



THE WORTHY LIFE

1 THESSALONIANS

"Living Life Together as a Church-Part 1"
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

The New Testament uses 3 words for the same church office:

- “Elder” reflects the spiritual maturity necessary for the office. -Acts 20:17
- “Overseer” focuses on a spiritual oversight required for the body to function well. -1 Timothy 3:1
- “Pastor” looks at the task of shepherding God’s flock. -Ephesians 4:11

3 Things to do in regard to your church leaders



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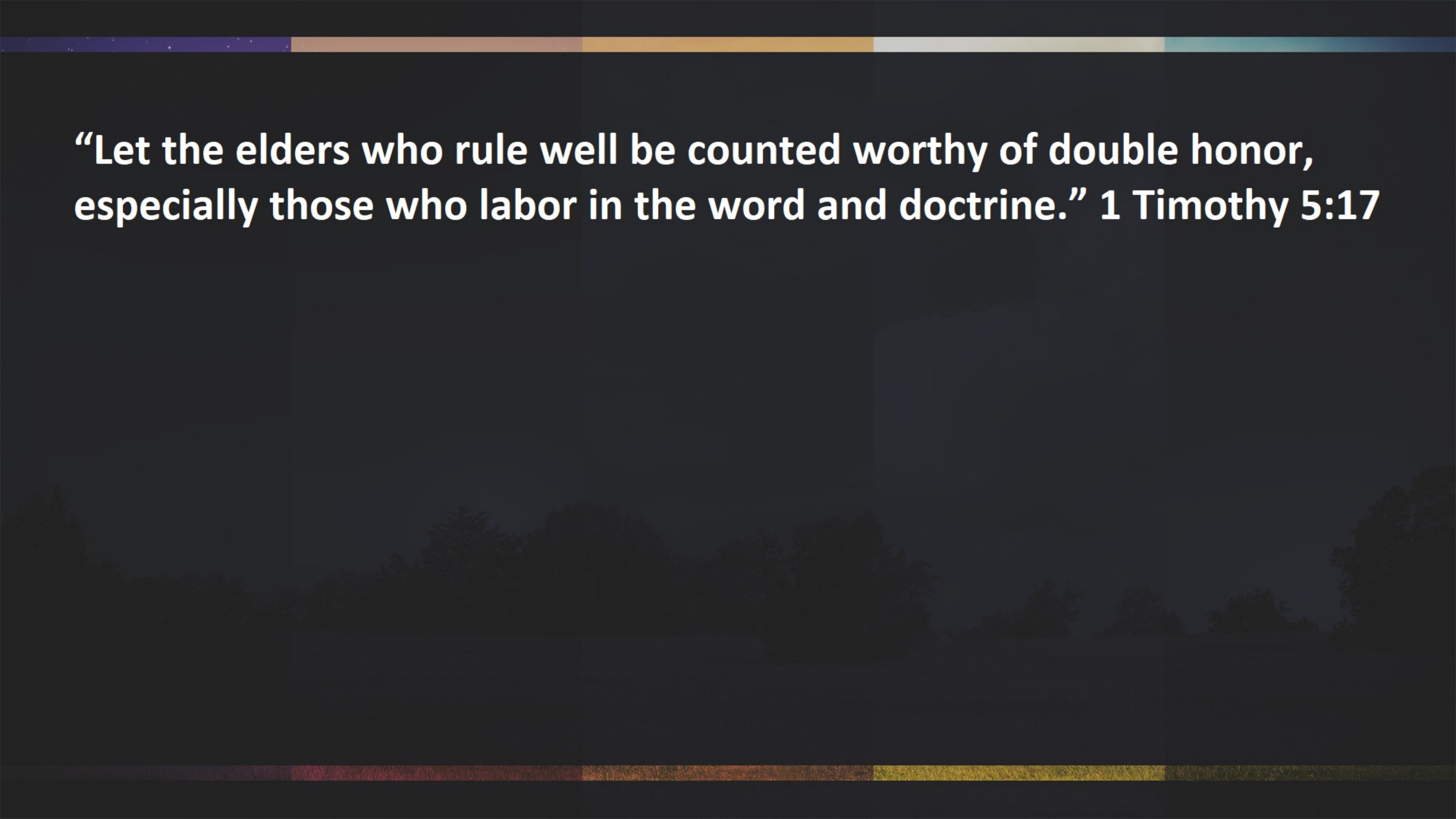
1. Recognize those who labor among you in leading and admonishing you in the Lord (v.12)

“And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus. What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.” Galatians 4:14-15

(Paul's comment on the love of the churches in Galatia toward him)

3 Things to do in regard to your church leaders

1. Recognize those who labor among you in leading and admonishing you in the Lord (v.12)
2. Esteem church leaders very highly in love because of what they do (v.13a)



**“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor,
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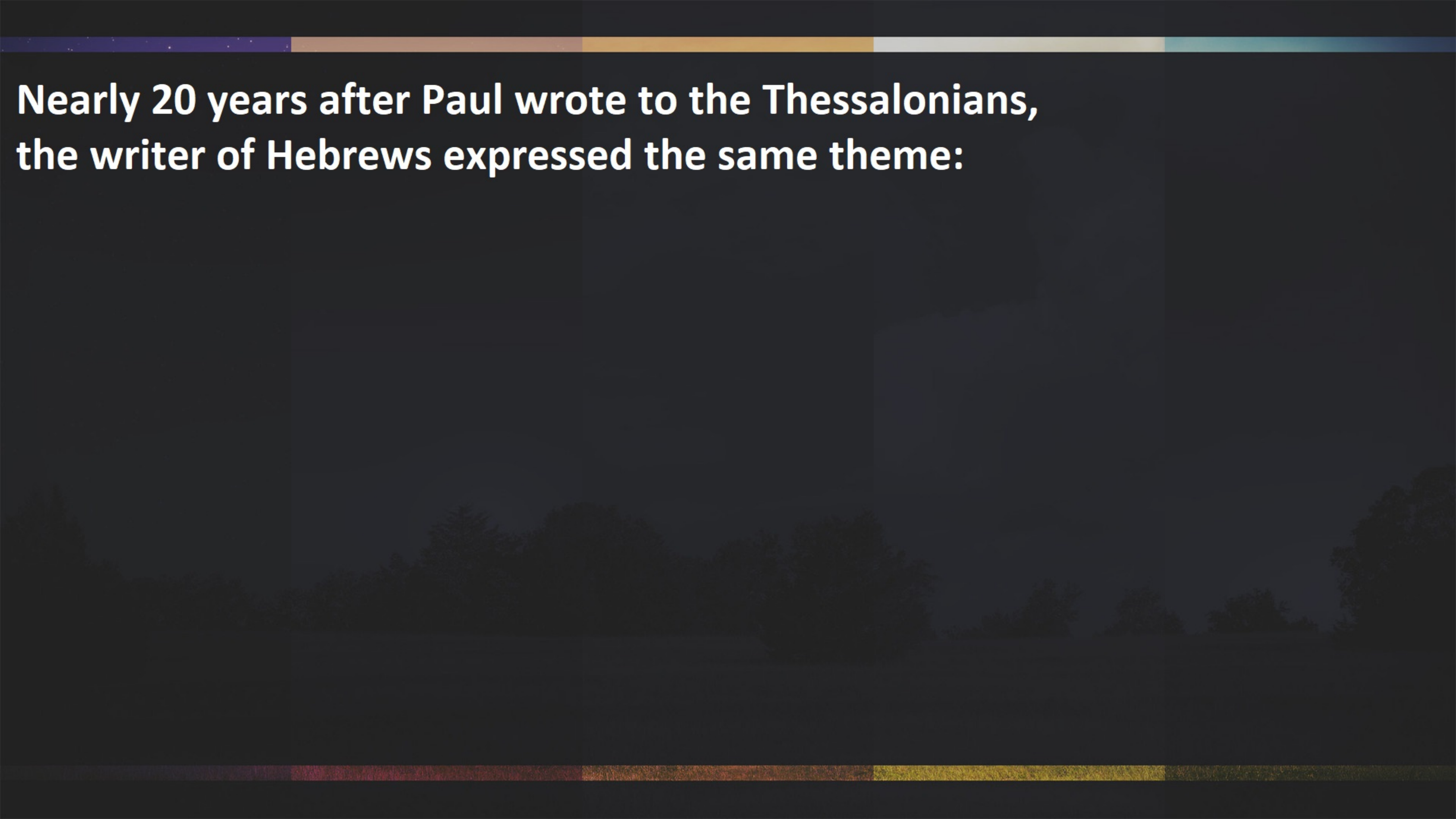
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“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

1 Peter 5:1-4

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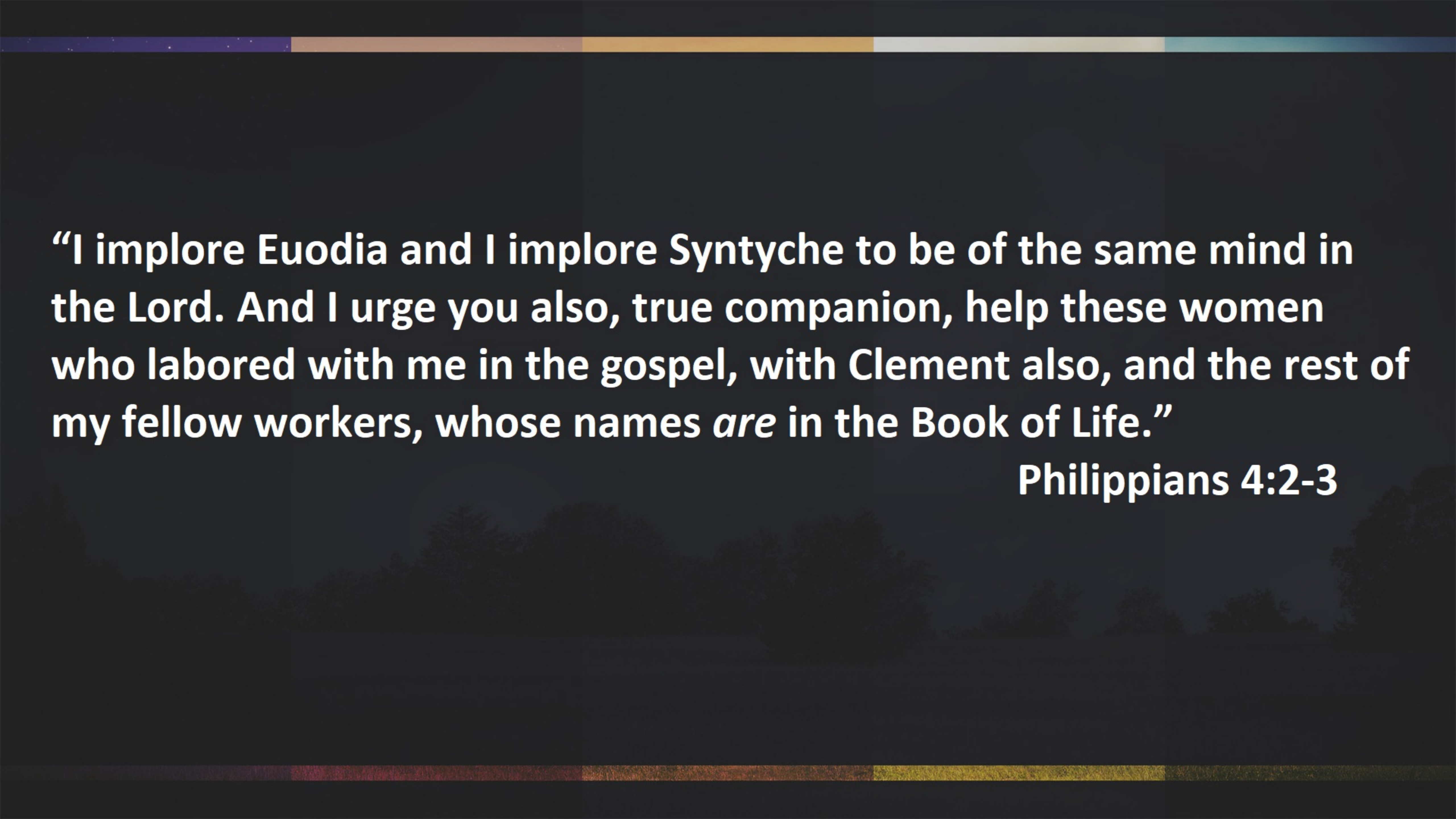
1. Recognize those who labor among you in leading and admonishing you in the Lord (v.12)
2. Esteem church leaders very highly in love because of what they do (v.13a)
3. Continue to live in peace by yielding to your church leaders and one another (v.13b)



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Nearly 20 years after Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, the writer of Hebrews expressed the same theme:

- “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.” Hebrews 13:7
- “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17



“I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.”

Philippians 4:2-3