

# UNSTOPPABLE

## Grace Driven Generosity #1



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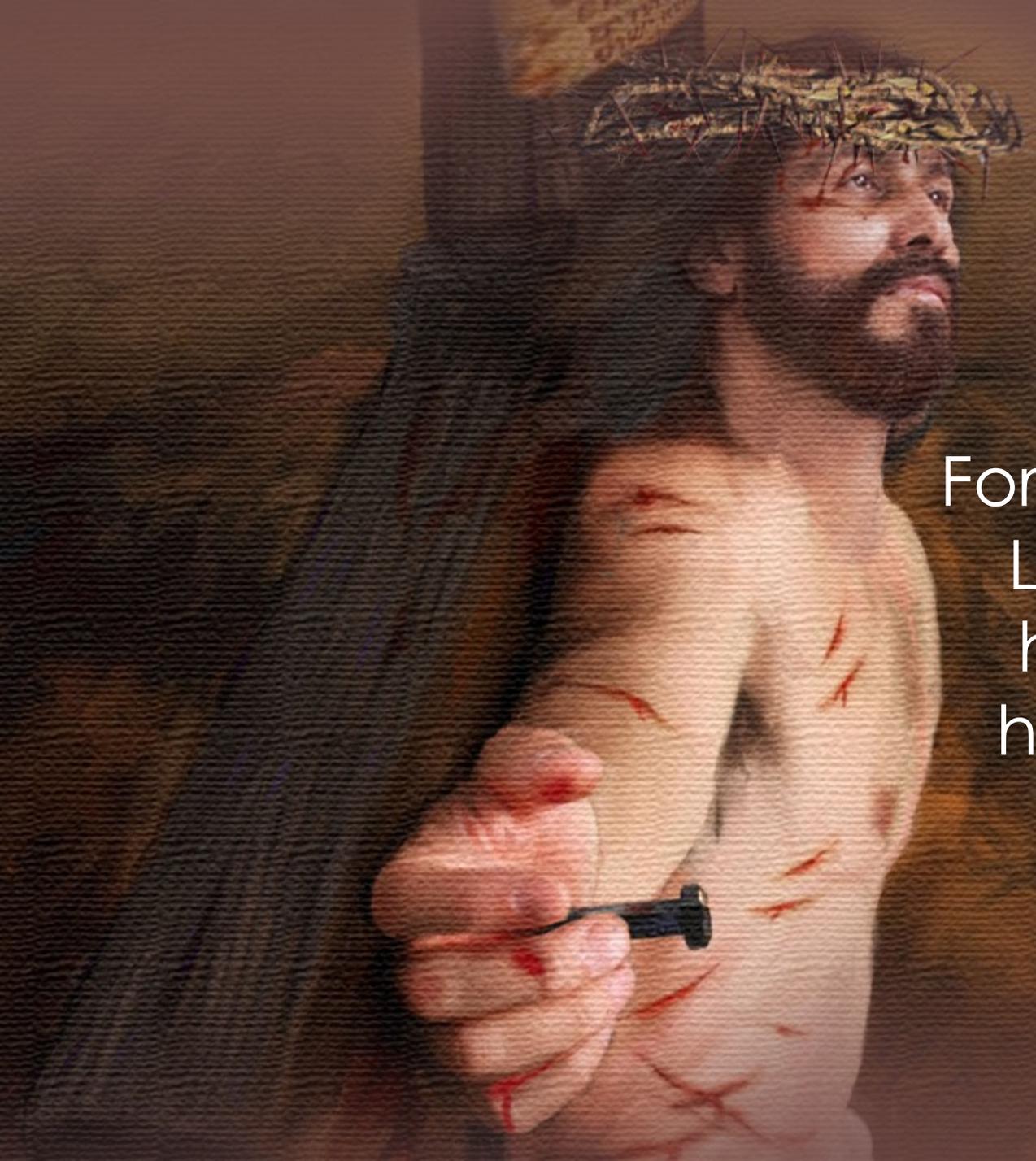
# ASSUMPTION

Humans (the normal self) are NOT naturally generous.



# THESIS

Only a converted self can produce lasting generosity.



For you know the **GRACE** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)**

**G** God's  
**R** Righteousness  
**A** at  
**C** Christ's  
**E** Expense

**GRACE: God's undeserved favor towards sinners**

# Presentation Objectives

1. To propose that a God centered wholistic approach to Christian stewardship can produce better results beyond the bottom line.
2. To present “God’s grace” as a powerful motivation and driving force towards a lifetime of Christian generosity.
3. To show that stewardship education that is biblical can contribute to generous giving.

# PIVOT: FOCUS SHIFT

**NARROW**

**BROAD**

**Tithe & Offerings**

**Lordship of Jesus**

**Church Member**

**God As Creator**

**Behavior**

**Values**

**Pocket & Wallet**

**Heart**

**Program**

**Lifestyle**

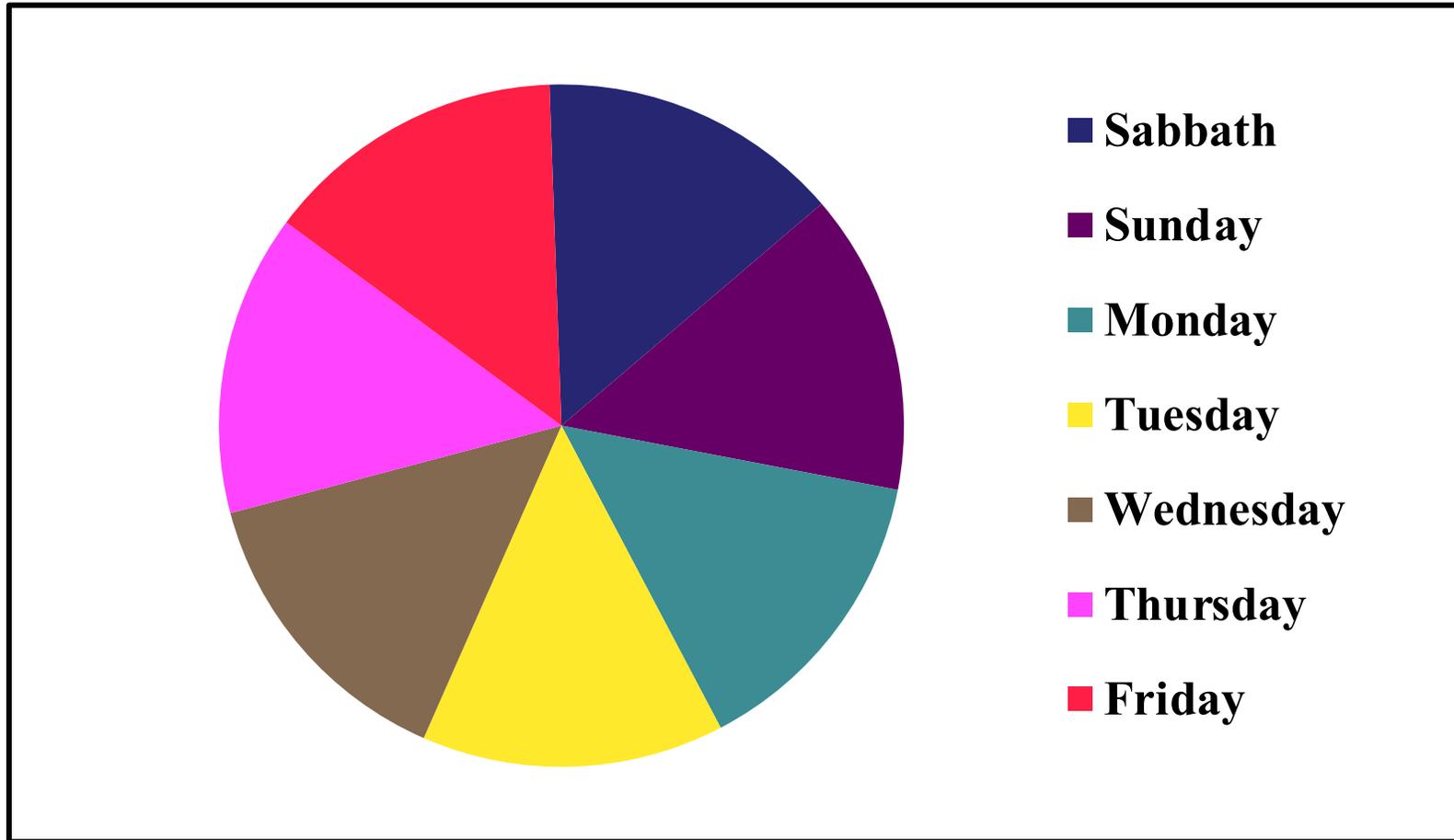
# Living in the Kingdom

“But seek **first** his [God’s] **kingdom** and his [God’s] **righteousness**, and **all** these things [our humans needs as disciples/stewards] will be given to you as well.”

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

“Kingdom” (Βασιλεία) is the rule/reign/dominion of Jesus Christ in our hearts daily

# SEVEN DAYS STEWARDSHIP

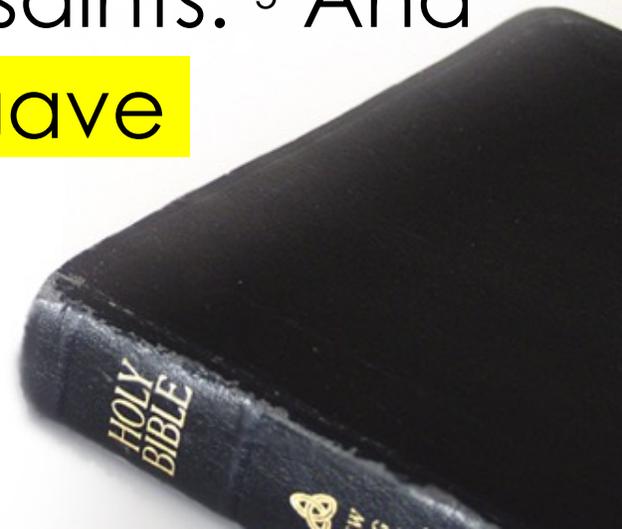


# STEWARDS OR DONORS

STEWARDS	DONORS
Money: God's Gift	Money: My Possessions
Giving: It's about God	Giving: It's about me/self
Offerings: God's Mission	Donation: My Project(s)
Management: God	Management: I/self
Frequency: Regular	Frequency: Sporadic
The Heart Matters	The Amount Matters

# The Ideal Outcome

<sup>2</sup> Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they [Macedonian churches] gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. <sup>5</sup> And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. **2 Cor 8:2-5 (NIV)**



# The Macedonian Example

“The willingness to sacrifice on the part of the Macedonian believers came as a result of wholehearted consecration. Moved by the Spirit of God, they ‘first gave their own selves to the Lord’ (2 Cor. 8:5); then they were willing to give freely of their means for the support of the gospel. It was not necessary to urge them to give; rather, they rejoiced in the privilege of denying themselves even of necessary things in order to supply the needs of others.”

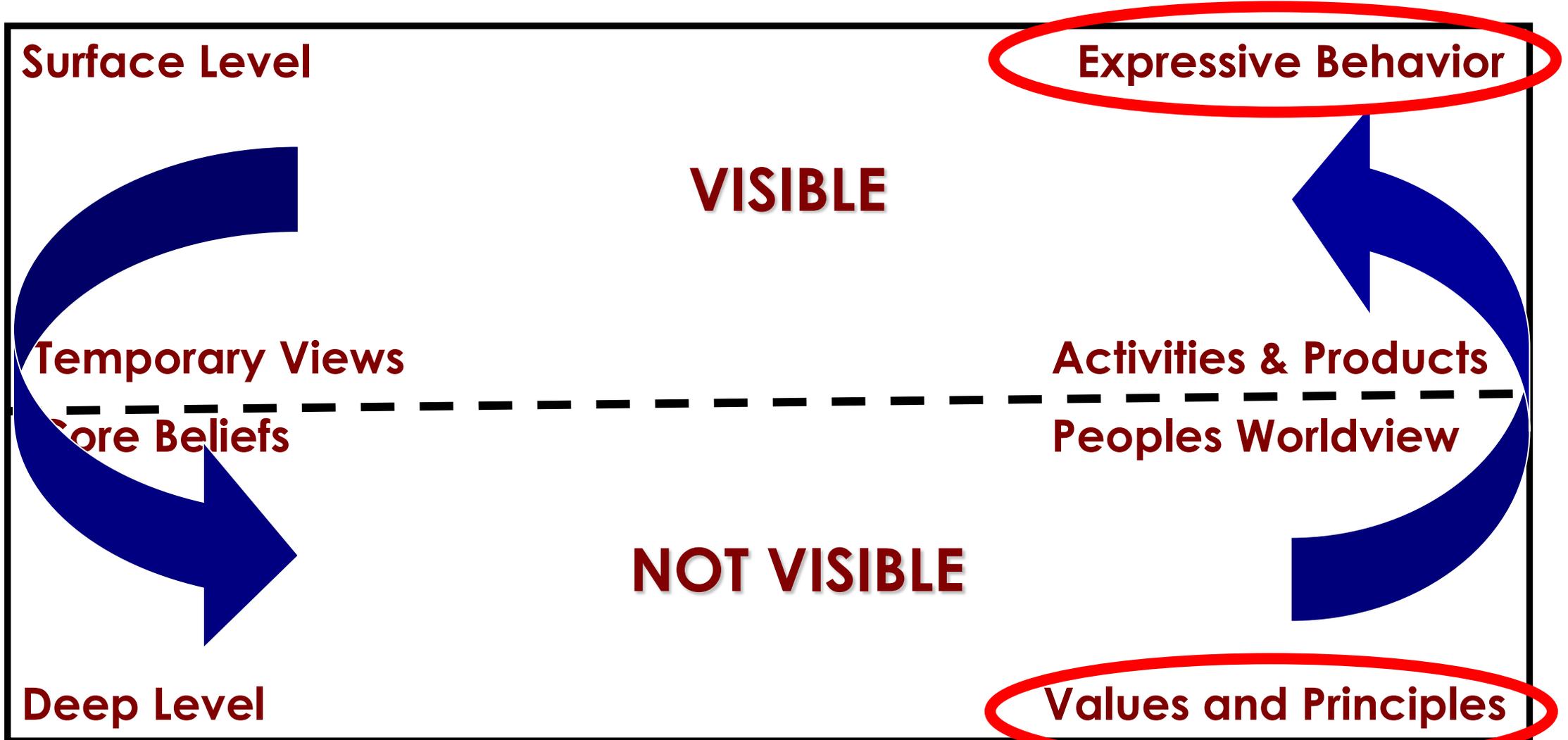
***(Ellen G. White, Acts of the Apostles, p.343.2)***

# **Fundamental of Stewardship**

**Christian stewardship and generosity starts with the giving of one's total self, first, to God**

**Stewardship is ALL of me in response to ALL of God**

# HUMAN LIFE IN TWO LEVELS



# VALUES INFORM BEHAVIOR

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Matthew 7:18 (NIV)



**BEHAVIOR**

**Visible**

**Surface Level**

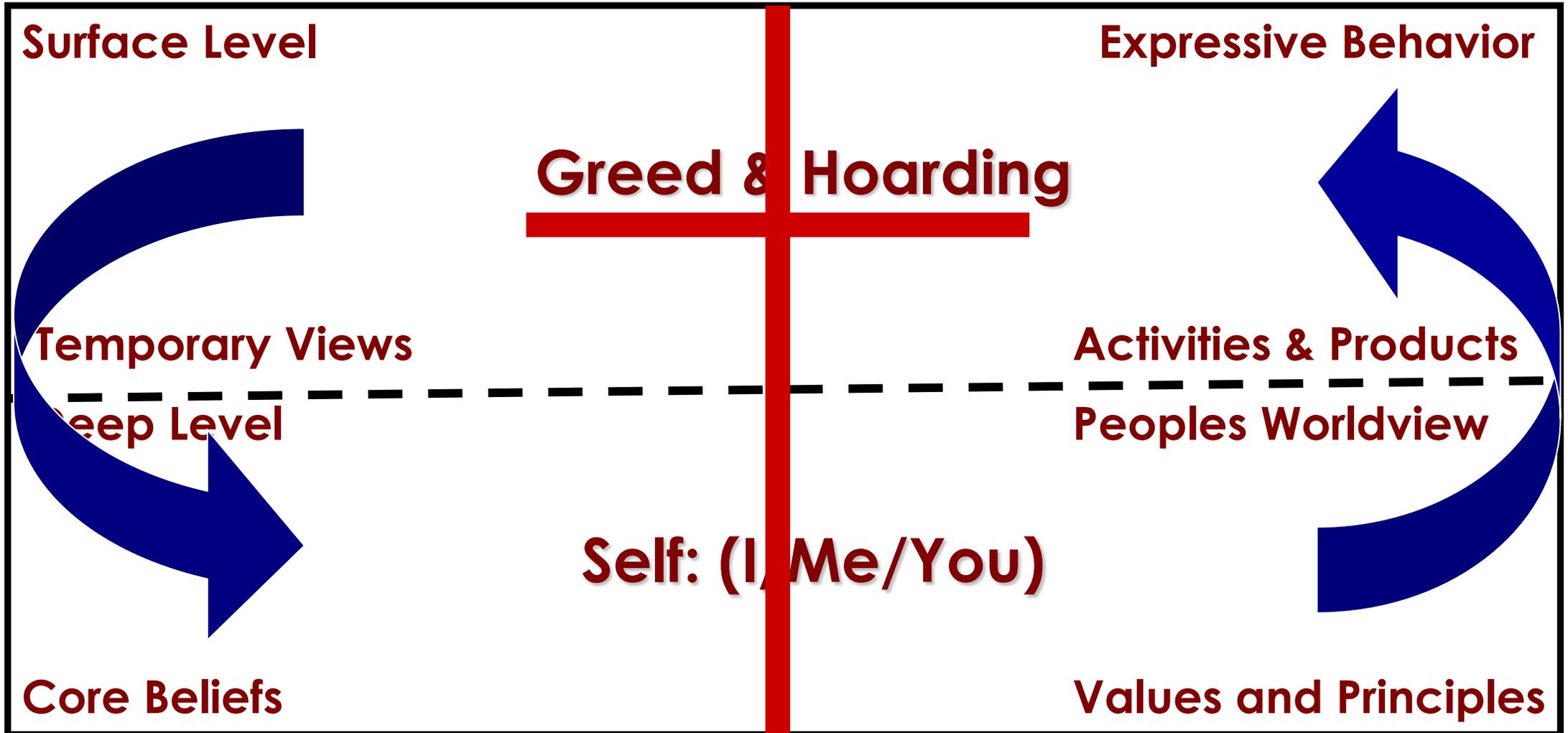


**Not Visible**

**VALUES**

**Deep Level**

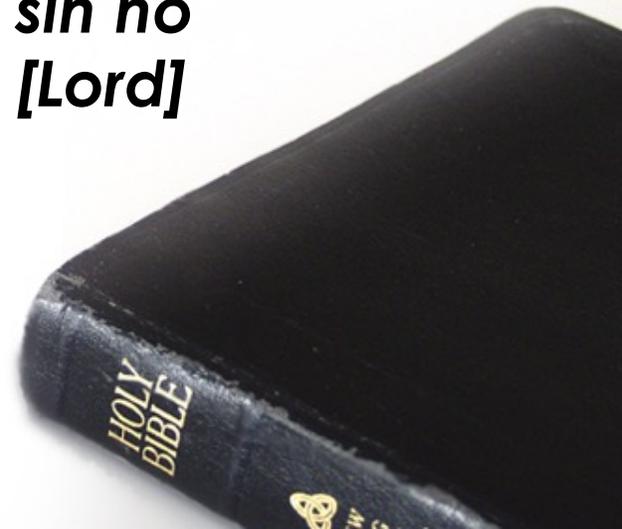
# LIFE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST



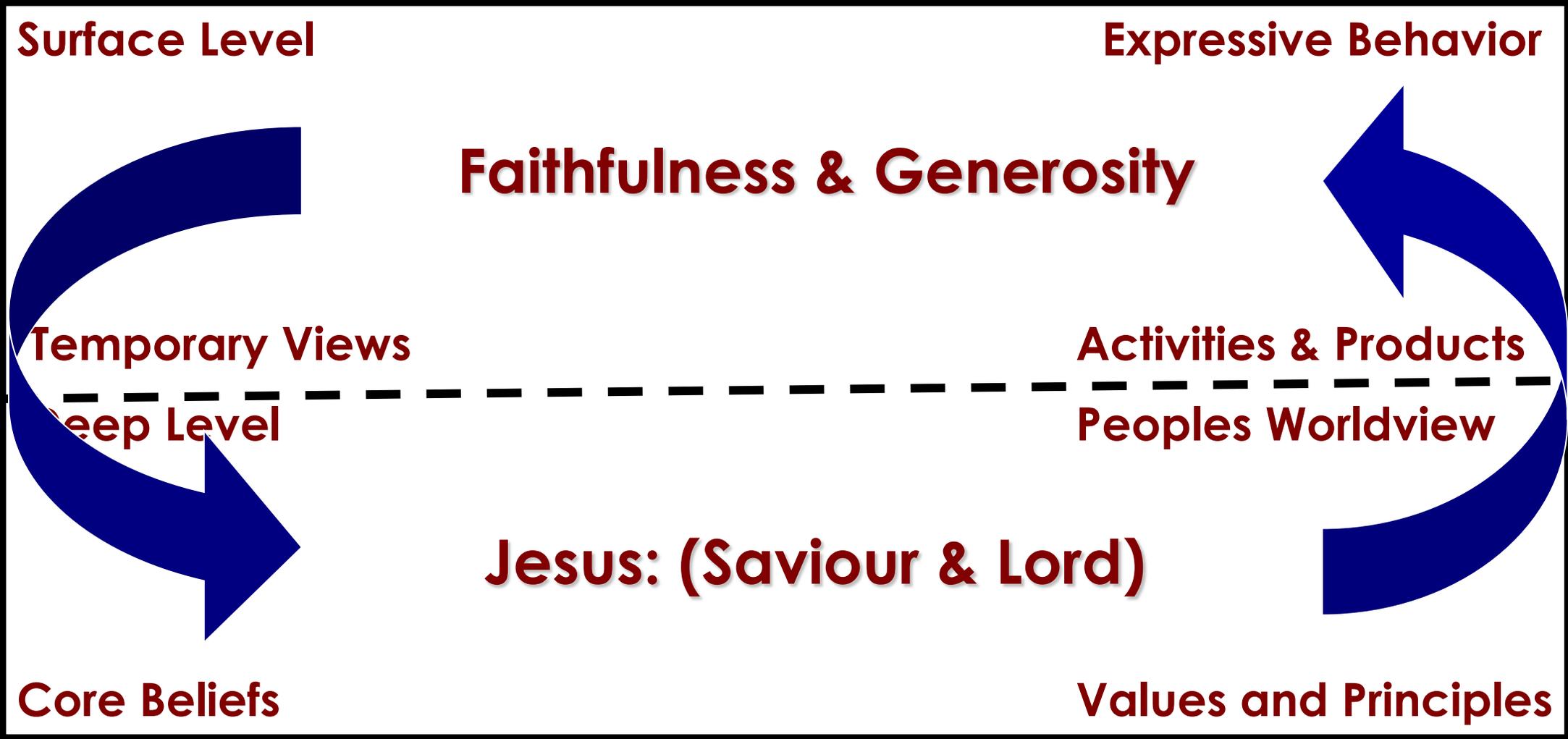
# Christ Transformation

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20 (NIV)**

*Being crucified with Christ means, we're dead to sin; and sin no longer have dominion over us. Jesus is now the new ruler [Lord] within us, and He will live His life in us and for us.*



# LIFE WITH JESUS CHRIST



# VALUES TRANSFORM BEHAVIOR



# COMPETING VALUES

**SELF**

**JESUS CHRIST**

**Self-serving**

**Service**

**Self-indulgence**

**Simplicity**

**Self-gratification**

**Sacrifice**

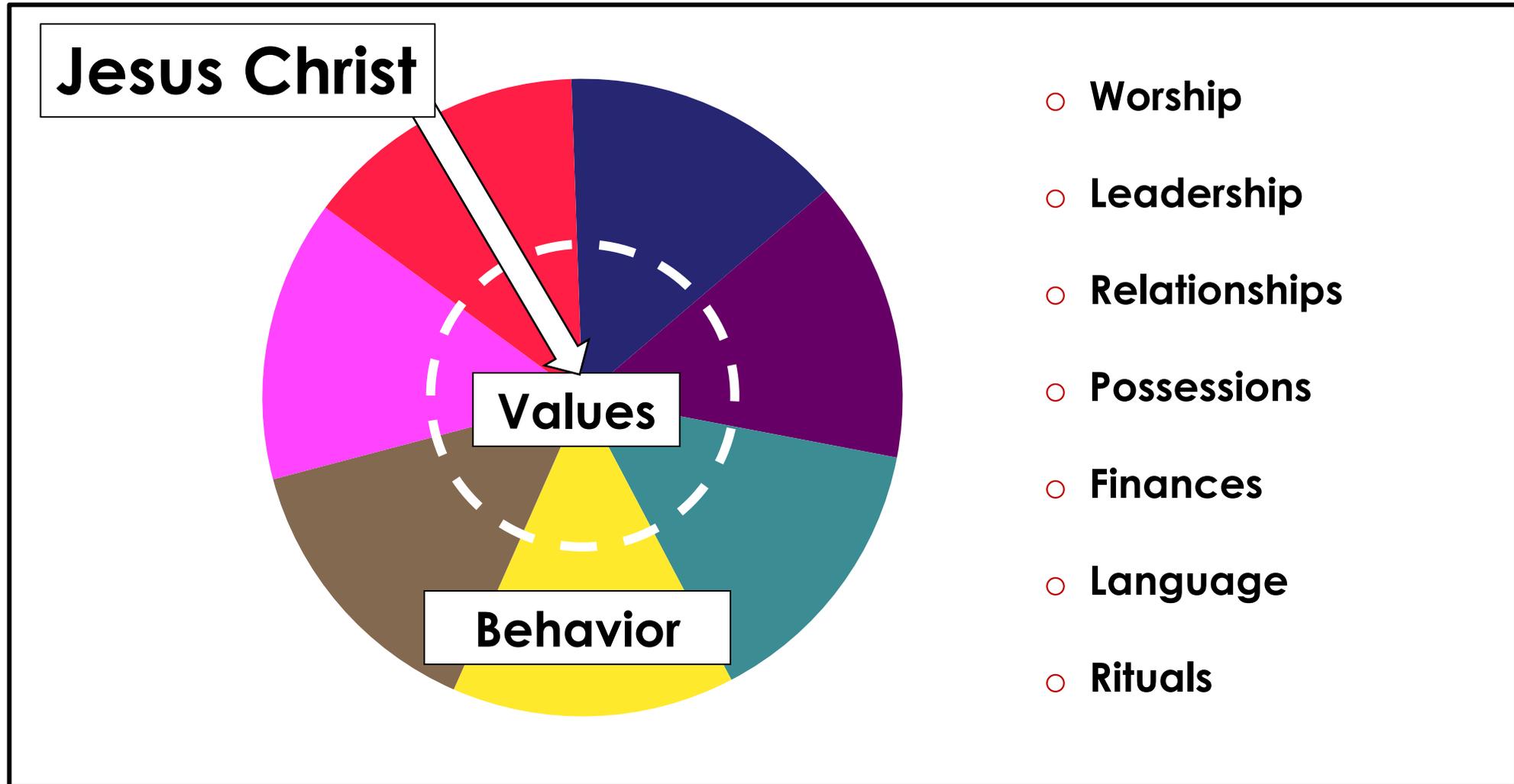
**Self-seeking**

**Surrender**

**Self-centeredness**

**Submission**

# WHOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP



# Stewardship: Christ's Work

“It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that can make us holy.” *(Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, p. 59.4)*

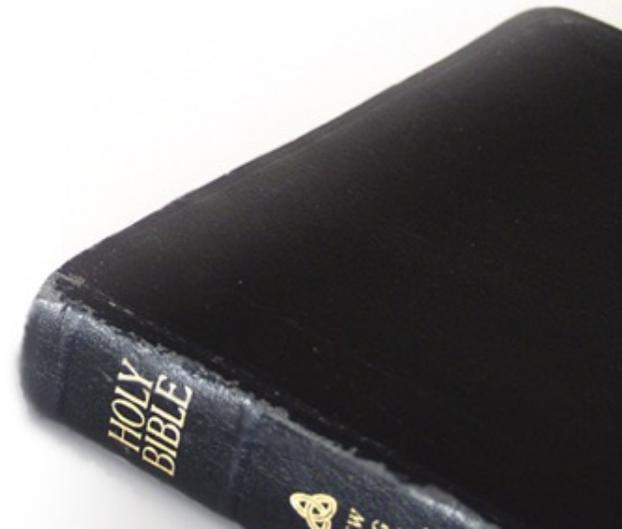
“You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith . . . , and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.” **Then with Christ working in you, you will manifest the same spirit and do the same good works – works of righteousness, obedience.**” *(Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, p. 62.3)*

# Christ Transformation

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

***John 15:4,5 (NIV)***

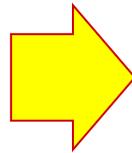


# THE RELATIONAL LINK

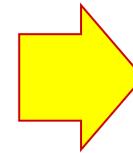
**The Missing Piece**



**Right  
Information**



**Right  
Relationship**



**Right  
Behaviour**

**The key to Christian generosity is experiencing the life of Jesus in us daily – and it's called right relationship**

# Adventists Need Jesus

What the world needs is Jesus,  
He alone can save;

What the world needs is Jesus,  
All His love He gave.

There is no other Saviour,

He can change men's behaviour;

What the world needs is Jesus,  
Just a glimpse of Him.

*(Benjamin A Baur: 1897-1972)*

