



[You prepare a table](#)

Wayne Braudrick

Psalm 23:5a

August 4, 2024

Life Change: We rest assured in our Sovereign Lord

“It must be nice not to have any enemies.”

God prepares His people to flourish even behind enemy lines

You

Prepare a table

“Eating a meal is among the most relational/intimate things we can do and to eat in midst of or in any proximity to enemies is a striking contrast. To do so with assurance is the ultimate sign of confidence.” – Chad Bailey

God prepares His people to flourish even behind enemy lines

You prepare a table before me

In the presence of my enemies:

“The good man has his enemies. He would not be like his Lord if he did not. If we were without enemies, we might fear that we were not the friends of God, for ‘the friendship of the world is enmity with God.’ [James 4] But observe...the enemy is at the door, and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace.” – Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*

The negative world

The nasty flesh

Our nefarious adversary

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JOYFULLY

following the Shepherd

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Thank you for providing sabbatical time for each of our staff on a regular rotation.

Now, let's go!





**It must be nice
to not have any
enemies.**



A psalm of David.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;

I have what I need.

² He lets me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He renews my life;
he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,

Psalm 23 CSB

**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**⁶ Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.**

Psalm 23 CSB

**I have told you these things
so that you will be filled with my joy.
Yes, your joy will overflow! NLT**

LIVE JOY FULL

JOHN 15:11

**abide in Jesus
love One another
bear fruit, Ya'll**

Premise (why we are studying this): Christians activate a joyful response to life...sometimes. Yet Jesus desires our joy in Him to be full. If we abide in Him, joy and fruitfulness follow. Grief, fear, and enemies are real, taking us under the shadow of death. Yet the Lord shepherds us through that shadow. In the best and worst of times, in the now and the not yet, we can and should experience joy.



4 Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

*God prepares for
His people to
flourish even
behind enemy lines.*

Psalm 23 CSB



It's not our norm to study such small bites of scripture. The Bible is given to us in various literary styles, and each style operates according to discernable thought sections. The best Bible study follows those thought sections.

However, there are rare times where the text is very stylized and distills a wealth of biblical thought. If such a text is well known – like Psalm 23 – it can prove beneficial to take the text idea by idea. It’s similar to a dessert so rich one needs to take it in small bites.



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I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
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Psalm 23 CSB



courtesy US Dept of Defense



I am eating my daily flat bread that was made today, sitting here on the SE edge of our village mesa. As far as I can see south and east, there are [redacted] forces, people who hate these villagers, me, and our country. But I am at peace. – a soldier



courtesy adobestock



**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB

This doesn't apply to me because I don't have any enemies.





**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB

A psalm of David.

¹ **The Lord** is my shepherd;

I have what I need.

² **He** lets me lie down in green pastures; **He**...

⁴ Even when I go through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger,

for **you** are with me;

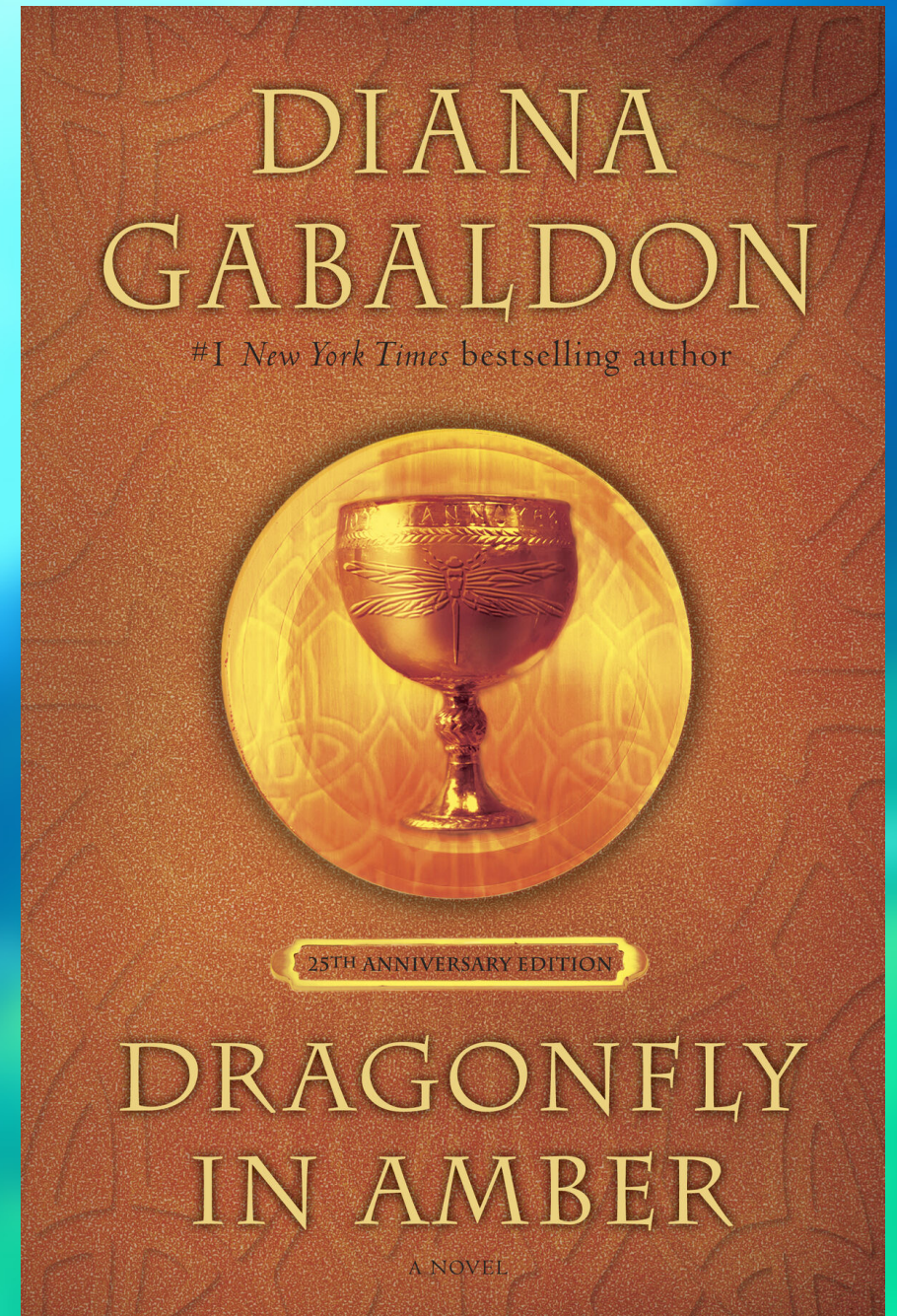
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵ **You** prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies

Psalm 23 CSB

The story occurs in 2 places – old Scotland & modern London. The 3rd vs 2nd person lets the reader know where the action is happening.



A psalm of David.

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Psalm 23 CSB

4 Yea, thogh I shulde walke through the valley of the shadow of death, I wil feare no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staffe, they comfort me.

5 Thou doest prepare a table before me in the sight of mine adversaries: thou doest anoint mine head with oyle, *and* my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23 Geneva

1st person: I (similar to Spanish yo)

2nd person: thou (Spanish tú)

3rd person: you (Spanish usted)

**⁵ You prepare a table
before me
in the presence of my
enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB





Eating a meal is among the most relational/intimate things we can do and to eat in midst of or in any proximity to enemies is a striking contrast. To do so with assurance is the ultimate sign of confidence.
– Chad Bailey

Giving Thanks
Norman Rockwell
1951



**⁵ You prepare a table
before me
in the presence of my
enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB



courtesy SDI productions



courtesy babychick



courtesy istock; babychick

It is one thing to survive a threat, as in verse 4; quite another to turn it into triumph. To eat and drink at someone's table created a bond of mutual loyalty and could be the culminating token of a covenant. – Derek Kidner, *Psalm 23: A Psalm That Calms the Soul*



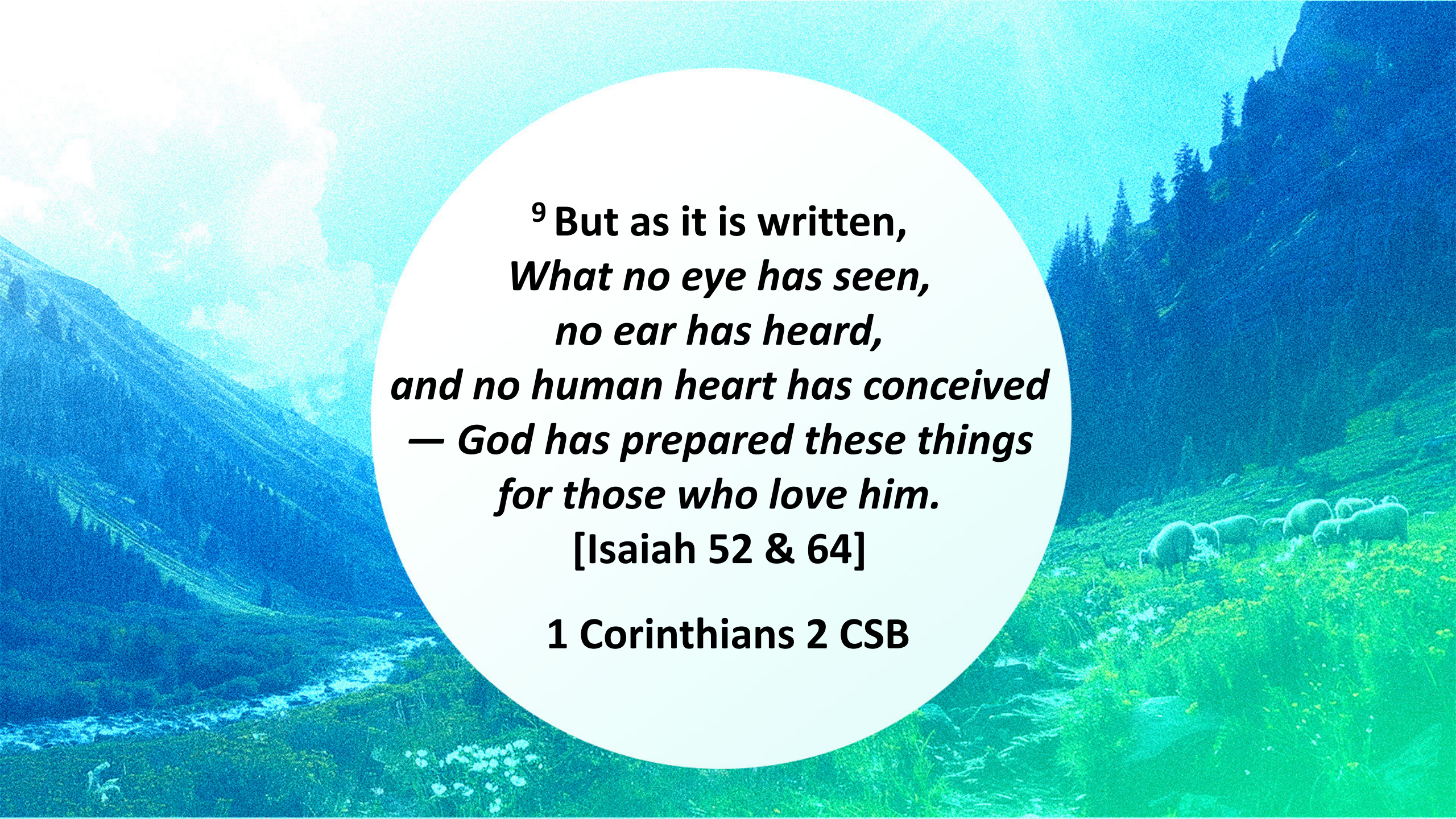
**5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB

**Hebrew: לִפְנֵי הַיְיָ לֵּפָנַי = difficult to express combination:
face-to-face +
out in front preparing the way**



courtesy babychick

A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing. The scene is captured in a vibrant, slightly desaturated color palette, with deep blues and greens. In the foreground, a lush green field is dotted with small white flowers. A herd of sheep is grazing in the middle ground. In the background, a river flows through a valley, surrounded by steep, forested mountains under a bright sky with scattered clouds.

**⁹ But as it is written,
*What no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
and no human heart has conceived
— God has prepared these things
for those who love him.***

[Isaiah 52 & 64]

1 Corinthians 2 CSB



THE GREAT TRIBULATION

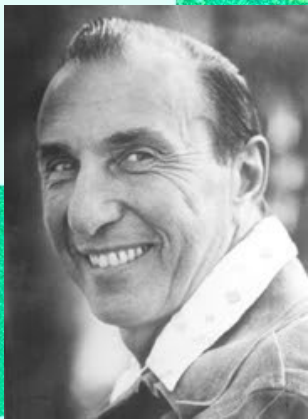


THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- **Some believers will become evangelists & worship leaders, supernaturally preserved as they share Christ.**
- **He plans that many others will escape and be fed at a safe place [which appears to be Petra in modern Jordan.]**
- **Others will be martyred, but they will meet at the altar in God's heavenly temple, which is the greatest table ever.**

Our good shepherd has himself already gone before us into every situation and every extremity that we might encounter. We are told that he was tempted in all points as we are. We know he entered fully and completely and very intimately into the life of men upon our planet. He has known our sufferings, experienced our sorrows, and endured our struggles in this life; he was a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. No wonder he makes every possible provision to ensure that when we have to cope with Satan, sin, or self, the contest will not be one sided. Rather, we can be sure he has been in that situation before; he is in it now again with us, and because of this, the prospects of our preservation are excellent. – W. Philip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*

courtesy Kregel



**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB

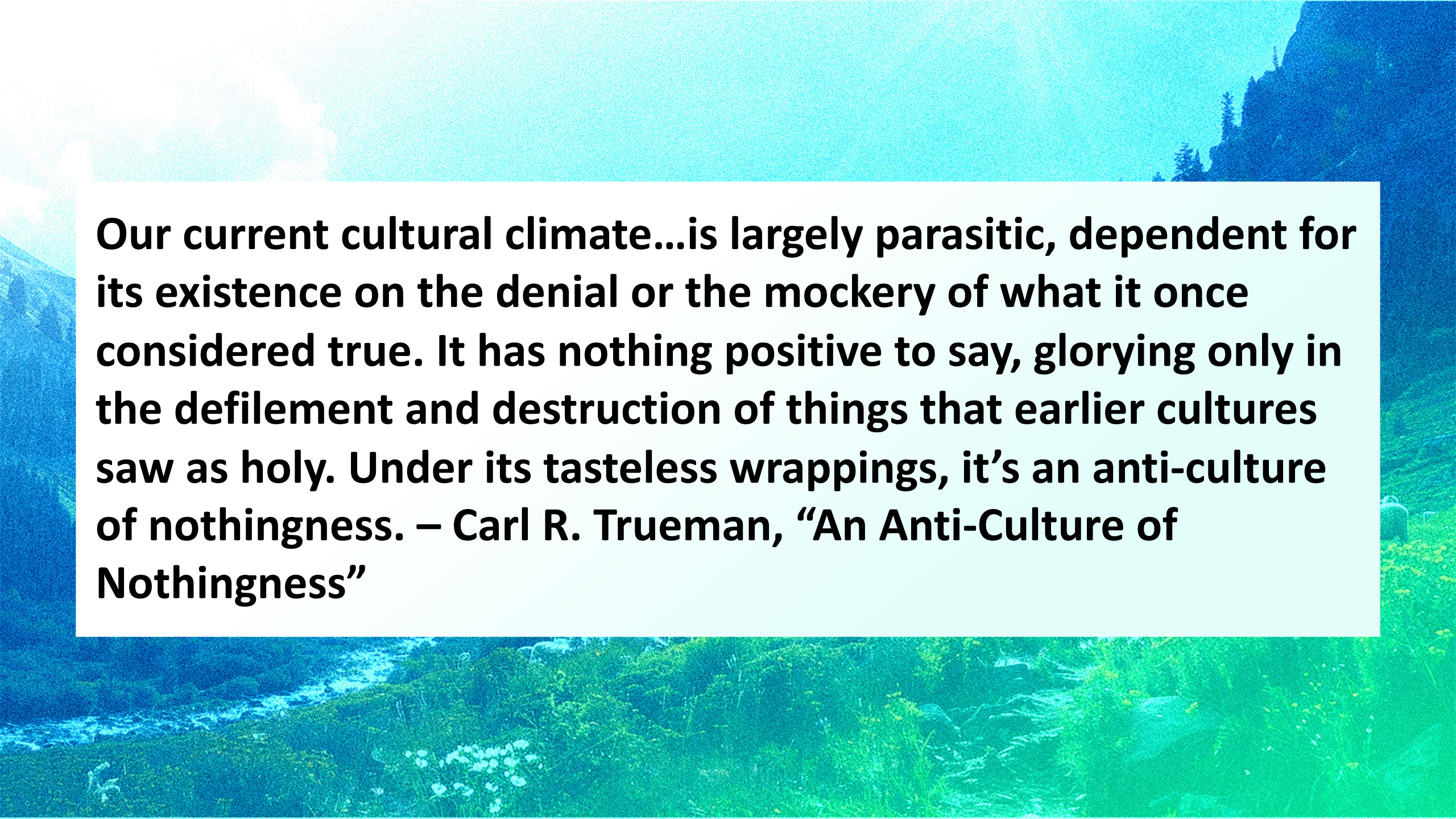
*God prepares for
His people to
flourish even
behind enemy lines.*

We are providentially provided for in the midst of evil. We are not yet removed from the presence of evil, but its power is broken. We are spiritually secure in a second-person intimacy with God Himself.

The good man has his enemies. He would not be like his Lord if he did not. If we were without enemies, we might fear that we were not the friends of God, for “the friendship of the world is enmity with God.” [James 4] But observe...the enemy is at the door, and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace.

– Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*





Our current cultural climate...is largely parasitic, dependent for its existence on the denial or the mockery of what it once considered true. It has nothing positive to say, glorying only in the defilement and destruction of things that earlier cultures saw as holy. Under its tasteless wrappings, it's an anti-culture of nothingness. – Carl R. Trueman, “An Anti-Culture of Nothingness”

It's not that bad.
What do you expect
of a fallen world?



We are going to
die from this
today!



It's not that bad.
What do you expect
of a fallen world?



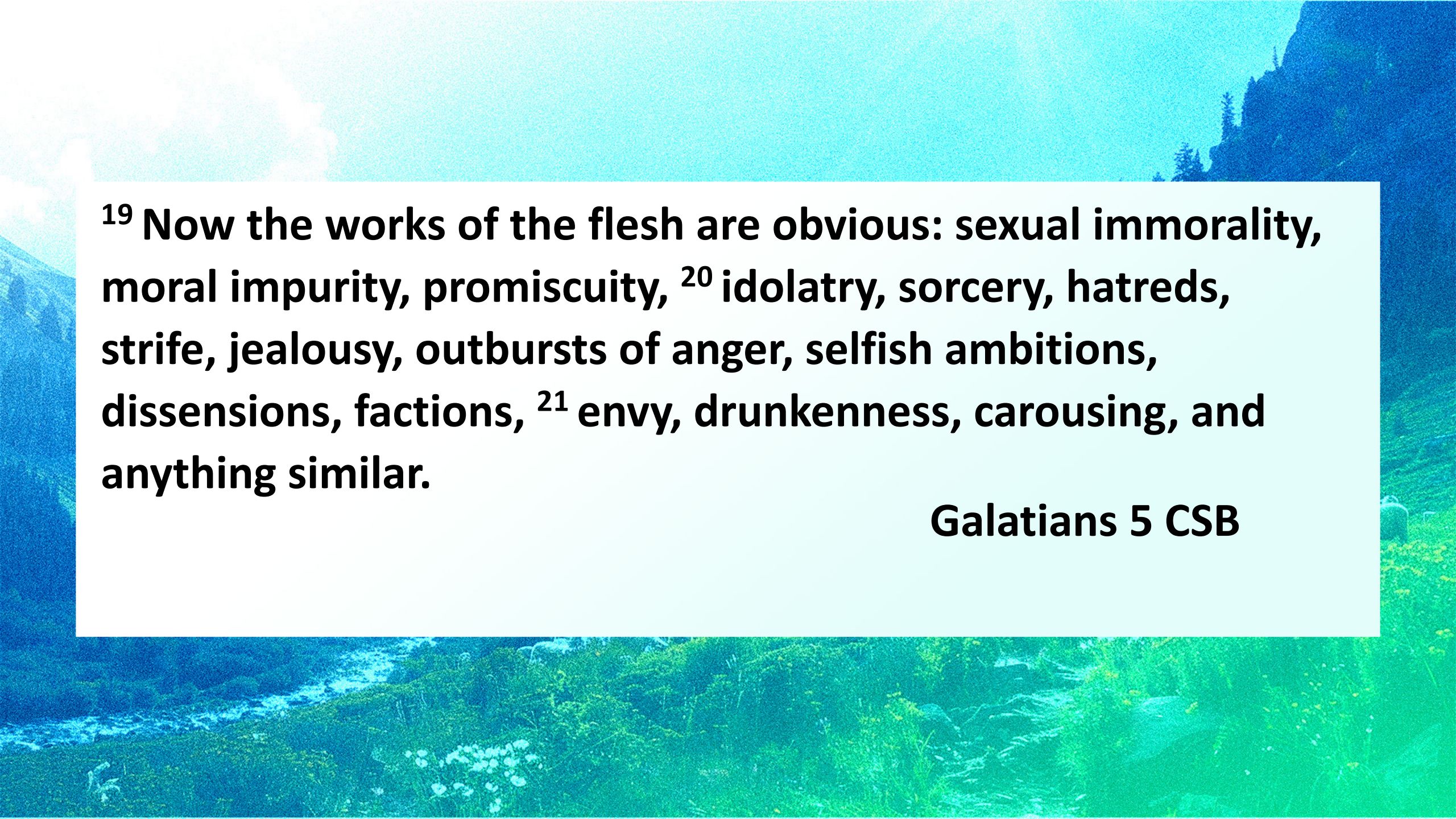
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Psalm 23 CSB

The reality is that the world system really is against you, and that God has it all in His providential hand. There is no wisdom in pretending evil is not a problem; but there is no need to fear.



¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar.

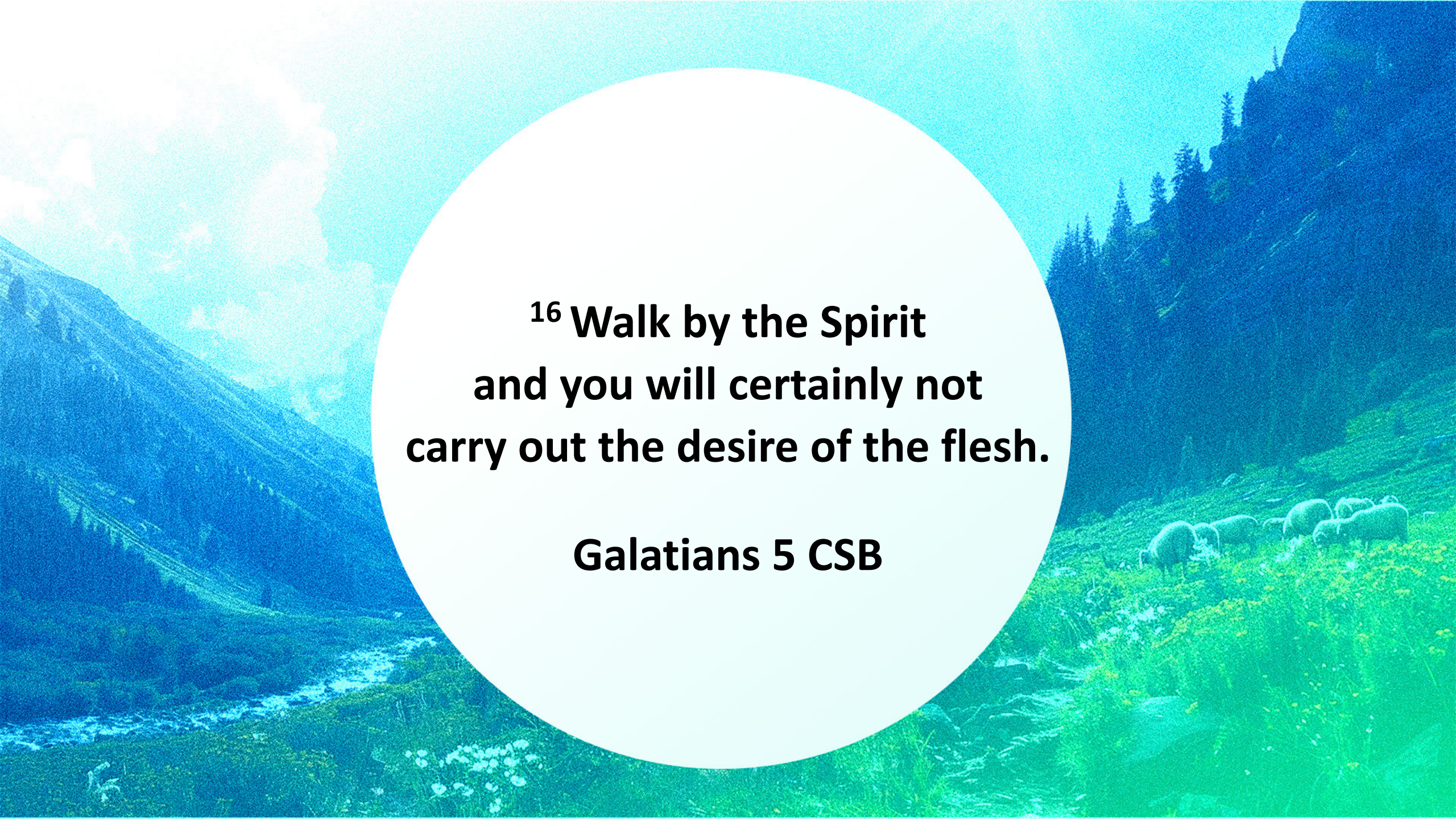
Galatians 5 CSB



Please place video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17ufIBRZRKk>

Start at 1:10 and end at 2:12.

A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, overlaid with a white circle containing text.

**¹⁶ Walk by the Spirit
and you will certainly not
carry out the desire of the flesh.**

Galatians 5 CSB

**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies**

Psalm 23 CSB

Fallen Angel
Alexandre Cabanel
1847



⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. ⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

1 Peter 5 CSB

Provision: ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.

Presence of adversary: ⁸ **Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.**

Provision: ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

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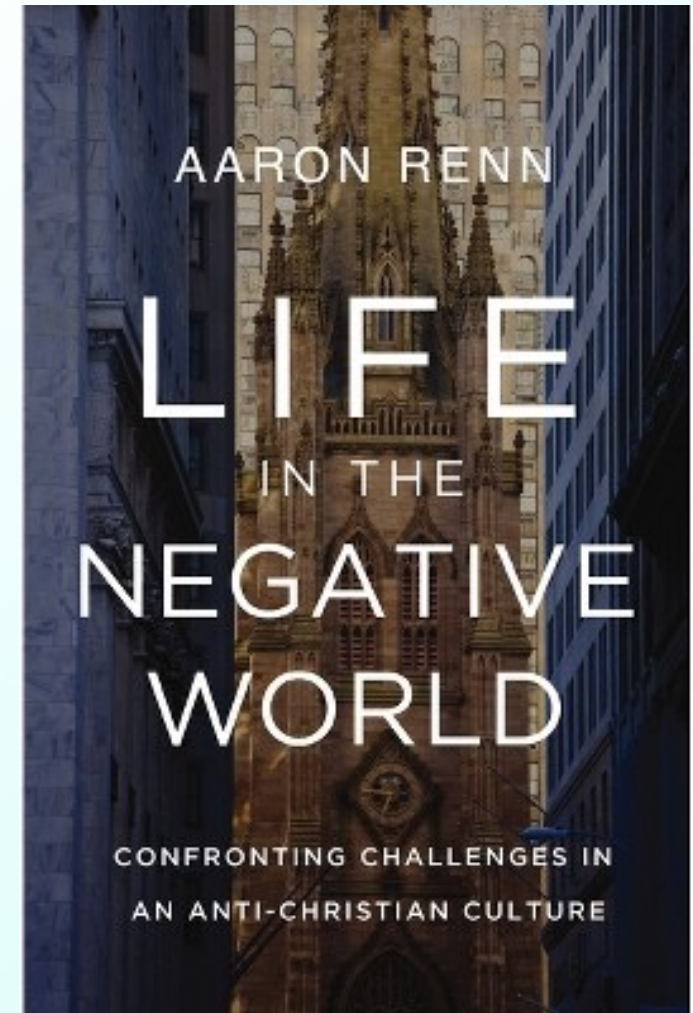
Question: Where am I not trusting God's providence?



**⁵ You prepare a table
before me
in the presence of my
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Psalm 23 CSB

Evangelicals can't expect the strategies and structures of the positive [pro-Christian] and neutral [open arena of ideas] will continue to sustain us in this new [negative, anti-Christian] era. This means more emphasis on being countercultural...though without abandoning a focus on mission [to the lost]. – Aaron M. Renn, *Life in the Negative World*



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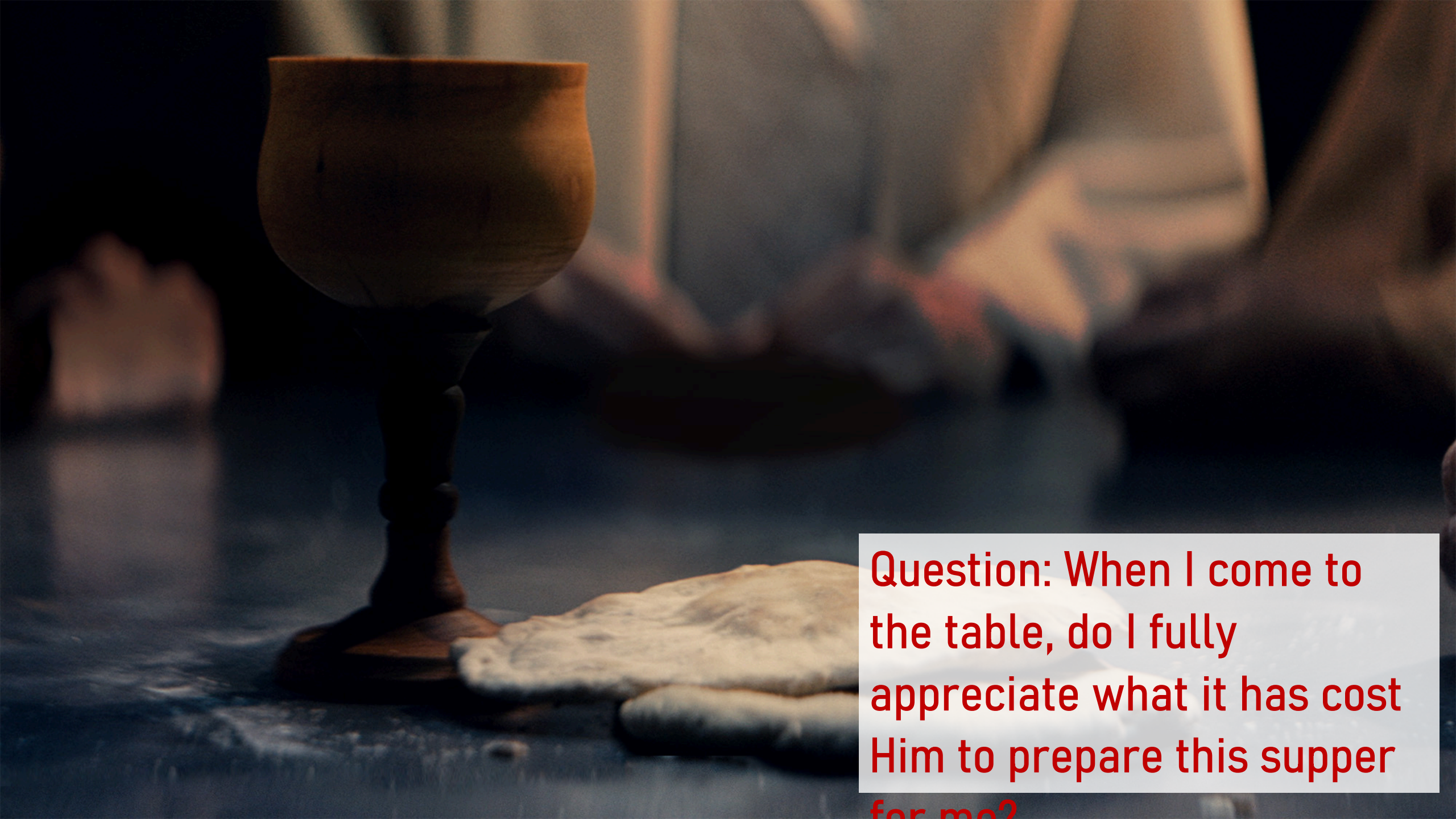
**– Aaron M. Renn,
*Life in the Negative World***



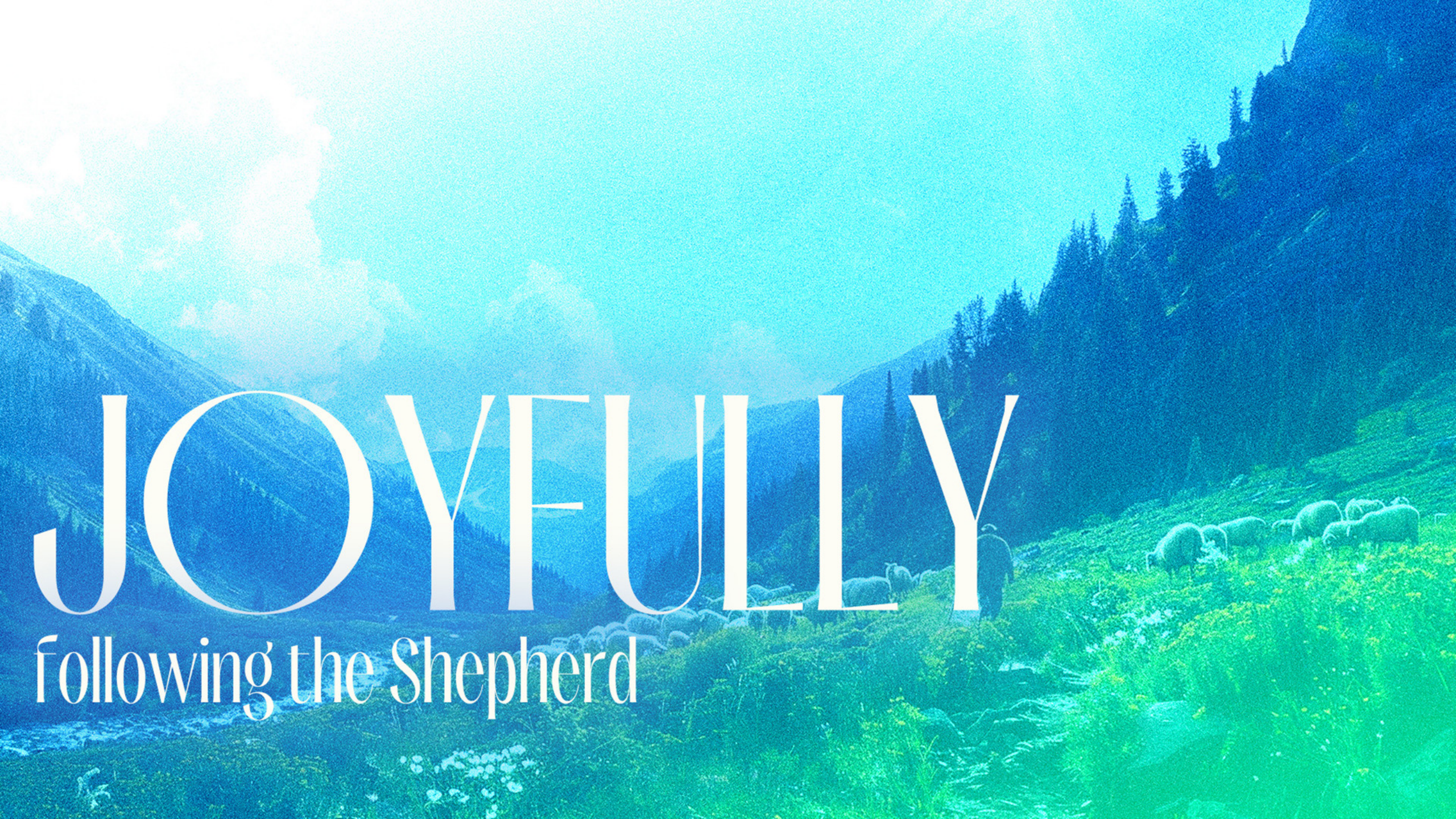
Question: How can one be the light Jesus calls us to be in a dark, negative space surrounded by enemies?

- **Do excellent work.**
- **Grow thick skin.**
- **Speak truth clearly.**
- **Be open and unapologetic about the joy of God's daily provision.**





Question: When I come to the table, do I fully appreciate what it has cost Him to prepare this supper for me?



JOYFULLY

following the Shepherd