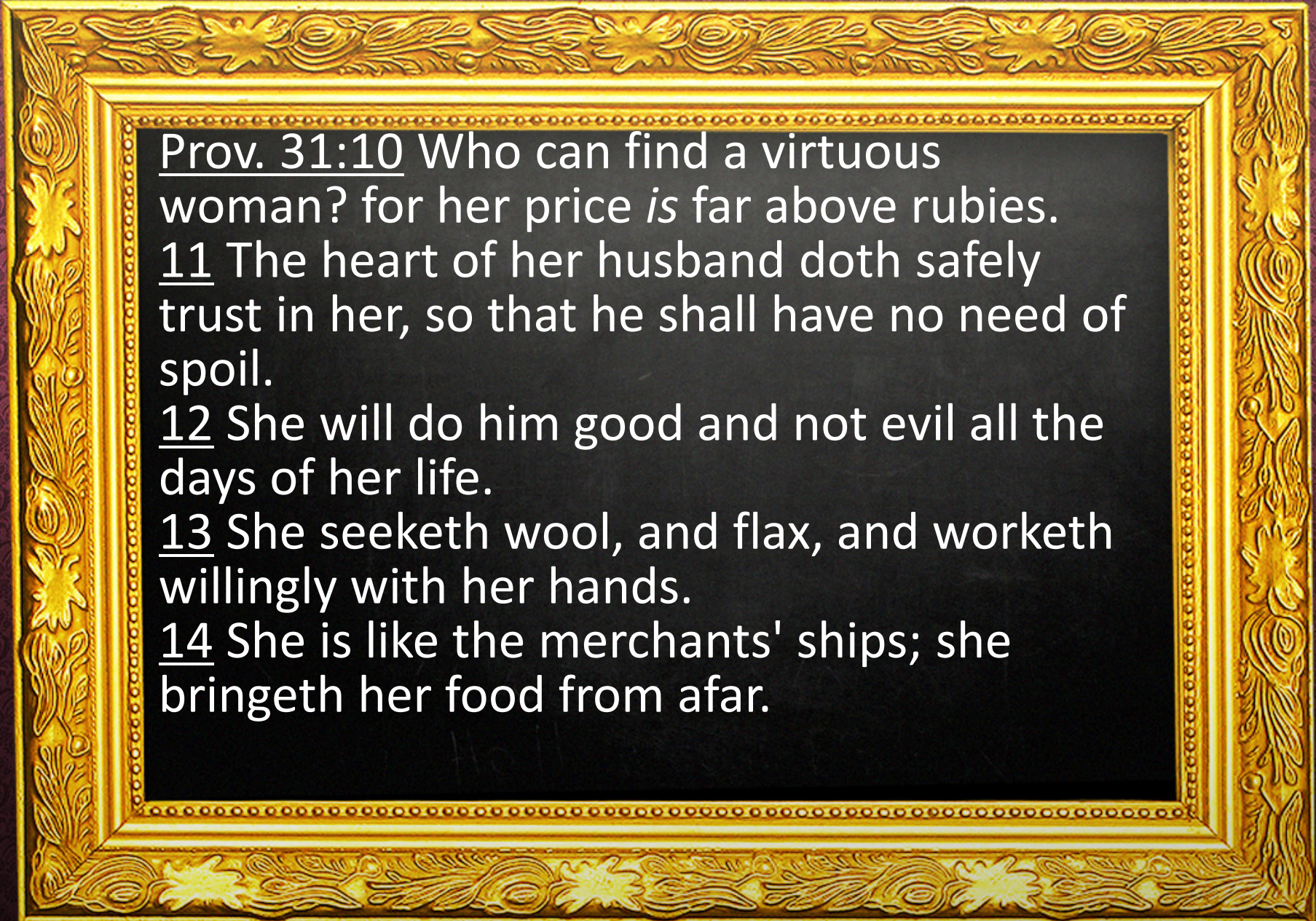


Portrait of a Priceless Church
Prov. 31:10-16



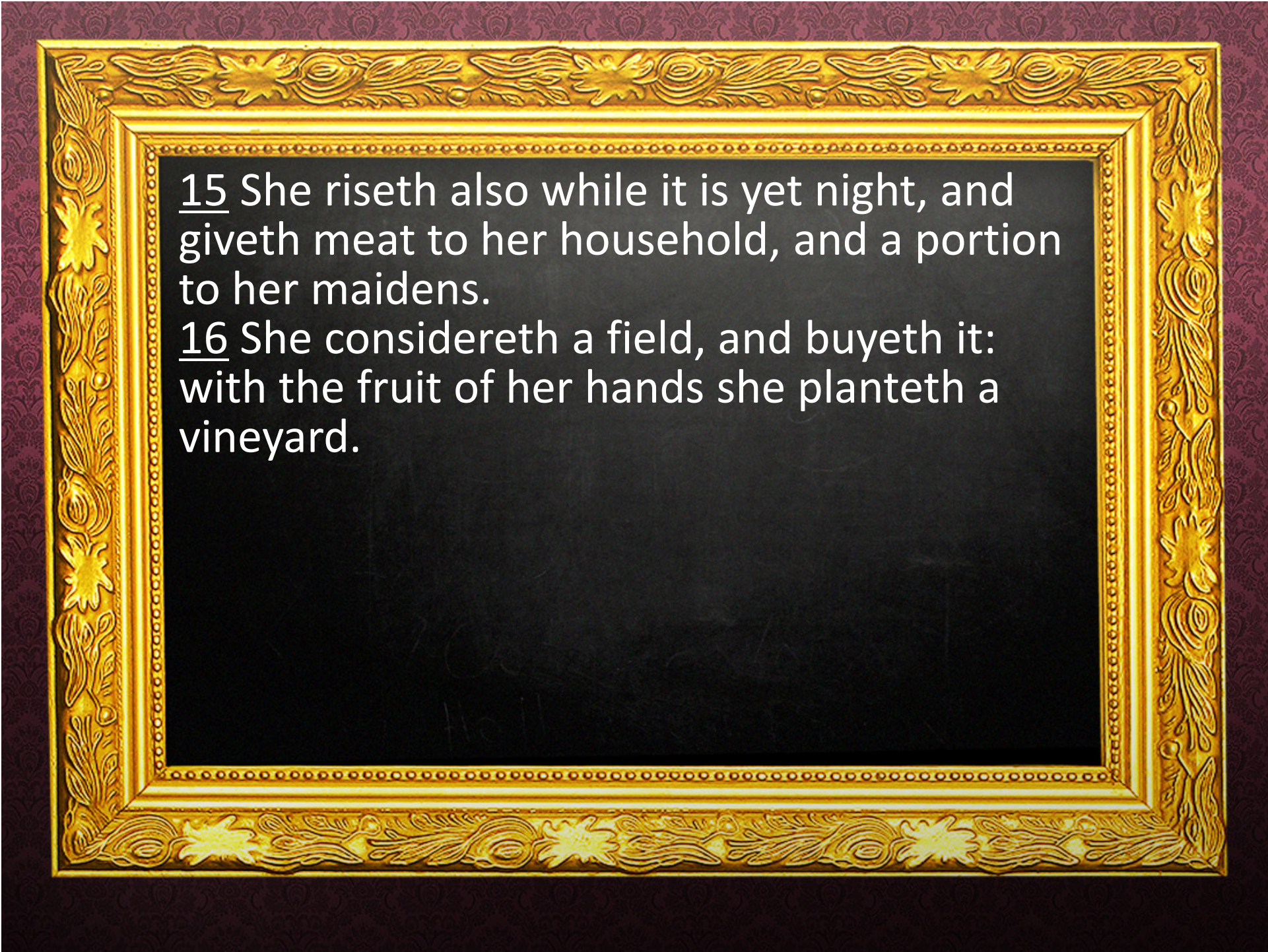
Prov. 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

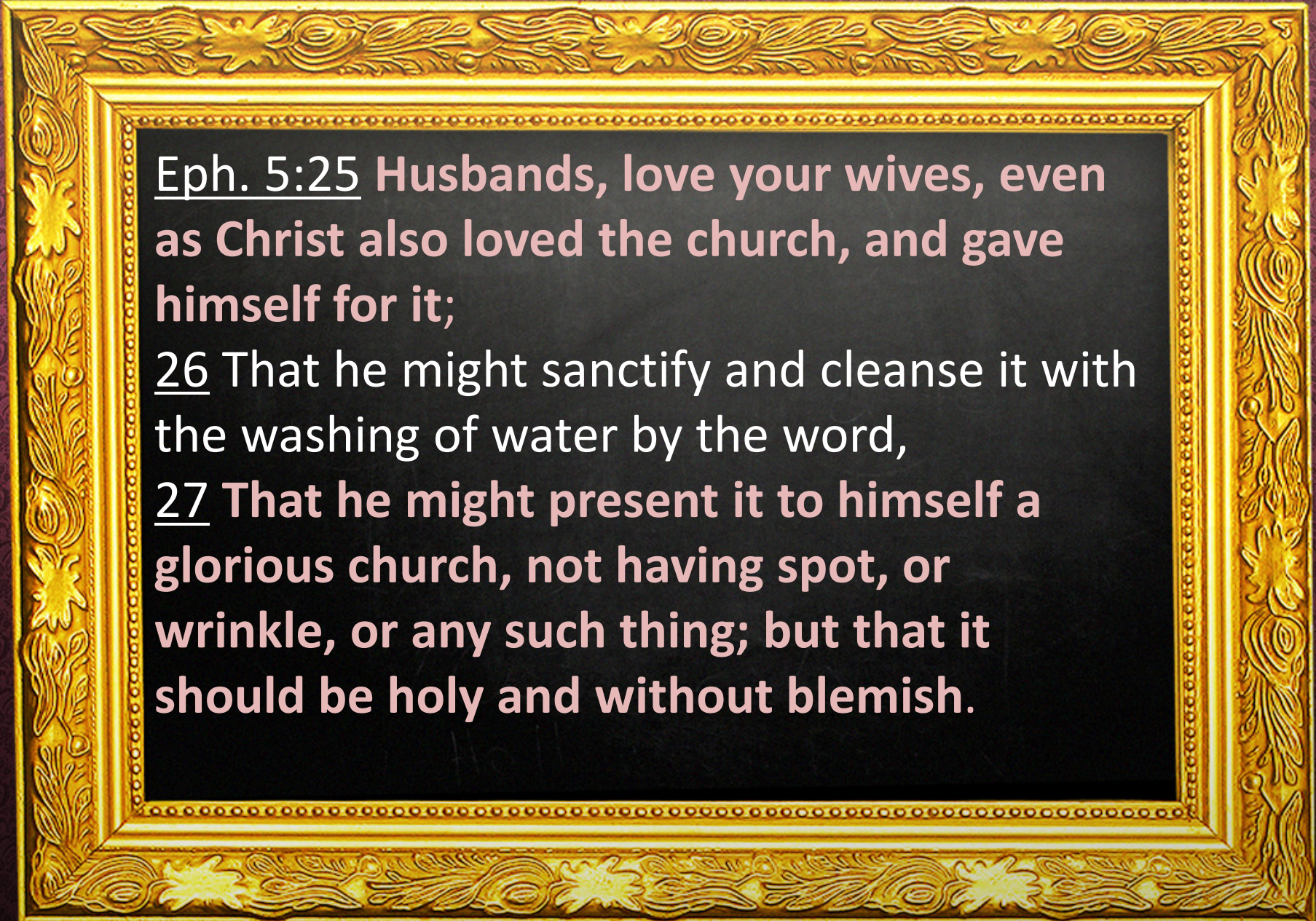
13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.



15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

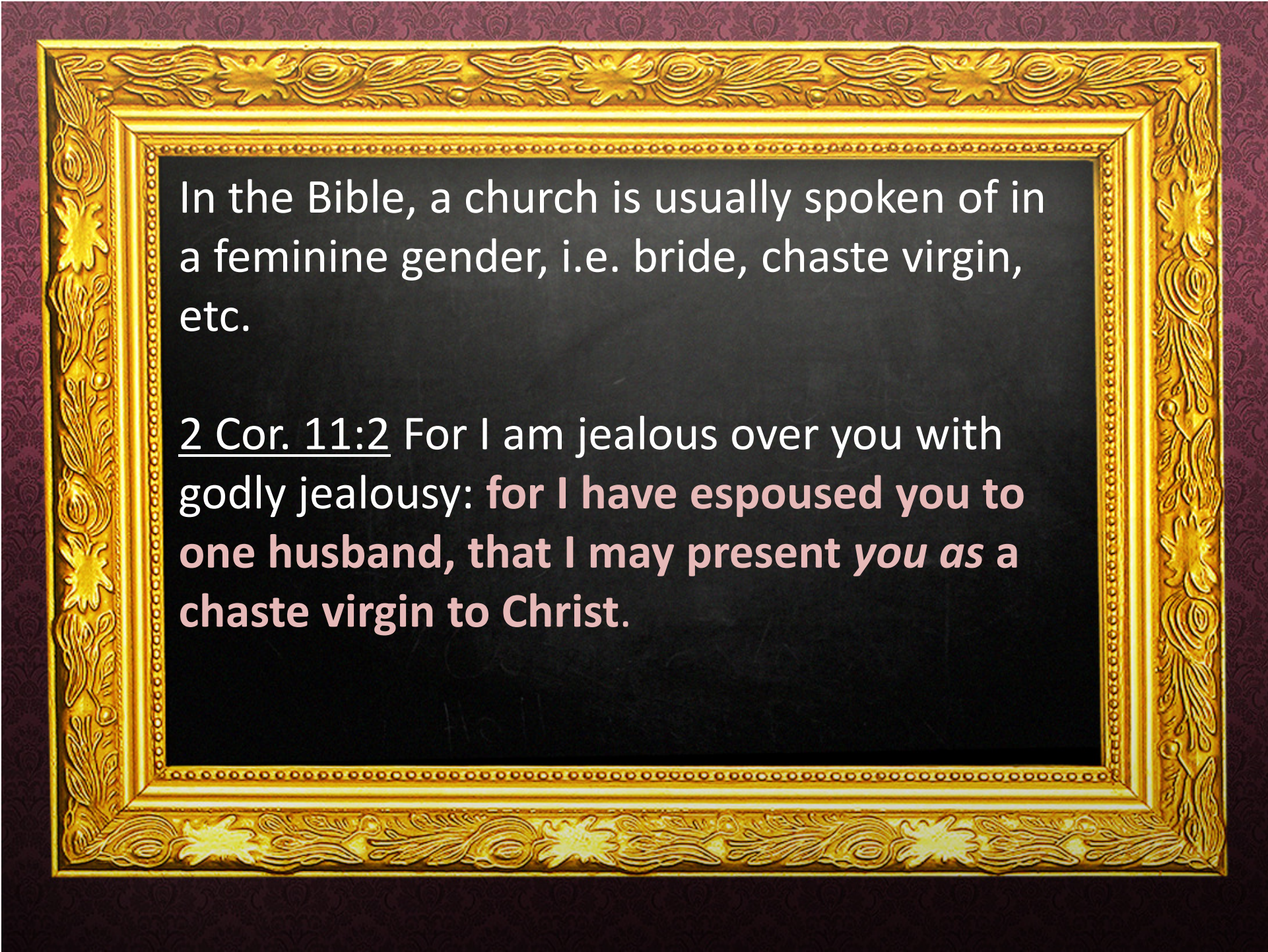
16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.



Eph. 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.



In the Bible, a church is usually spoken of in a feminine gender, i.e. bride, chaste virgin, etc.

2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: **for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin to Christ.***

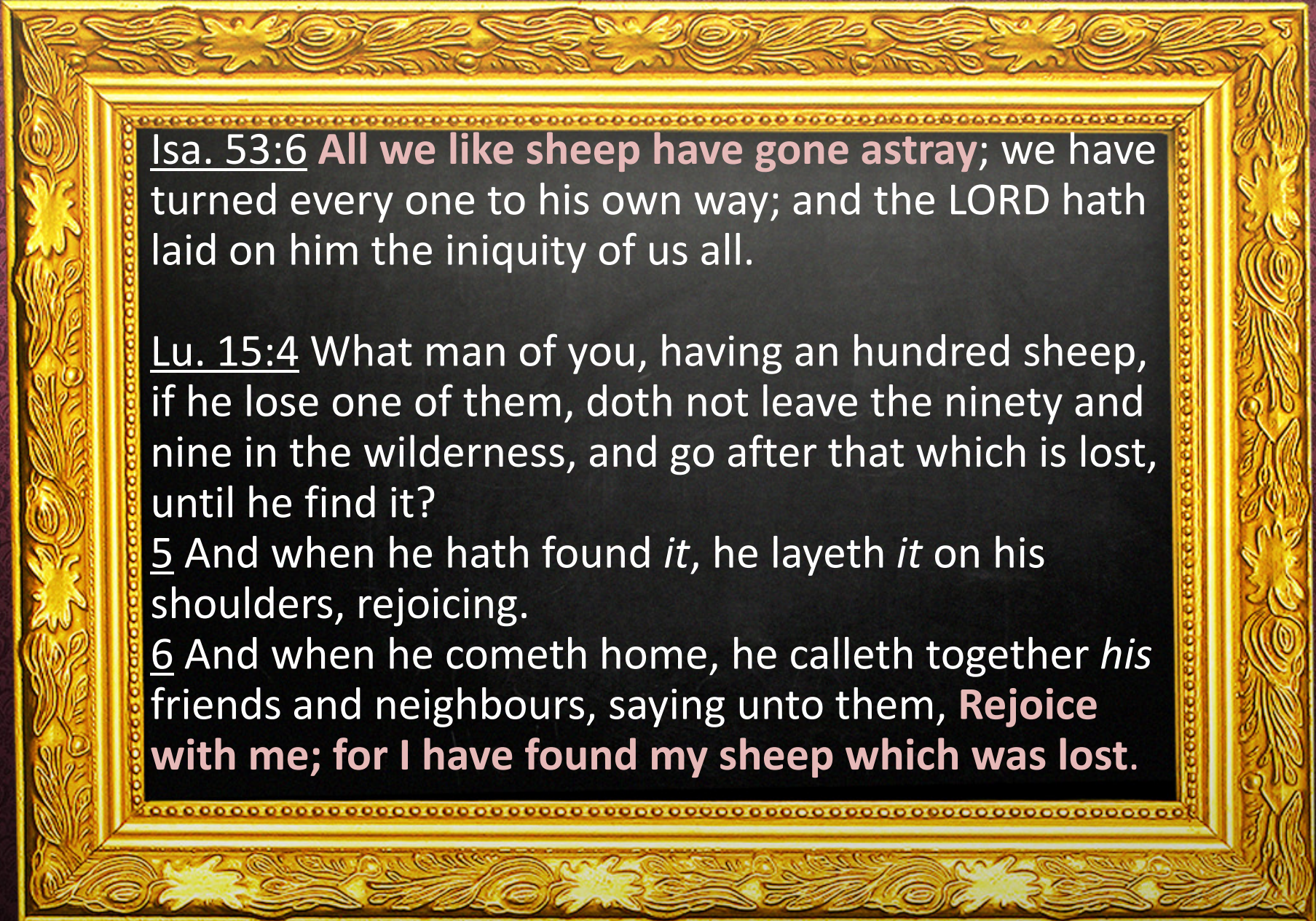


I. Taking care of the GREAT COMMISSION OF THE SAVIOR, 31:13-14, 16

A. The Participation, 31:13 “She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.”

1. The Harvest

a. “wool” = sheep

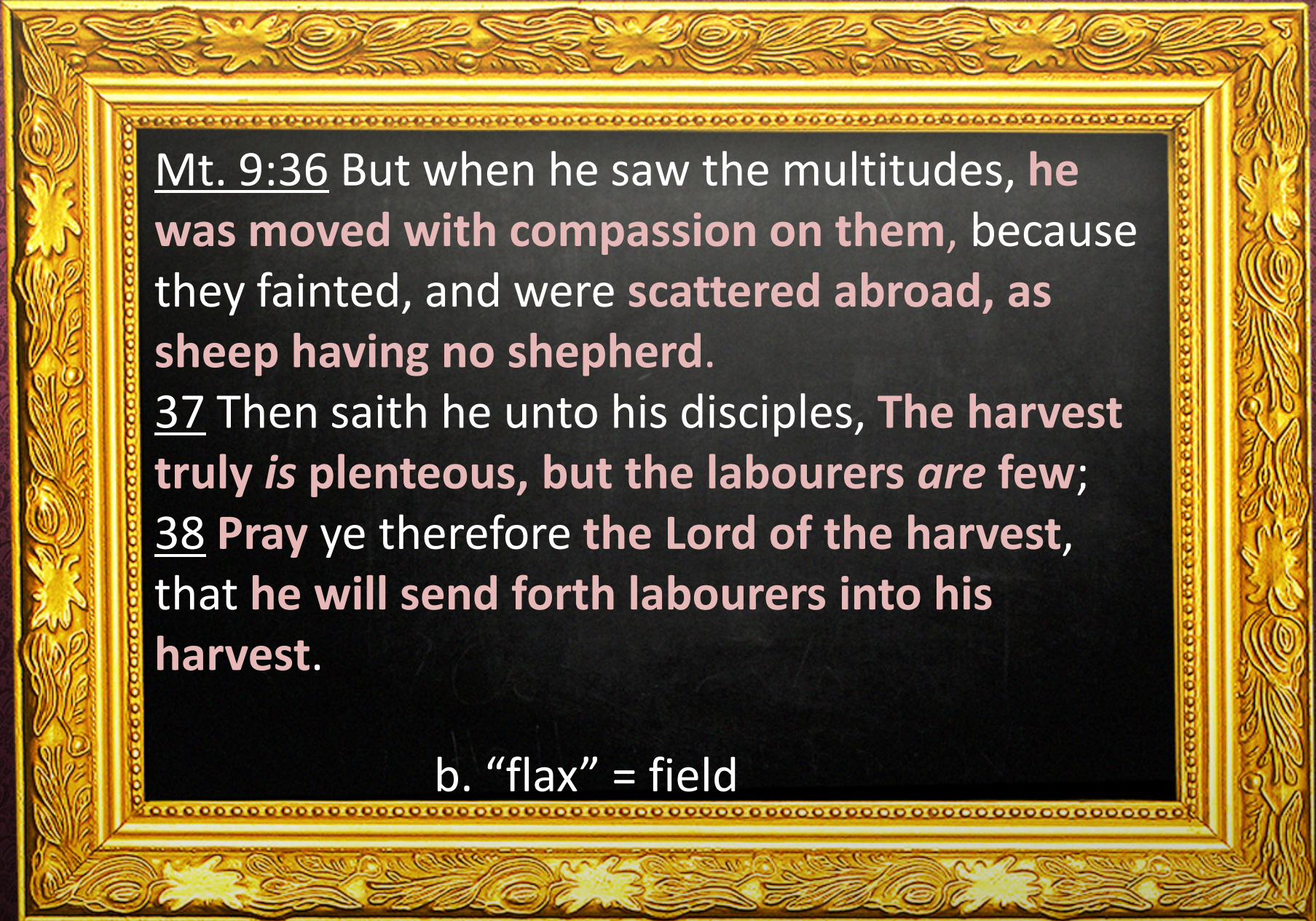


Isa. 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Lu. 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, **Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.**

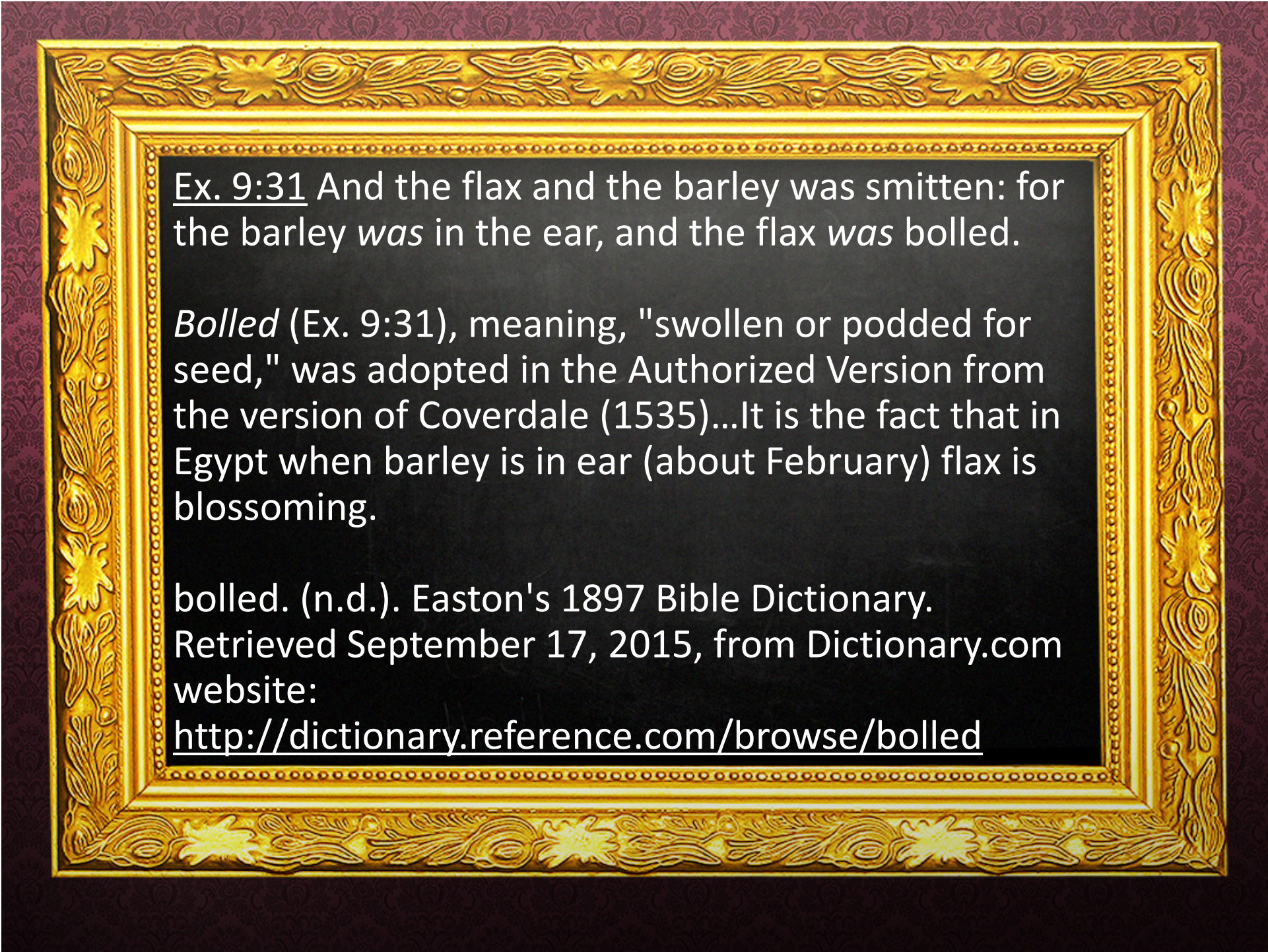


Mt. 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

b. "flax" = field

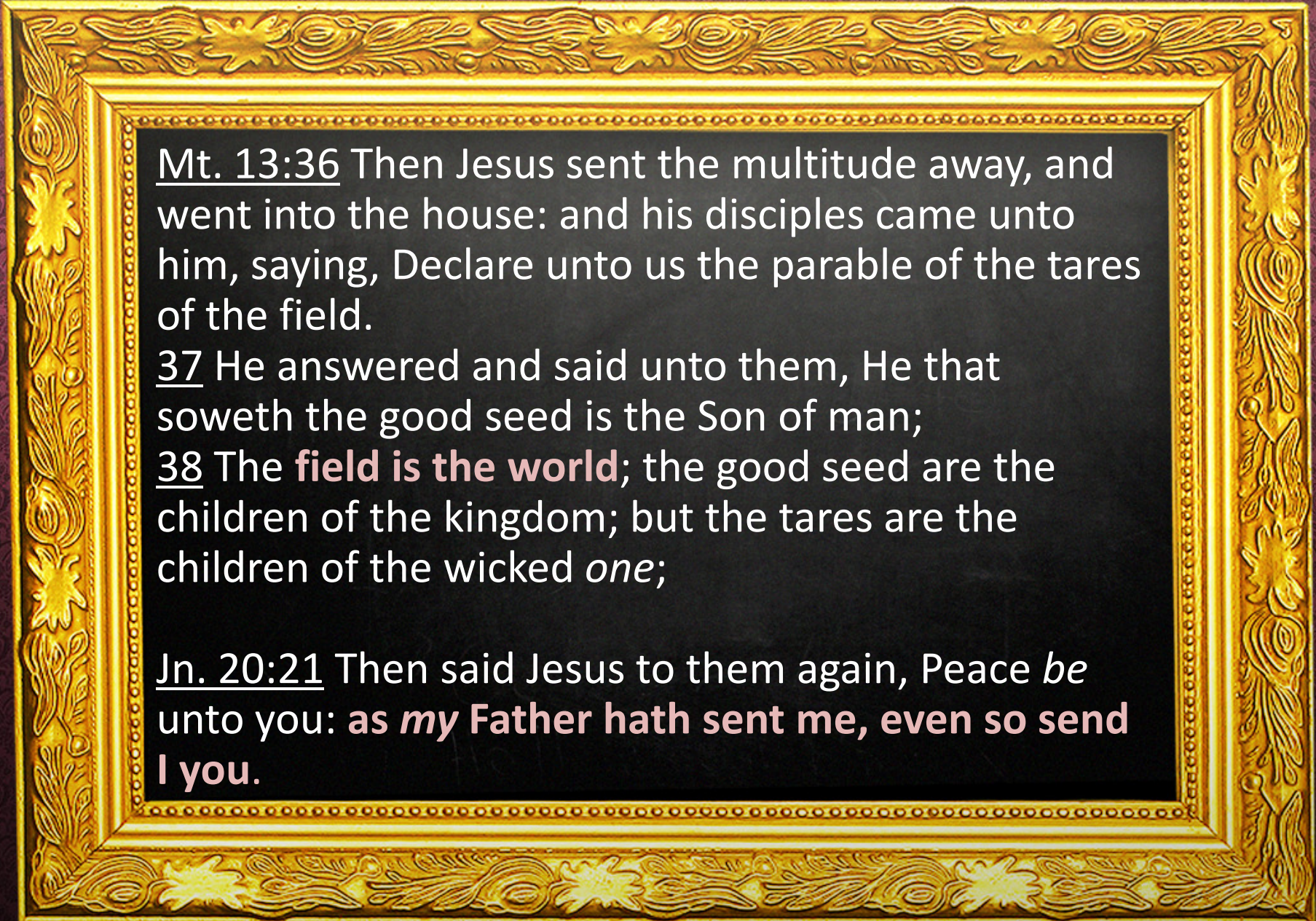


Ex. 9:31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley *was* in the ear, and the flax *was* bolled.

Bolled (Ex. 9:31), meaning, "swollen or podded for seed," was adopted in the Authorized Version from the version of Coverdale (1535)...It is the fact that in Egypt when barley is in ear (about February) flax is blossoming.

bolled. (n.d.). Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary.
Retrieved September 17, 2015, from Dictionary.com website:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/bolled>



Mt. 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The **field is the world**; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*;

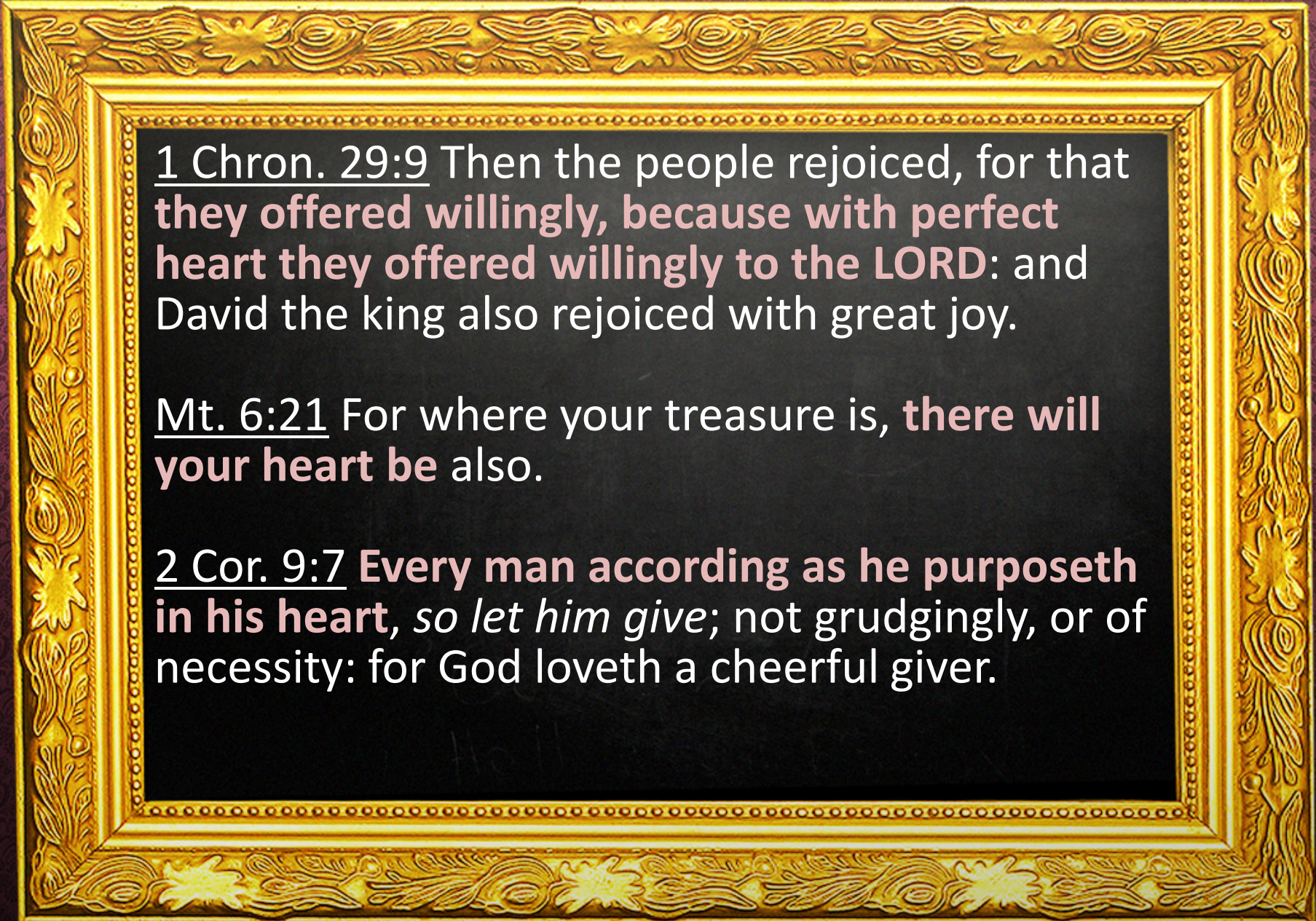
Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**



Mk. 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

2. The Heart – “...worketh willingly...”

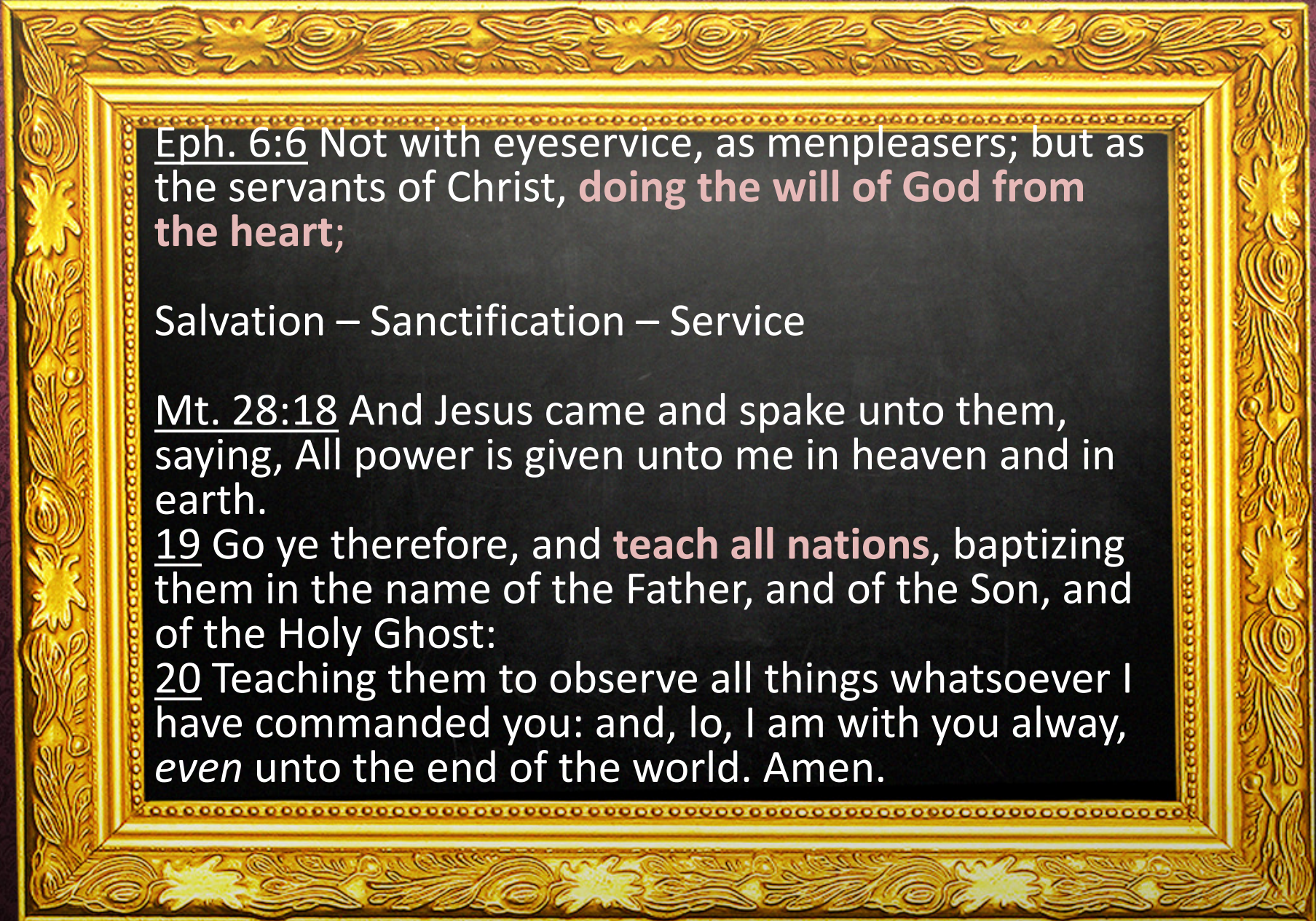
Ex. 35:21 And they came, **every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work** of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. ...
29 The children of Israel brought **a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work**, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.



1 Chron. 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for that **they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD:** and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

Mt. 6:21 For where your treasure is, **there will your heart be** also.

2 Cor. 9:7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,** *so let him give;* not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.



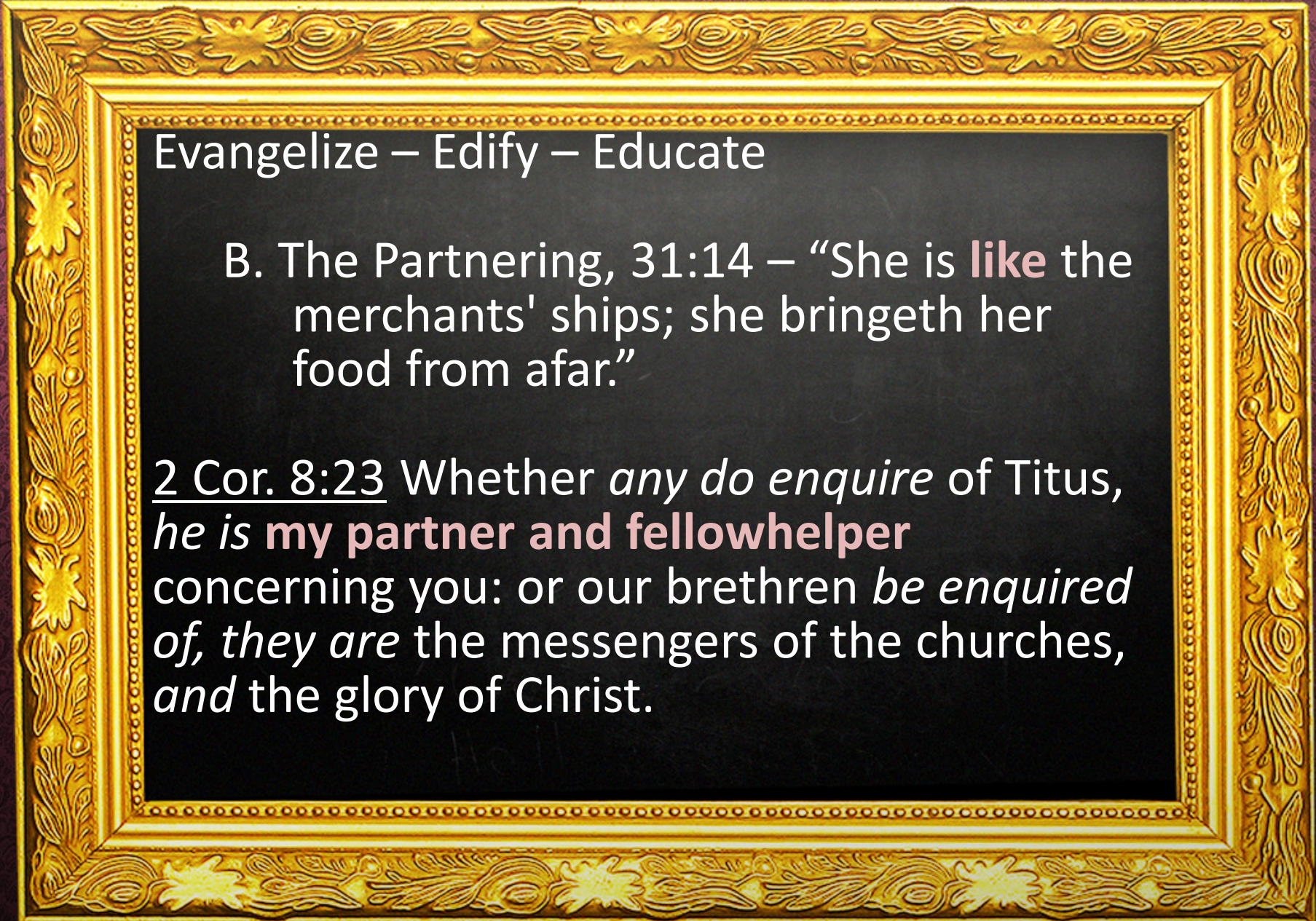
Eph. 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart**;

Salvation – Sanctification – Service

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

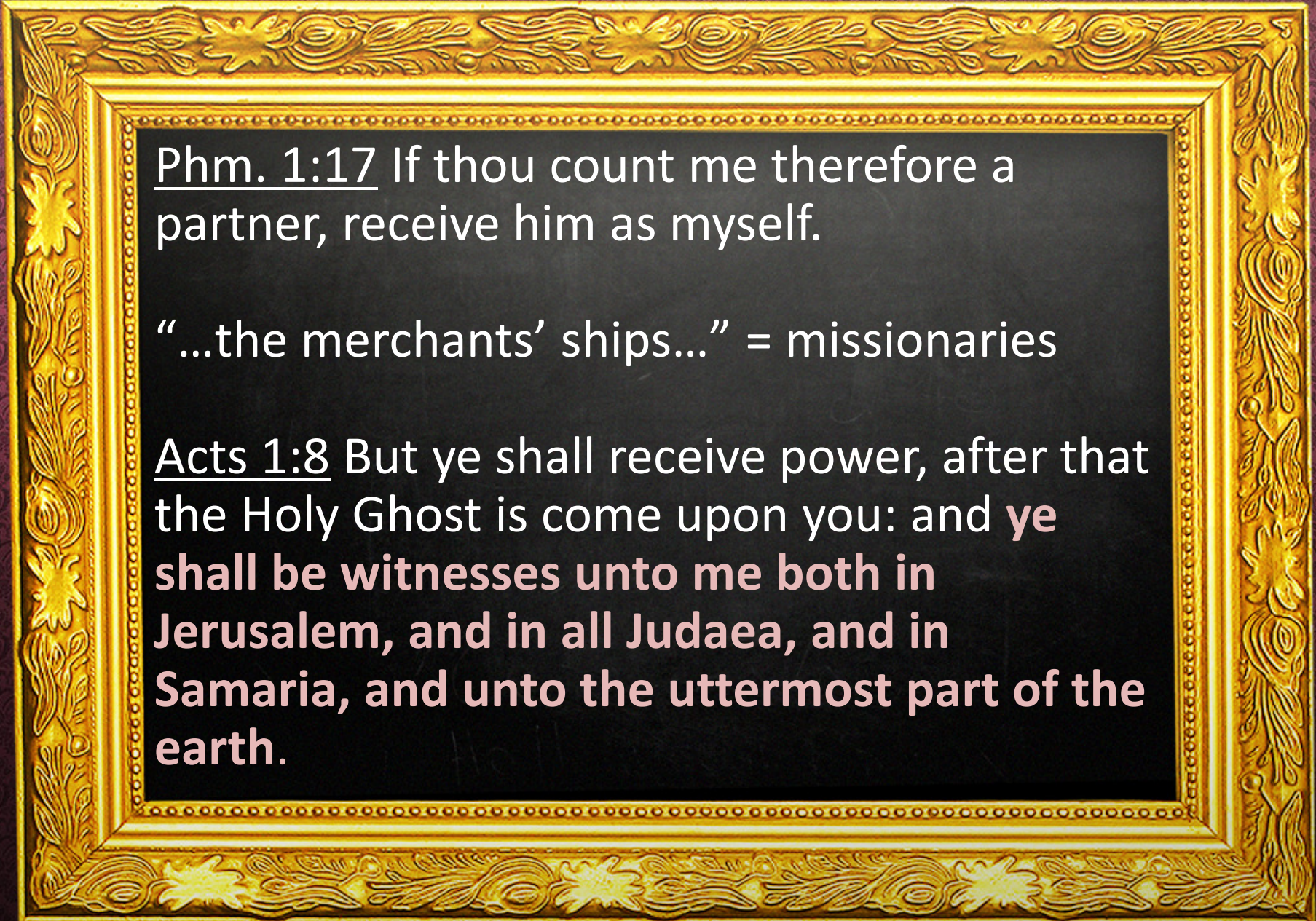
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



Evangelize – Edify – Educate

B. The Partnering, 31:14 – “She is **like** the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”

2 Cor. 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is **my partner and fellowhelper*** concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of, they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.



Phm. 1:17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

“...the merchants’ ships...” = missionaries

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**



Around us – “...both in Jerusalem, and in all
Judaea, and in Samaria...”

Abroad – “...and unto the uttermost part of the
earth.”

C. The Prospective, 31:16 “She considereth a
field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her
hands she planteth a vineyard.”

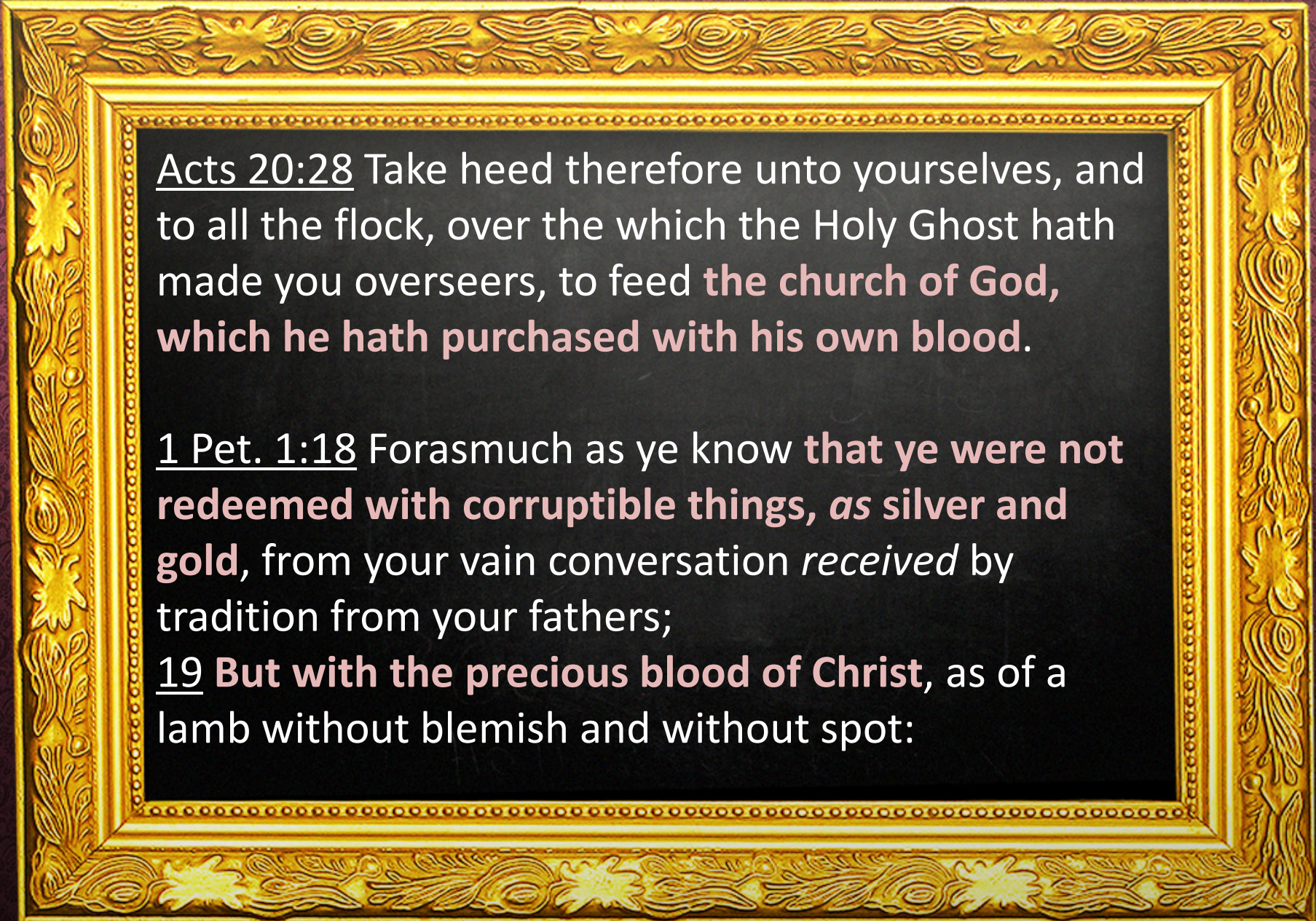
A “virtuous” church is faithful in “maintaining”
what she has, but is also planning for the future.

- She considers

Deut. 32:29 O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, *that* they would **consider their latter end!**

1 Sam. 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for **consider how great *things* he hath done for you.**

- She buys



Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

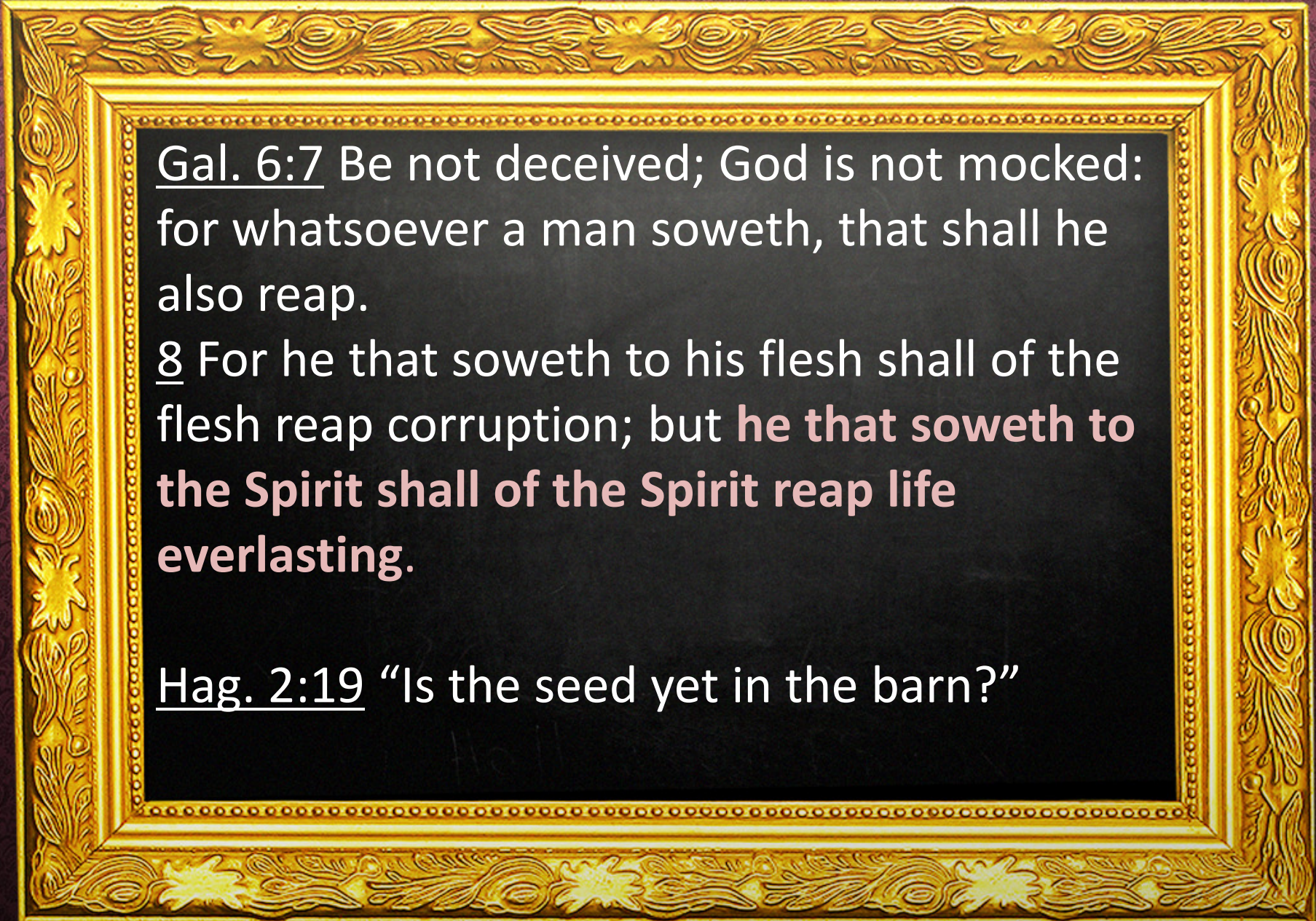
1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know **that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,** from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 **But with the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- She plants

Isa. 32:20 “Blessed *are* ye that **sow beside all waters...**”

2 Cor. 9:6 But this *I say*, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**



Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he
also reap.

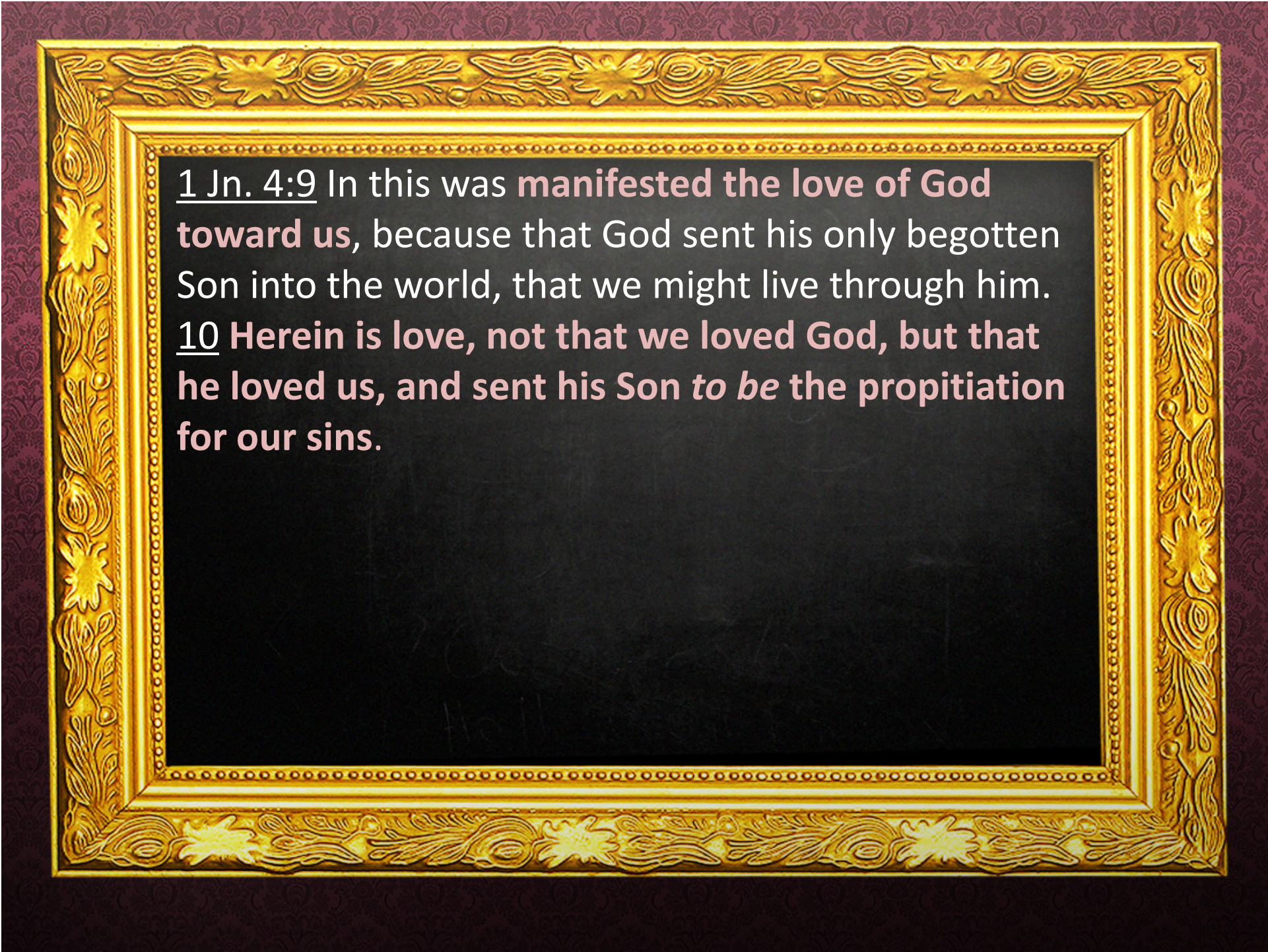
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the
flesh reap corruption; but **he that soweth to
the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life
everlasting.**

Hag. 2:19 “Is the seed yet in the barn?”



Why be involved in the Great Commission?

- Because the Lord Jesus Christ commanded it, and our obedience honors Him.
- Because every soul is one for whom the Lord died on Calvary.
- When another sinner comes to Christ, another is born into His spiritual kingdom.
- When one is born again, the work and purpose of Christ's love is fully manifested!



1 Jn. 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.**

Conclusion

1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:** because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 **We love him, because he first loved us.**