

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

Ephesians 4:17-24

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Ephesians 4:17-24

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

Ephesians 4:17-24

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

Ephesians 4:17-24

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Ephesians 4:17-24

24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4:17-24

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

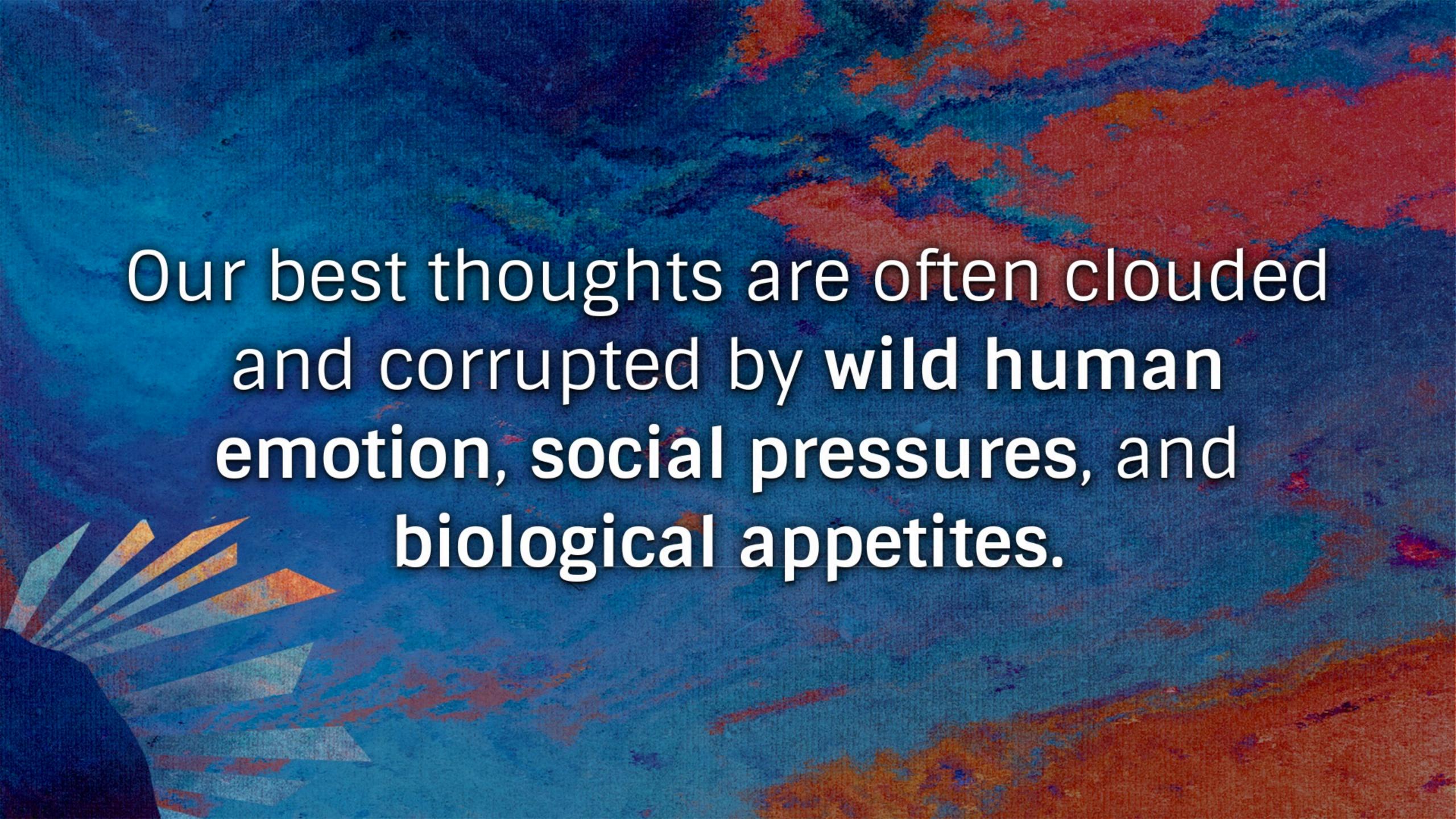
Psalm 14:1-3

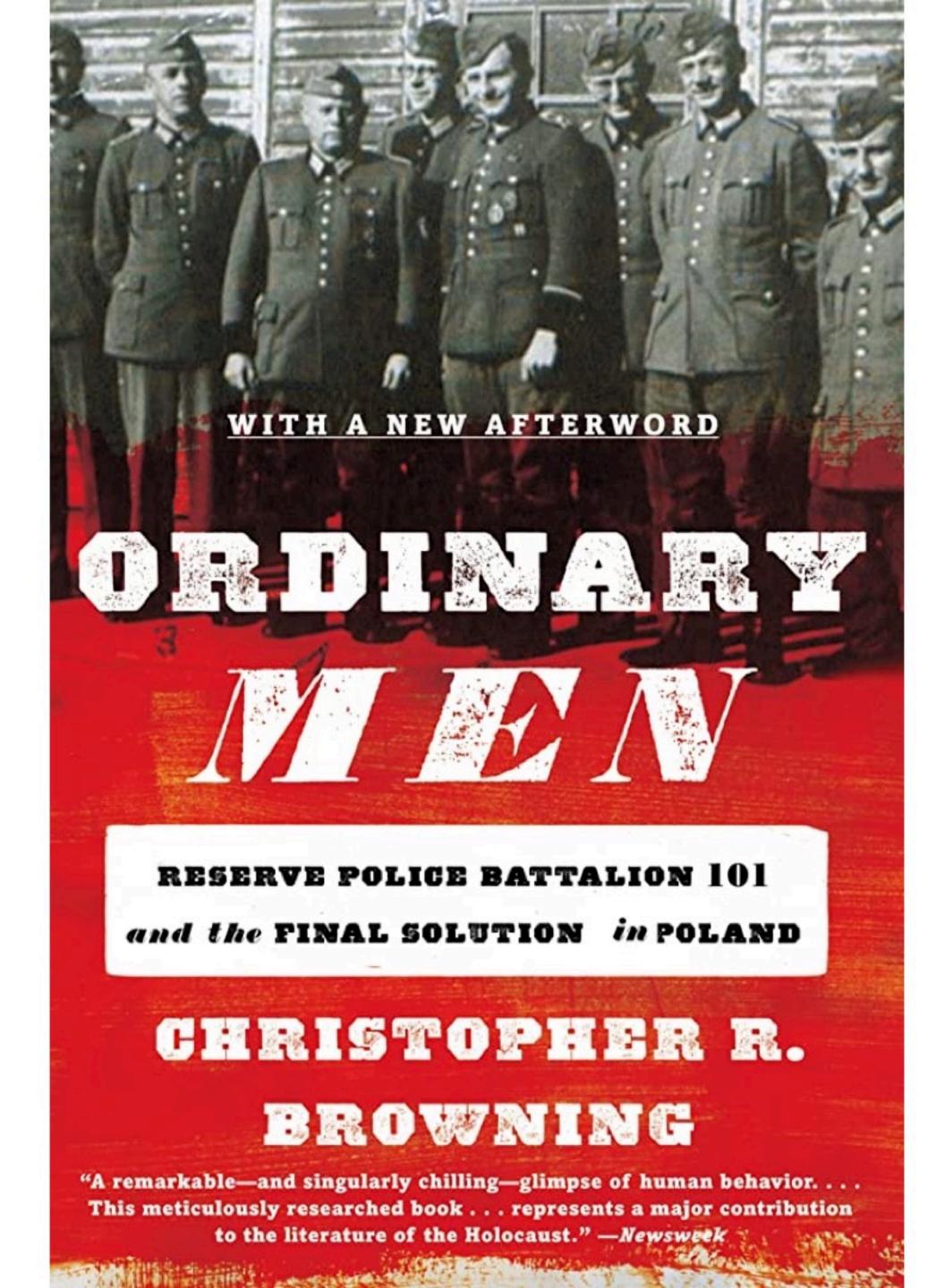
2 The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God.

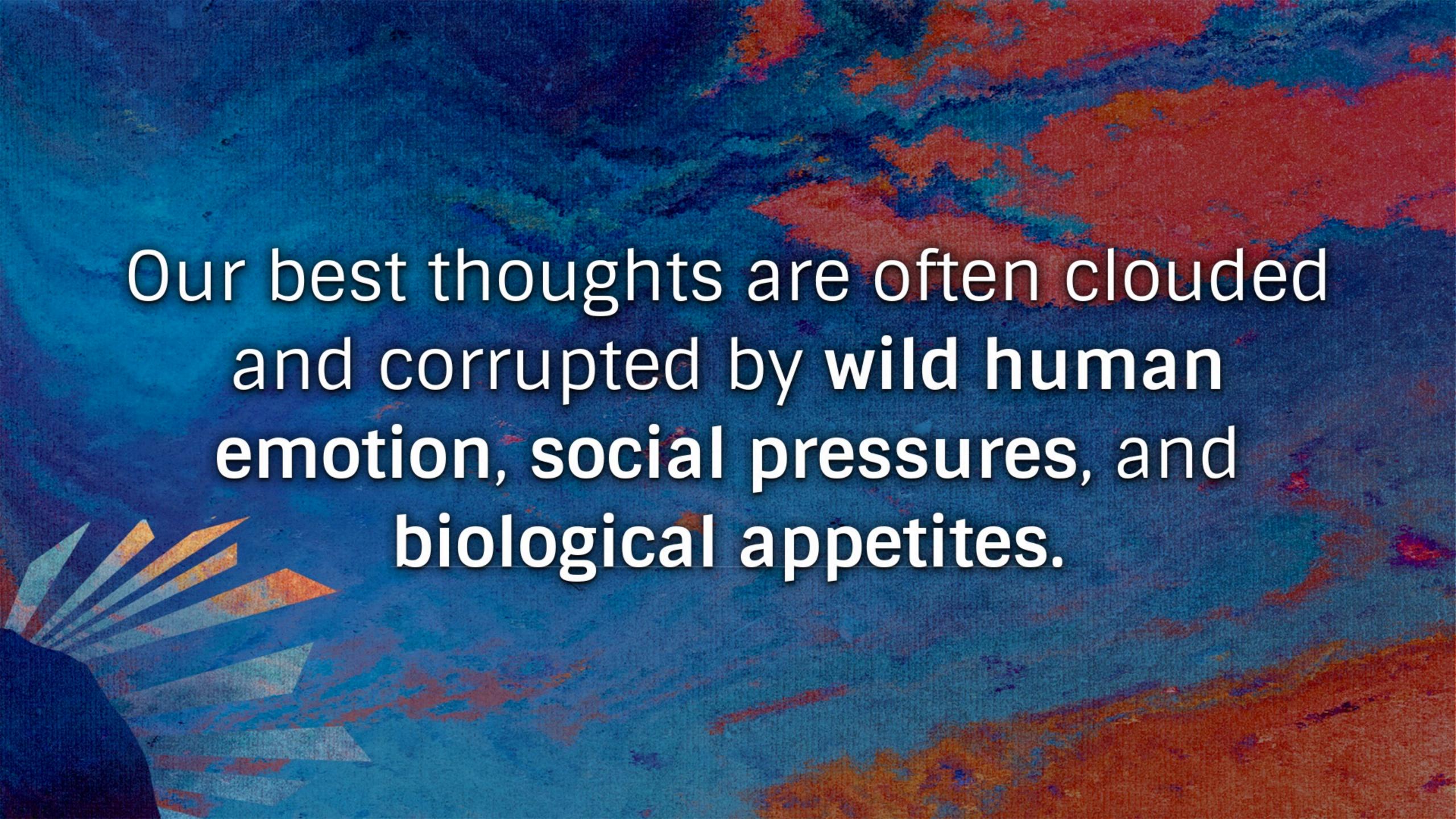
Psalm 14:1-3

3 They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

Psalm 14:1-3









20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, Ephesians 4:20 NASB95

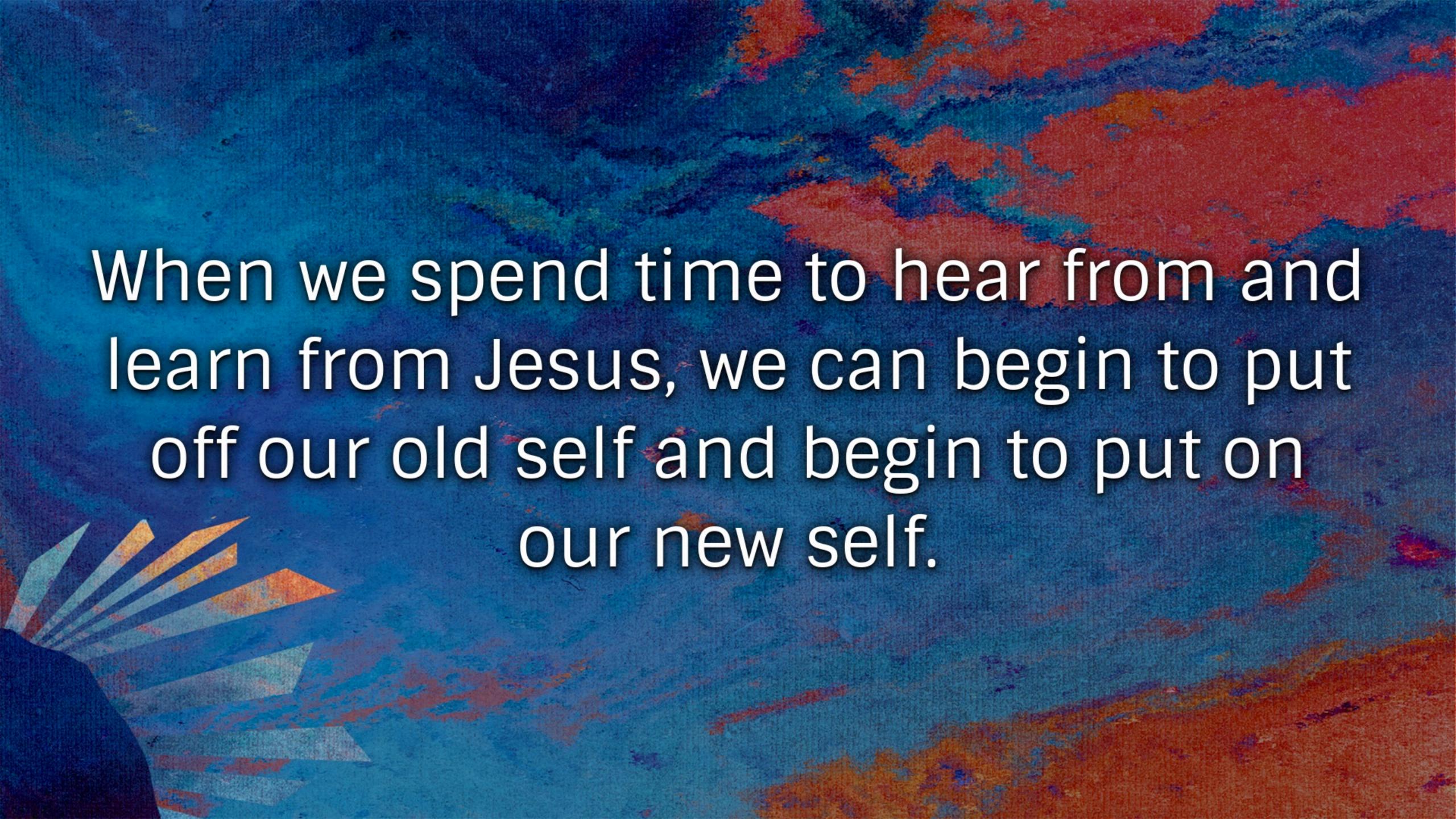
11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-13

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13





The contrast is stark between the old self and the new self (Eph. 4:22, 24). The old self is being corrupted while the new self is being created. The influence upon the old self is its deceitful desires, while the influence of the new self is the true righteousness and holiness of God. The use of the adjective true implies a contrast being made with that which is false.

False righteousness and holiness would be a lifestyle reflective of their lewd and perverse worship. It has been said that people will never rise above the leader that leads them. It must be equally true that our morality and purity will never exceed that of the god we follow.

If our ideal of morality is only a selfperceived deity who acts like us, or at least accepts our indiscretions, our moral direction will only sink to the depth of depravity determined by our own lusts. But if our inspiration comes from a revelation beyond ourselves, from God who is holy and perfect, then His standard will lift us to a new height.

This, however, will require a new attitude in our thinking—one that does not develop God in our image, but rather allows Him to reveal His image to us.

- Mark A. Holmes, Ephesians: A Bible Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition.

