



## [Industrious \(Epaphroditus\)](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We are industrious friends](#)

Selected texts

June 21, 2026

“What are you going to be when you grow up?” is a question about work. What is your work in the world going to be? What will be your works? These are not fundamentally questions about jobs and pay, but questions about life. Work is applied effort; it is whatever we put ourselves into, whatever we expend our energy on for the sake of accomplishing or achieving something. Work in this fundamental sense is not what we do for a living, but what we do with our living. – William J. Bennett, *The Book of Virtues*

**Epaphroditus is industry’s poster child**

**Philippians 2:24-30**

Exalting brotherhood

Expending himself

Enduring hardship

**We are called to be industrious friends**

**2 Timothy 2:3-7**

Focus on the commander

Focus on His commands

Look ahead

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PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

# V I R T U S



*Aquila & Priscilla*

*Typollos*

*John Mark*

*Epaphroditus*

**EPAPHRAS**

*Titus* **TIMOTHY**

*Luke*

*Barnabas*

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

**Daddy, do you know  
what I'm going to be  
when I grow up?**



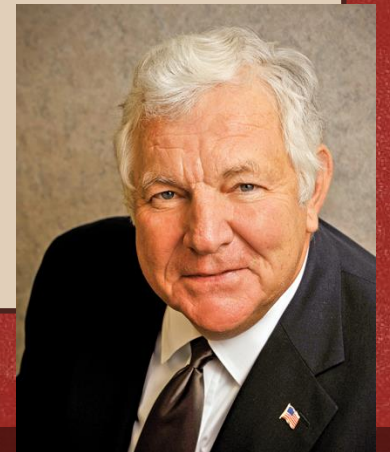
**Oh, I don't know, He's too young to tell...But I know what Mommy's going to be! She's going to be a soldier because they work so hard.**



**Nope. I don't think you'll ever  
grow up, Daddy.**



**What are you going to be when you grow up? is a question about work. What is your work in the world going to be? What will be your works? These are not fundamentally questions about jobs and pay, but questions about life. Work is applied effort; it is whatever we put ourselves into, whatever we expend our energy on for the sake of accomplishing or achieving something. Work in this fundamental sense is not what we do *for* a living, but what we do *with* our living. – William J. Bennett, *The Book of Virtues***



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# V I R T U S

*Aquila & Priscilla*

*John Mark*

**EPAPHRAS**

*Luke*



*TiPollos*

*Epaphroditus*

*Titus* **TIMOTHY**

*Barnabas*

**Dependable – Luke**

**Noble – Apollos**

**Industrious – Epaphroditus**

**Encouraging – Barnabas**

**Refreshing – Titus**

**Maturing – John Mark & Timothy**

**Unifying – Aquila & Priscilla**

**Gracious – Epaphras**

**Virtues in  
Paul's Friends**

**2:24** I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon. **25** But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need—**26** since he has been longing for all of you and was distressed because you heard that he was sick.

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPH

PHILIPPIANS

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM

**27** Indeed, he was so sick that he nearly died. However, God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. **28** For this reason, I am very eager to send him so that you may rejoice again when you see him and I may be less anxious. **29** Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor, **30** because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.

**25 But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need**

**Greek: ἀδελφὸν adelphon = a deep sharer of spiritual life; “delphus” means literally a shared womb, describing the kind of bond felt by twins**

**<sup>26</sup> since he has been longing for all of you and was distressed because you heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup> Indeed, he was so sick that he nearly died. However, God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.**

**Philippians 2 CSB**



courtesy St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

The crux of the humor in the story was that the old man pretended to be industrious. He even thought himself a hard worker. But without *adelphon*, Scrooge was merely a miser, achieving nothing. Real productivity requires brotherhood.







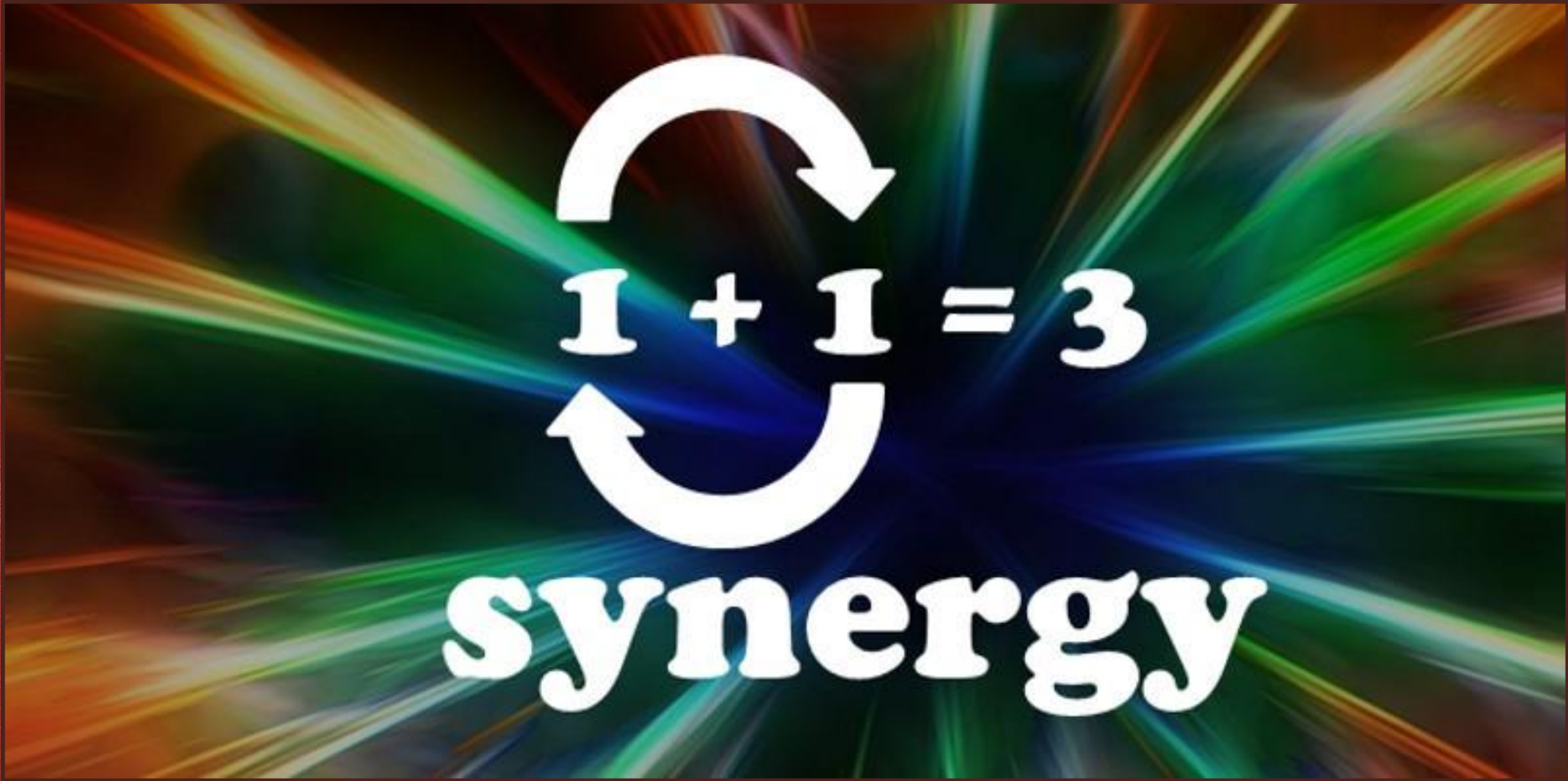
The Latin word *fidelis* was based directly on the earlier Greek *delphos*.

**25 But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need**

**Greek: συνεργον sunergon (sun + ergon)**

**Sun = unified; oneness of purpose among comrades.**

**Ergon = old-fashioned word for hard work; toil**



**25 But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need**

**Greek: ἀπόστολον apostolon = messenger; one who brings news**

**<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord.**

**Philippians 4 CSB**

**25 But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need**

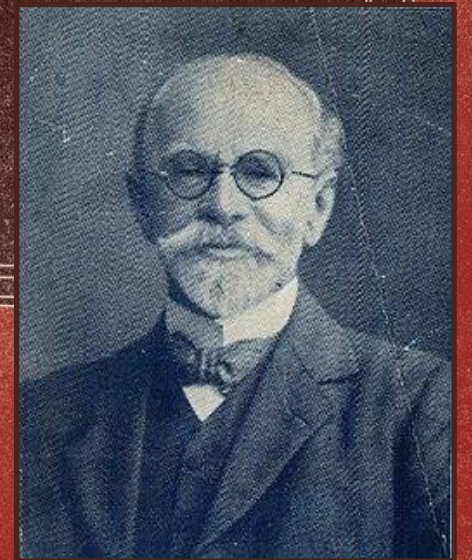
**Greek:**  
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word for toil

<sup>25</sup> But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need

co-campaigner; a partner in the toil of war. -  
**William Vine**



# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



ARMY'S MARSHALL

No other General ever held the position: supreme in all commands

# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



ADMIRAL KING U.S.N.

Dec. 7 ... Jan. 16 ... Carl Spaatz ... Midway ... The Solomon ... Dec. 7

(World's Greatest)

**A spirit of intense competitiveness and mistrust between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy had been allowed (and even encouraged) to grow beyond a point British observers could believe. 'The violence of inter-service rivalry in the United States,' wrote Sir John Slessor, who was there, 'had to be seen to be believed and was an appreciable handicap to their war effort.' – Eric Larrabee, *Commander in Chief***



courtesy US Navy



courtesy Marshall Foundation

They taught us how to  
work together.



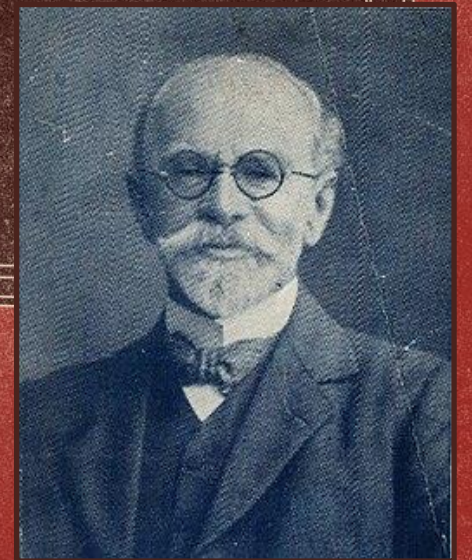
gettyimages

Credit: Afro Newspaper/Gado

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<sup>25</sup> But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need

co-campaigner; a partner in the toil of war. -  
**William Vine**



**I'm in the Lord's Army**

**I may never march in the infantry,  
Ride in the cavalry,  
Shoot the artillery;**

**I may never soar o'er the enemy,  
But I'm in the Lord's army.**

**I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir!**

**I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir!**

**25 But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need**



**Greek: λειτουργὸν leitourgon = priest; public officer for a temple**



courtesy The Sun

**29 Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor, 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.**

**Philippians 2 CSB**

**18 But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.**

**Philippians 4 CSB**

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But as for you, exercise self-control in everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4 CSB

JAMES

HEB

PHILEM

TITUS

2 TIMOTHY

1 TIM

2 THESS

1 THESS

COL

***Warrior***  
**Skip Rhode**  
**2006**



## 2 Timothy 4 CSB

<sup>3</sup> ...they have an itch to hear what they want to hear.



<sup>5</sup> But as for you, exercise self-control in everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



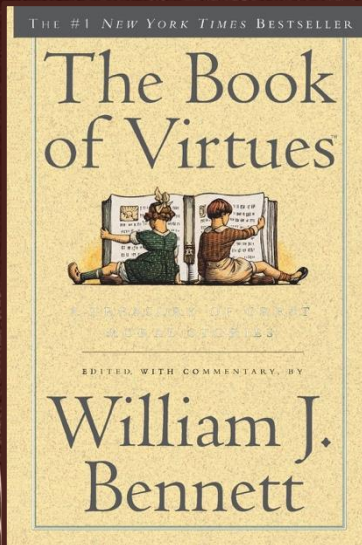


**Expending oneself doesn't mean unhealthy lack of rest.**

I think sometimes it is easier to drive ourselves to actual death than it is to take ourselves firmly in hand and make ourselves do the wise thing. Without sounding funny, it is better to rest awhile above the earth than to rest forever beneath it. Of course [as] Christians, we do not expect to rest forever beneath it, but so far as your present usefulness would be concerned, you may as well be. – Billy Graham, *Just As I Am*



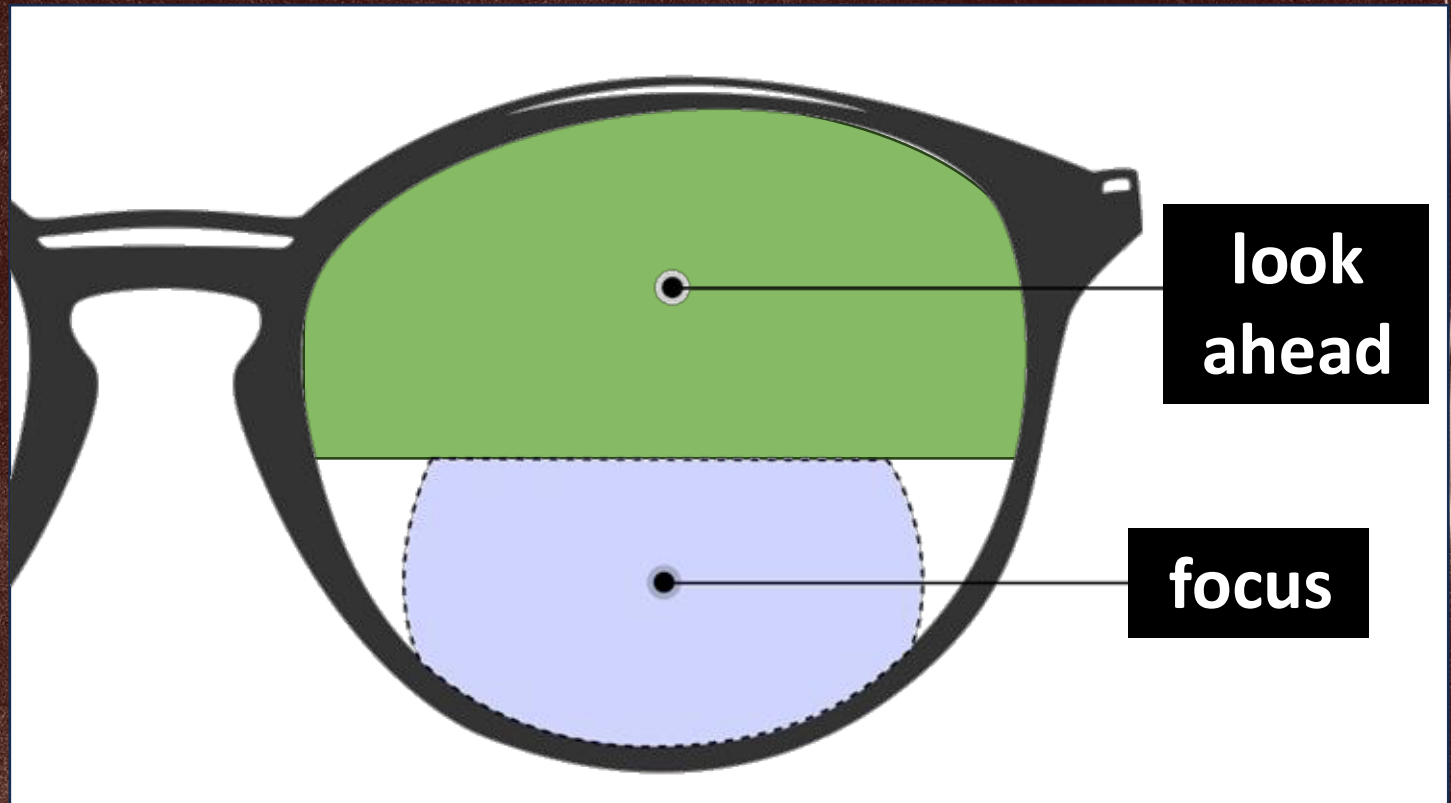
The opposite of work is not leisure or play or having fun but idleness – not *investing* ourselves in anything. Even sleeping can be a form of investment if it is done for the sake of future activity...Leisure activity or play or having fun can involve genuine investment of self



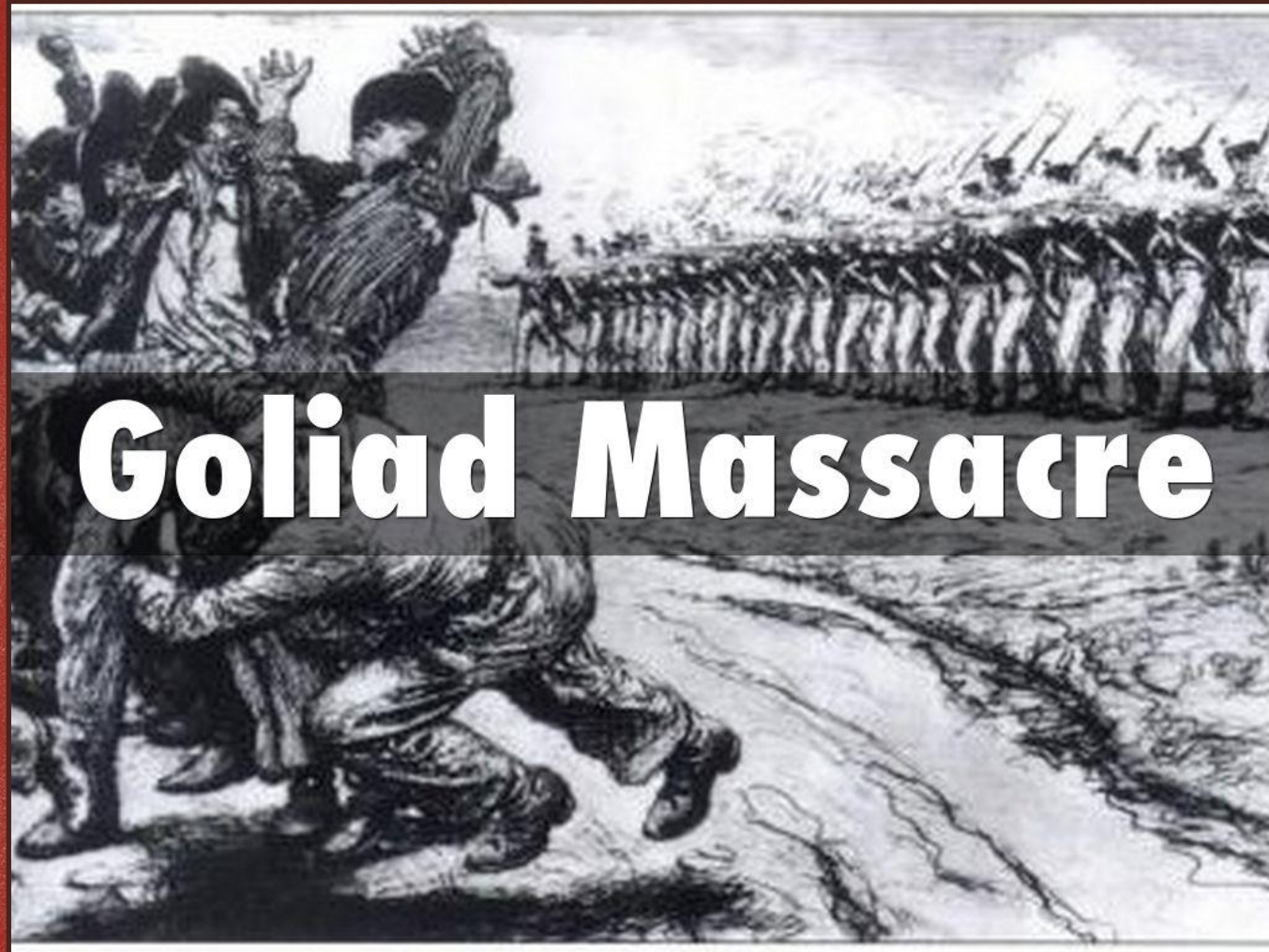
and not be a waste of time at all...As Aristotle pointed out long ago, happiness resides in industry, both physical and mental. – William J. Bennett, *The Book of Virtues*

**2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer. 5 Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.**

**4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.**



**2 Timothy 2 CSB**



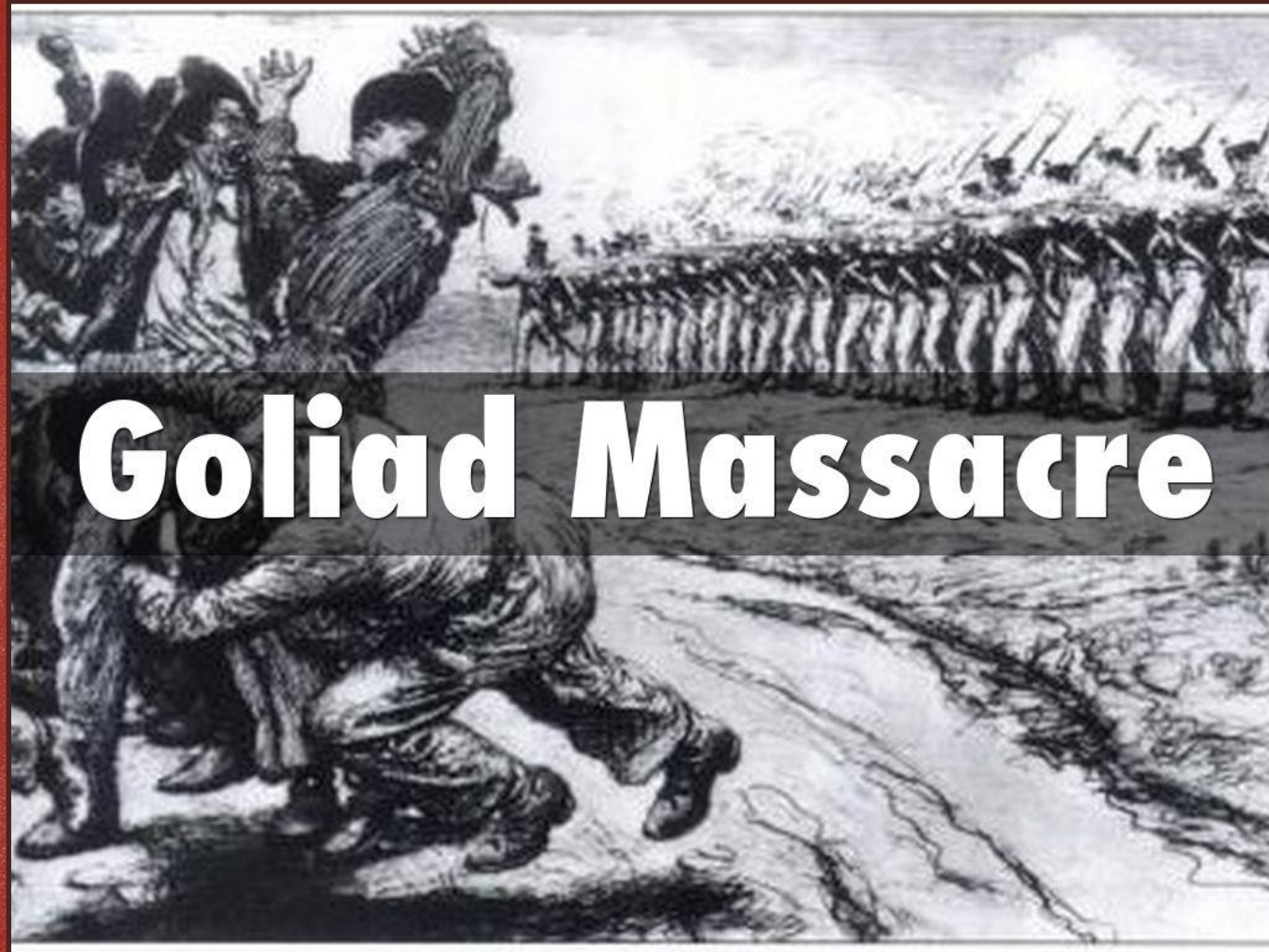
# Goliad Massacre



courtesy city of Houston



***Surrender of Santa Anna***  
**William H. Huddle, 1890**



# Goliad Massacre

**<sup>7</sup> You will eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice with your household in everything you do, because the Lord your God has blessed you.**

**<sup>8</sup> You are not to do as we are doing here today; everyone is doing whatever seems right in his own sight.**

**Deuteronomy 12 CSB**

## Deuteronomy 12 CSB

**<sup>8</sup> You are not to do as we are doing here today; everyone is doing whatever seems right in his own sight.**

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## Deuteronomy 12 CSB

**<sup>8</sup> You are not to do as we are doing here today; everyone is doing whatever seems right in his own sight.**

### Judges 21 CSB

**<sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him.**

**<sup>7</sup> You will eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice with your household in everything you do, because the Lord your God has blessed you.**

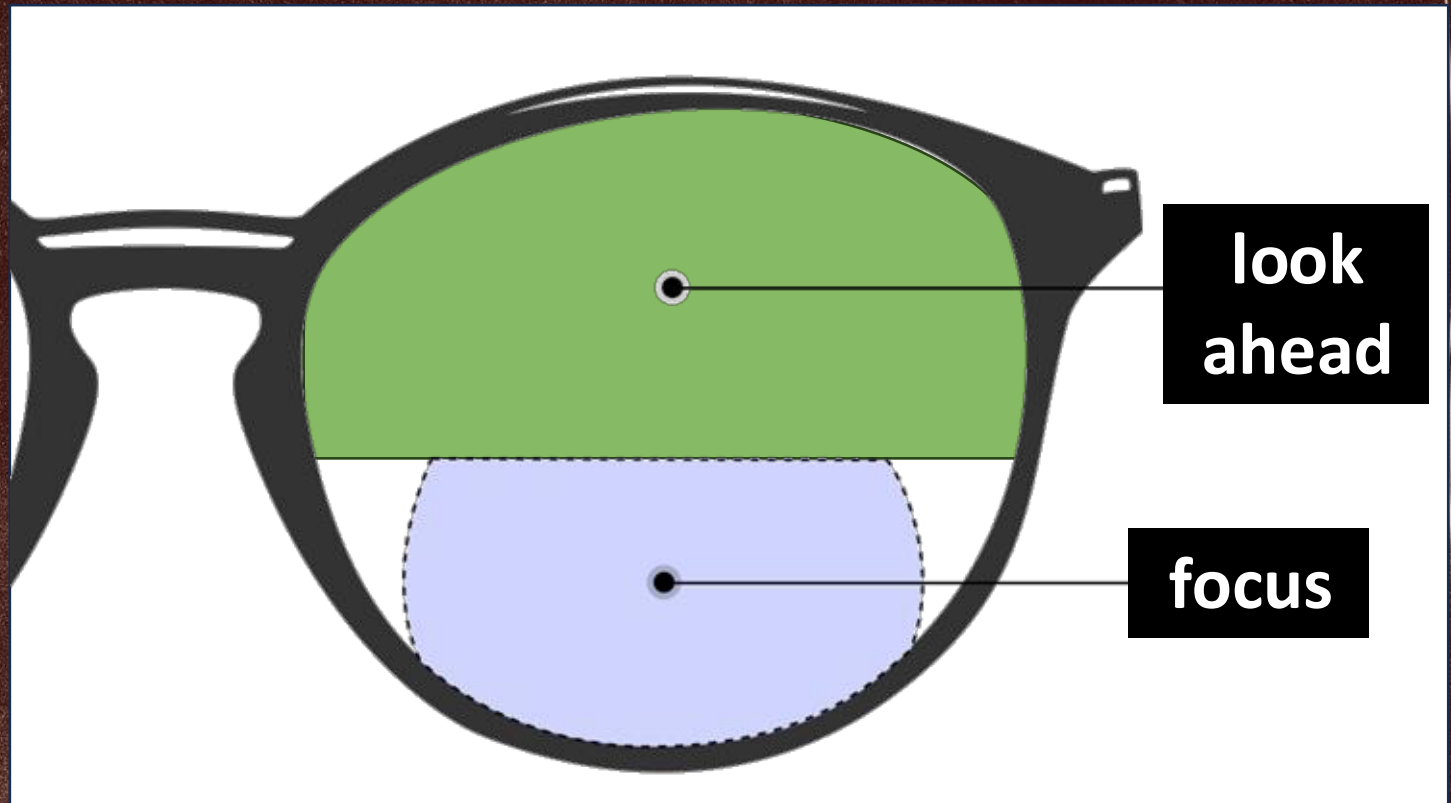
**<sup>15</sup> My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues me  
from the traps of my enemies.**

**Psalm 25 NLT**

**<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus**

**Hebrews 12 NLT**

<sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.



2 Timothy 2 CSB

**<sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.**

**2 Timothy 2 CSB**



courtesy gfloutdoors



courtesy naturefarm

**14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.**

**John 15 NLT**



**Virtus – the virtues that make for real community – requires focusing on Jesus and His command.**

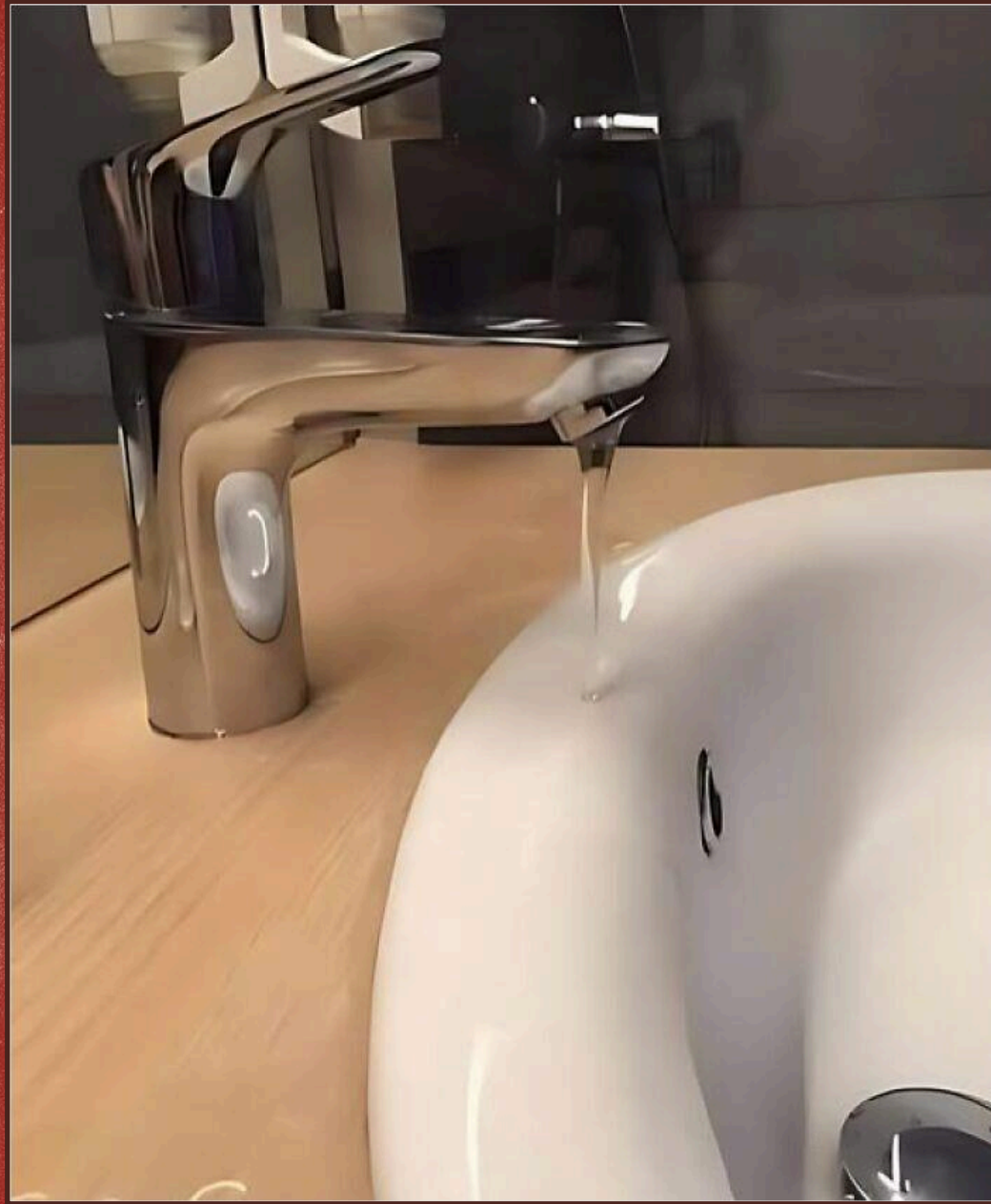
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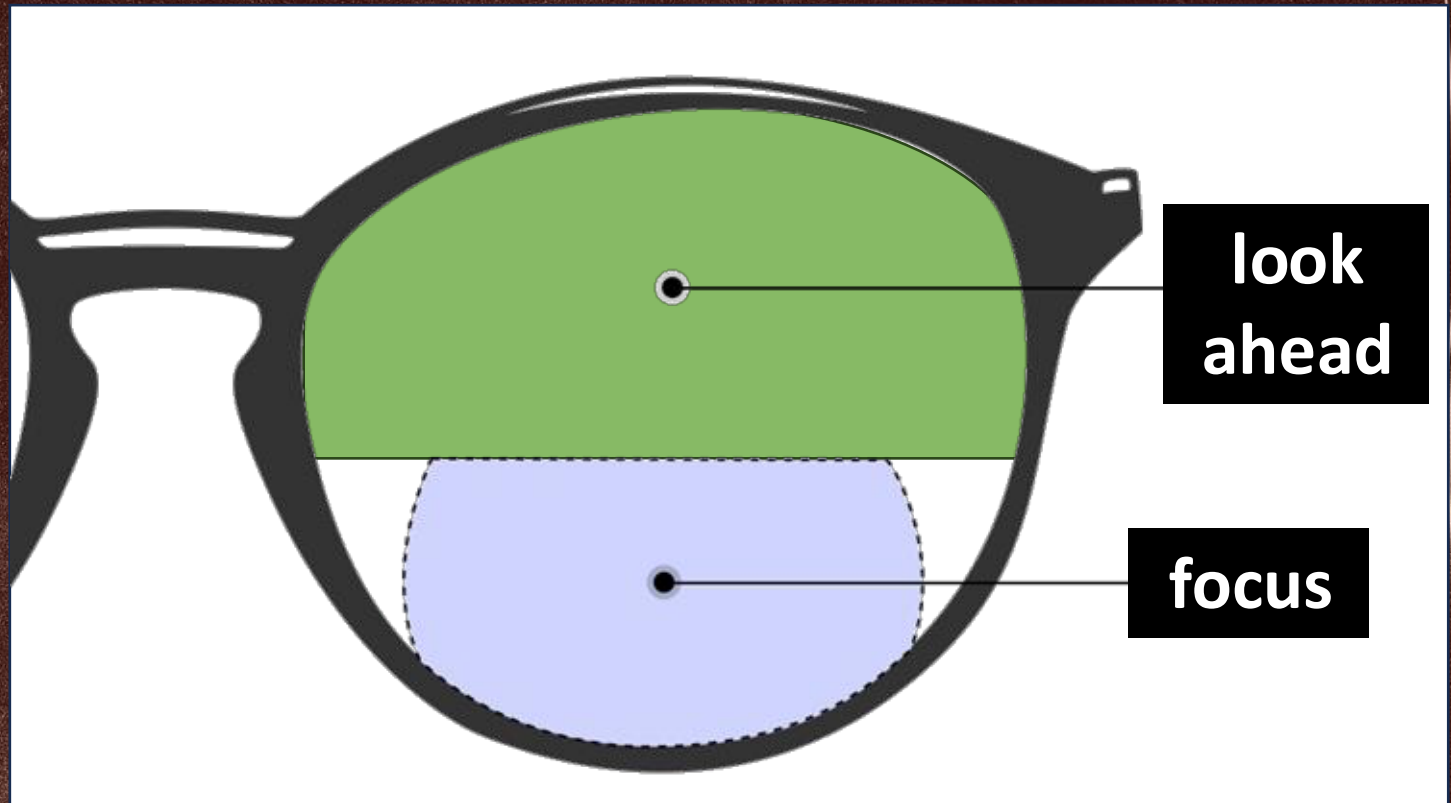
2 Timothy 2 CSB







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2 Timothy 2 CSB

**I know what Mommy's  
going to be! She's going to  
be a soldier because they  
work so hard.**



**23** Whatever you do, do it from the heart,  
as something done for the Lord and not for people,  
**24** knowing that you will receive  
the reward of an inheritance from the Lord.  
You serve the Lord Christ.

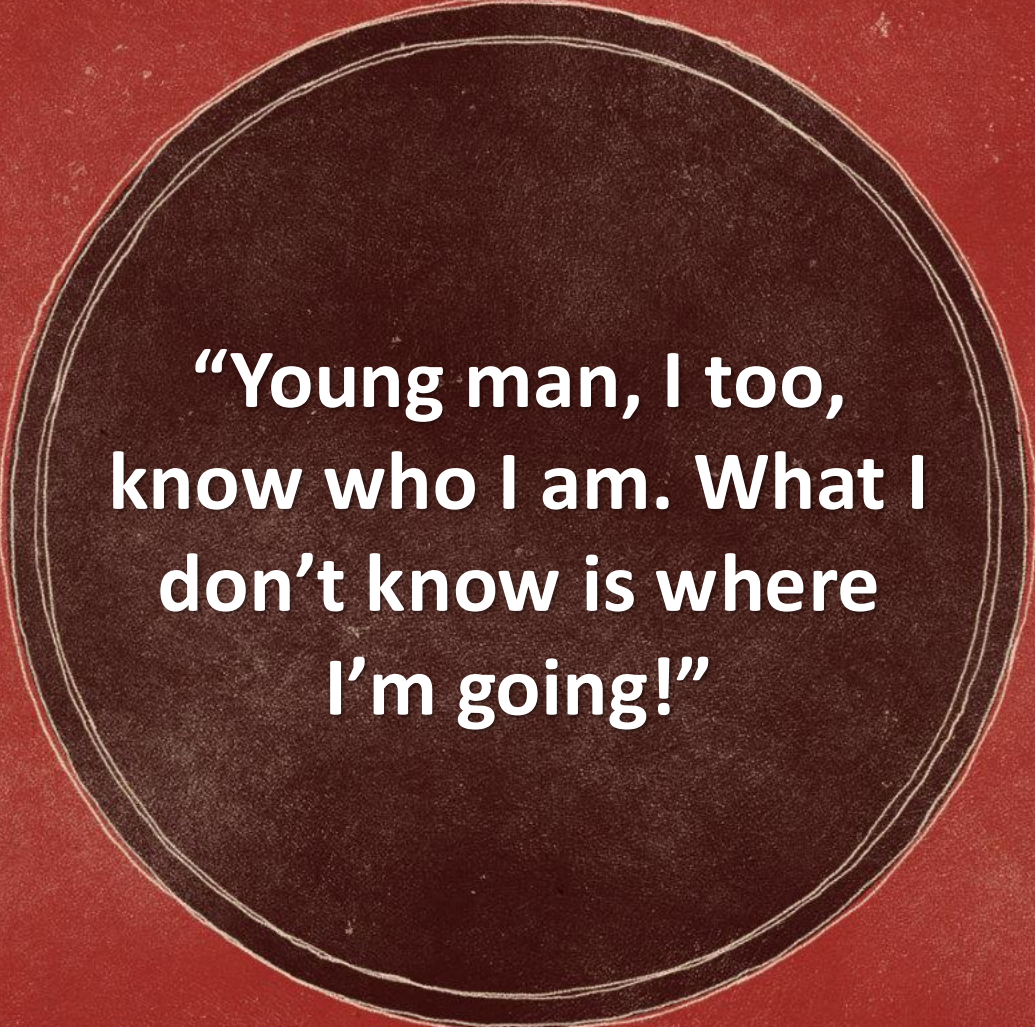
**Colossians 3 CSB**





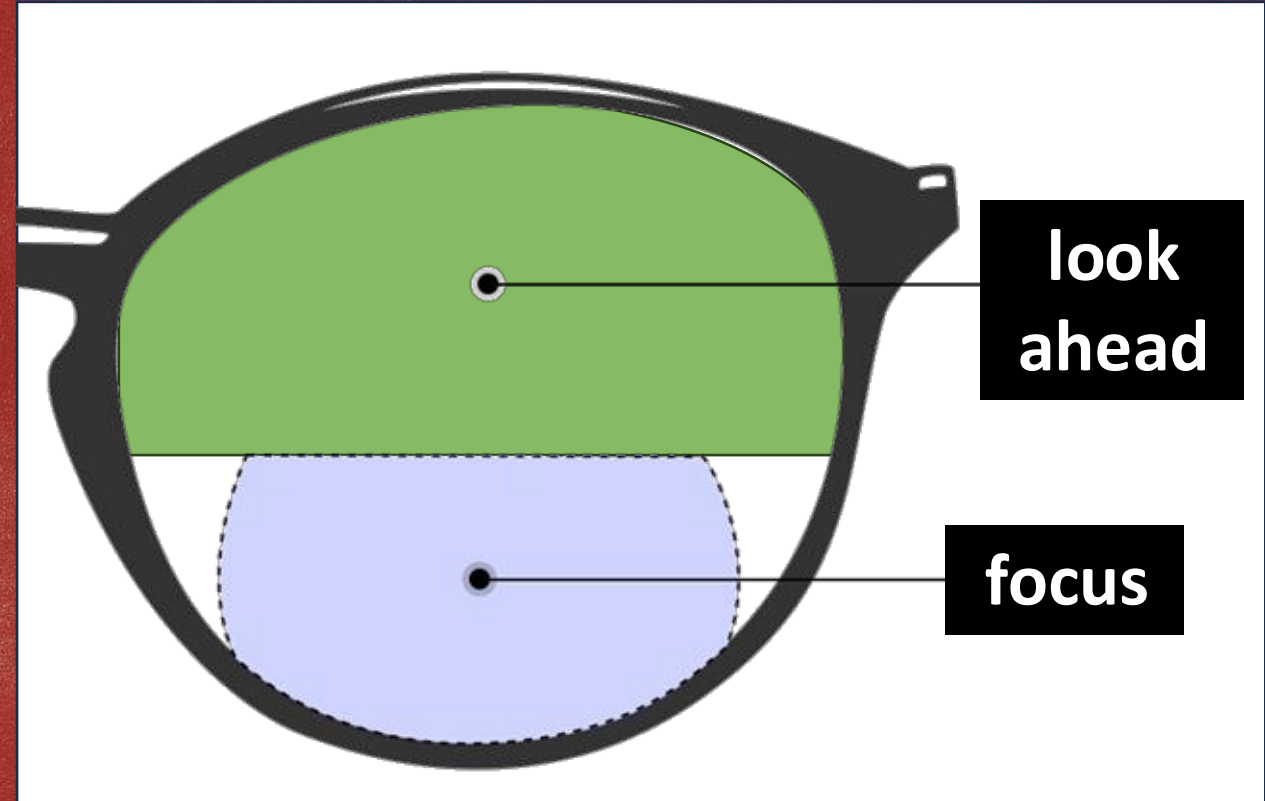
courtesy Telegraph

The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.' Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.'



**“Young man, I too,  
know who I am. What I  
don’t know is where  
I’m going!”**

<sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.



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