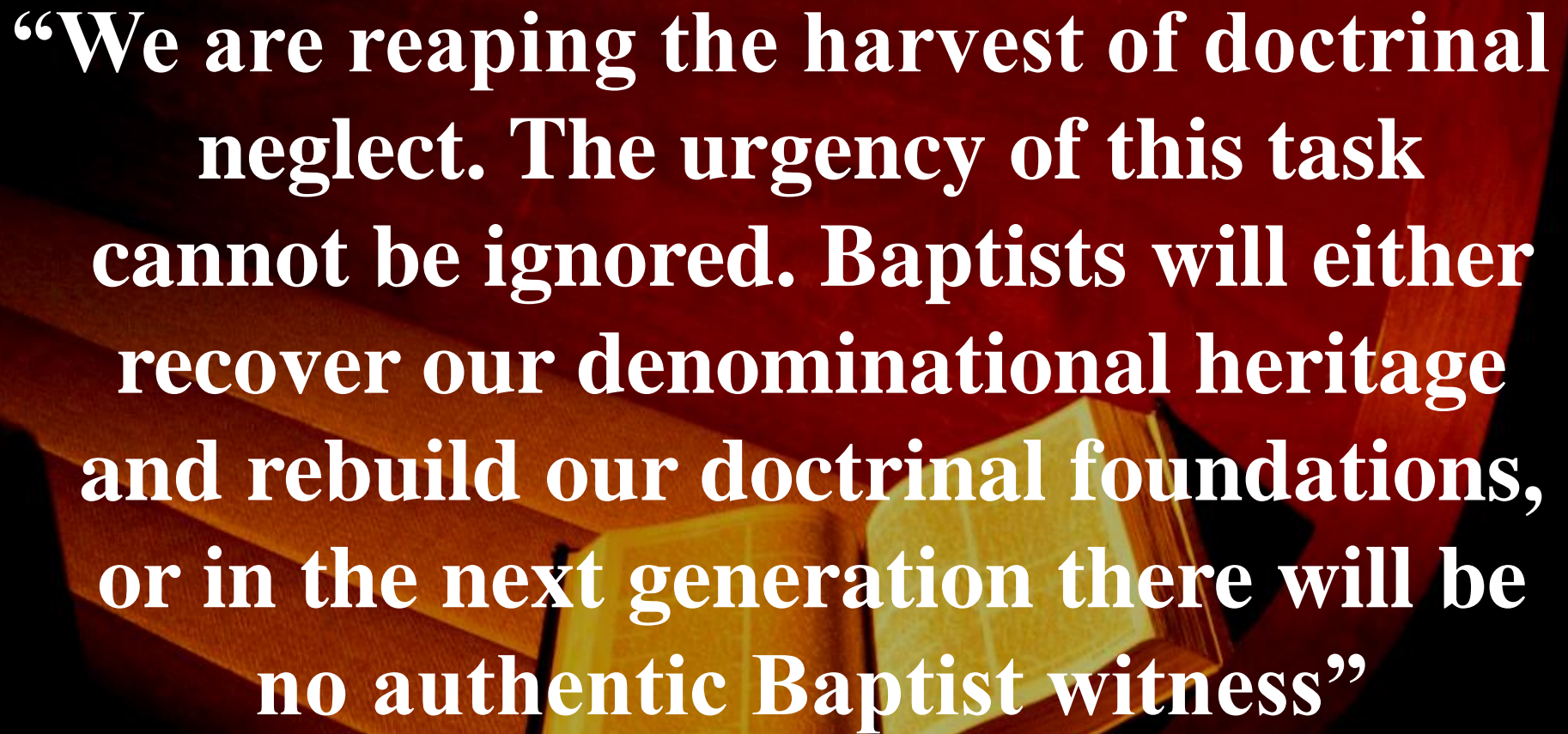


CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE

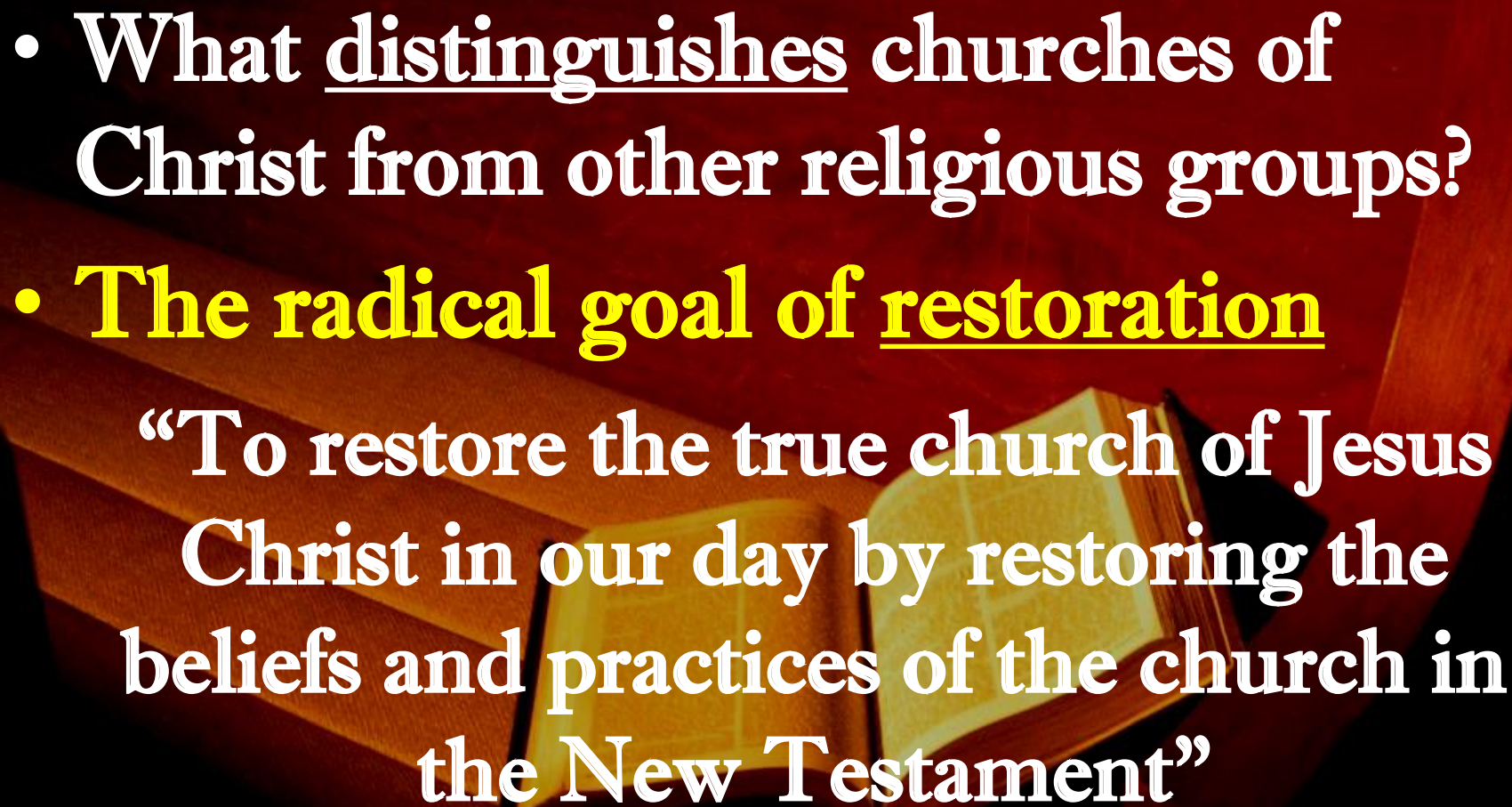


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The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open Bible with yellowed pages. A large, semi-transparent red star is positioned behind the text, with its points extending towards the corners of the frame. The overall color palette is dominated by deep reds and warm yellows from the book's pages.

“We are reaping the harvest of doctrinal neglect. The urgency of this task cannot be ignored. Baptists will either recover our denominational heritage and rebuild our doctrinal foundations, or in the next generation there will be no authentic Baptist witness”

(Dr. Albert Mohler, President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

- 
- What distinguishes churches of Christ from other religious groups?
 - **The radical goal of restoration**
 - “To restore the true church of Jesus Christ in our day by restoring the beliefs and practices of the church in the New Testament”

- The New Testament contains a general pattern of beliefs and practice
God expects every church to follow
 - **1 Corinthians 14: 33-34** “As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.”
 - **Acts 14:20-23** “when they appointed elders for them in every church....”

- The New Testament contains a general pattern of beliefs and practice
God expects every church to follow

- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** “Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatia churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...”

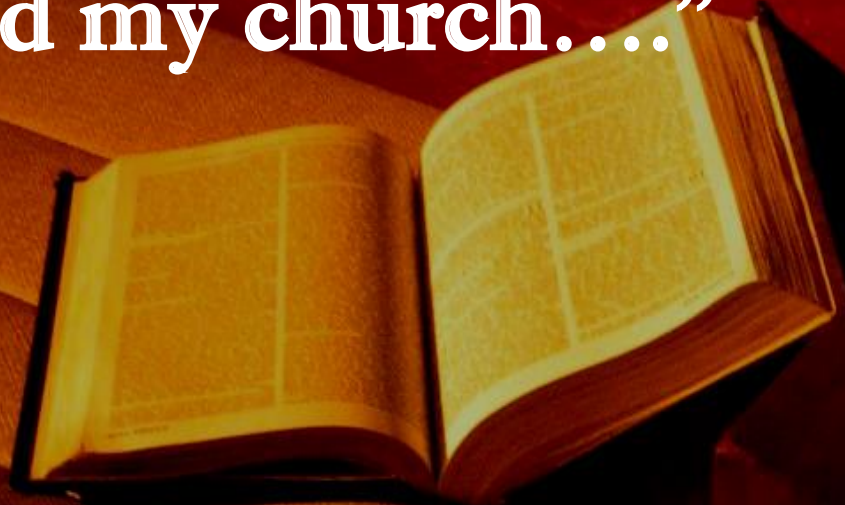
- **Acts 20:7** “on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread....”

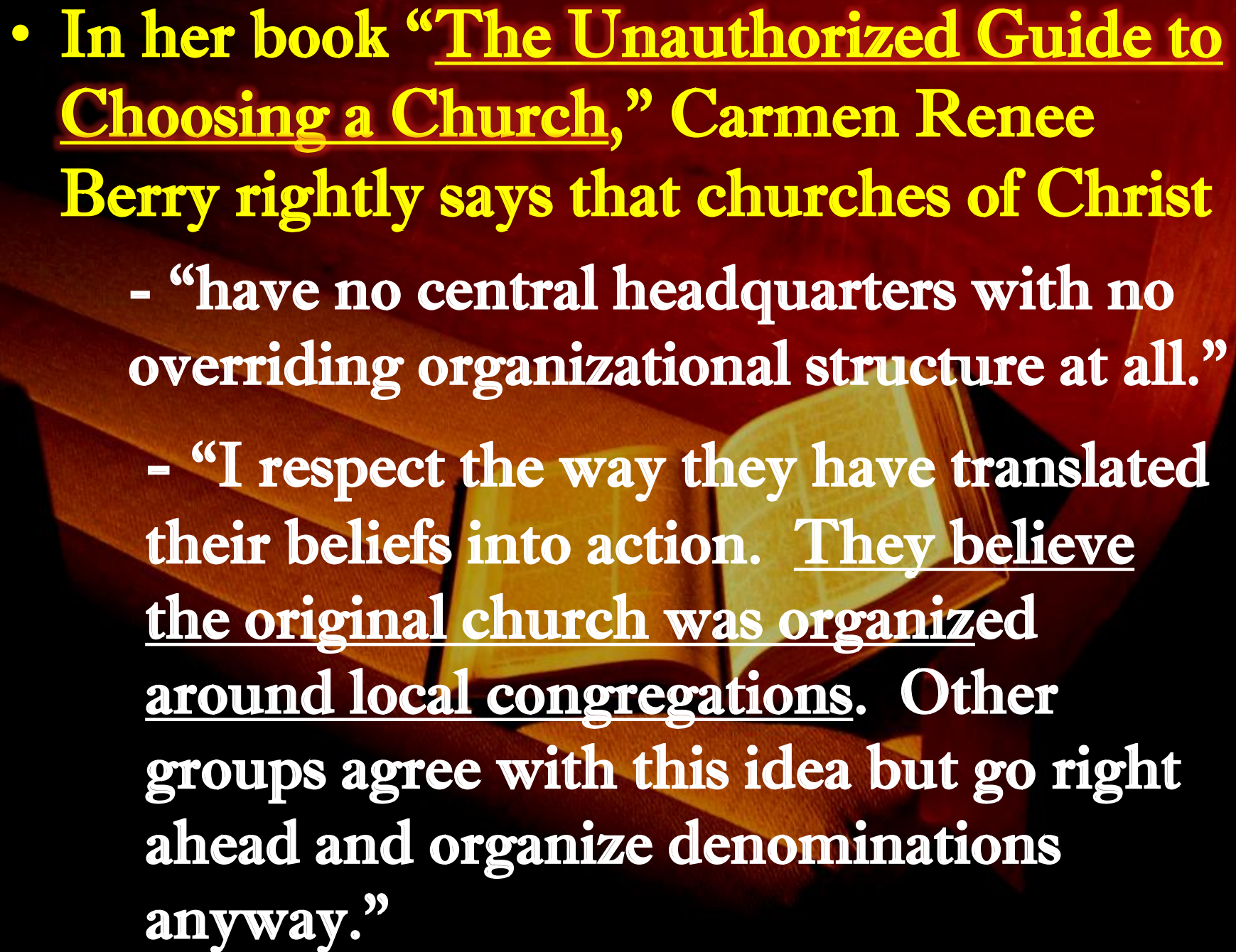


- The New Testament contains a general pattern of beliefs and practice God expects every church to follow
 - 1 Timothy 2:8 “I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without wrath and dissention.”

- We're not just another **denomination** either

- **Matthew 16:18** "...upon this rock I will build my church...."



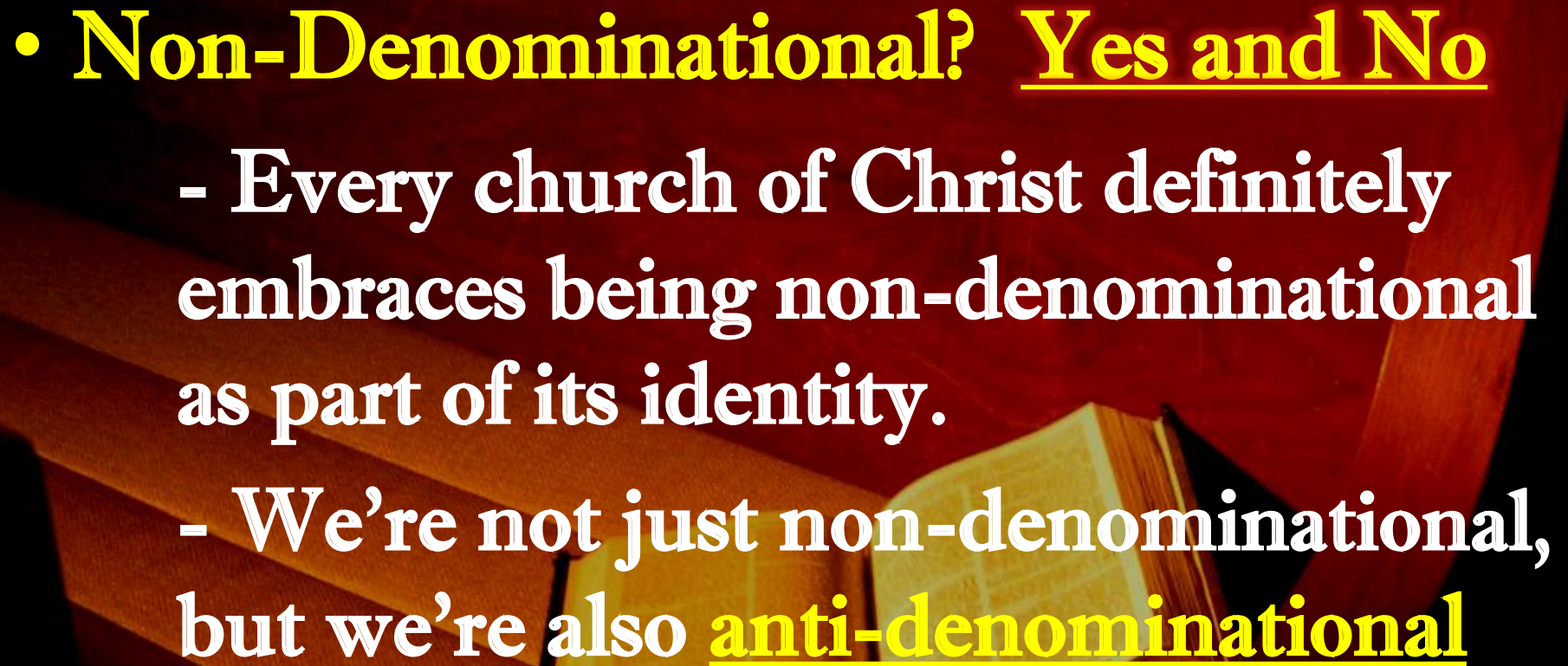
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- In her book “The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church,” Carmen Renee Berry rightly says that churches of Christ
 - “have no central headquarters with no overriding organizational structure at all.”
 - “I respect the way they have translated their beliefs into action. They believe the original church was organized around local congregations. Other groups agree with this idea but go right ahead and organize denominations anyway.”



- We're not just another **denomination** either

- **Matthew 16:18** "...upon this rock I will build my church...."

- **Romans 16:16** "All the churches of Christ greet you."

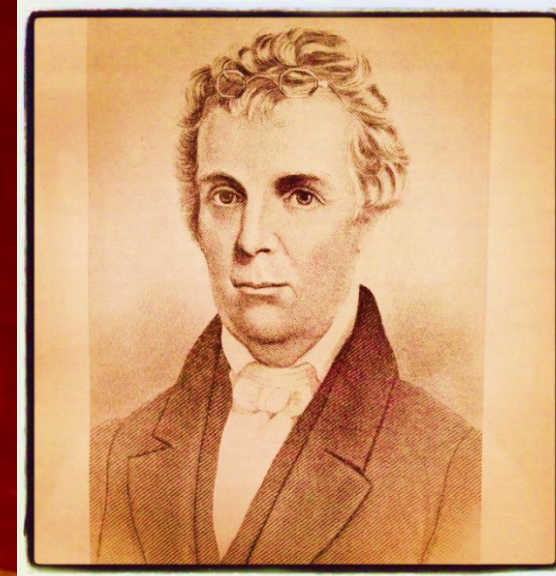
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- The background of the slide features a stack of books. On top of the stack is an open Bible, showing its pages. The books are bound in various shades of brown and tan. The entire scene is set against a dark red, slightly textured background.
- **Non-Denominational? Yes and No**
 - Every church of Christ definitely embraces being non-denominational as part of its identity.
 - We're not just non-denominational, but we're also **anti-denominational**

• **Non-Denominational? Yes and No**

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

- John 17:20-21 “....that all of them may be one...”

• **Barton W. Stone and other preachers expressed their desire to return to primitive Christianity in a document called:**



• **The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery, June 28, 1804.**

Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery

- *“We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.*
- *“We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.”*

CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE



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