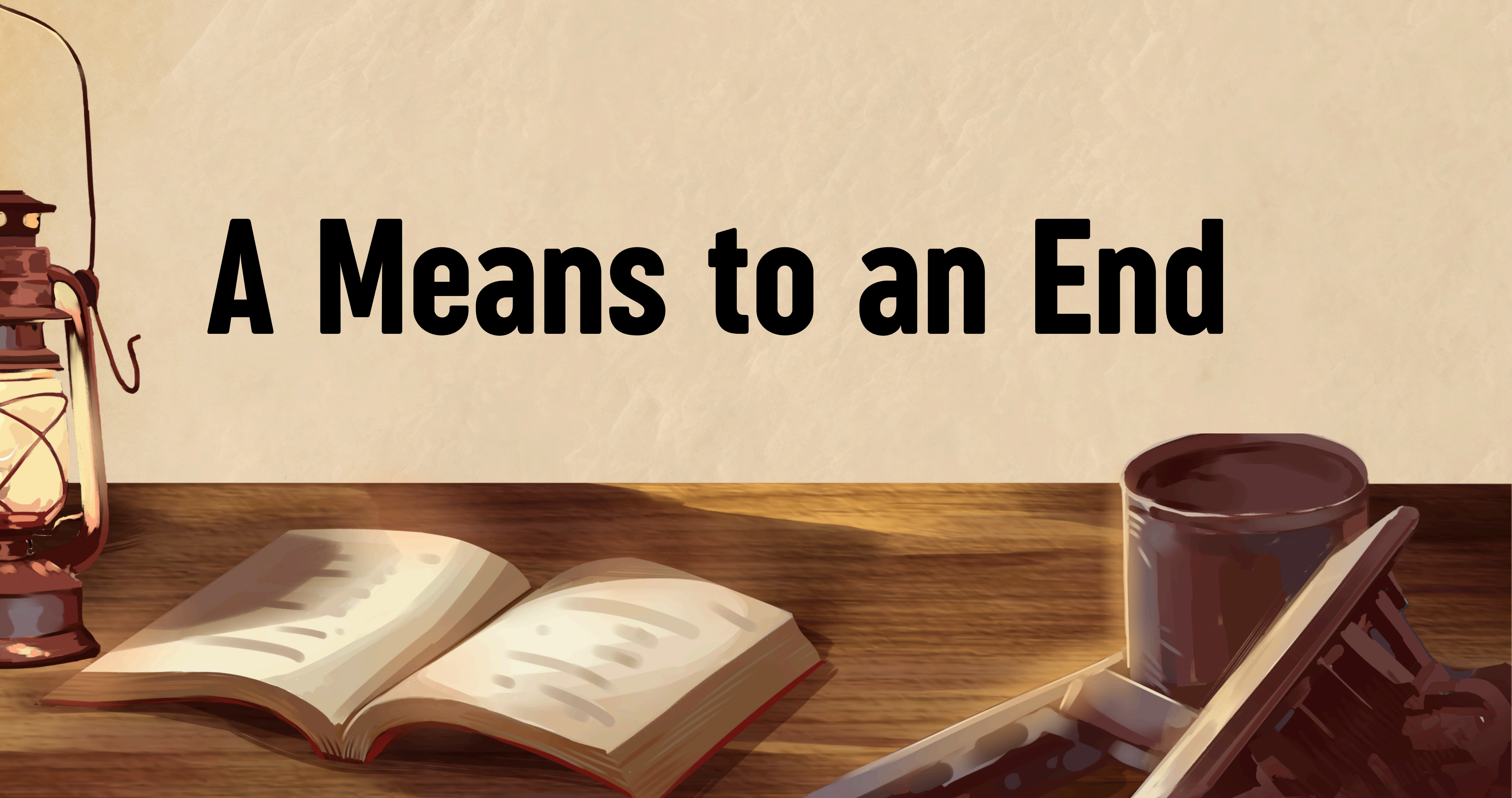


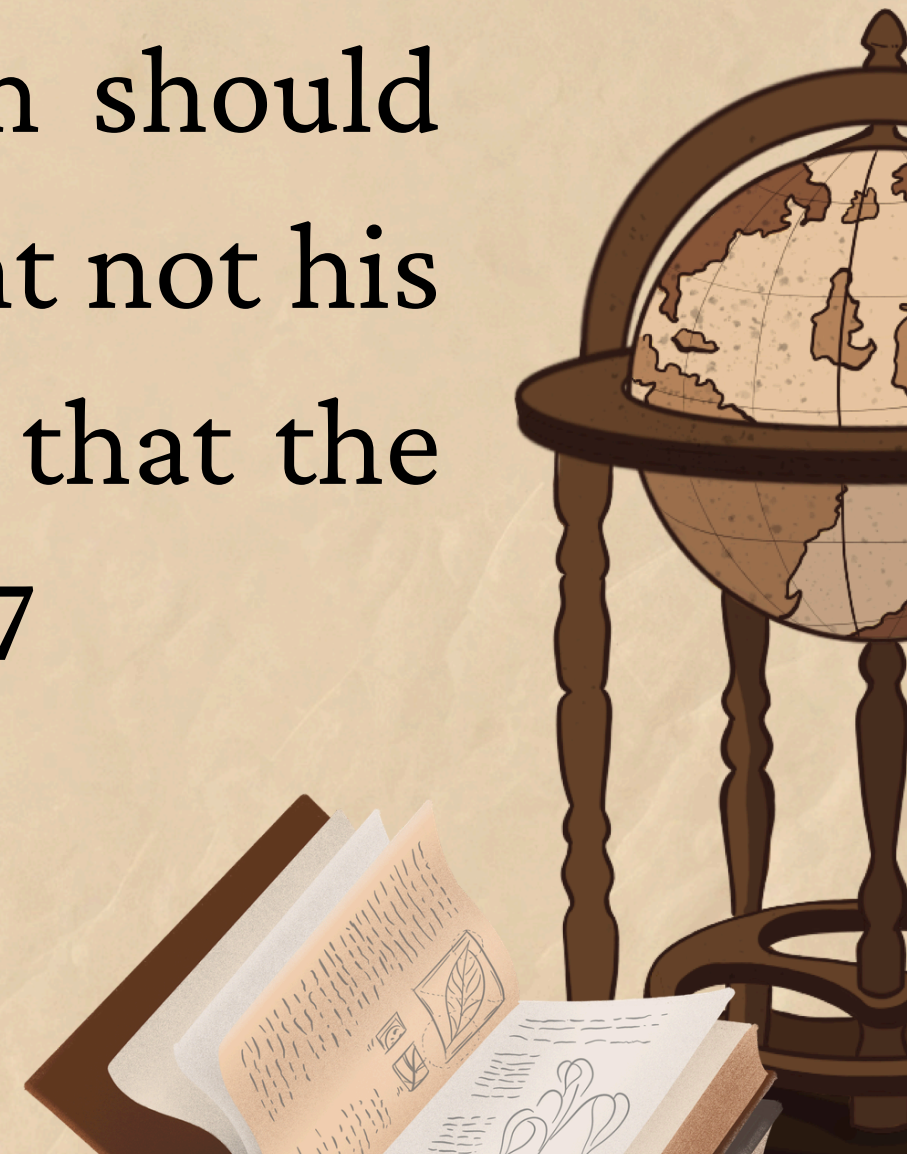
A Means to an End





Background Scripture

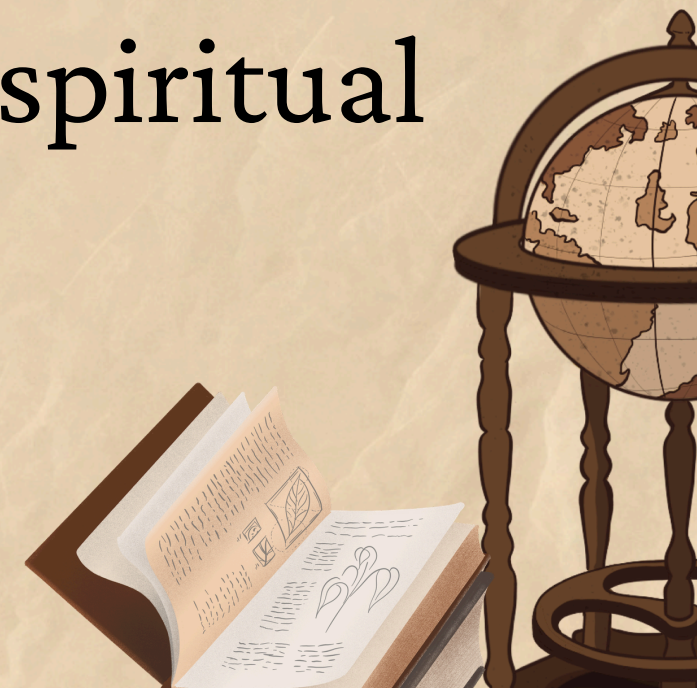
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17





Message of John 3:16

It is the core of Christian belief: God's immense love for humanity and the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. While verses 17 & 18 further clarifies that Jesus was not sent to condemn the world, but to save it, and that belief in Him prevents condemnation while unbelief results in spiritual separation from God.





Jesus Christ

Isaiah 9:6 states: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, He was not only God's "Only Begotten Son"; He was "A Means to an End" (Eternal Life).





A Means to an End

“**A means to an end**” is a phrase describing an action, process, or tool utilized solely to achieve a specific goal, *rather than for its own sake.*

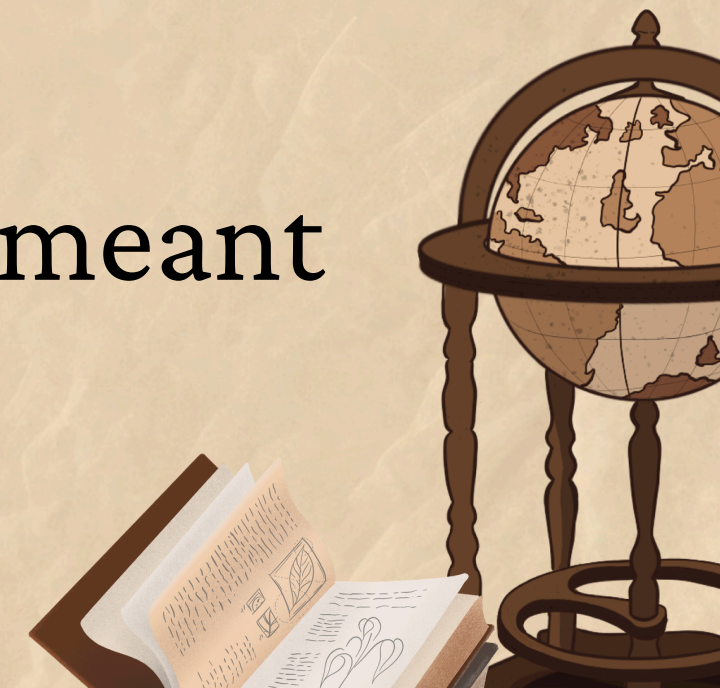
It refers to a necessary, often unpleasant, step taken to reach a desired result. Common examples include working a dislike job in order to pay bills or engaging in a gruesome study session to gain a much-needed qualification.





Examples

- **Career:** “I didn’t particularly like the job - it was just a **means to an end**” (a way to get experience or money).
- **Education:** “Going to college is a **means to an end** to secure a well-paid job”.
- **A Foothold:** Taking a less desirable job to get a “foot in the door” for a better opportunity.
- **Strategy:** “Marketing is only a **means to an end**” (meant to drive sales not be the final goal).





Condition of Humanity

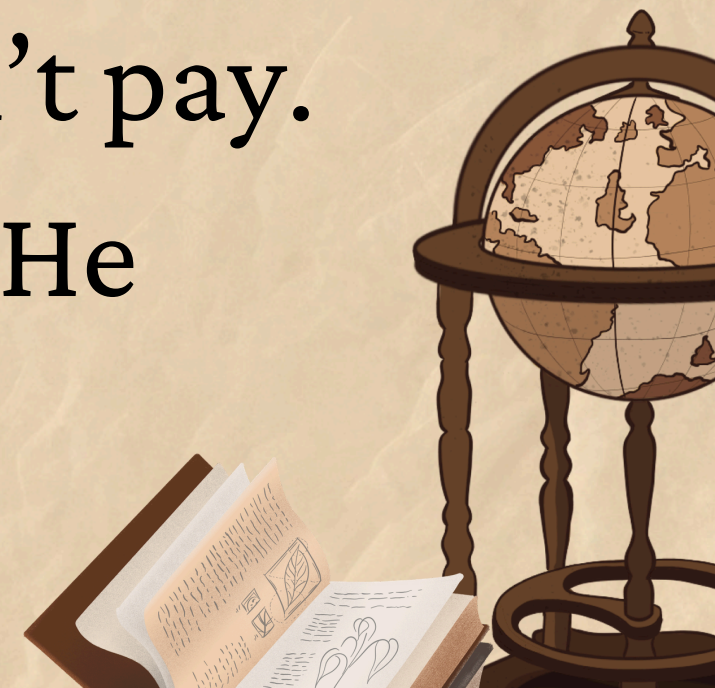
- Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This passage declares that every human being has sinned and falls short of God's standards, highlighting the universal need for salvation through Jesus Christ. "
- Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". Here, "wages" refers to what is earned or deserved—sin leads to death, both physical and spiritual, resulting in separation from God."

The Gift

Eternal Life as a Gift

The Greek word for gift, charisma, emphasizes that eternal life is a present given as a sign of God's favor. This gift is granted through faith in Jesus Christ, who bore the penalty of sin on behalf of humanity.

- We owed a debt (wages of sin is death), we couldn't pay.
- He paid a debt (He was bruised for our iniquities), He didn't owe.



His Death

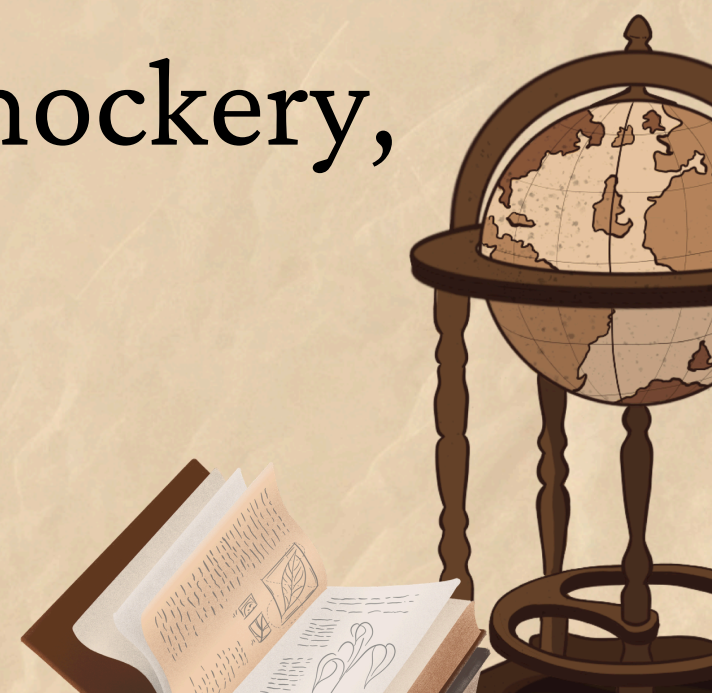
Act of Love

His death was the act of love that gave birth to “a means to an end.” Jesus endured profound physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering culminating in His crucifixion, fulfilling prophecy and providing redemption for humanity.





“Means to an End”

- **The Agony in Gethsemane**, Jesus experienced intense emotional and spiritual anguish, fully aware of the suffering to come.
 - **Betrayal and Trials**, Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, and arrested. He faced a series of unjust trials. Despite being innocent, He endured mockery, humiliation, and physical abuse, including being blindfolded, struck, and spat upon.
- 



“Means to an End”

- **Physical Suffering of the Crucifixion**, Jesus was scourged, causing severe blood loss and shock, and forced to carry the cross to the execution site. Nails were driven through His wrists and feet, causing intense nerve pain, and the position of His body made breathing extremely difficult. Death by crucifixion was **excruciating physical agony** compounded by exhaustion, and emotional torment. By the time of His crucifixion, Jesus had been awake approximately **36 hours**.






“Means to an End”

- **Spiritual and Emotional Dimensions**, Jesus displayed divine compassion and forgiveness, praying for His executioners: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). His suffering fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53, bearing the iniquities of humanity and providing a path for reconciliation with God. His final words, “It is finished” (John 19:30), signified the completion of His redemptive mission.






“Means to an End”

- **Borrowed Tomb**, Jesus was buried in borrowed tomb, a new rock-cut grave belonging to Joseph of Arimathea (a wealthy follower). This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:9, that He would be with the rich in His death. The tomb was only used for three (3) days, signifying its temporary nature before the resurrection. “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days” (John 2:19).
- 



“Means to an End”

Psalm 116:8–9 says “For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living”. But the song writer put it this way:

- **Living**, He loved me
 - **Dying**, He saved me
 - **Buried**, He carried my sins far away
 - **In Rising**, He justified me freely forever
 - **One day He’s coming**, Oh glorious day.
- 



Conclusion

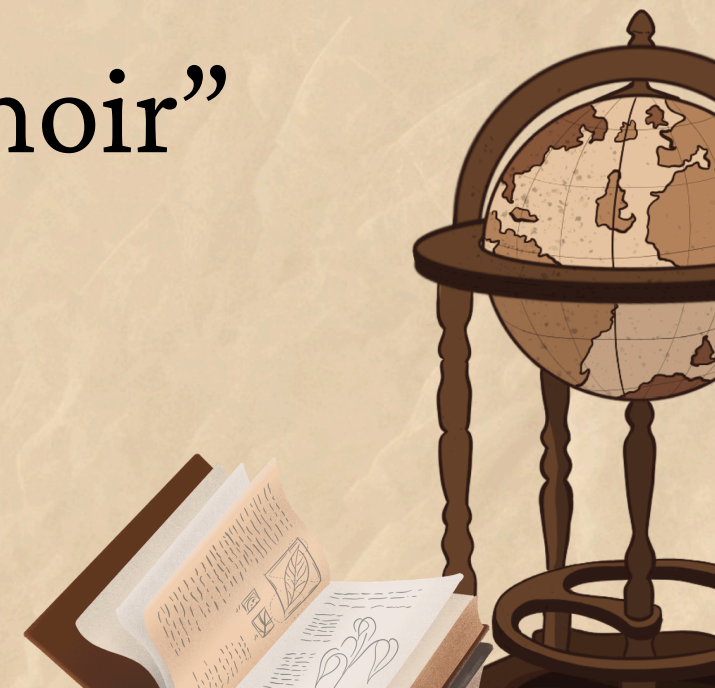
I am free - Praise the Lord, I'm free

No longer bound - No more chains holding me

Soul is resting - And it's just another blessing

Praise the Lord Hallelujah, I'm free

-“Rev. Milton Brunson & Thompson Community Choir”



Thank You

