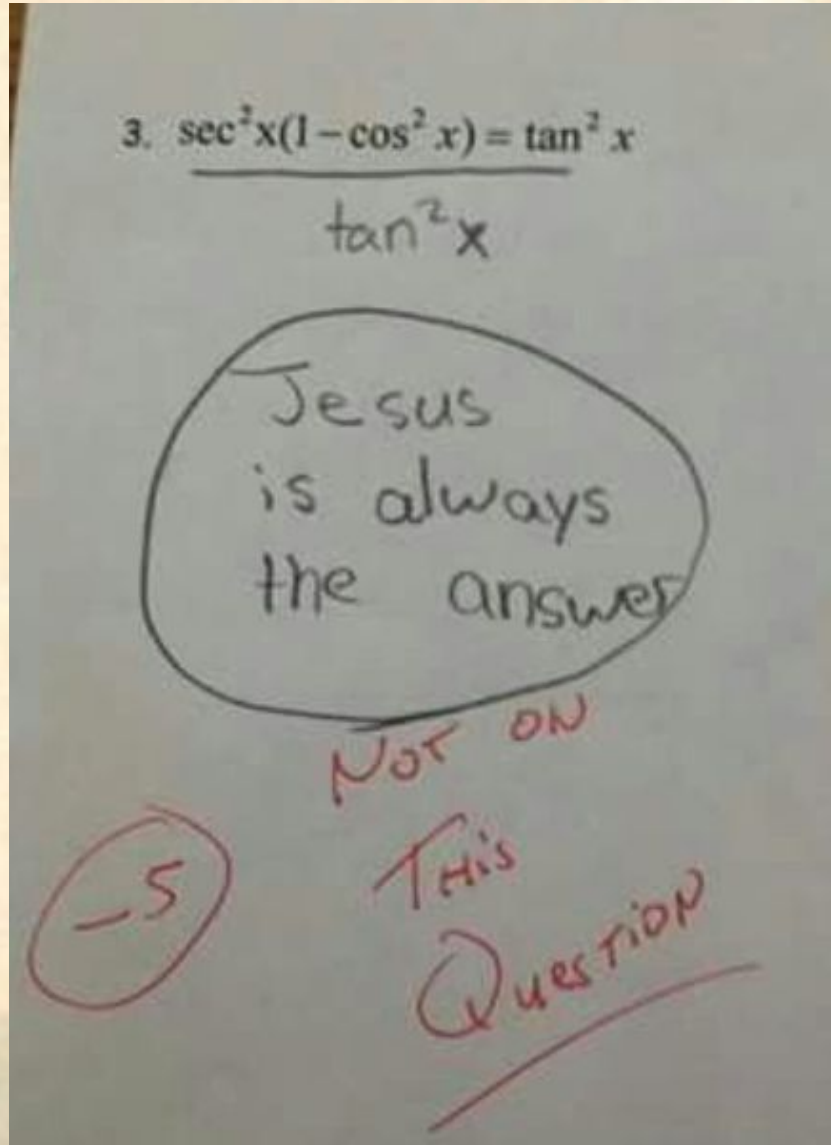


# Jesus is the Answer!

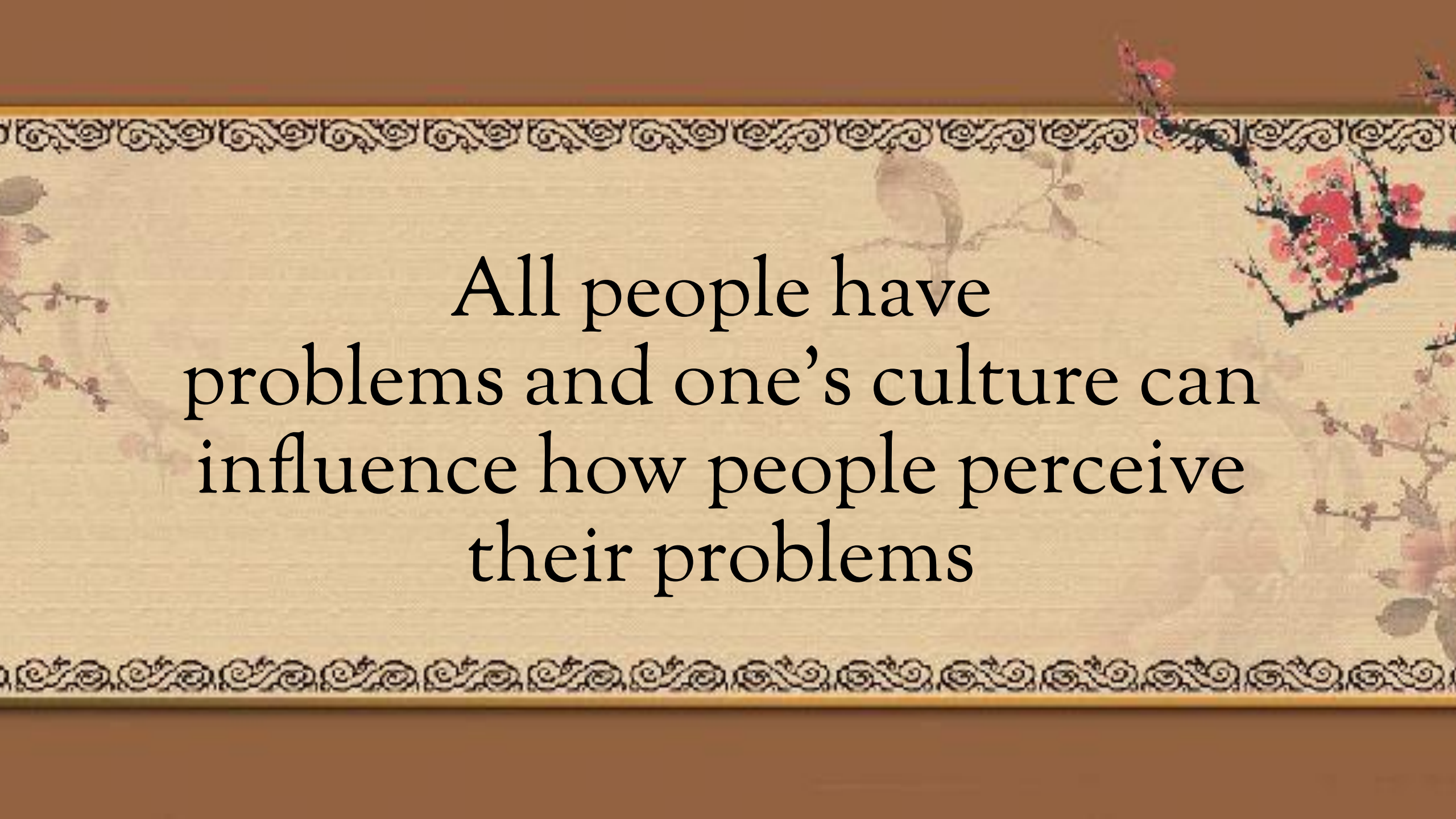
Proclaiming the gospel and ministering to Chinese and other East-Asian people in Shame-Honor Cultures



# Maybe not always?








All people have  
problems and one's culture can  
influence how people perceive  
their problems



Psychologists have noted that people have three basic categories of fears:


- Fear of physical harm and death
- Fear of meaninglessness
- Fear of guilt / shame






Protestants have  
traditionally understood  
the work of Christ as the  
execution of three  
offices:

Prophet  
Priest  
King









his King, Christ defeats his and our enemies, anyone or anything who might threaten our wellbeing, including death itself, and so is the answer to man's fear of physical harm or death.



*Luke 1:32–33 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*







As prophet, He speaks to us from God, bringing the light of God's word to the darkness in our lives. He brings meaning and direction to our lives through God's Word.



*Acts 3:22 "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.' "*







As priest, He makes atonement for our sins, cleanses us, and speaks to the Father on our behalf. He takes away our guilt and shame and restores us to fellowship with God and God's people.



*Hebrews 4:14-15 "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."*








To whomever you share the gospel,  
regardless of cultural background,  
or whatever their fears or problems,  
be convinced of one thing:


*Jesus is the answer!*






Sociologists have identified  
three basic kinds of culture in  
regard to social control:

Power / Fear  
Guilt / Innocence  
Shame / Honor







# Power / Fear

*Cultures in which people try to protect themselves using magic and ritual to have power over the spirit world.*

This is typical in animistic and tribal cultures

# Guilt / Innocence

*Emphasizes laws/rules and individual responsibility. A sin or crime is a breaking of the rules and people are encouraged to feel guilty about wrong behavior.*

Western cultures tend to be classified as “guilt-innocence” cultures





# Honor / Shame

*Shame relates to the feeling produced by bringing embarrassment to or failure to bring honor to oneself or those with whom one has a close relationship*

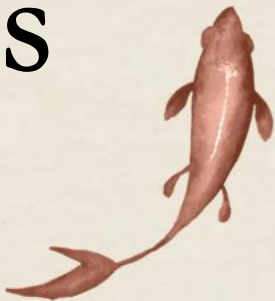
East-Asian cultures tend to be classified as “honor-shame” cultures





How are shame and guilt different?

Unlike guilt, shame is necessarily relational. Therefore, relationships are stressed over rules; whatever course of actions maintains harmony is “right”







Consider an example  
of stepping out of a  
shower.

# Leviticus 15

Bodily discharges made one unclean. These private matters were things which in some way isolated people from others, but the priest could ultimately declare those affected “clean” and so fully restore them to the community.








Maintaining “face” is  
very important





Hierarchy is stressed, because it brings social cohesion.

Collectives emphasized rather than individuals, what is good for the group rather than what is good for the individual.



Respect for family and (even worship of) ancestors is often emphasized.

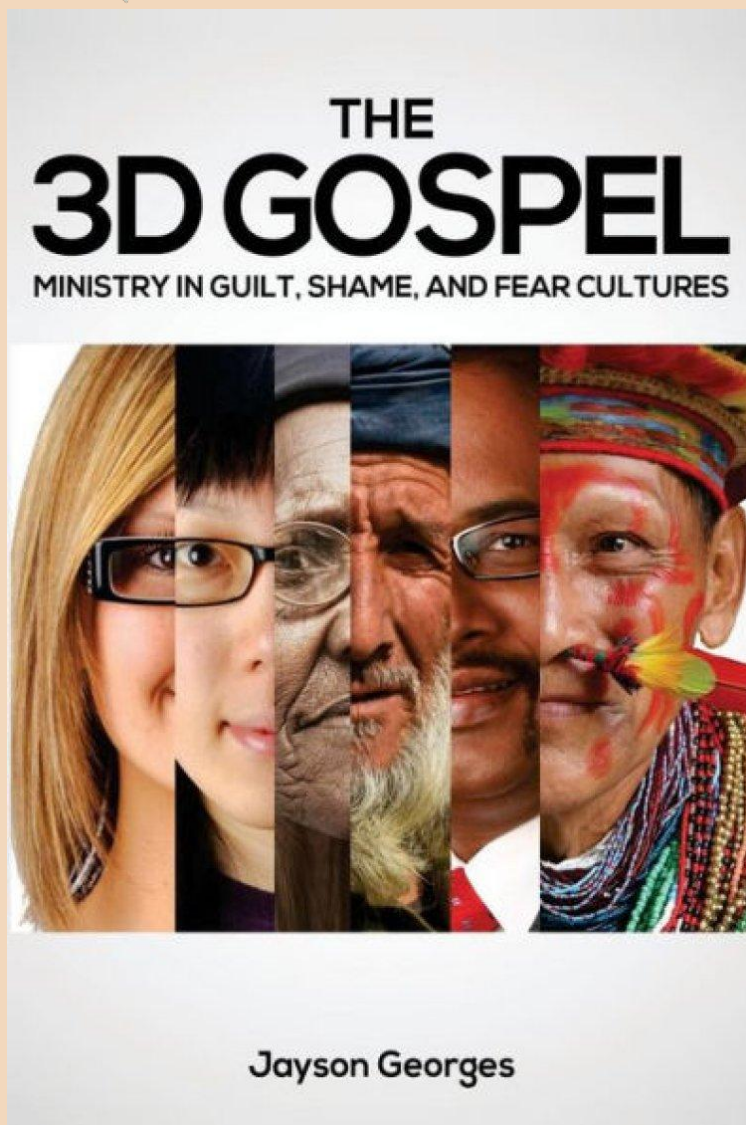




Two diagnostic questions to  
determine  
if you are a Westerner or East-Asian:

1) If you had to choose between  
saving your spouse or a parent,  
which one would you choose?

2) Would you report a parent if  
he/she committed a serious crime?



Jayson George on page 16 of his book *The 3D Gospel* insightfully points out that these three culture types can be likened to primary colors from which all the other colors can be made.



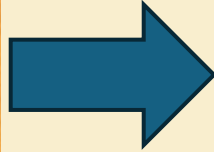
Much of east Asia is under the influence of Confusion philosophy which is very much shame / honor based.

*“Lead the people with law and organize them with punishments, and they will avoid the punishments but will be without a sense of shame. Lead them with virtue and organize them with ritual, and in addition to developing a sense of shame, they will bring order to themselves.” –Confucius*





However, the idea of honor and shame should not be exaggerated especially in China which has been heavily influenced by communism and Westernism/consumerism





Each individual will come with their own problems, fears and challenges.

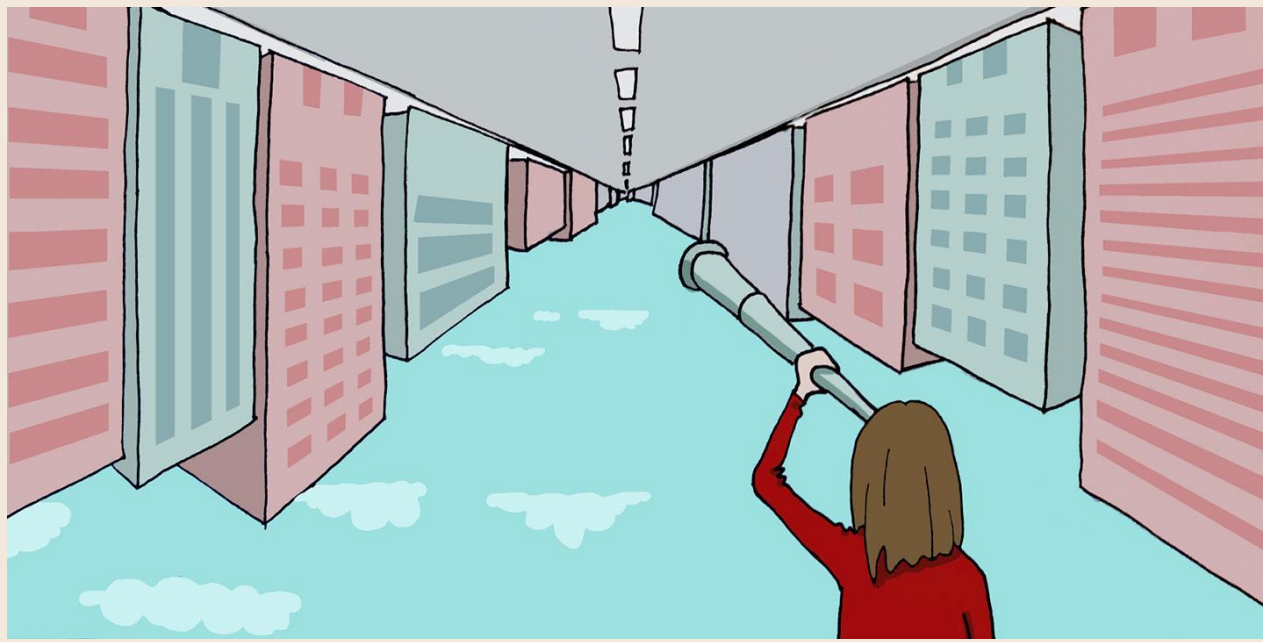


# Special Challenges

It may especially be difficult for people in such cultures to go against the wishes of their family, society or nation.







“Upside racism” or feeling shame about one’s own ethnic heritage and trying to identify with another—this may lead some Chinese to exciting, quick interest in Christianity, but in the end may not prove to be love for





# “High pressure sales” techniques should especially be avoided.

- You may have people express acceptance because they respect and like you, not love Jesus



- Or they may quickly reject the gospel and the one presenting it



Question:

Can I authentically be Chinese AND a Christian?





Question:

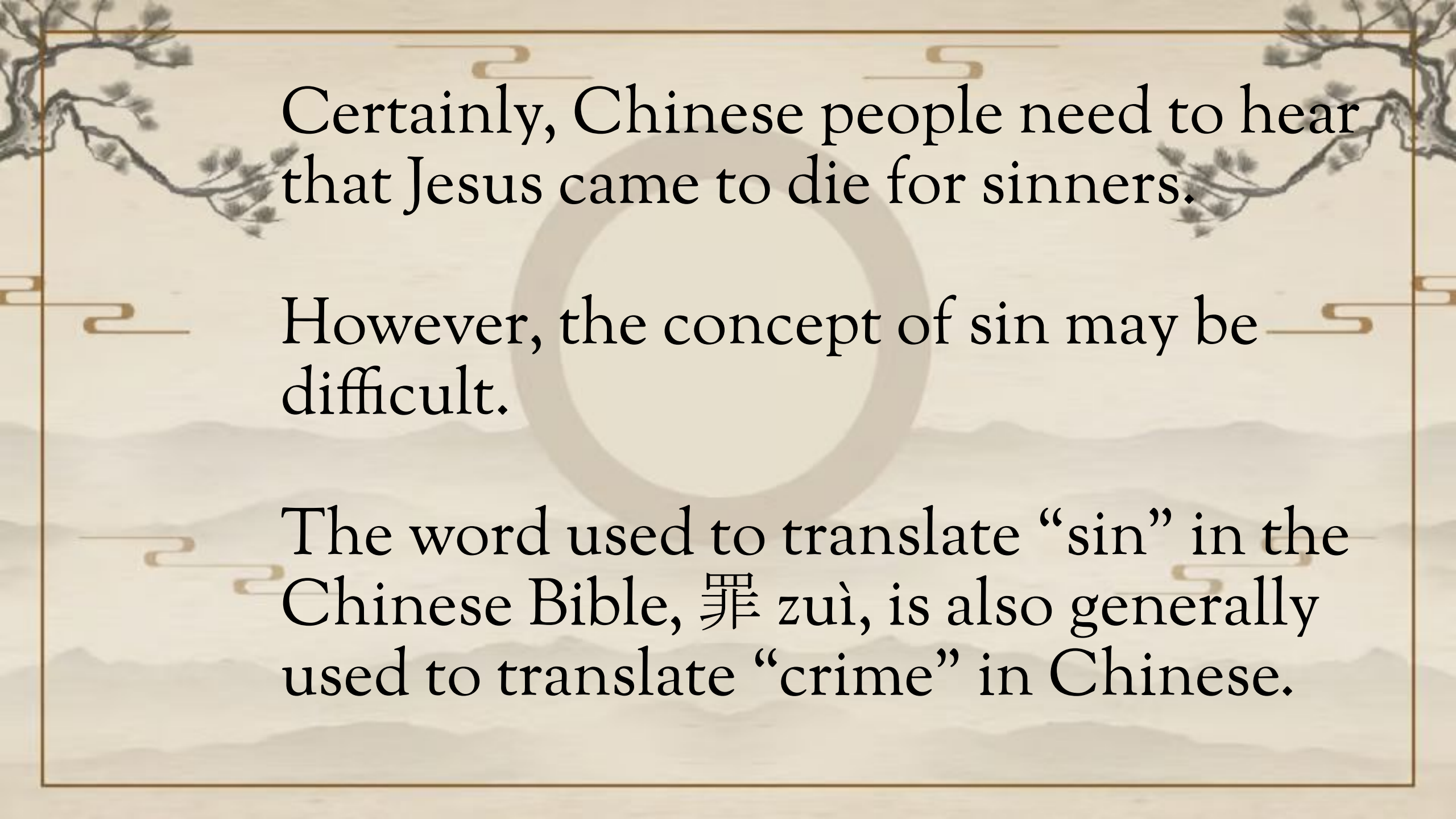
Is Christianity good for society?





# What do Chinese need to hear?

Every person needs to hear the same gospel, but certain things may need to be emphasized to certain people depending on their perception of their own needs and their own fears. These perceived needs may be influenced greatly by the culture in which the hearer lives.



Certainly, Chinese people need to hear that Jesus came to die for sinners.

However, the concept of sin may be difficult.

The word used to translate “sin” in the Chinese Bible, 罪 zuì, is also generally used to translate “crime” in Chinese.





It *may* be helpful to emphasize man's failure to properly honor or glorify God as one who is worthy of all honor and glory.

Sin is a failure to live a purely honorable or holy life which reflects God's holiness and honor



Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned AND  
fall short of the GRORY of God





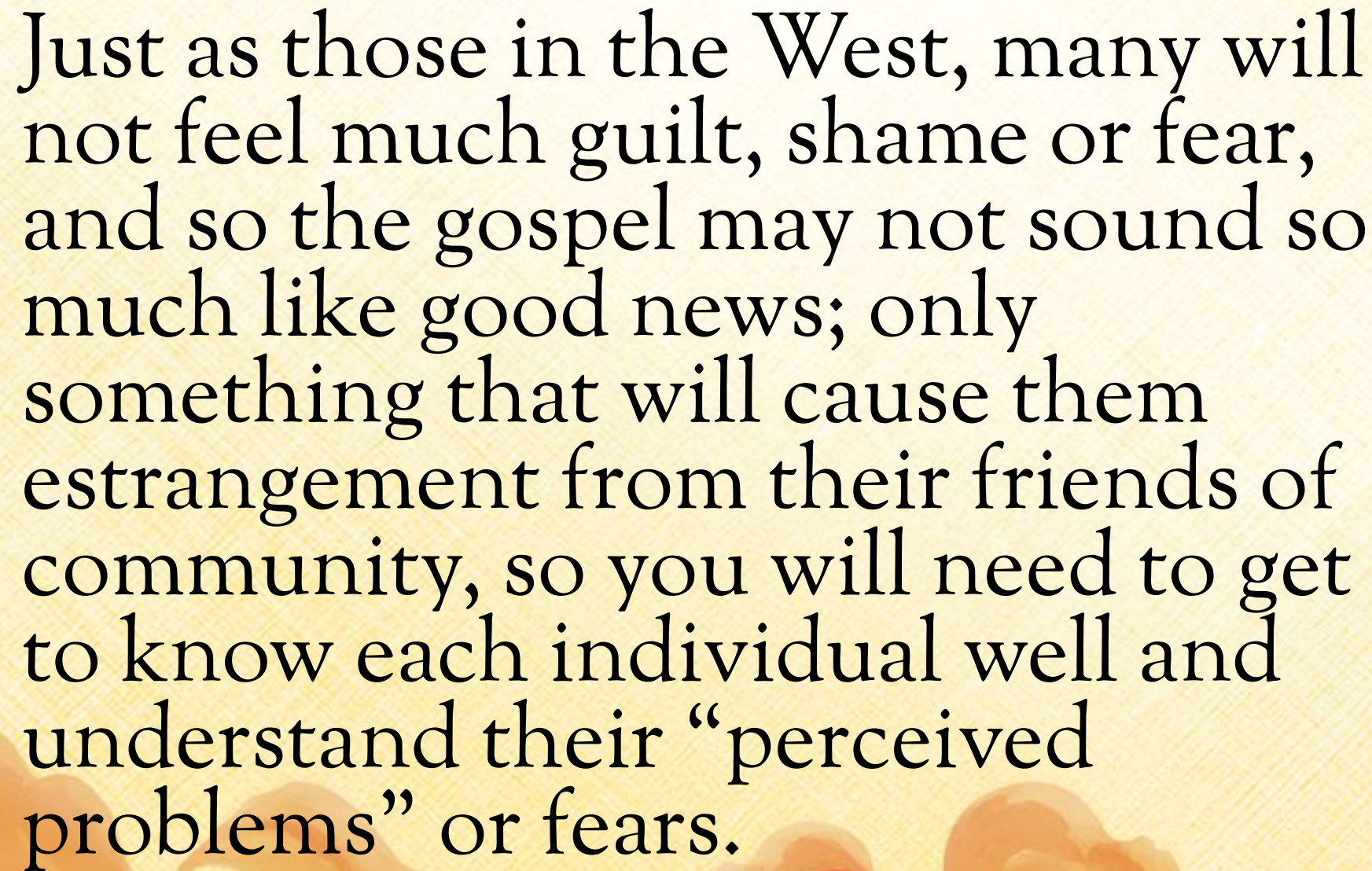
You can point out that a “crime” is breaking national (man’s) commands / laws and “sin” is breaking God’s commands / laws.







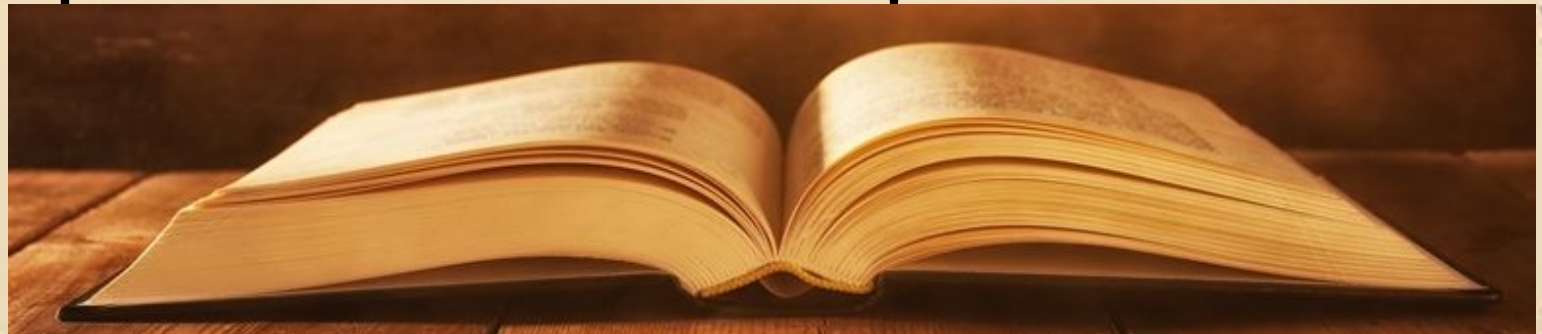


The background features a warm, yellowish-gold gradient. At the top, there is a decorative border of red, scalloped patterns. Two red lanterns are visible: one on the far left and a larger one on the right with a tassel. At the bottom, there are stylized red and orange clouds.

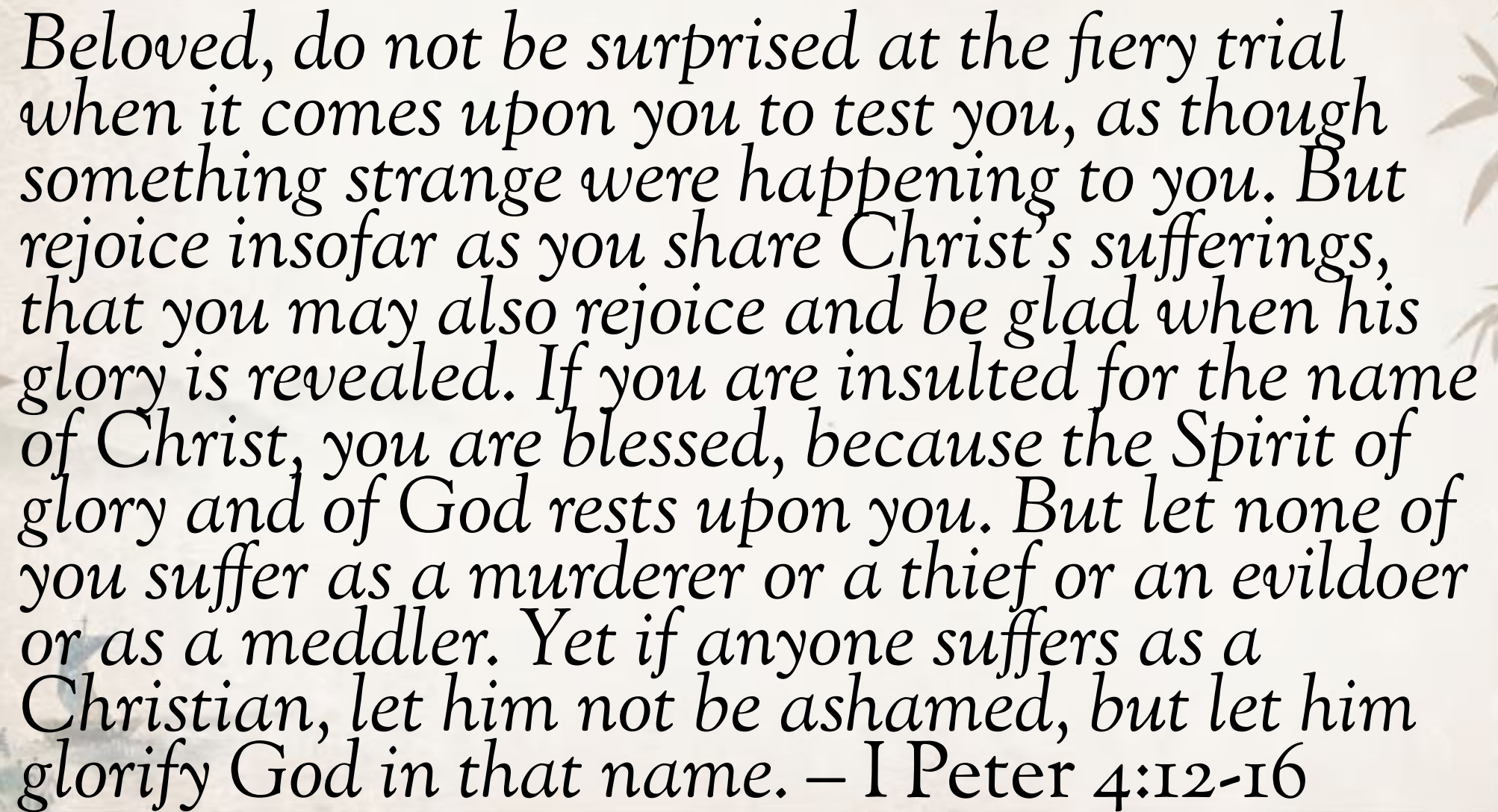
Just as those in the West, many will not feel much guilt, shame or fear, and so the gospel may not sound so much like good news; only something that will cause them estrangement from their friends of community, so you will need to get to know each individual well and understand their “perceived problems” or fears.



Spending time reading / studying though not just gospel tracts but whole books in the Bible may be quite useful because certain passages may strike readers in ways differently







*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. – I Peter 4:12-16*

But there is no silver bullet but  
the power of the Holy Spirit to  
convince sinners of their need for  
Christ.





<https://columbus.ifipartners.org/events/return/>

For those discipling students returning to their home countries, there is a separate training on Saturday, May 4 @



International  
FRIENDSHIPS

Making the World  
Feel at Home

9:00a - 12:00p



# Helping returning Chinese students find a church in China

Because Chinese tend to want to be very loyal to the church they join, care needs to be taken in selecting a church



Protestant Churches can be divided  
into two broad groups:

**Registered (TSPM) Churches**

**Non-Registered (house)  
Churches**



# Registered Churches or Three-Self-Patriotic Churches

- Officially legal and therefore they own their own buildings which can often be easily seen
  - Somewhat like “mainline” denominations in the US, but generally not as theologically liberal
  - These churches often have long histories and to some degree reflect the church tradition of the missionaries who came to start them
  - Leaders must affirm the *Nicaean Creed*







# Registered Churches or Three-Self-Patriotic Churches

- Preaching will generally be moralistic and lack much content about Christ or the gospel
- Although many in the West think the government controls the preaching, that is usually not the case
- But there are some which conduct rather evangelical ministries, others quite bad
- The Chinese government requires ordained church leaders to attend approved seminaries which do not teach much good content



# Registered Churches or Three-Self-Patriotic Churches

- Ordained leaders must be approved by the government
- Church buildings must display the Chinese flag and sometimes images of the Chinese president or political propaganda though some get around this
- Children under 18 are forbidden to attend church, though there are often ways around this, especially Sunday



# Unregistered Churches or House Churches



- These are technically illegal and traditionally meet in people's homes
- But tens of thousands of them operate often with little resistance from the government and some have dedicated facilities for worship

# Unregistered Churches or House Churches

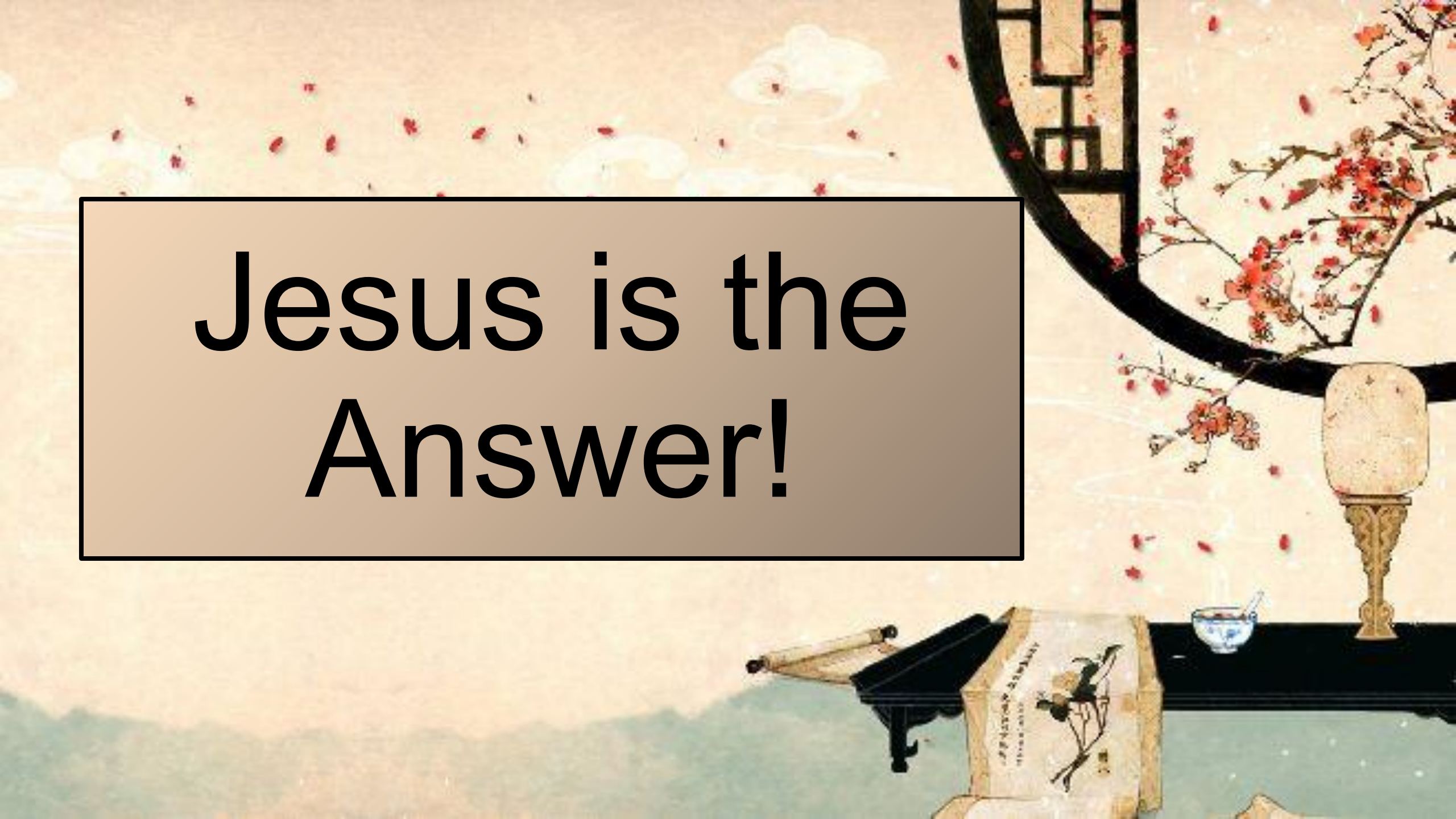
- Great range of doctrine, practice and preaching
- They will usually tell you the TSPM is a false church because the head of their church is the atheist communist government
- Be careful of cults and abusive church leaders



My wife Lili and I may be of some assistance  
in locating gospel preaching churches. You  
can contact me at:

[m.mccabe@ifiusa.org](mailto:m.mccabe@ifiusa.org)



The background is a traditional Chinese ink and wash painting. It features a large, dark, circular architectural element in the upper right, possibly a window or a moon gate. To its right, a branch of a flowering tree with red blossoms extends across the frame. In the lower right, a small, ornate golden stand holds a white bowl. Below this, a dark, horizontal surface, possibly a table or a bridge railing, is visible. In the lower left, a small, dark, traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof is nestled among green hills. The overall style is soft and atmospheric, with a light beige background and subtle washes of color.

Jesus is the  
Answer!





Please take a moment to scan the QR code with your phone and give feedback to this survey for IFI.



Close docs.google.com AA

FEEDBACK

## IFI Chinese Workshop - Feedback Survey

Please use this form to tell us how we can improve future trainings. Thank you.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress.  
[Learn more](#)

\* Indicates required question

Email \*

! Your email