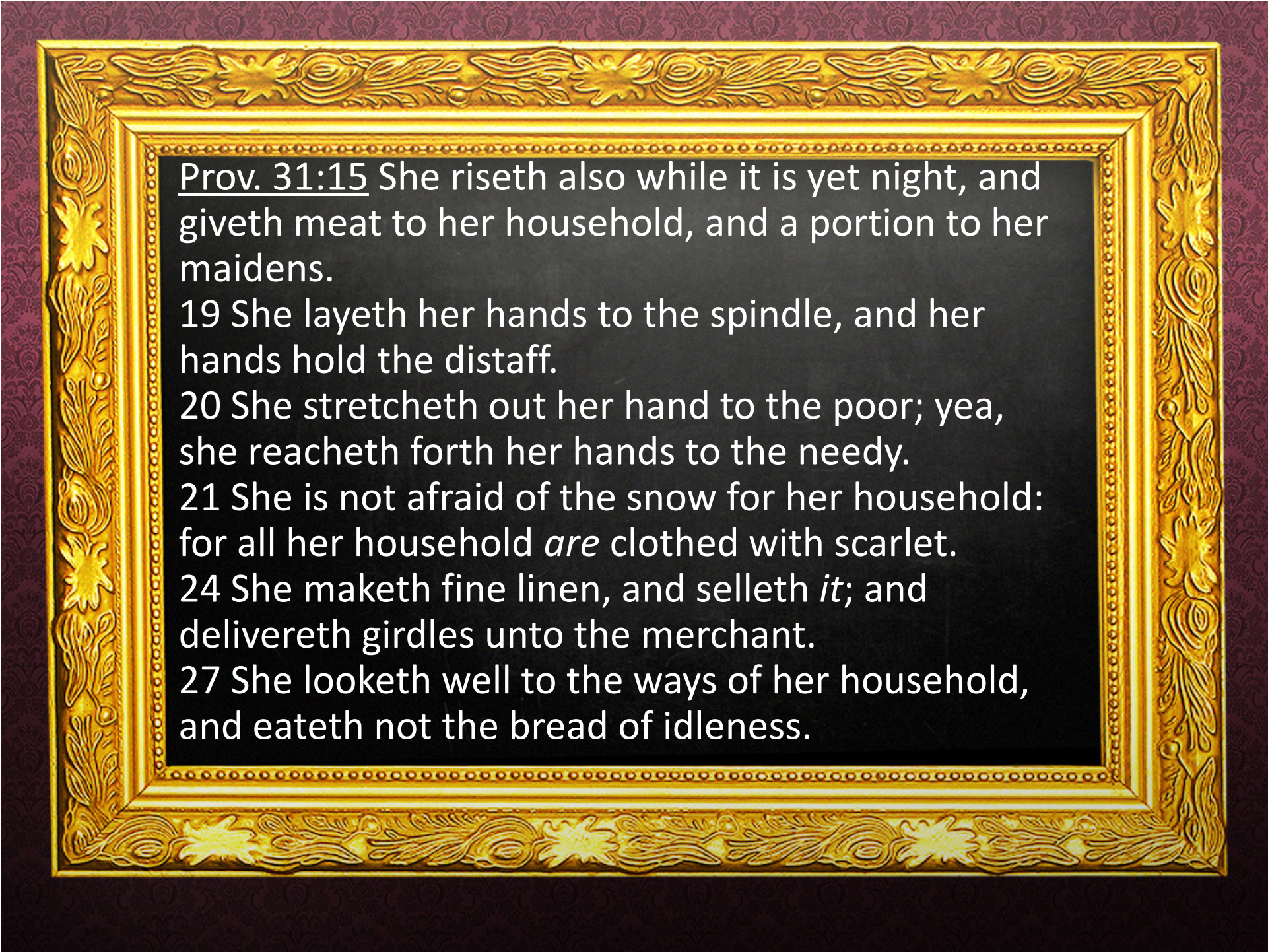


Portrait of a Priceless Church
Prov. 31:15, 19-21, 24, 27



Prov. 31:15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

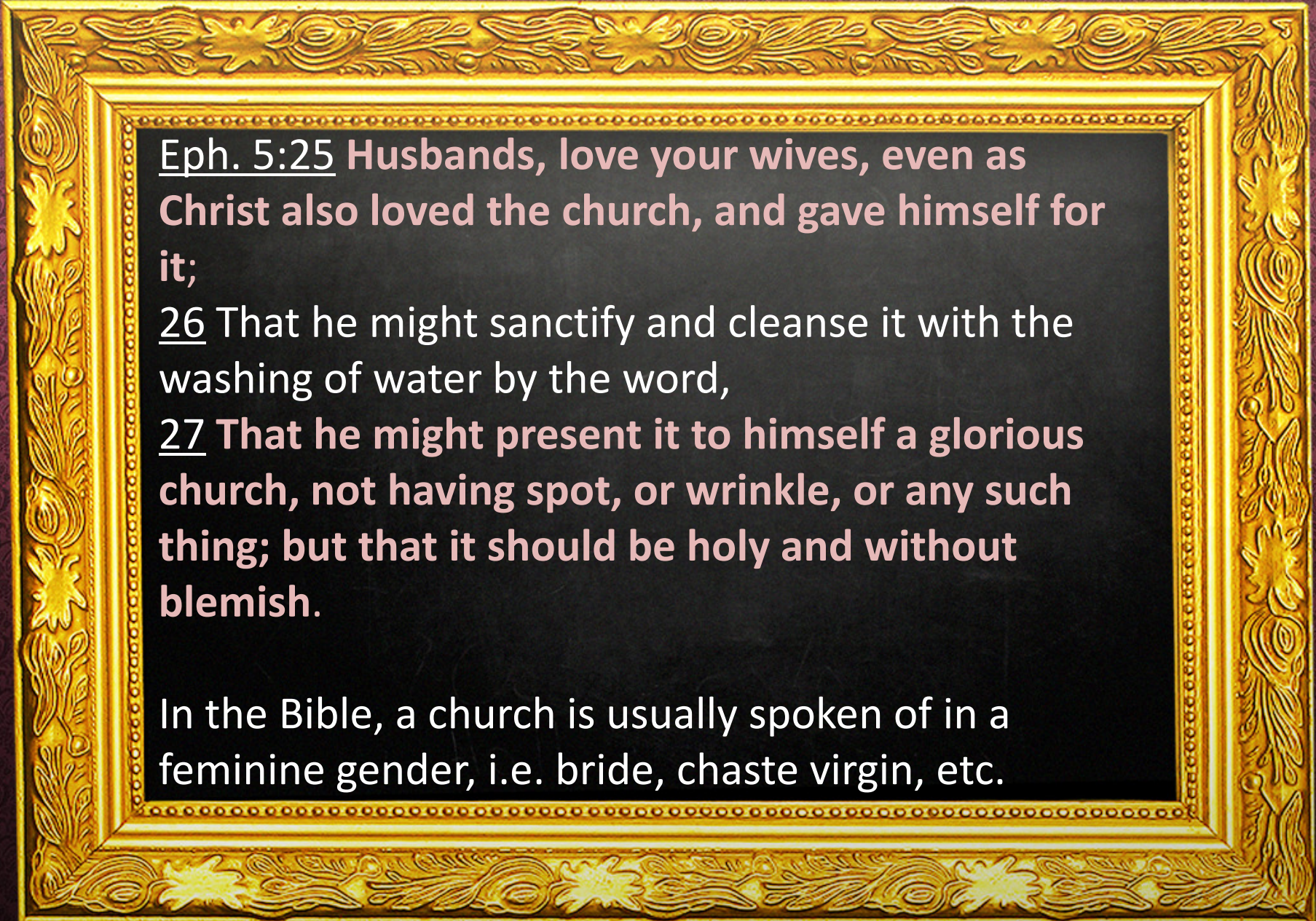
19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.




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.

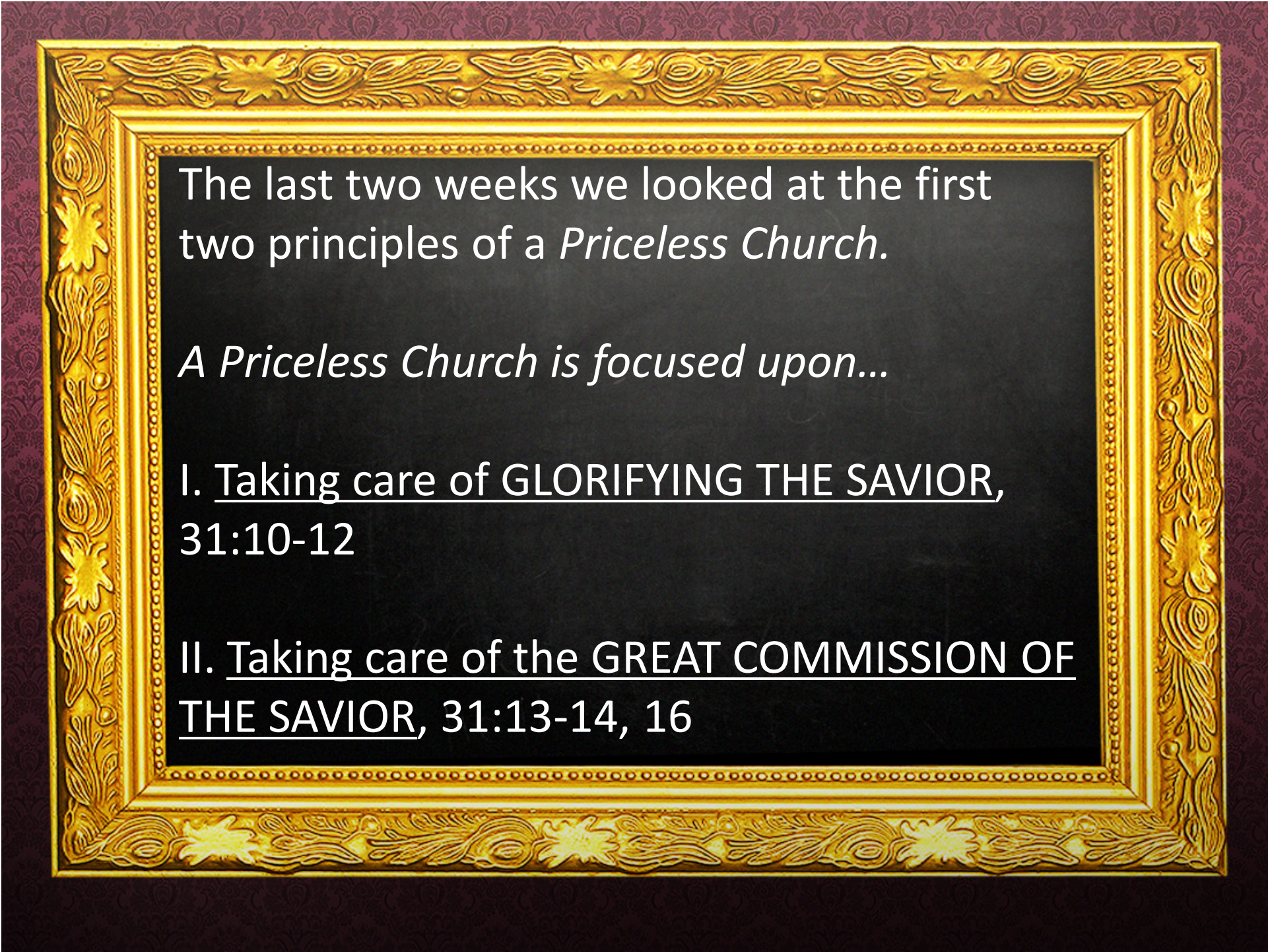


2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

THE FUNCTION OF A CHURCH

Worship
Instruction
Fellowship
Evangelism

http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=towns_books

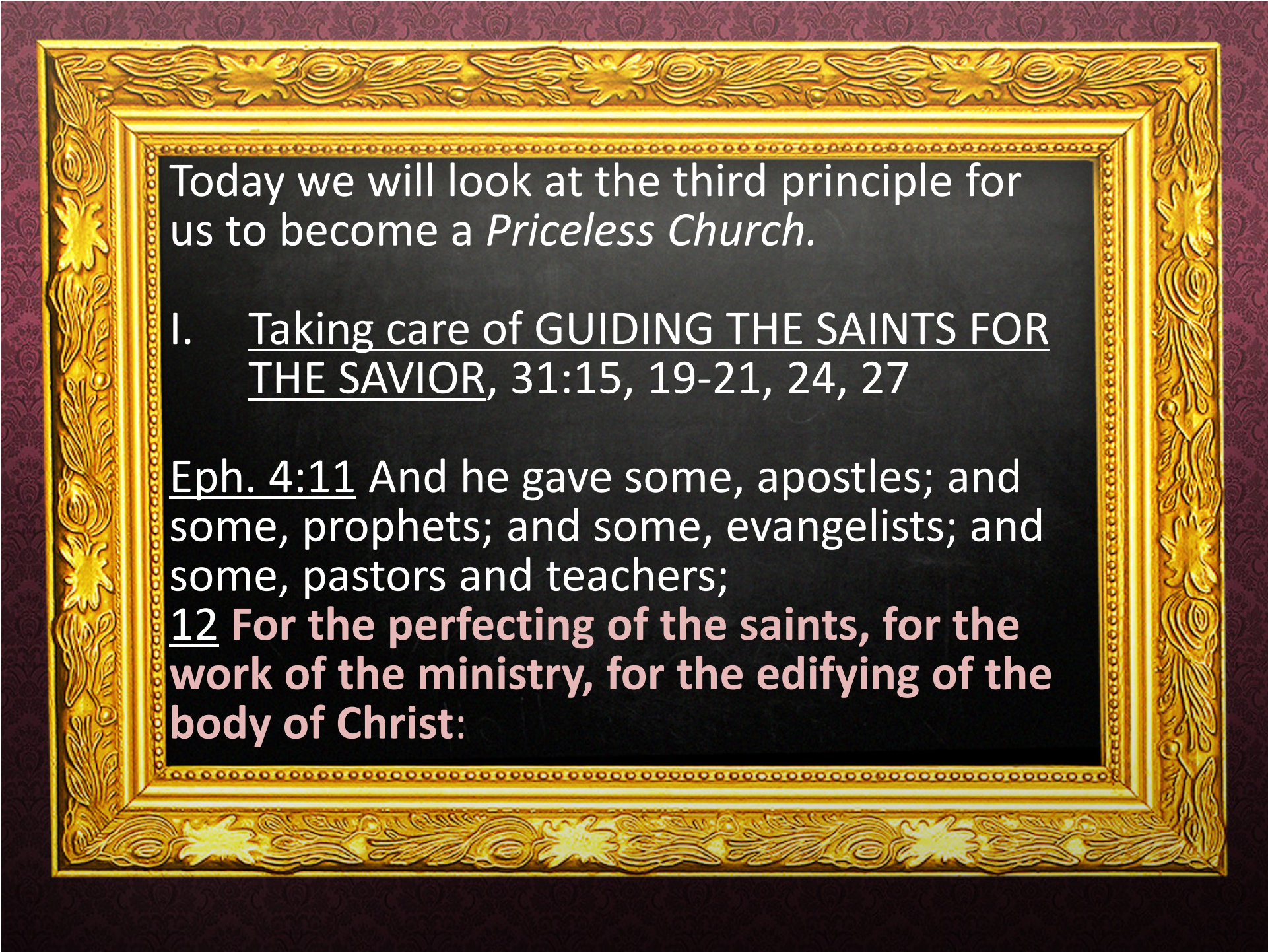


The last two weeks we looked at the first two principles of a *Priceless Church*.

A Priceless Church is focused upon...

I. Taking care of GLORIFYING THE SAVIOR,
31:10-12

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



Today we will look at the third principle for us to become a *Priceless Church*.

I. Taking care of GUIDING THE SAINTS FOR THE SAVIOR, 31:15, 19-21, 24, 27

Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

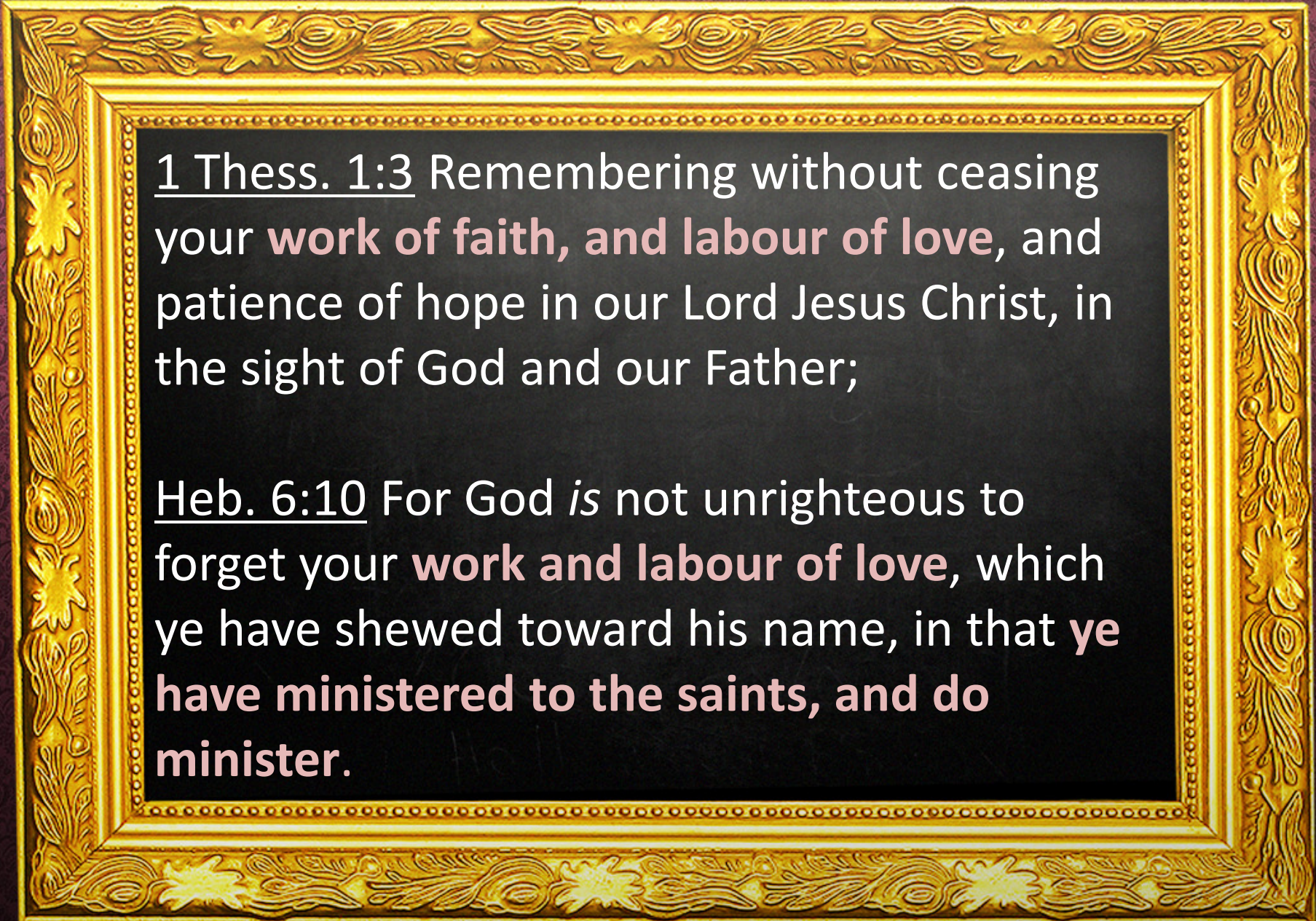
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:



The Priceless Church needs...

A. To Be a Church of Character, 31:15 “She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.”

- She has character and a great work ethic – “She riseth also while it is yet night...”



1 Thess. 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, and labour of love**, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

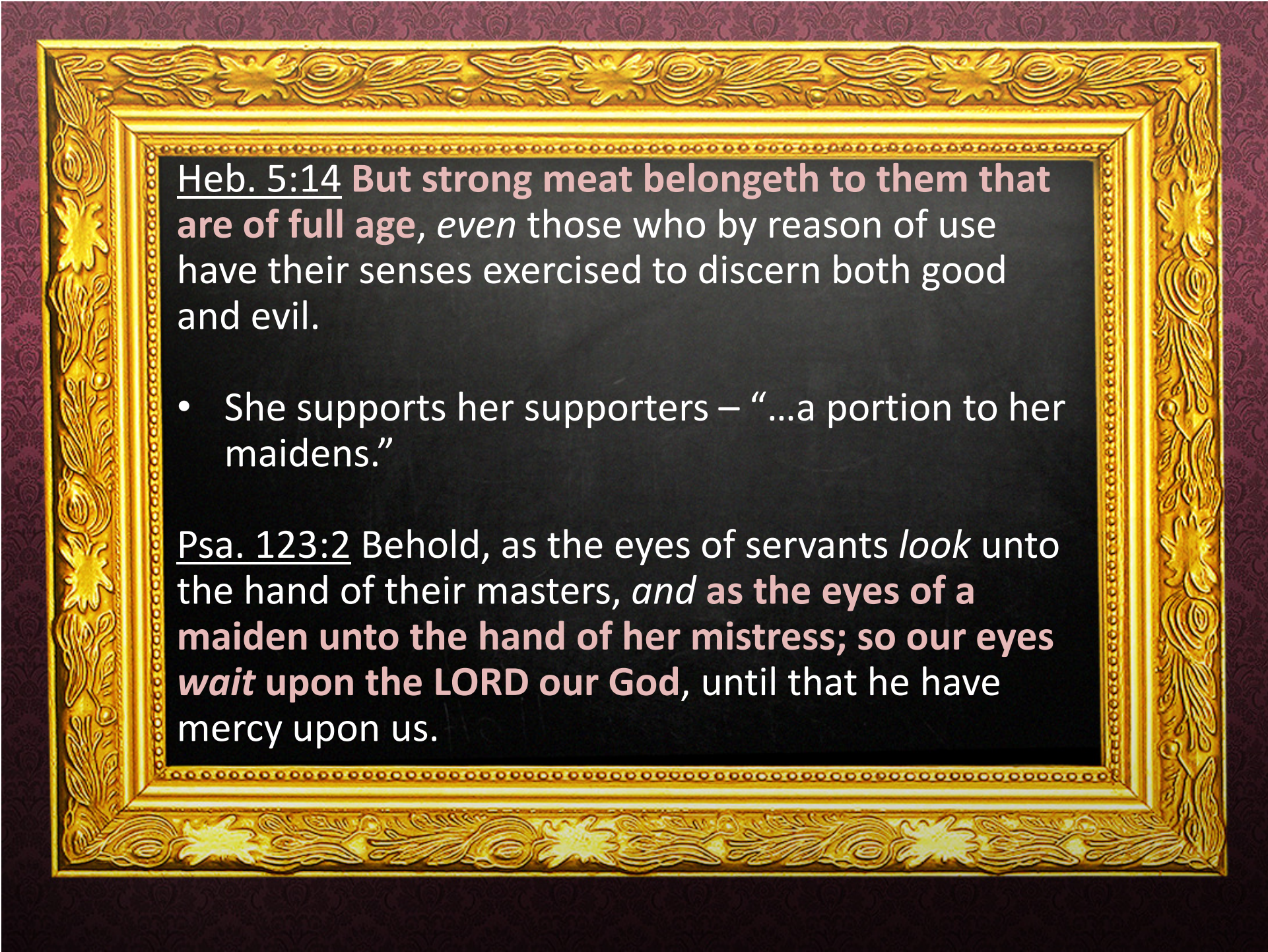
Heb. 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your **work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that **ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

- She feeds her family – “...giveth meat to her household...”

Jn. 4:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. ...

34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

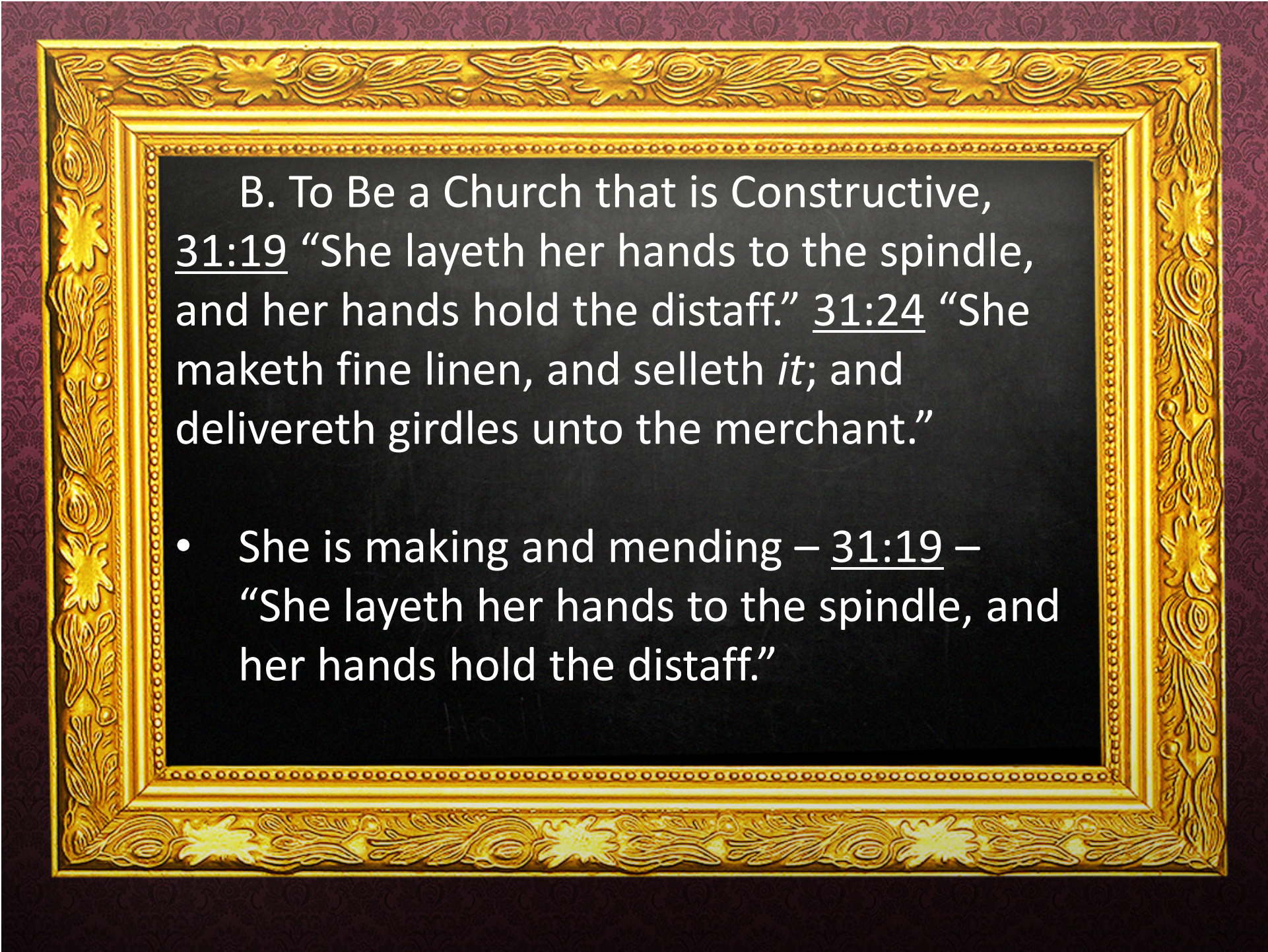
Jn. 6:27 **Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.**



Heb. 5:14 **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age**, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- She supports her supporters – “...a portion to her maidens.”

Psa. 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* unto the hand of their masters, **and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God**, until that he have mercy upon us.



B. To Be a Church that is Constructive,
31:19 “She layeth her hands to the spindle,
and her hands hold the distaff.” 31:24 “She
maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and
delivereth girdles unto the merchant.”

- She is making and mending – 31:19 –
“She layeth her hands to the spindle, and
her hands hold the distaff.”

Making saints = evangelism

Mt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mending saints = edification of the local body

Mk. 1:19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship **mending** their nets.

Original Word: καταρτίζω

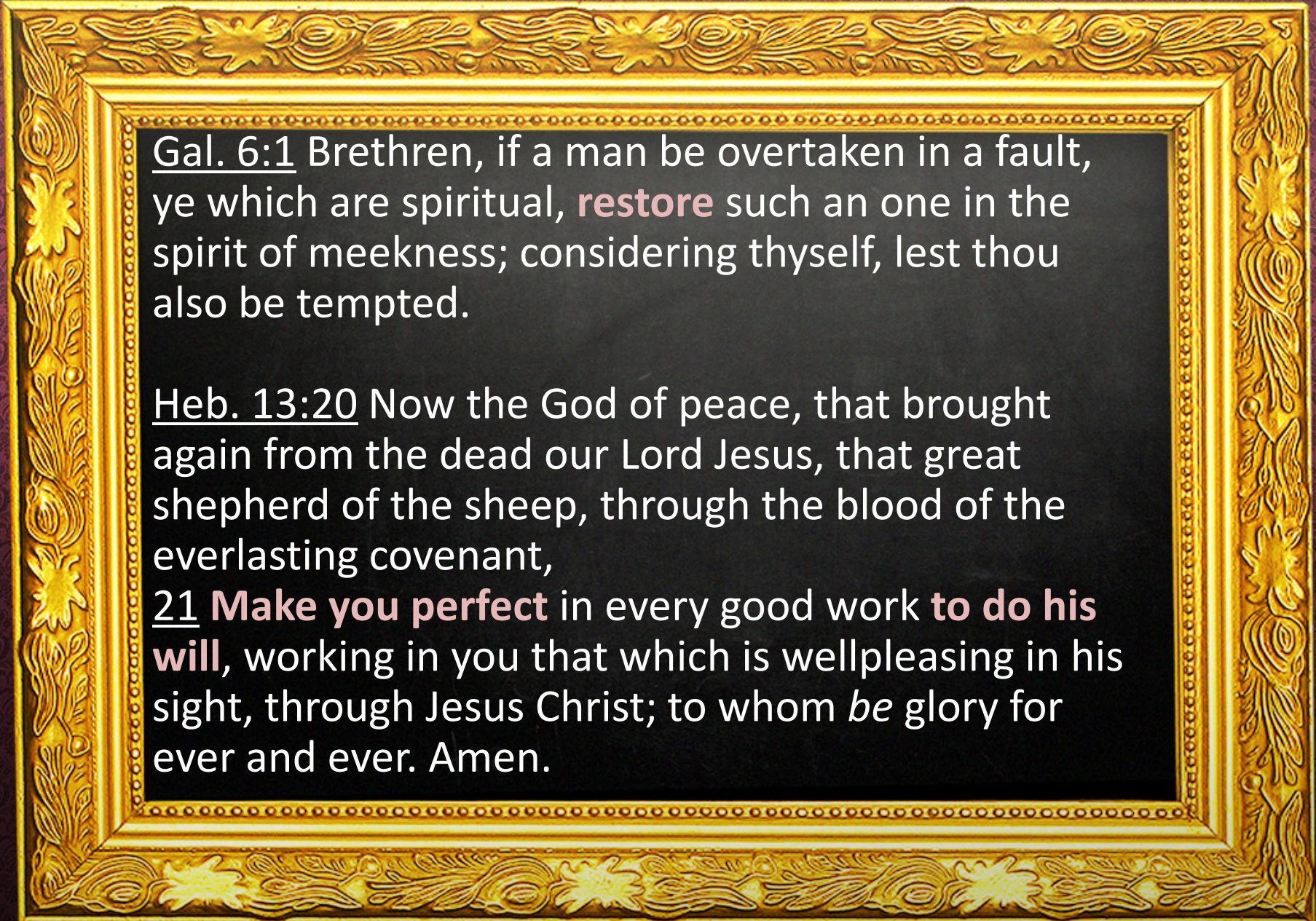
Transliteration: katartizó

Short Definition: I fit together, prepare, mend

Definition: (a) I fit (join) together; met: I compact together, (b) act. and mid: **I prepare, perfect, for his (its) full destination or use, bring into its proper condition (whether for the first time, or after a lapse).**

Properly, ***exactly* fit (adjust) to be in good *working order***, i.e. adjusted ***exactly*** "down" to fully function.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2675.htm>



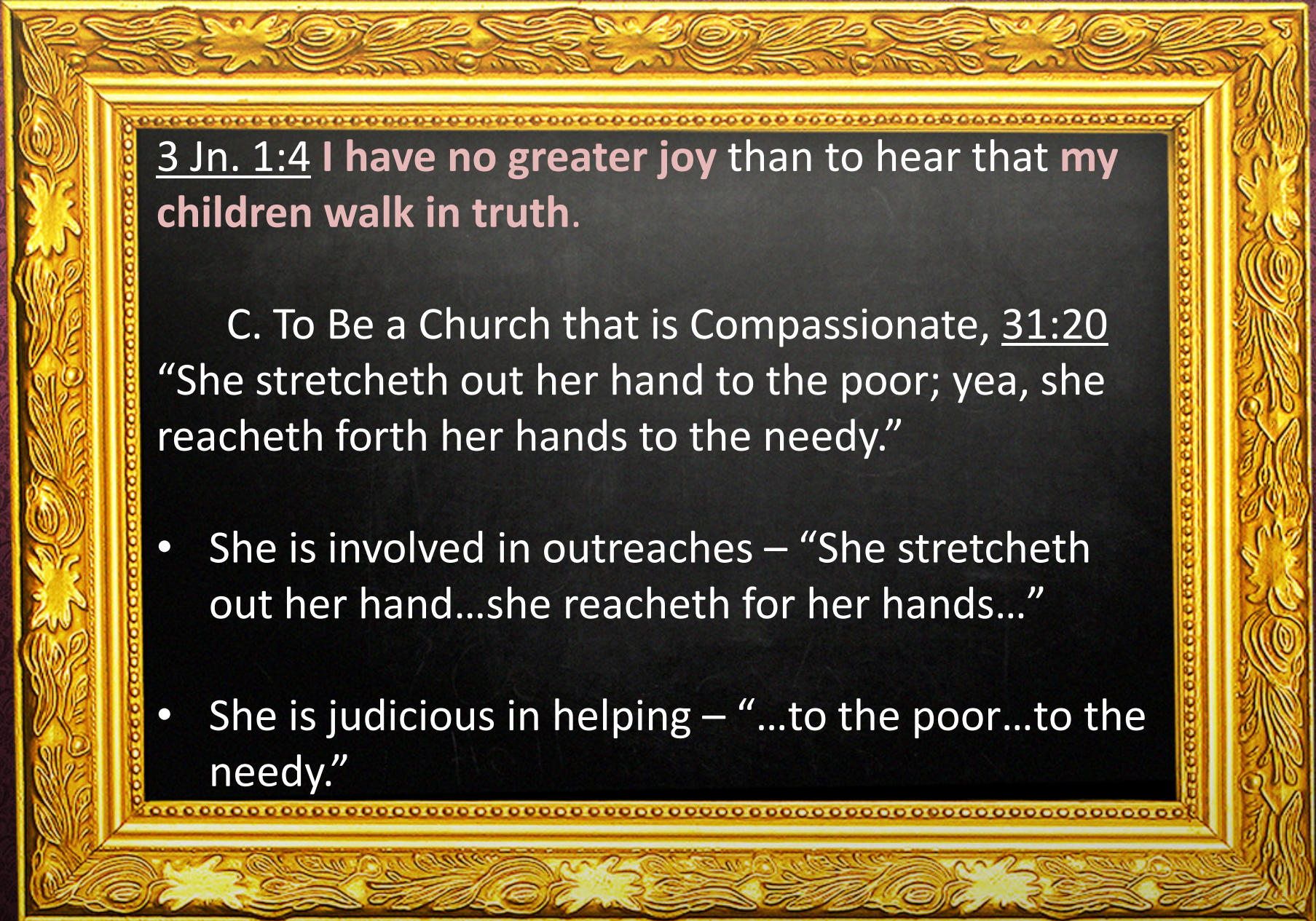
Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
21 **Make you perfect** in every good work **to do his will**, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- She produces quality – in purity (“fine linen”) and truth (“girdles”)

Psa. 40:10 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; **I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation:** I have not concealed **thy lovingkindness** and **thy truth** from the great congregation.

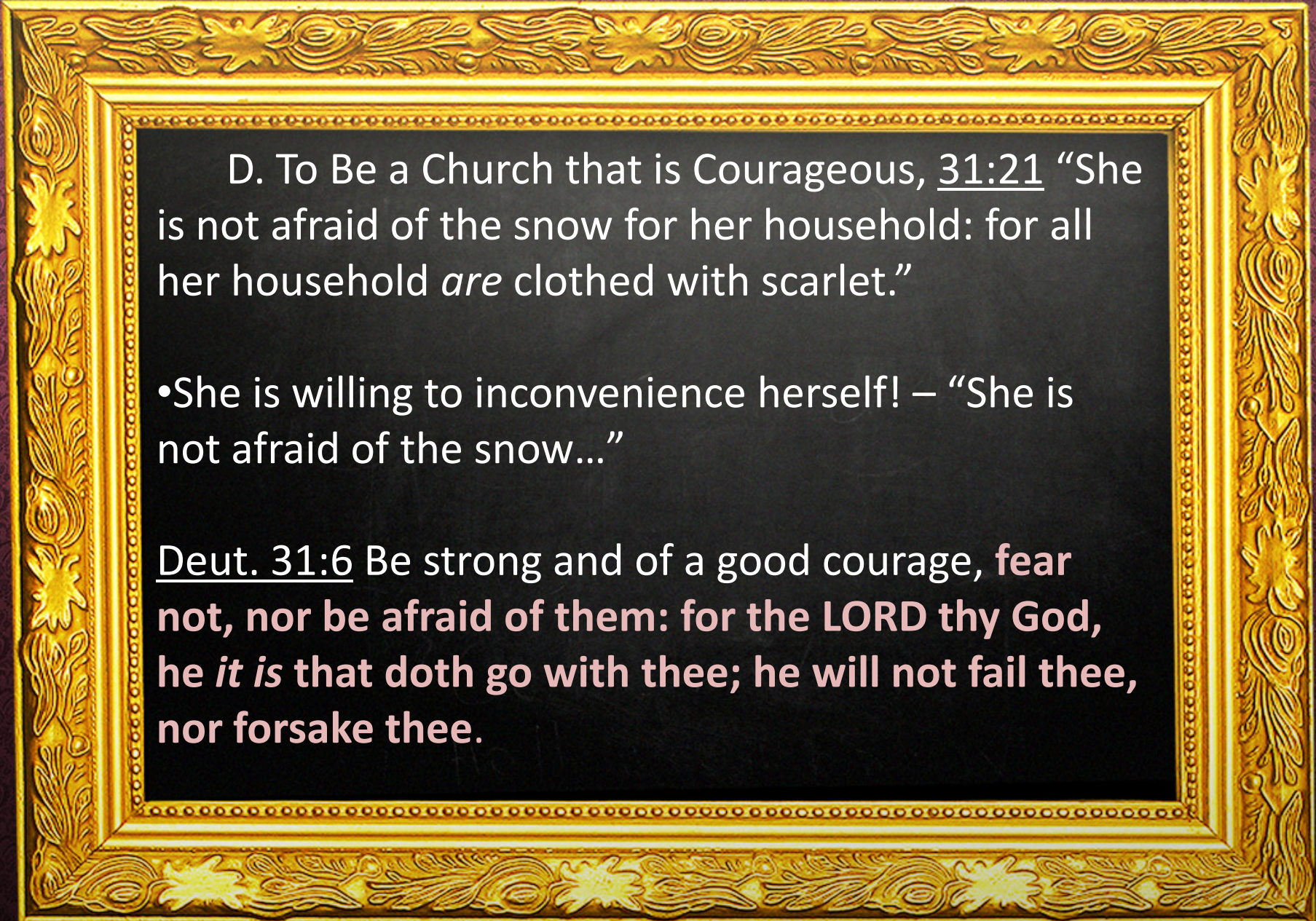
Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, **having your loins girt about with truth**, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness;**



3 Jn. 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

C. To Be a Church that is Compassionate, 31:20
“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.”

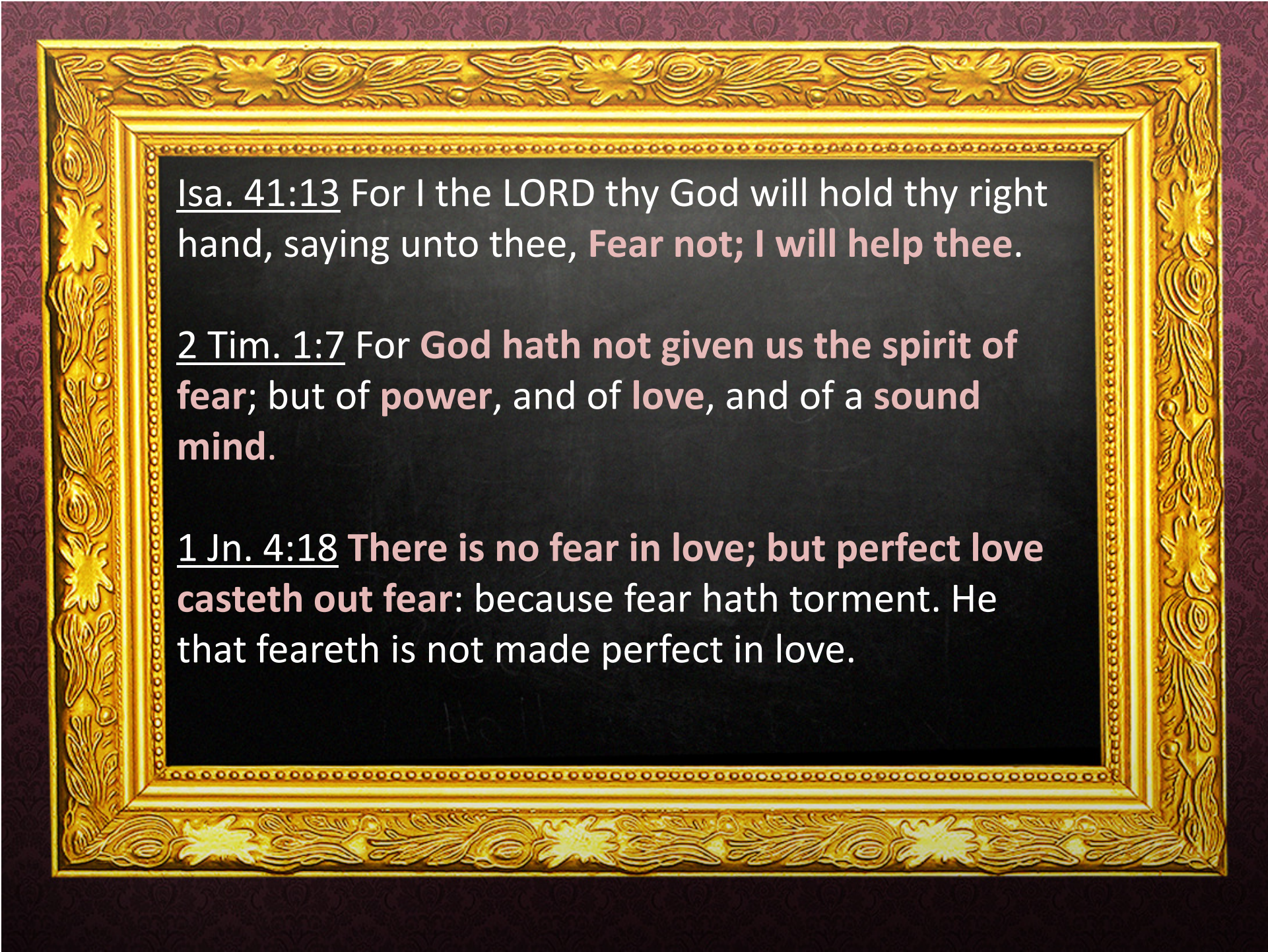
- She is involved in outreaches – “She stretcheth out her hand...she reacheth for her hands...”
- She is judicious in helping – “...to the poor...to the needy.”



D. To Be a Church that is Courageous, 31:21 “She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.”

- She is willing to inconvenience herself! – “She is not afraid of the snow...”

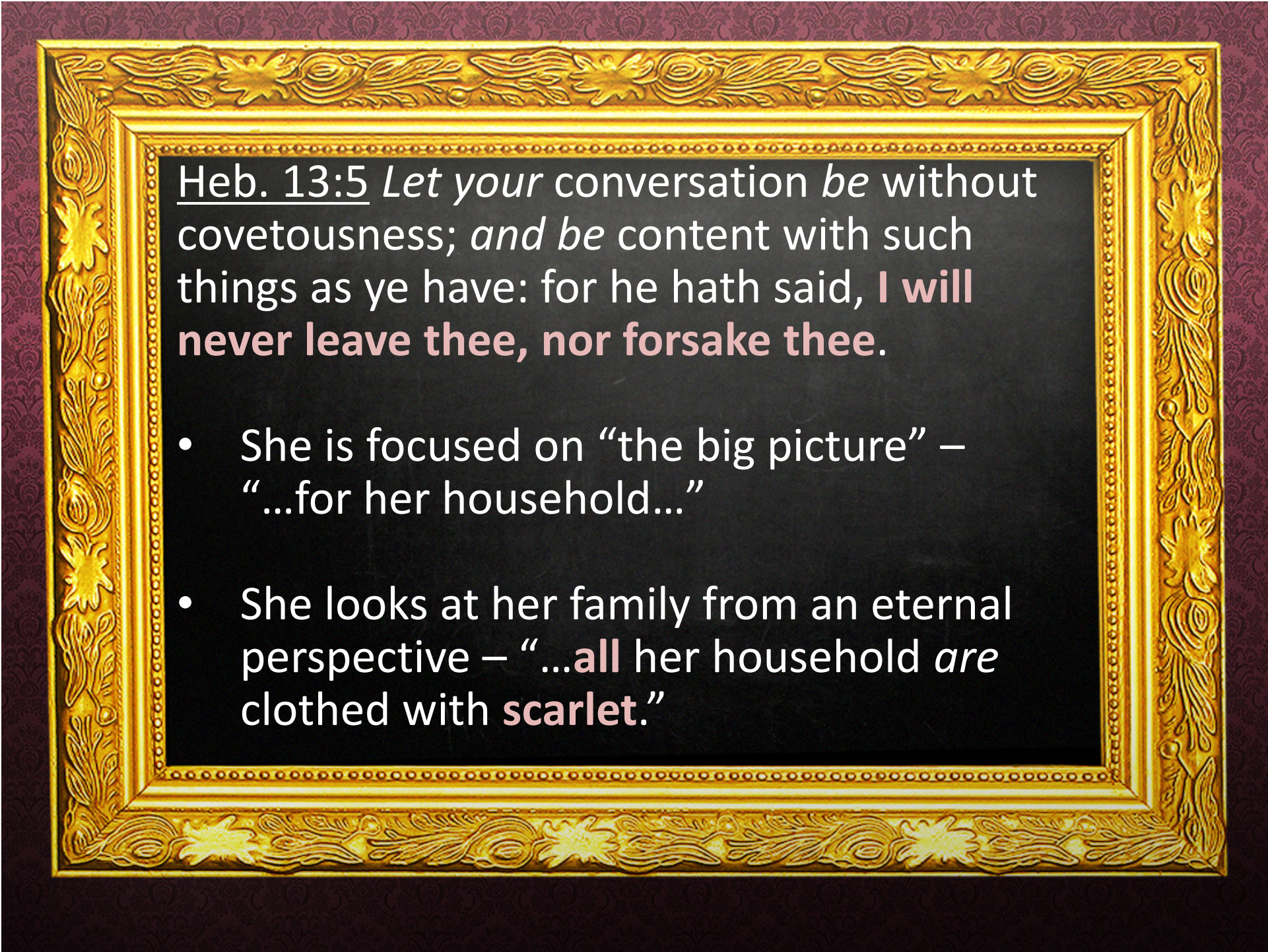
Deut. 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, **fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**



Isa. 41:13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, **Fear not; I will help thee.**

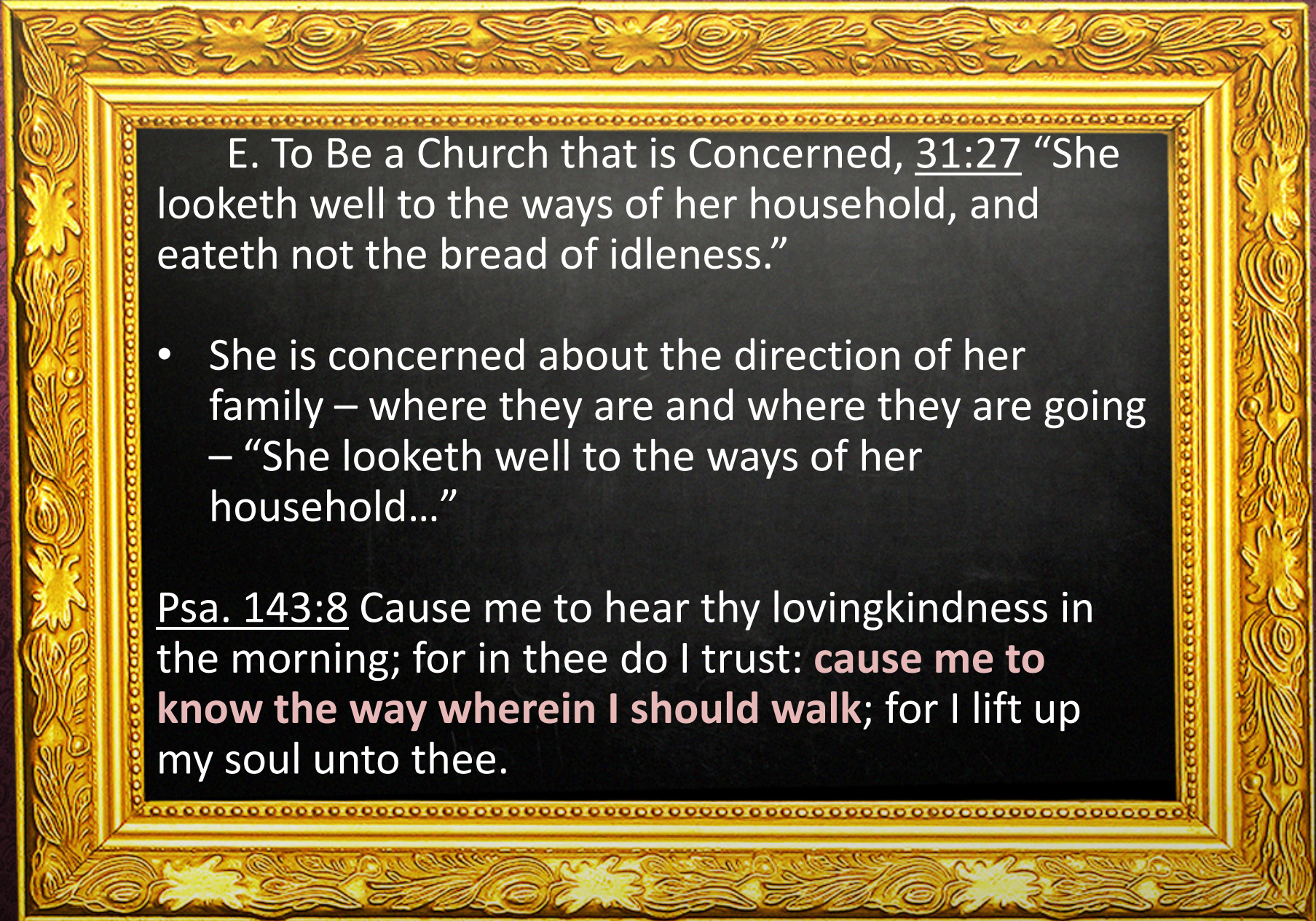
2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear;** but of **power,** and of **love,** and of a **sound mind.**

1 Jn. 4:18 **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.



Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

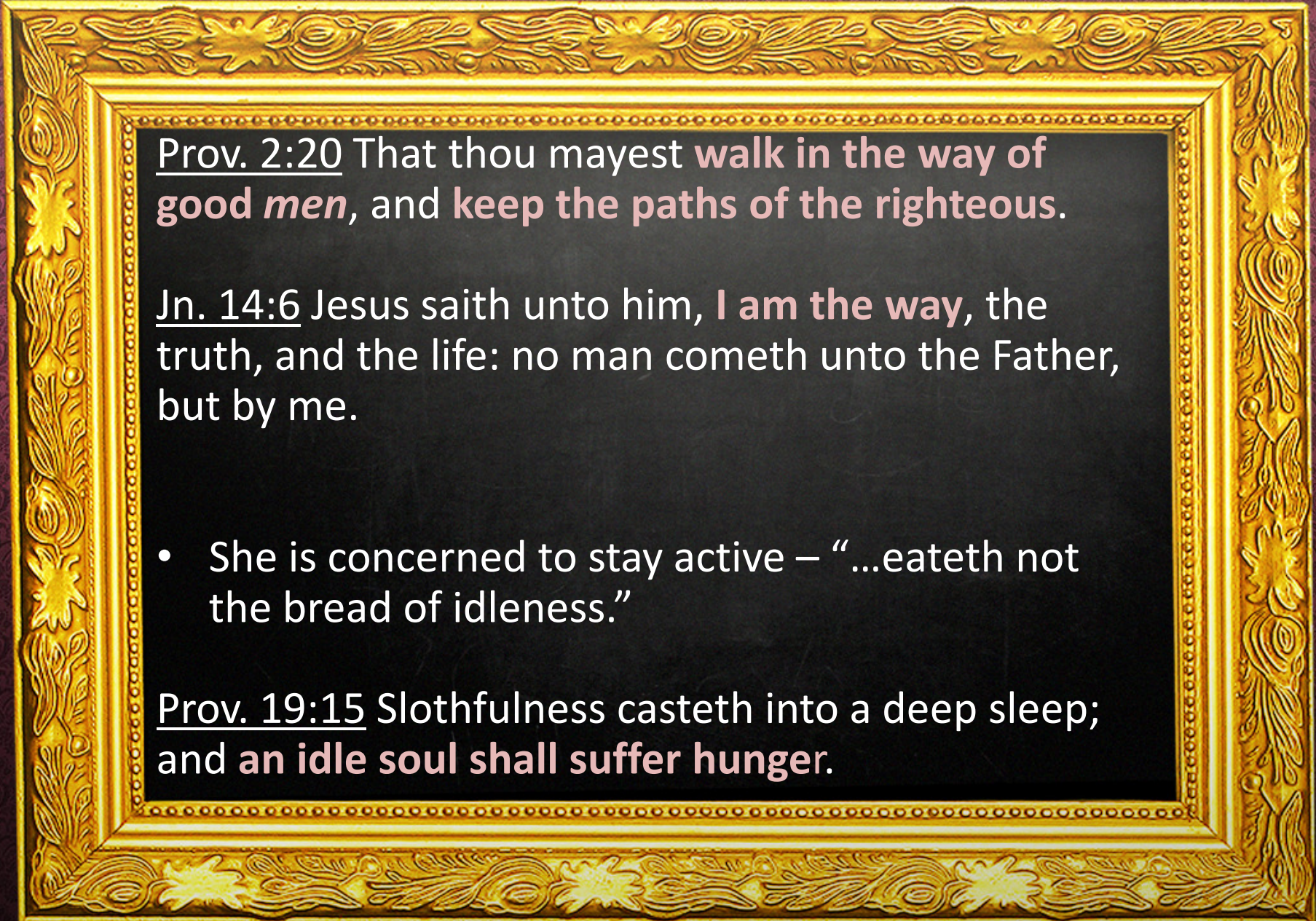
- She is focused on “the big picture” – “...for her household...”
- She looks at her family from an eternal perspective – “...**all** her household *are* clothed with **scarlet.**”



E. To Be a Church that is Concerned, 31:27 “She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”

- She is concerned about the direction of her family – where they are and where they are going – “She looketh well to the ways of her household...”

Psa. 143:8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: **cause me to know the way wherein I should walk**; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

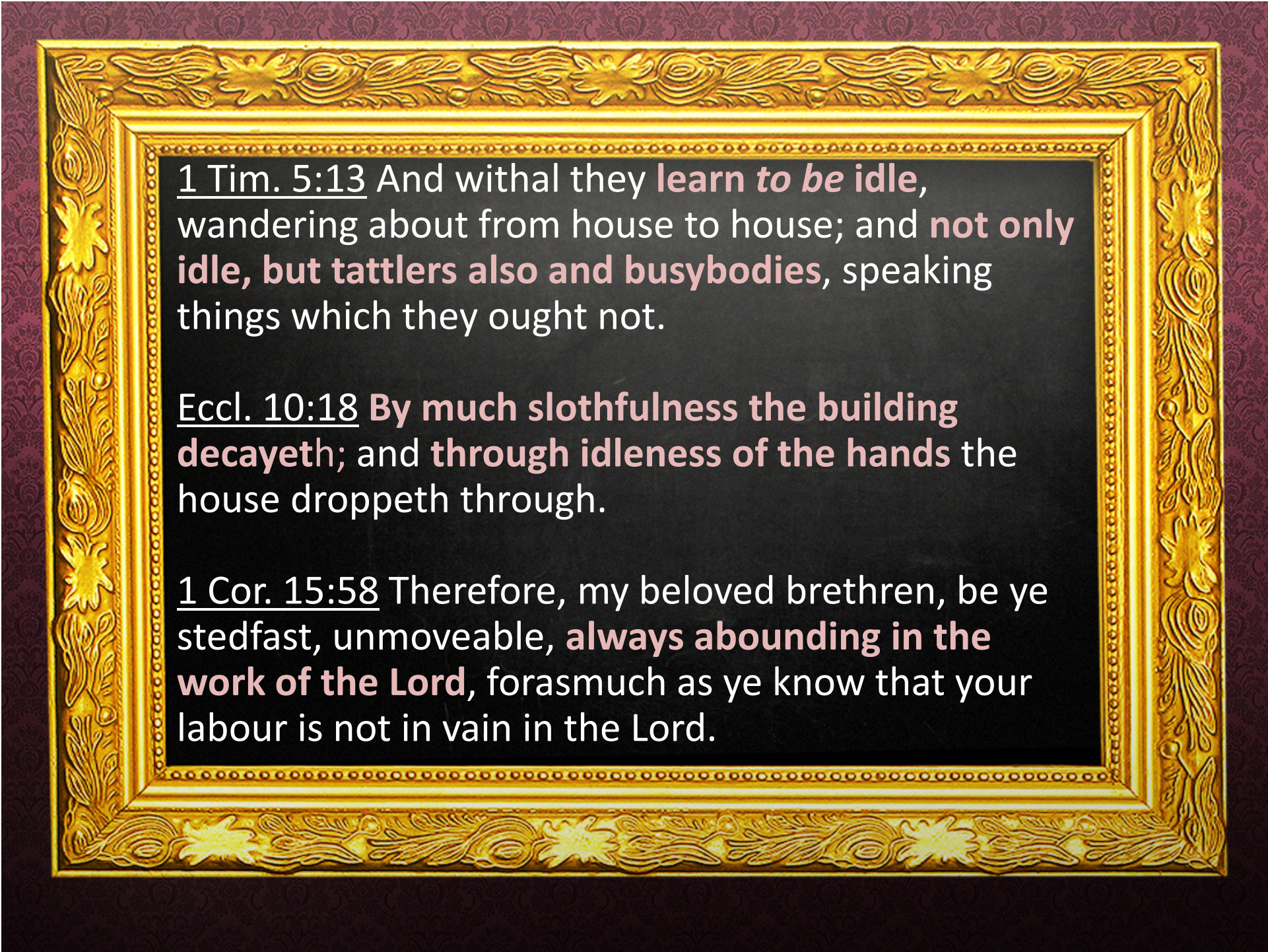


Prov. 2:20 That thou mayest **walk in the way of good men**, and **keep the paths of the righteous**.

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- She is concerned to stay active – “...eateth not the bread of idleness.”

Prov. 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and **an idle soul shall suffer hunger**.



1 Tim. 5:13 And withal they **learn to be idle**, wandering about from house to house; and **not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies**, speaking things which they ought not.

Eccl. 10:18 **By much slothfulness the building decayeth**; and **through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through**.

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Conclusion

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget **your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that **every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:**

12 That ye **be not slothful**, but followers of them who **through faith and patience** inherit the promises.