



# DISCIPLINES OF WORSHIP

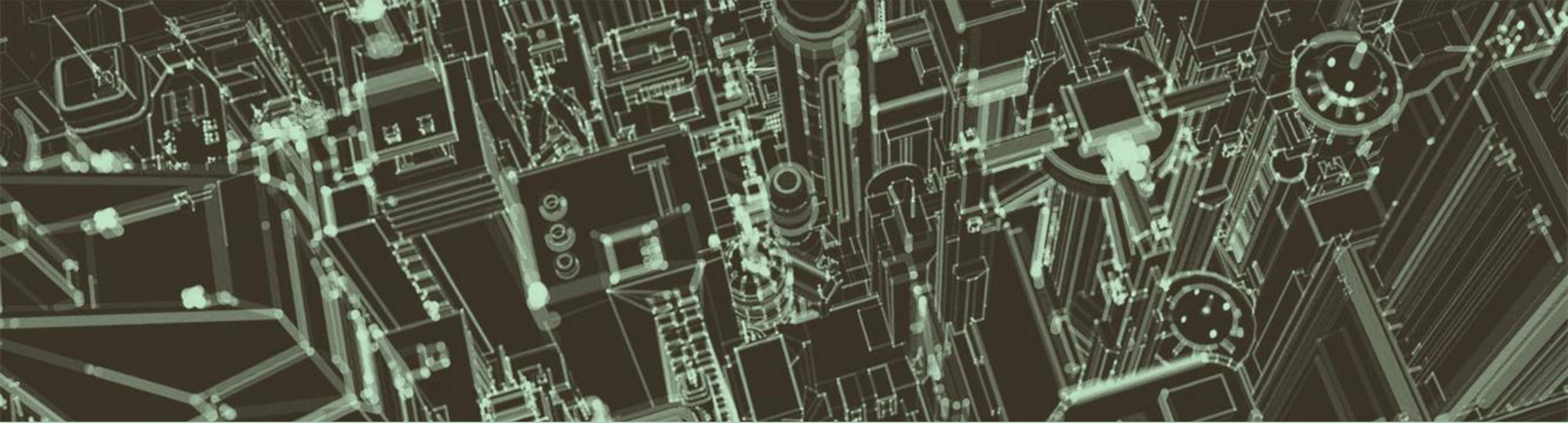
CITY SESSIONS: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR LIFE



# DISCIPLINES OF WORSHIP

- Human beings were made to worship, and everyone worships someone or something. It is unavoidable.
- “Ultimately, what we worship will shape our lives.” – Calhoun
  - This is why we must discipline ourselves in worship: to become more like Christ, to let God be the one to shape our lives.
- “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” Matt. 4:10 / Deut. 6:13
  - It is our purpose to worship God, but it can be done in vain. (Matt. 15:8-9)





WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?



# WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

- “To worship God means to ascribe the proper worth to God, to magnify His worthiness of praise, or better, to approach and address God as He is worthy.” – Whitney
  - John 20:28; Revelation 4:8,11-13, 5:12
- To worship God, we must focus on who he is and respond to it.
- We focus on him in two ways: through general revelation and through special revelation
  - Creation: Romans 1:20
  - God’s Word: 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 1:1,14; Heb. 1:1-2

# WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

- “...all worship of God – public, family, and private worship – should be based upon and include much of the Bible. The Bible reveals God to us so that we may focus on Him...”
- When our songs, prayers, giving, taking of the Lord’s Supper, baptism, meditation, listening to sermons, etc. are saturated with Scripture, they will help us focus on God and, thus, worship him in response.
- Be careful! Just because you are doing these things, doesn’t mean you are truly worshiping.
- “...no matter what you are saying or singing or doing at any moment, you are worshiping God only when He is the center of your attention.” – Whitney

## WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

- “But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24
- To worship in spirit and truth we must have within us the one who is the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17)
- “Having the Holy Spirit residing within does not guarantee that we always *will* worship in spirit and truth, but His presence does mean we *can*.” – Whitney

# WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

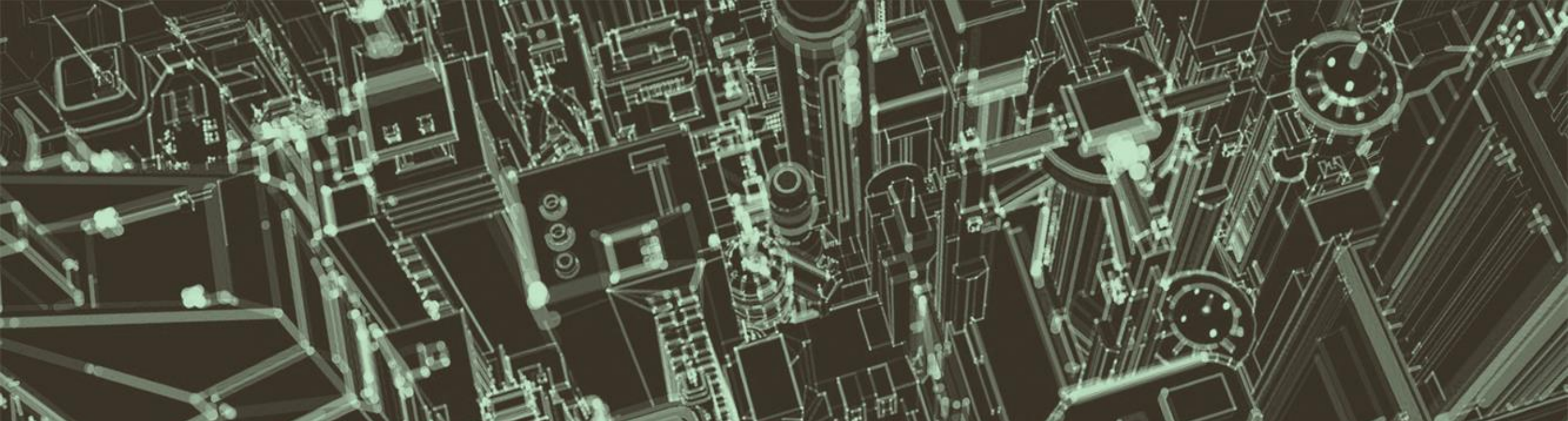
- We worship in truth according to the truth of Scripture:
  - Worship God as he is revealed in the Bible, not as we want him to be.
  - Worship in ways that are taught and modeled in Scripture.
- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 / Deut. 6:4-5
  - Worship in spirit and truth is intellectual and emotional. It involves all of who we are.



# WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

- Worship is also to be practiced publicly and privately.
  - Public: Hebrews 10:25; Luke 4:16
  - Private: Luke 5:16
- “If you will not worship God seven days a week, you do not worship Him on one day a week.” – A. W. Tozer
- “You will never live a day, Christian, without an invitation to grow in intimacy with Jesus Christ Himself that day.” – Whitney





# WORSHIP AS A DISCIPLINE



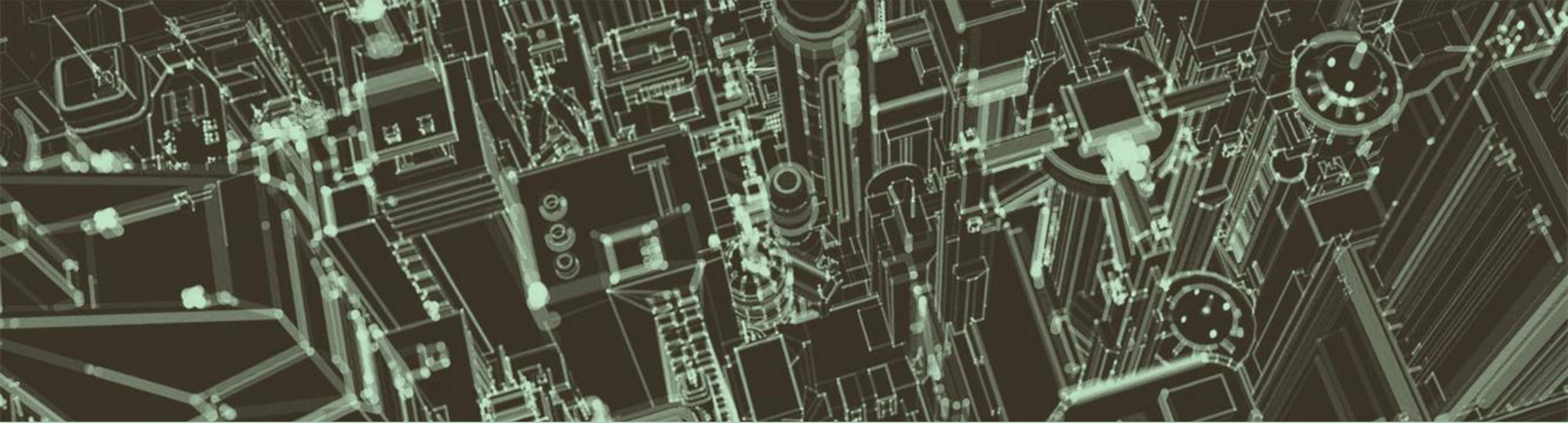
## WORSHIP AS A DISCIPLINE

- “To worship God throughout a lifetime requires discipline. Without discipline, our worship of God will be thin and inconsistent.” – Whitney
- Worship is a discipline that is both a *means* and an *end*.
  - Worship is an end because we were made for it. It is a means because it makes us more like God as we focus on him.
- “Discipline, willpower, giftedness, and going to church can be good things. But they do not guarantee transformation. Transformation comes through valuing God above all else.”  
– Calhoun

# WORSHIP AS A DISCIPLINE

- Worshipful disciplines include:
  - Celebration & Praise & Gratitude
  - Sabbath
  - Taking the Lord's Supper together
  - Singing in Praise & Worship (privately & congregationally)
  - All the other disciplines we have covered can also help us focus on God and are, therefore, disciplines of worship.
  - Stewardship...





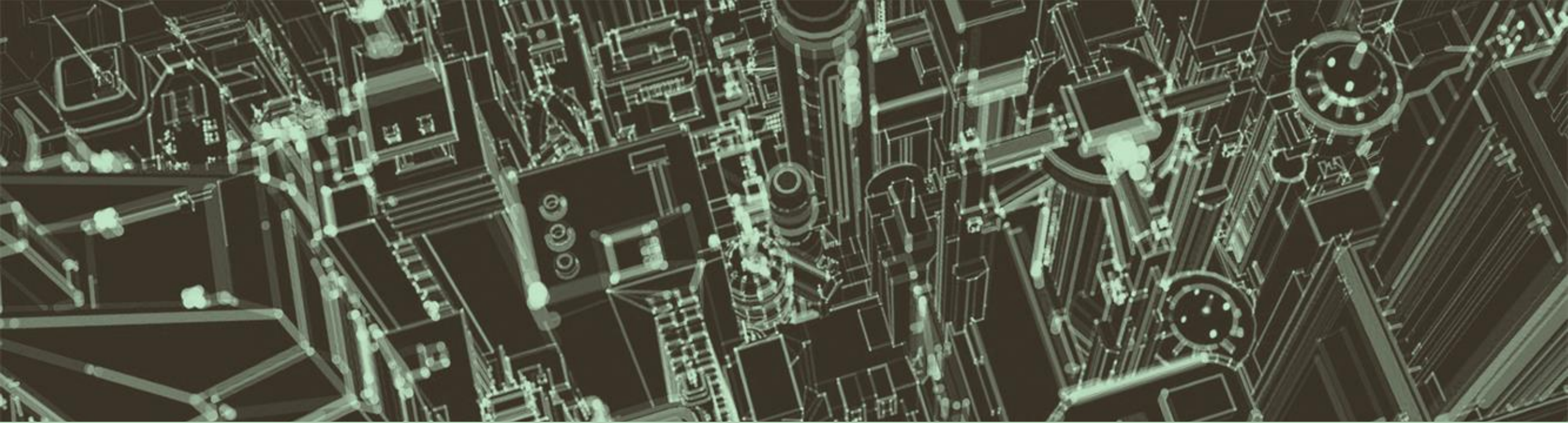
# STEWARDSHIP





# STEWARDSHIP

- Worship reveals what is important to us. Practices of stewardship (how we spend our time, money, and energy) do the same because these are acts of worship.
- “Stewardship is the voluntary and generous offering of God’s gifts of resources, time, talents, and treasure for the benefit and love of God and others.” – Calhoun
- Two ways to be a disciplined steward stand out: worshiping with time and money.



# DISCIPLINED USE OF TIME



# DISCIPLINED USE OF TIME

- “To be like Jesus, we must see the use of our time as a spiritual discipline.” – Whitney
  - “I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” John 17:4
- Following are some biblical reasons to use time wisely and worshipfully:

# DISCIPLINED USE OF TIME

- Use Time Wisely “Because the Days Are Evil”
  - Eph. 5:15-16
  - “...the natural course of our minds, our bodies, our world, and our days leads us toward evil, not toward Christlikeness.” – Whitney
- Wise Use of Time Is the Preparation for Eternity
  - 2 Cor. 6:2
- Time Is Short and Passing
  - James 4:14; 1 John 2:17

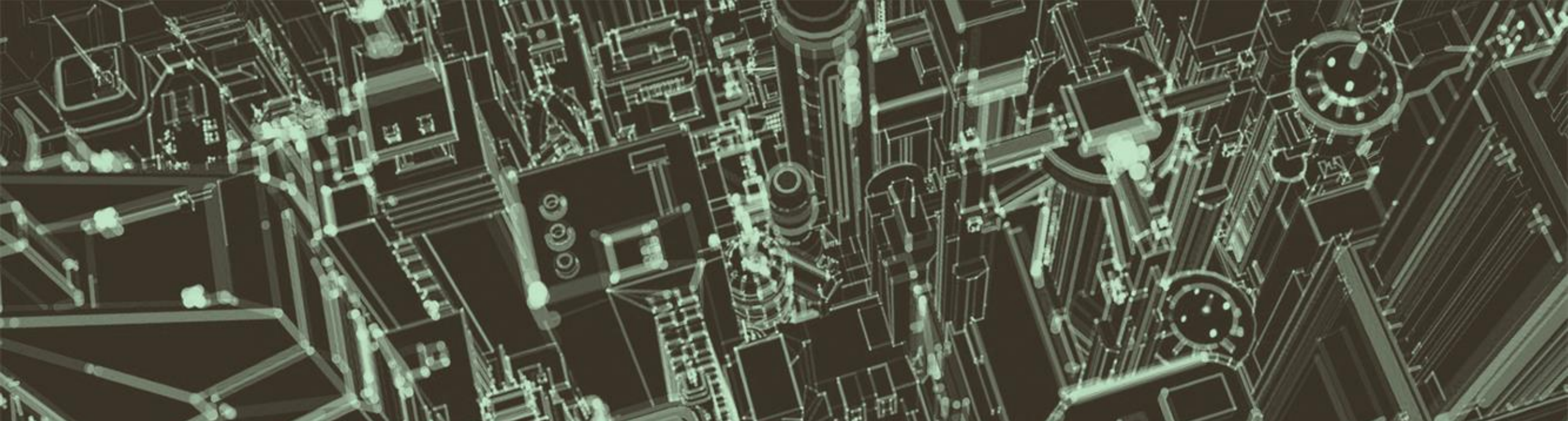


# DISCIPLINED USE OF TIME

- The Remaining Time Is Uncertain
  - Prov. 27:1; Psalm 31:15
- Time Lost Cannot Be Regained
  - John 9:4
  - “Despite your misuse of time in the past, you can improve the time that remains.” – Whitney (Phil. 3:13-14)
- You Are Accountable to God for Your Time
  - 1 Cor. 3:13-15; Heb. 5:12; Matt. 12:36, 25:14-30

# DISCIPLINED USE OF TIME

- Time Is So Easily Lost
  - Prov. 26:13-14, 24:33-34
  - “...if people threw away their money as thoughtlessly as some throw away their time, we would think them insane. Yet time is infinitely more precious than money...” – Whitney
- We Value Time at Death
  - Prov. 5:11-13
- Time’s Value in Eternity
  - Luke 16:22-25; 1 Cor. 6:19-20



# DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY



## DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY

- “...the reason our use of money and the things it buys indicates our spiritual maturity and godliness is that we exchange such a great part of our lives for it...Therefore, how we use it reveals who we are...” – Whitney
- The following are biblical principles of disciplined giving:
- God Owns Everything You Own
  - Psalm 24:1; Ex. 19:5; Job 41:11
  - “That means we are managers or, to use the biblical word, stewards of the things God gives to us.” – Whitney



# DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY

- Giving Is an Act of Worship
  - Phil. 4:18
- Giving Reflects Faith in God's Provision
  - Mark 12:41-44
- Giving Should Be Sacrificial and Generous
  - 2 Cor. 8:1-5
  - Giving isn't sacrificial unless you actually sacrifice to give.
  - Polls show that as income increases, giving does not increase with it. Start giving now, or you won't in the future.

## DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving too little away. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.”

– C. S. Lewis

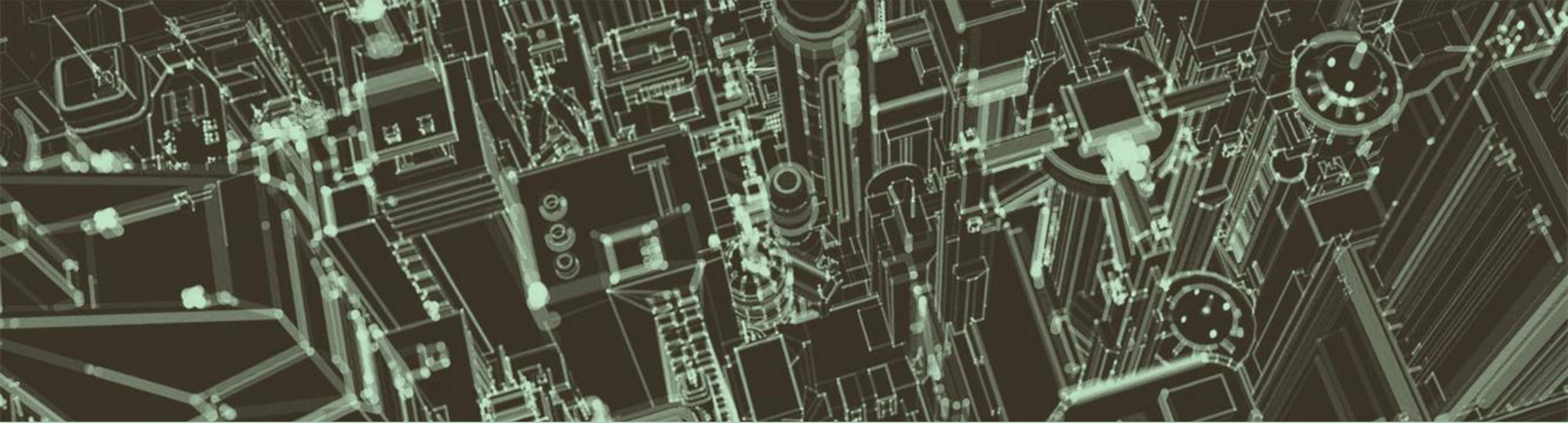
# DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY

- Giving Reflects Spiritual Trustworthiness
  - Luke 16:10-13
- Giving – Love, Not Legalism
  - 2 Cor. 8:7-8, 9:7; 1 Cor. 16:2
- Give Willingly, Thankfully, and Cheerfully
  - 2 Cor. 9:7
- Giving – an Appropriate Response to Real Needs
  - Acts 2:43-45, 4:32-35, 11:27-30

# DISCIPLINED USE OF MONEY

- Giving Should Be Planned and Systematic
  - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
- Generous Giving Results in Bountiful Blessing
  - Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-8
  - “...we must believe He will tell us how to use our money in ways that ultimately benefit us the most and will bring us more joy than we would receive using money our way.” – Whitney
- “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35
- We are blessed to be a blessing.





QUESTIONS?

