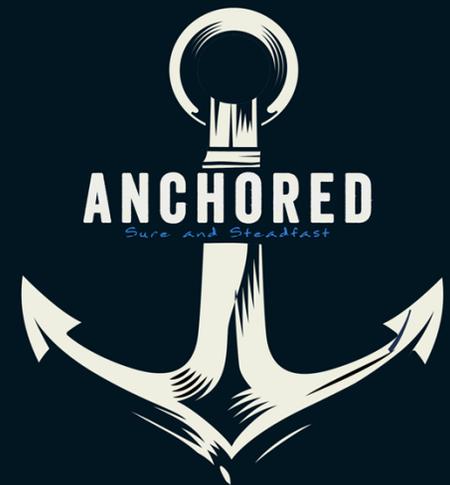


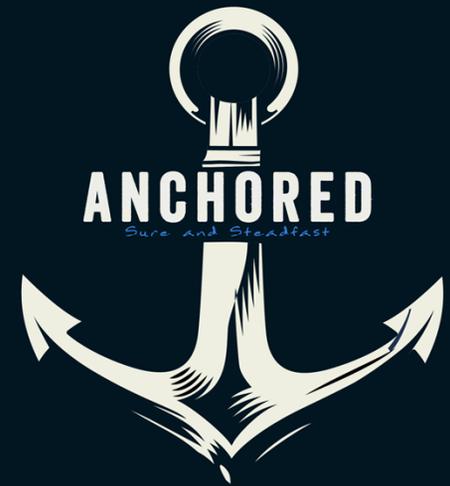
UNIT 2: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

LESSON 2 – God vs. gods



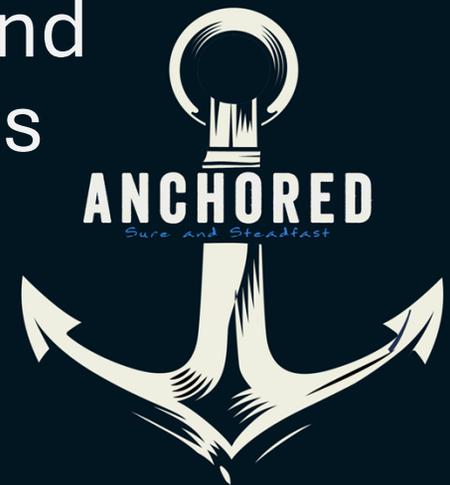
Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - The Christian faith leaves no room for false gods



Introduction

- What we want to do with what we learn:
 - Think deeply about the differences between what God is calling us to and what the prominent culture suggests



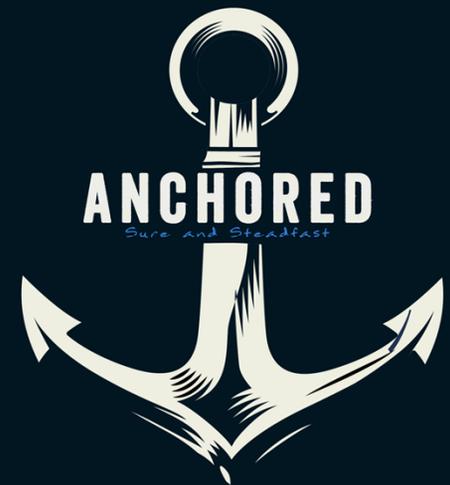
Scripture Focus

Exodus 32

Isaiah 44:5-7

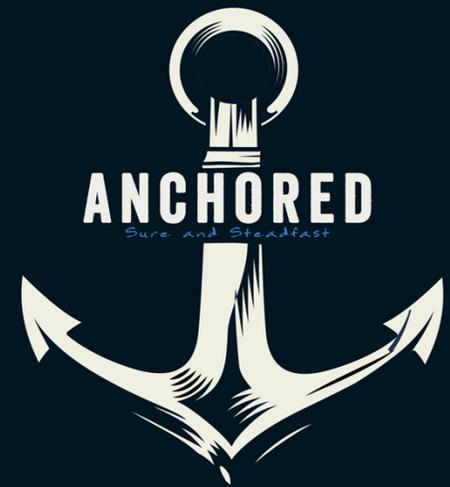
Acts 17:16-27

Matthew 6:24-27

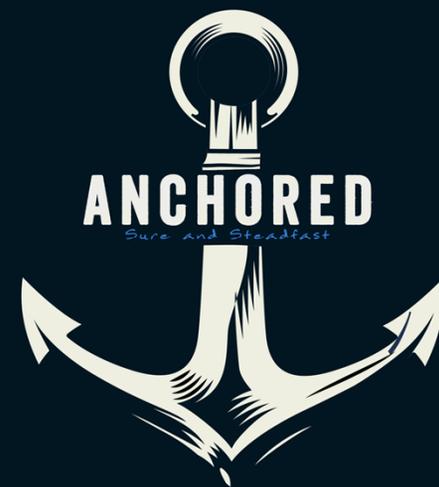


Anchor Statement

As a Christ-follower, I have a unique view of Who God is, and I do not believe that there are any other gods before Him.

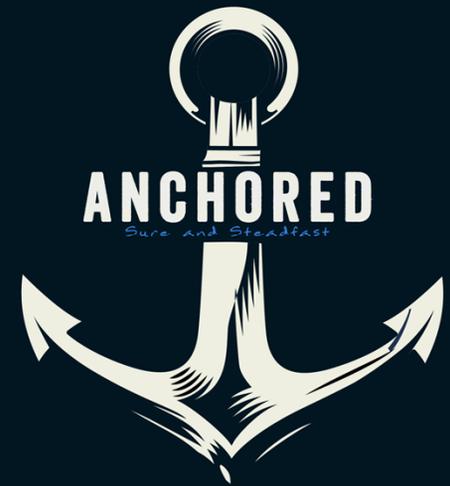


OVERVIEW



Overview

- For Christ followers, there can be no other gods.
- It's more than just a discussion of monotheism vs. polytheism



Context and Details

Exodus

Author: Moses (generally accepted)

Time frame: ~1400 to 1200 BC

Purpose: Record of God's great rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt



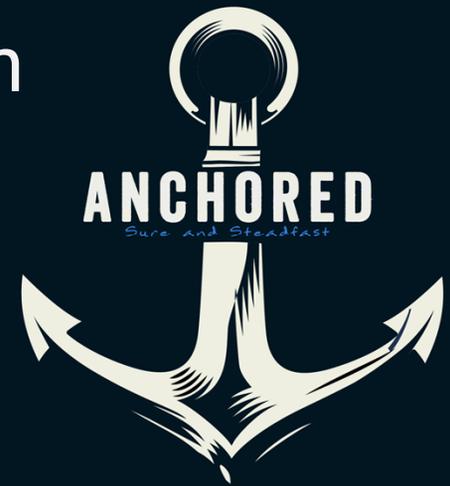
Context and Details

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah, son of Amoz

Time frame: 740-681 BC

Purpose: to call the nation of Judah back to God; warn of coming judgment, tell of God's salvation through the Messiah



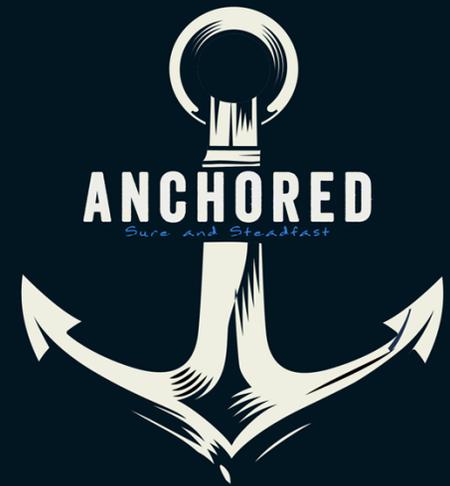
Context and Details

Matthew

Author: Matthew, former tax collector and disciple of Jesus

Time frame: late 50s or 60s AD

Purpose: to convince a primarily Jewish audience that Jesus is the Messiah



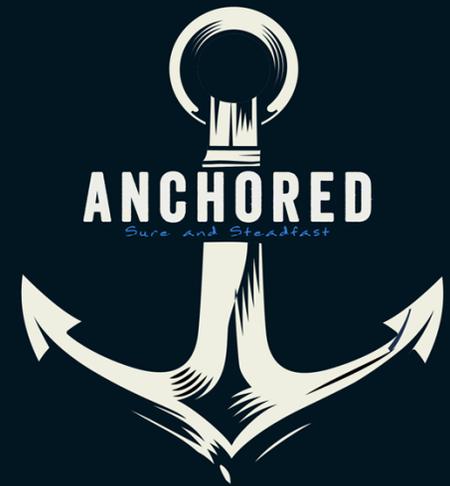
Context and Details

Acts

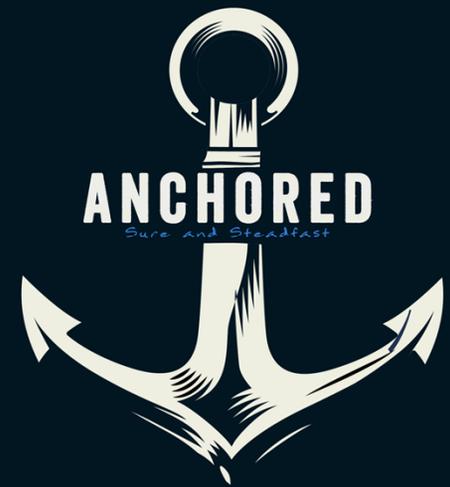
Author: Luke, a Gentile physician

Time frame: ~70 – 80 AD

Purpose: to tell the story of the early church following Jesus' resurrection

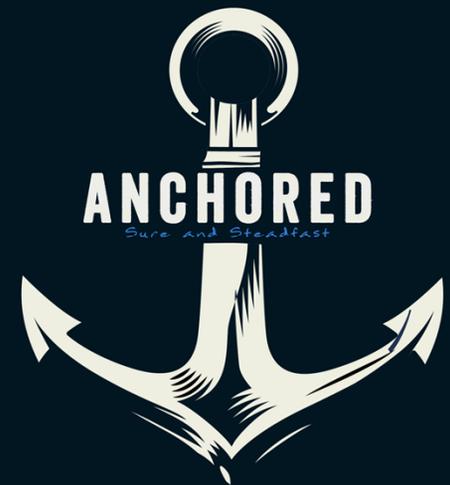


THE SETTING

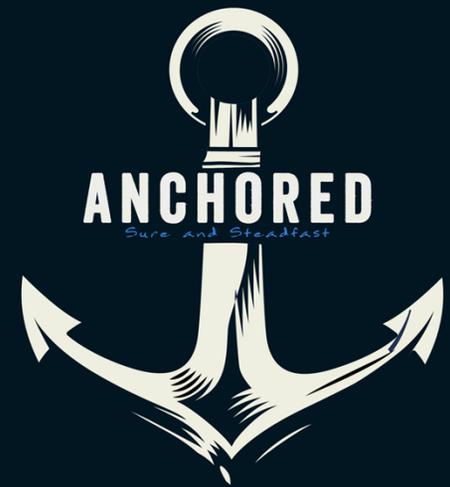


The Setting

- In Acts, Paul share the Gospel with the Athenians.
- Polytheism and pantheism are not restricted to certain religions.
- Scripture leaves no room for this type of worship.

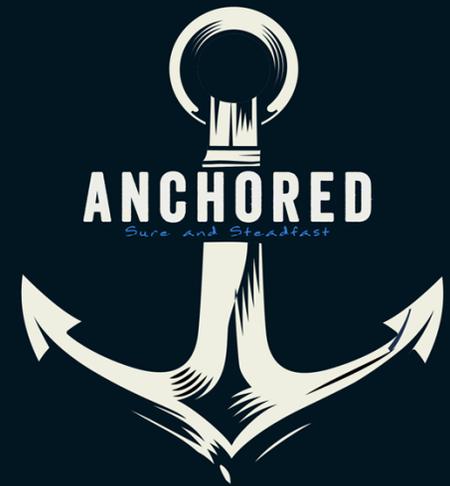


THE MAIN POINT

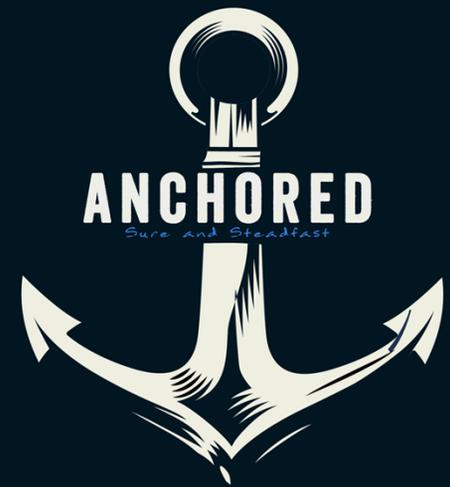


The Main Point

- God claims that He is the only true God.
- If we profess belief in Him, we also hold that there are no other gods.
- Idolatry, or pantheism, has crept into our lives and turned us away from the monotheistic belief of Christianity.

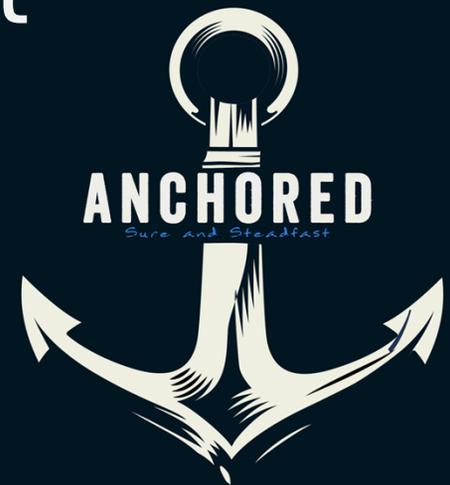


THE LEAD IN



Goal

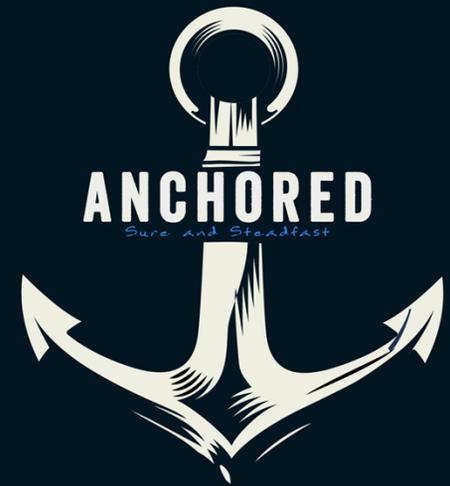
To see that God is complex and mysterious, but He does not appear differently to different people



Video

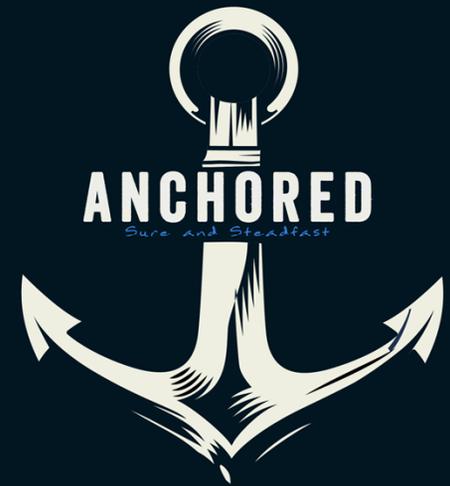
Think about how you would describe God.

Kids of Different Religions
Describe God



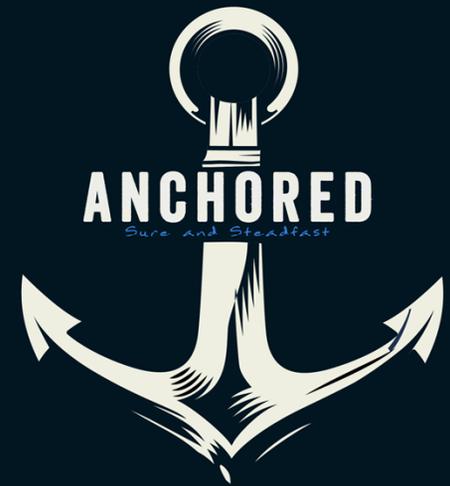
Questions

- Which kid do you think had the most correct view of God?
- Which kid do you think had the most incorrect view of God?

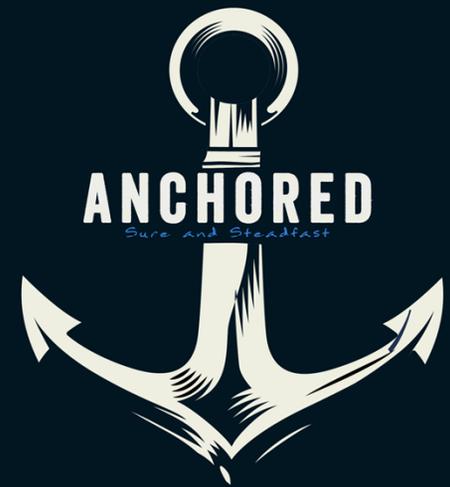


Isaiah 44:6-8

- We can be too harsh – it's what those kids were taught
- Some people hang on to false beliefs their whole life
- He doesn't appear differently to different people



THE MAIN EVENT



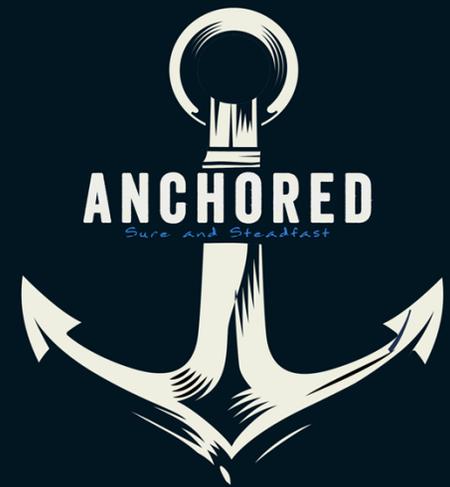
Goal

- To identify the meaning of monotheism, polytheism, and pantheism
- To emphasize the importance of believing in the One True God



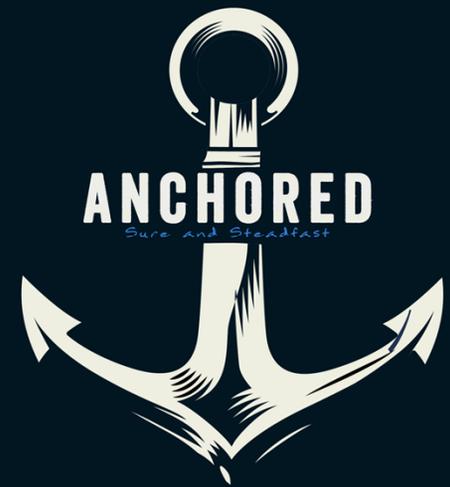
Vocabulary Lesson

- Monotheism
 - ✓ One God and only One God
- Polytheism
 - ✓ Multiple Gods
- Pantheism
 - ✓ God is in everything



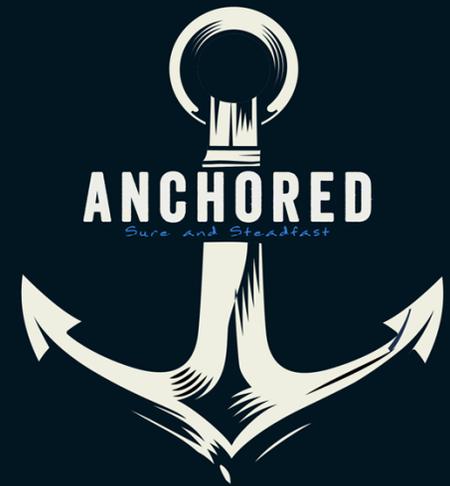
Acts 17:16-21

- What was Paul's reaction to the idols that he saw in Athens?



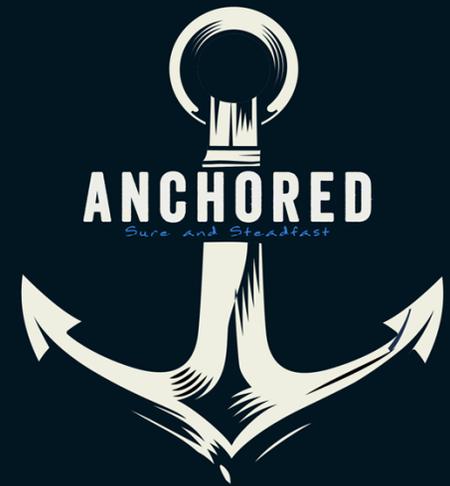
Acts 17:16-21

- Paul reasoned with people
- Conversational based and intentional
- Sharing the Gospel in comparison to other beliefs



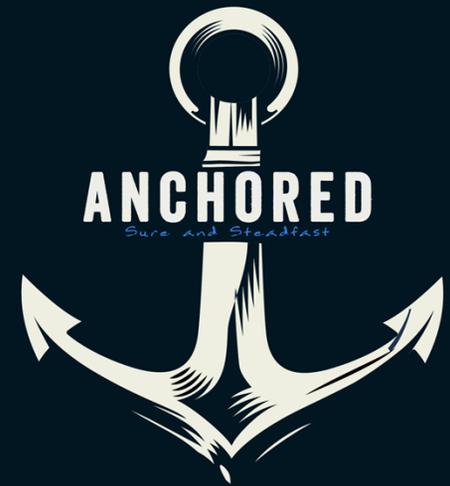
Acts 17:22-27

- Paul describes who God is
- He speaks about how people can have a relationship with Him
- Repent and believe in Him



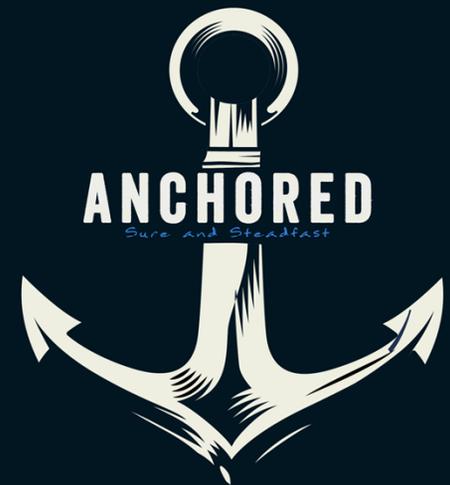
Acts 17

- What do you think Paul is telling them about the other gods they had been worshipping?



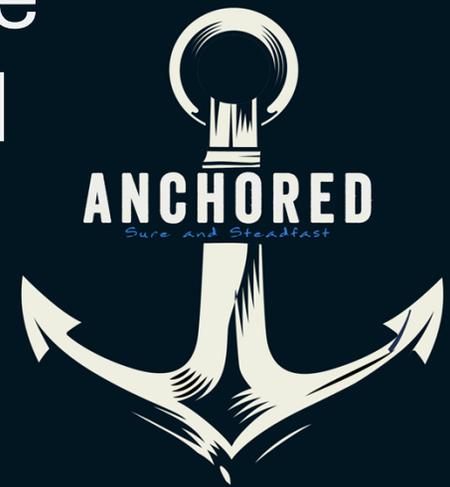
Monotheism

- All monotheistic religions claim to worship the **ONLY** god.
- There is no room for multiple gods.



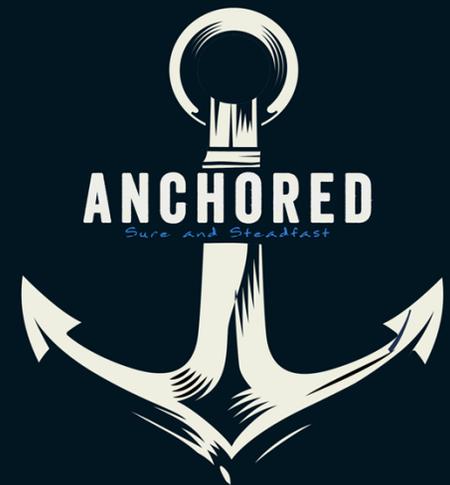
Christianity

- Is NOT an inclusive religion
- There are NO other gods
- Those who follow other gods are lost and need the One True God



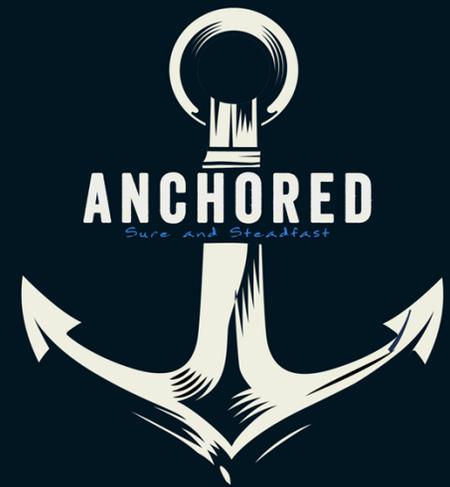
Isaiah 45:5-7

- Paul did not try to destroy all the false gods
- He shared the life-changing message of who God is and why He is above all the other gods



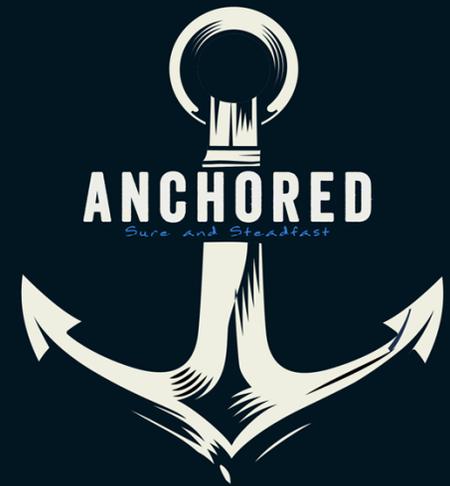
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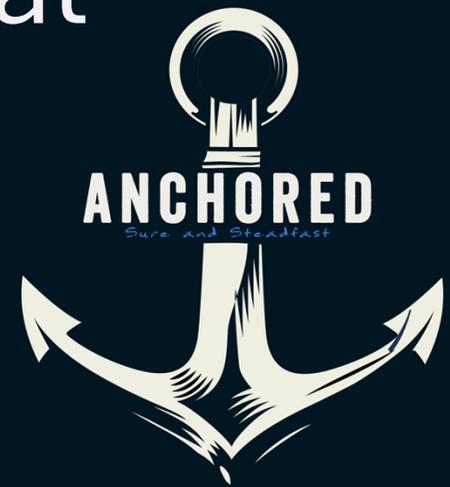
God vs. gods

- Some are practicing it and don't even realize they are polytheist
- Some try to create a polytheistic religion around Christianity



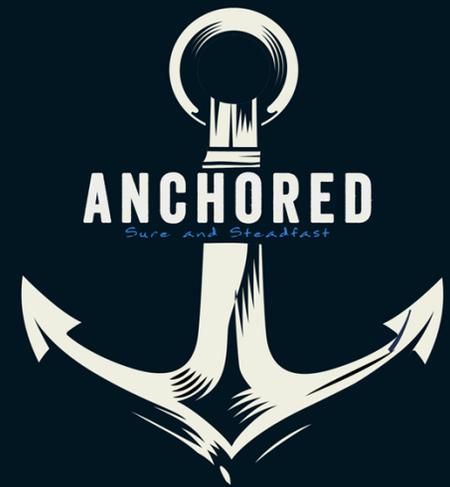
Matthew 6:24-27

What connection is there
between serving two masters
and worrying about things that
we can't control?



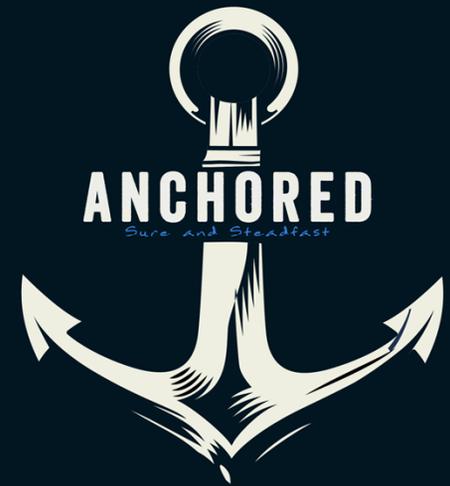
Exodus 32:1-8

What led God's people to
make the golden calf?



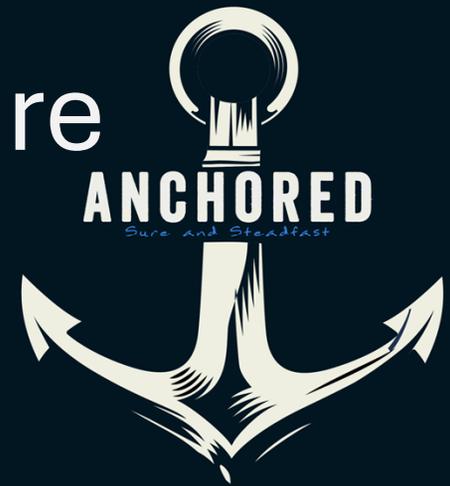
Exodus 32:1-8

Just as we read in Matthew 6:24-27, when we lose faith in God, it drives us to seek out other 'masters'



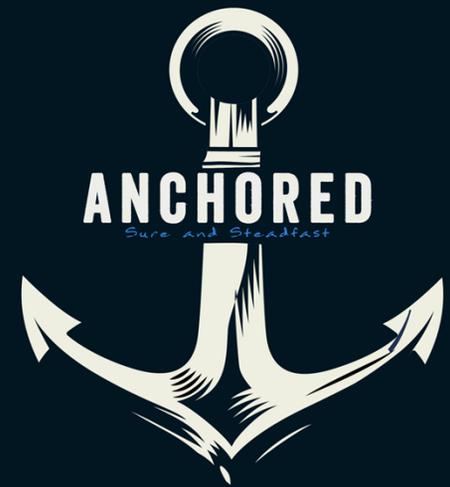
Exodus 32:1-8

If we aren't careful, we can claim that we believe in One God and actually worship multiple gods...all of which are false

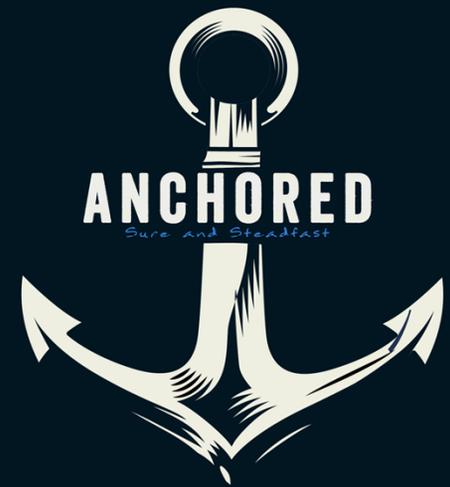


Remember...

When we share our faith, it's
important that we are
anchored in God alone.

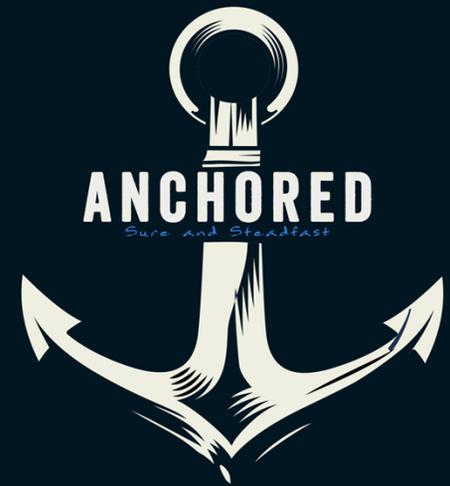


THE LAST WORD



The Last Word

Have you ever heard someone say something about God as though they know Him well, but their claims did not sound at all like God's character?

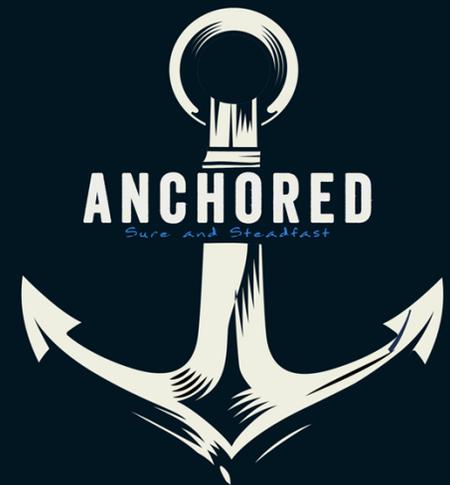


The Last Word

God does call us to be kind to others,
especially those who do not know
Him yet – BUT...

He repeatedly says:

He is the **ONLY** God



Deuteronomy 32:39

- What does God tell us about Himself here?
- How do you think God would respond if someone said that He doesn't mind if people worship other gods?



1 Timothy 2:1-6

Believing what God is saying to us leaves us with an unpopular stance in the middle of a growlingly pantheistic culture.

