的生活：傳揚

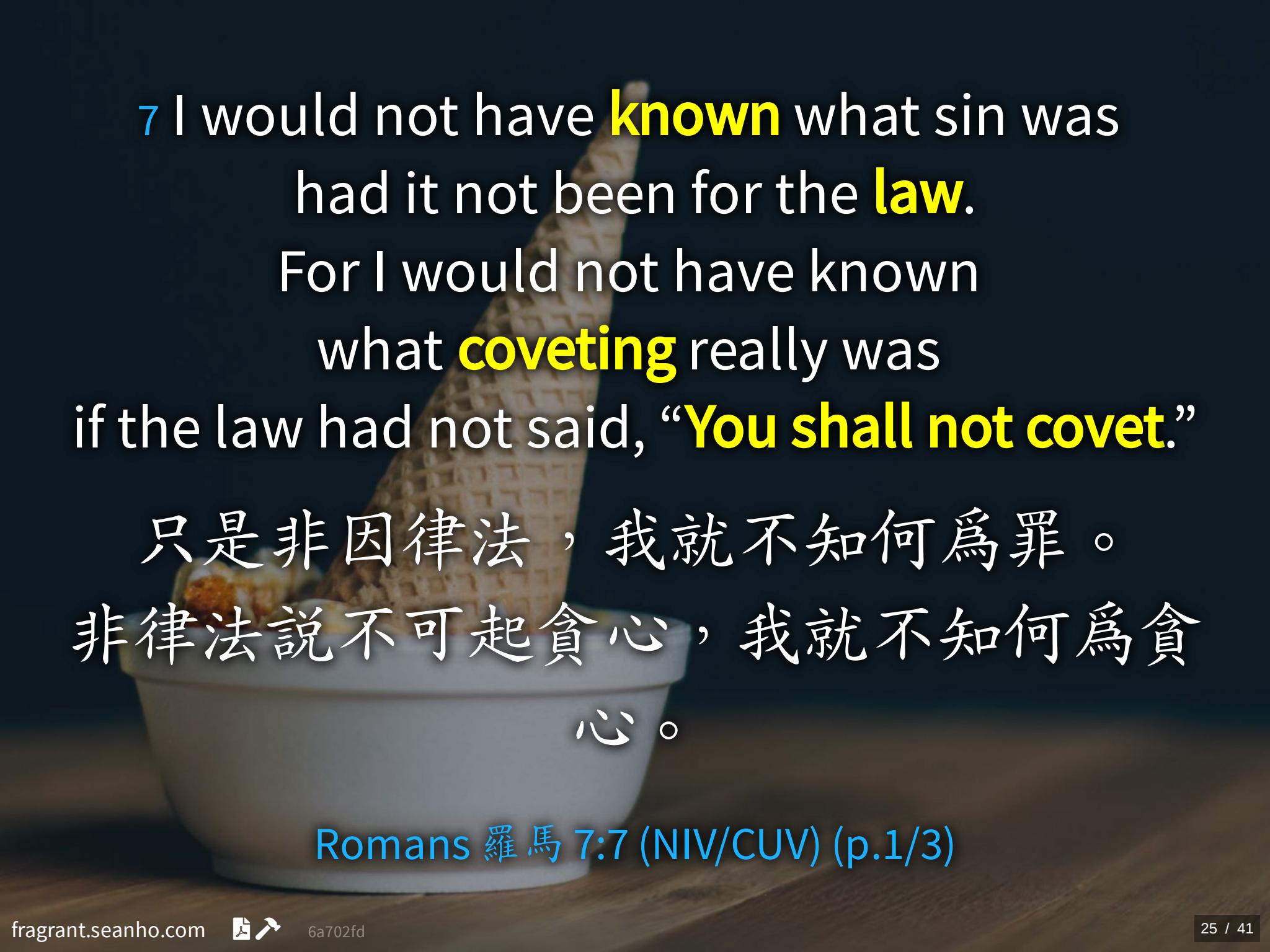
Go, and say to this people:
“Keep on **hearing**, but do not understand;
keep on **seeing**, but do not perceive.”

10 Make the heart of this people **dull**,
and their ears **heavy**, and **blind** their eyes

你去告訴這百姓說：

你們聽是要聽見，卻不明白；
看是要看見，卻不曉得。

10 要使這百姓心蒙脂油，耳朵發沉，眼睛
昏迷



7 I would not have **known** what sin was
had it not been for the **law**.
For I would not have known
what **coveting** really was
if the law had not said, “**You shall not covet.**”

只是非因律法，我就不知何爲罪。
非法說不可起貪心，我就不知何爲貪
心。

Romans 羅馬 7:7 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/3)



8 But **sin**, seizing the **opportunity**
afforded by the commandment,
produced in me every kind of coveting.

然而罪趁著機會，
就藉著誡命叫諸般的貪心在我裡頭發動

Romans 羅馬 7:8 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/3)



In order that sin might be **recognized as sin**,
it used what is **good** to bring about **my death**,
so that through the commandment

sin might become **utterly sinful**.

但罪藉著那良善的叫我死，
就顯出眞是罪，
叫罪因著誠命更顯出是惡極了。

Romans 羅馬 7:13 (NIV/CUV) (p.3/3)

A Partial Hardening

Romans 9-11

- Did God's Word **fail?** → 9:6
- Is God **unfair?** → 9:14
- Isn't it all God's **fault** anyway? → 9:19
- Can't I just be **moral** / ethical? → 9:32
- How then is **anyone** saved? → 10:8-10
- Are they lost **forever?** → 11:1-2
- Are we **better** than they are? → 11:18-21

A photograph of a young child with light hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with a colorful pattern on the shoulder and blue jeans. The child is sitting cross-legged on a dark surface, looking down with a contemplative expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

lest they **understand** with their hearts,
and **turn** and be **healed.**

恐怕眼睛看見，耳朵聽見，
心裡明白，回轉過來，便得醫治。

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:10 (NIV/CUV)

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Then I said, “For **how long**, Lord?”

And he answered: “Until the cities lie **ruined**
and without inhabitant

我就說：主啊，這到幾時爲止呢？

他說：直到城邑荒涼，無人居住

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:11,13 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)



But as the terebinth and **oak**
leave **stumps** when they are cut down,
so the **holy seed** will be the stump in the land.”

像栗樹、橡樹雖被砍伐，樹墩子卻仍存
留。

這聖潔的種類在國中也是如此。

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:11,13 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)



So too, at the present time
there is a **remnant** chosen by grace.

如今也是這樣，照著揀選的恩典，
還有所留的餘數。

Romans 羅馬 11:5 (NIV/CUV)

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take **offense** at the gospel?

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冒犯又生氣的人？

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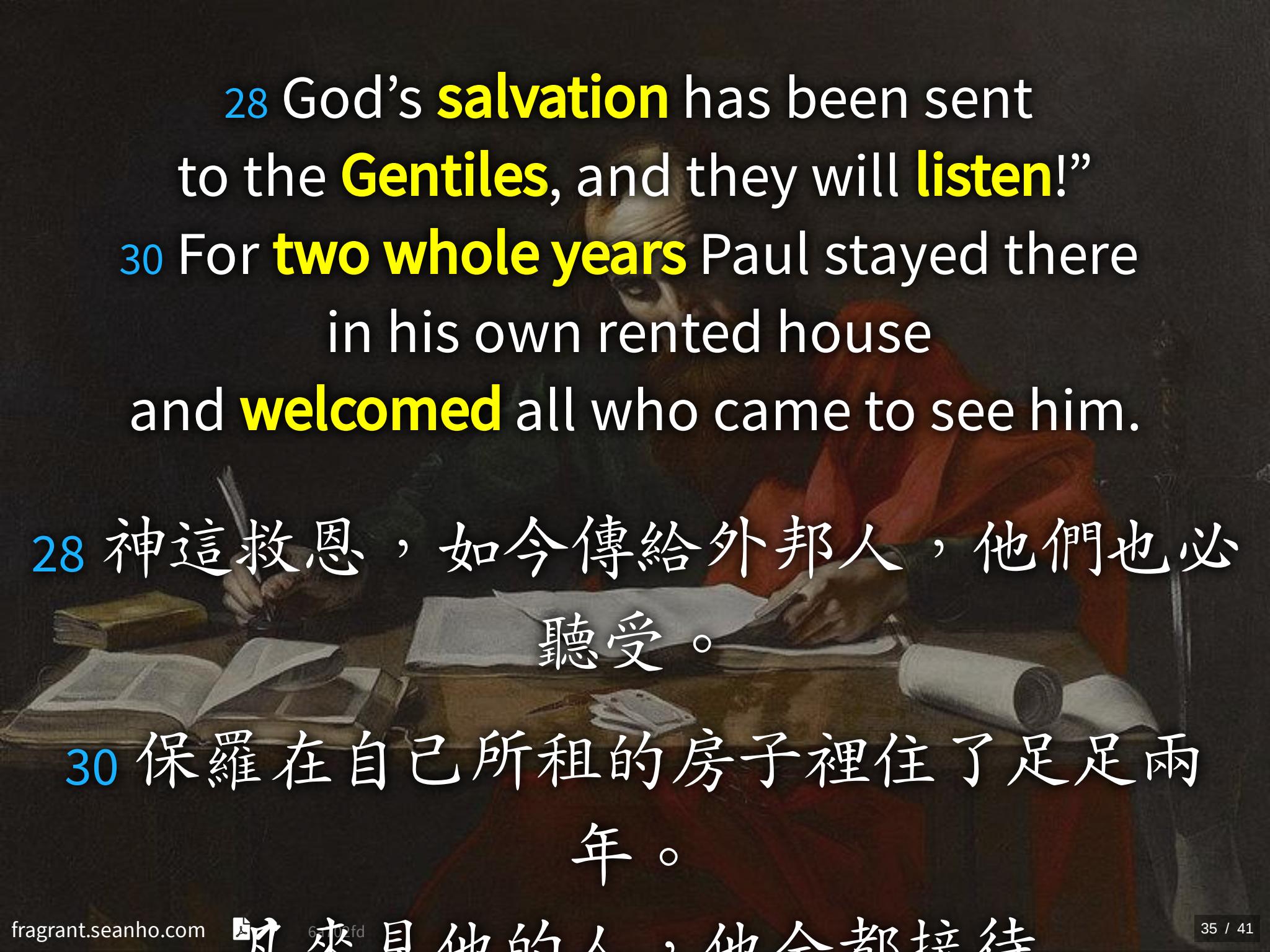
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保羅的生活：傳揚



28 God's **salvation** has been sent to the **Gentiles**, and they will **listen!**"
30 For **two whole years** Paul stayed there in his own rented house and **welcomed** all who came to see him.

28 神這救恩，如今傳給外邦人，他們也必聽受。

30 保羅在自己所租的房子裡住了足足兩年。



31 He **proclaimed** the kingdom of God
and **taught** about the Lord Jesus Christ -
with all **boldness** and without **hindrance**.

放膽傳講神國的道，
將主耶穌基督的事教導人，並沒有人禁止

Acts 使徒行傳 28:28,30-31 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/2)



14 Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in **triumphant procession**, and through us spreads the **fragrance** of the **knowledge of Him** everywhere.

感謝神！常帥領我們在基督裡誇勝，
並藉著我們在各處顯揚
那因認識基督而有的香氣。

2 Corinthians 歌林多後 2:14-16 (ESV/CUV) (p.1/2)

15 For we are the **aroma of Christ** to God
among those who are being **saved**
and among those who are **perishing**,
16 to one a fragrance **from death to death**,
to the other a fragrance **from life to life.**

因為我們在神面前，
無論在得救的人身上或滅亡的人身上，
都有基督馨香之氣。

16 在這等人，就作了死的香氣叫他死；
在那等人，就作了活的香氣叫他活

**Do I exude the fragrance of
Christ in my daily life?**

**我在日常生活中是否
散發出基督的香氣？**

15 For we are the **aroma of Christ** to God
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