

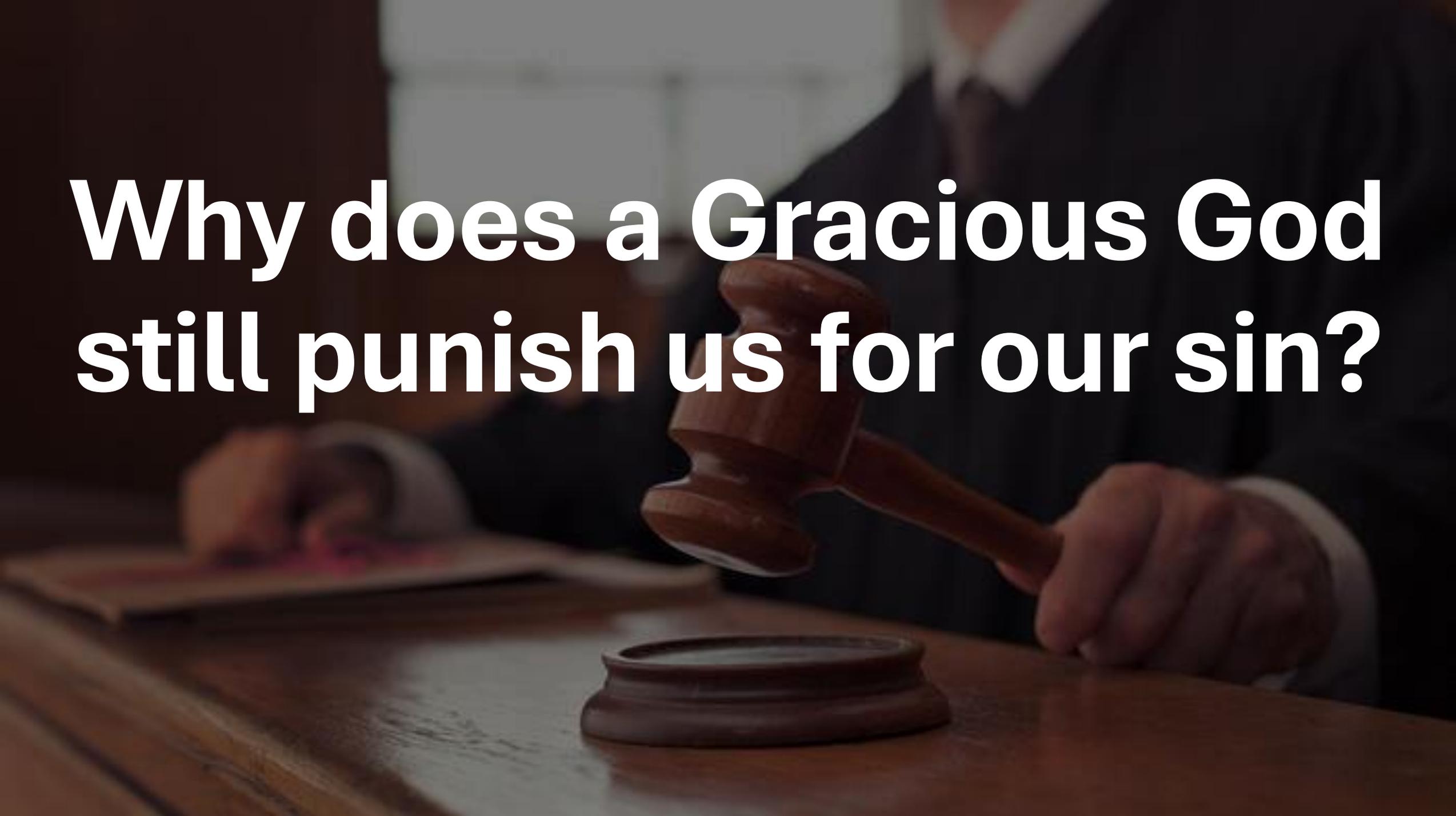
A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the center, surrounded by lush green forests and rolling hills. In the background, majestic mountains rise under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Welcome to Worship

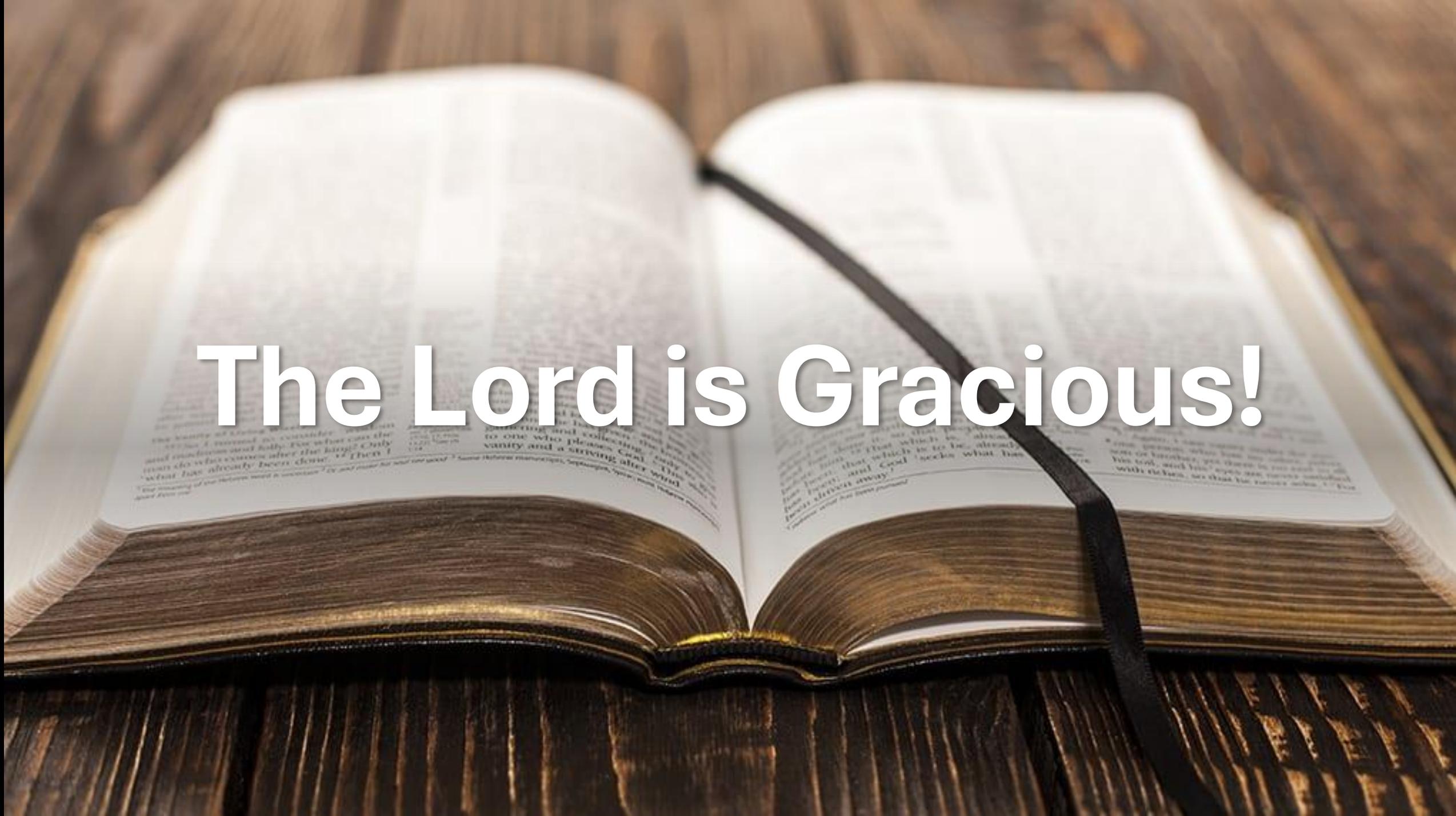
SANFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

**WE SERVE A
GOD
WHO IS BOTH
GRACIOUS
AND
JUST**





**Why does a Gracious God
still punish us for our sin?**

An open Bible with a black bookmark is lying on a dark wooden surface. The pages are white with black text. The text on the pages is partially legible, including phrases like "gathering and collecting", "to one who pleases God", "vanity and a striving after", "that which is to be", "already", "that God seeks what has", "been driven away".

The Lord is Gracious!

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

-1 Timothy 2:3 – 4 (ESV)

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

-2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

-Jonah 4:1 – 2 (ESV)

10 And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

-Jonah 4:10 – 11 (ESV)

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

-Psalms 103:8 – 10 (ESV)

22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

-Genesis 18:22 – 23 (ESV)

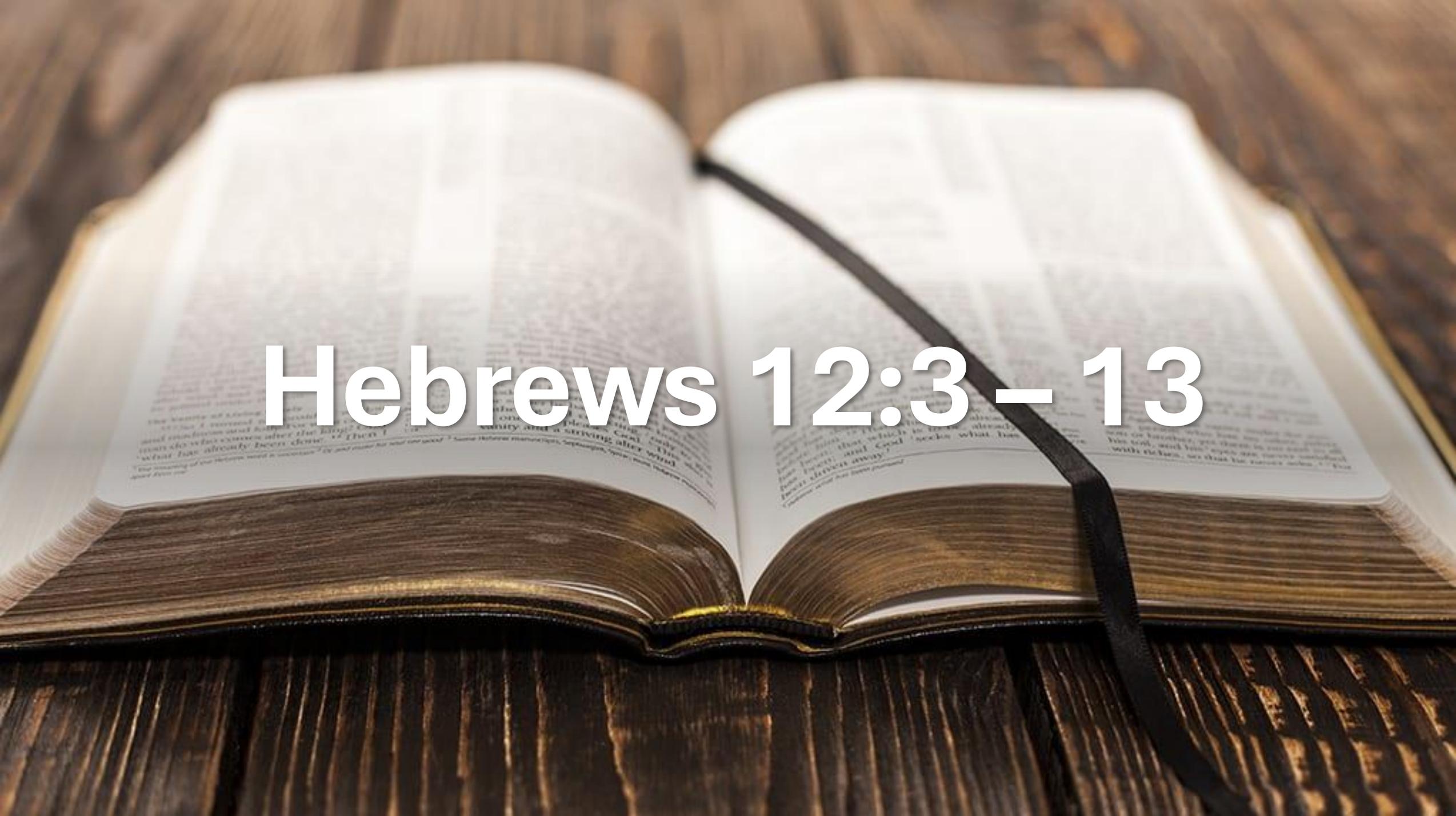
An open book with a black bookmark resting on the pages, set against a dark wood background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Grace Does Not Mean
God Ignores Sin!**

Sin must be punished!

- God's Holiness Demands It! (Numbers 32:23)
- Punishment Shows God's Justice! (2 Thessalonians 1:7 – 9)
- Punishment Leads to Repentance!
- Grace and Punishment meet at the Cross!



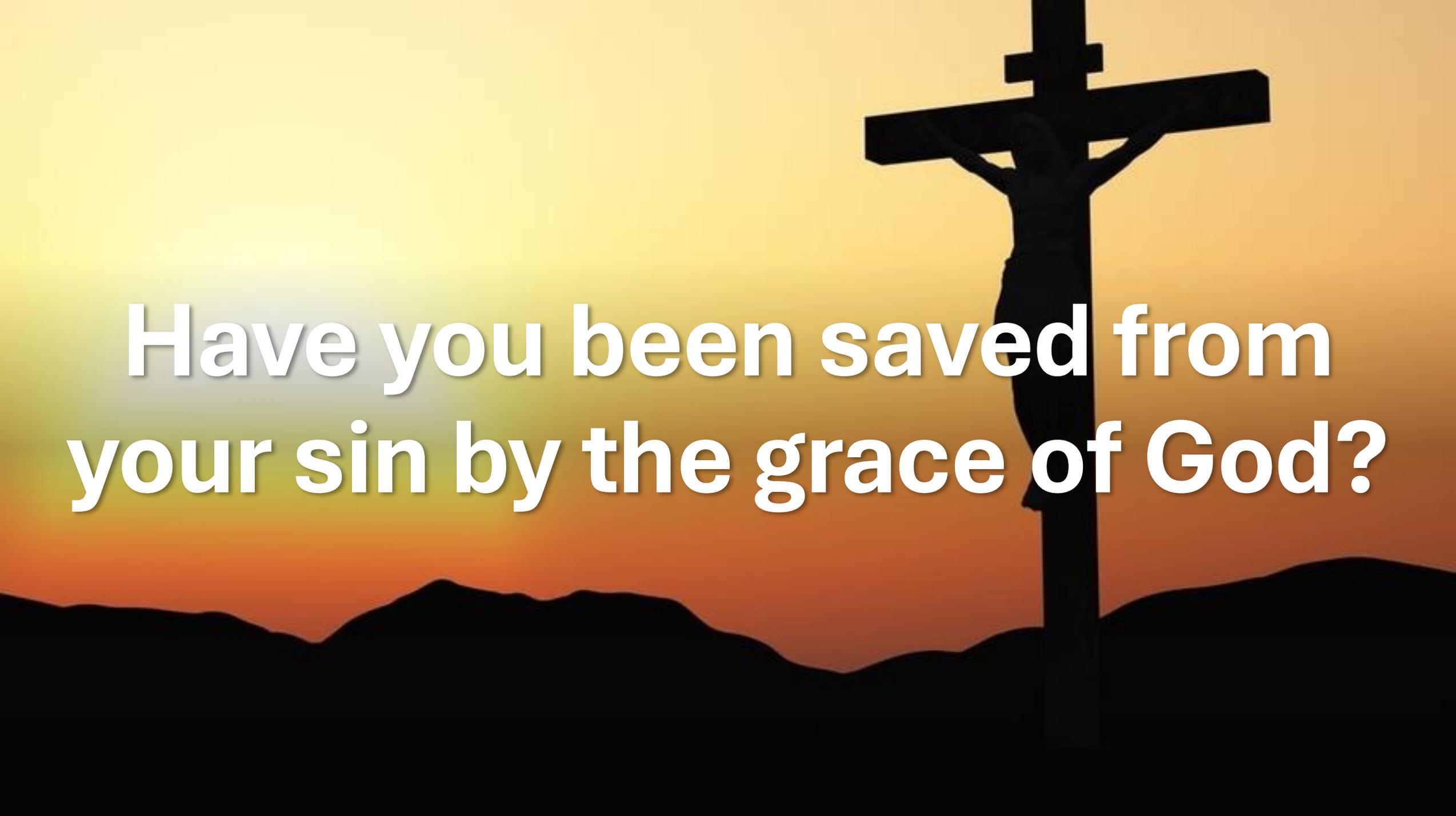
An open Bible with a black bookmark is lying on a dark wooden surface. The pages are white with black text, and the binding is visible in the center. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to a shallow depth of field.

Hebrews 12:3 – 13



**So, Why Does a
Gracious God Still
Punish Us Today?**

- To Protect Us
- To Preserve His Holiness
- To Call Us Back to Him
- To Demonstrate the Seriousness of Sin
- To Uphold Justice

A silhouette of a cross stands on a dark, jagged horizon line representing a hill. The background is a gradient of warm colors, transitioning from a bright yellow at the top to a deep orange and red at the bottom, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is positioned on the right side of the frame.

**Have you been saved from
your sin by the grace of God?**