

Portrait of a Priceless Church
Prov. 31:17-18, 22, 25-26



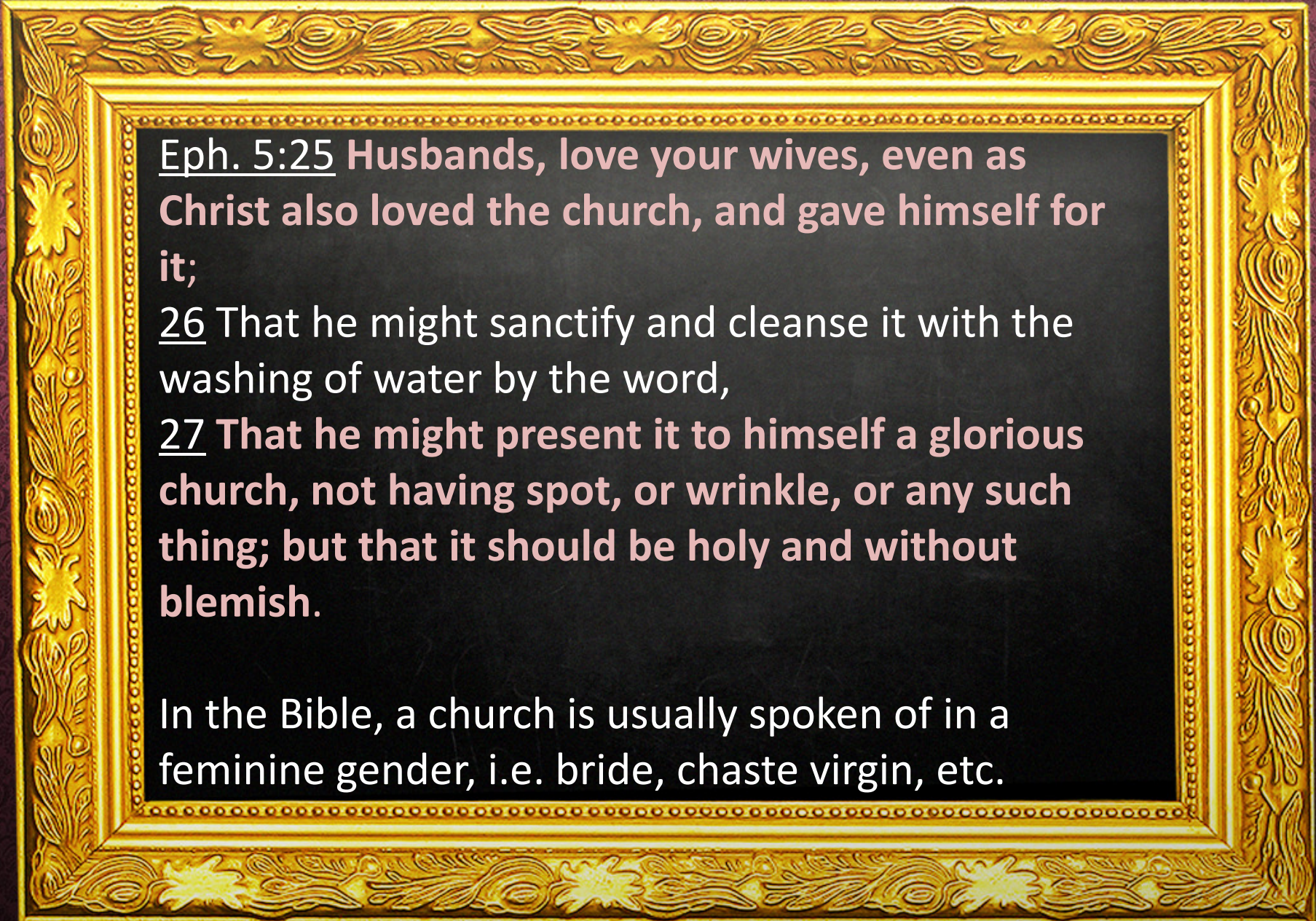
Prov. 31:17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

25 Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

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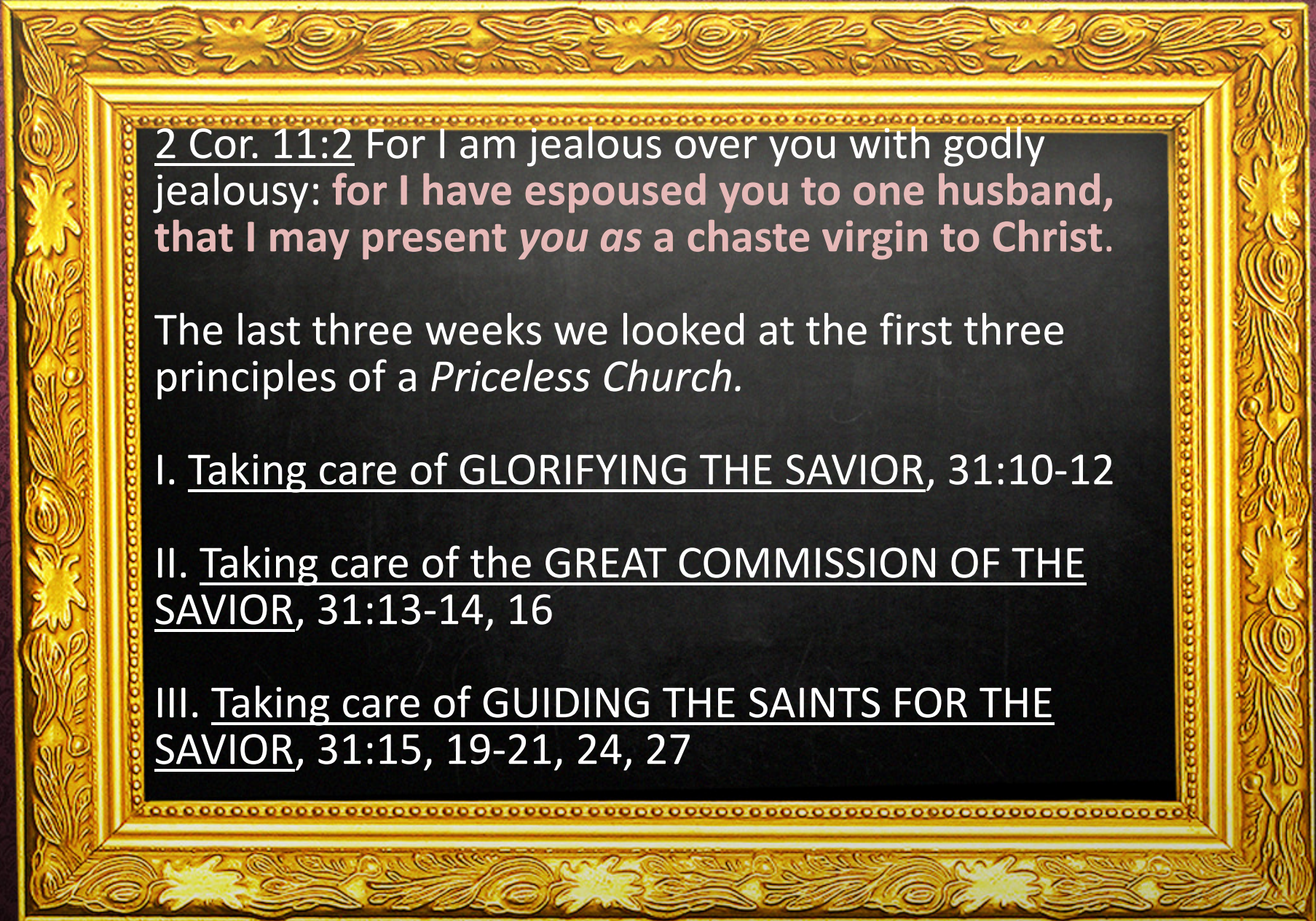


Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

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.



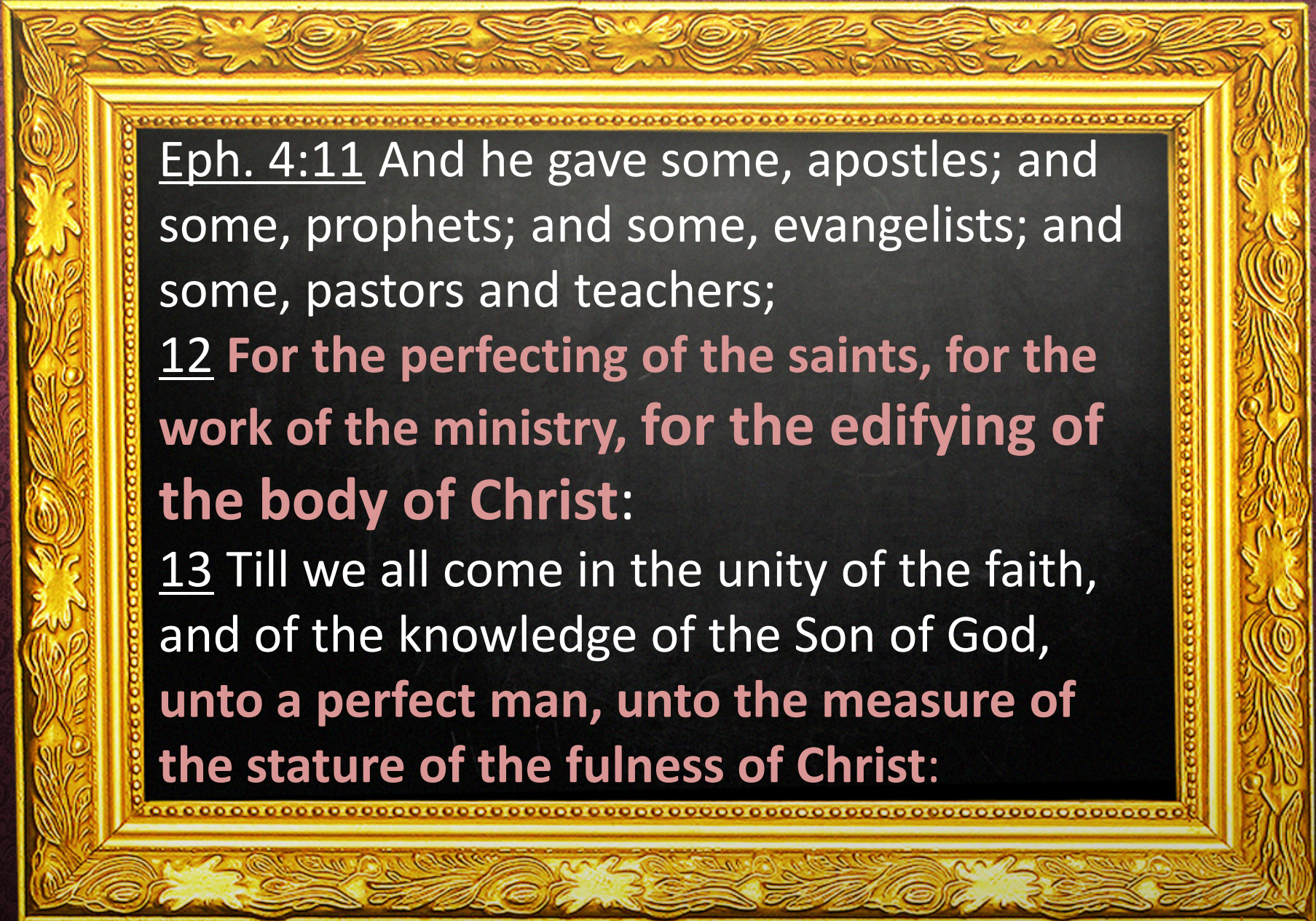
2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

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

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

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

III. 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:

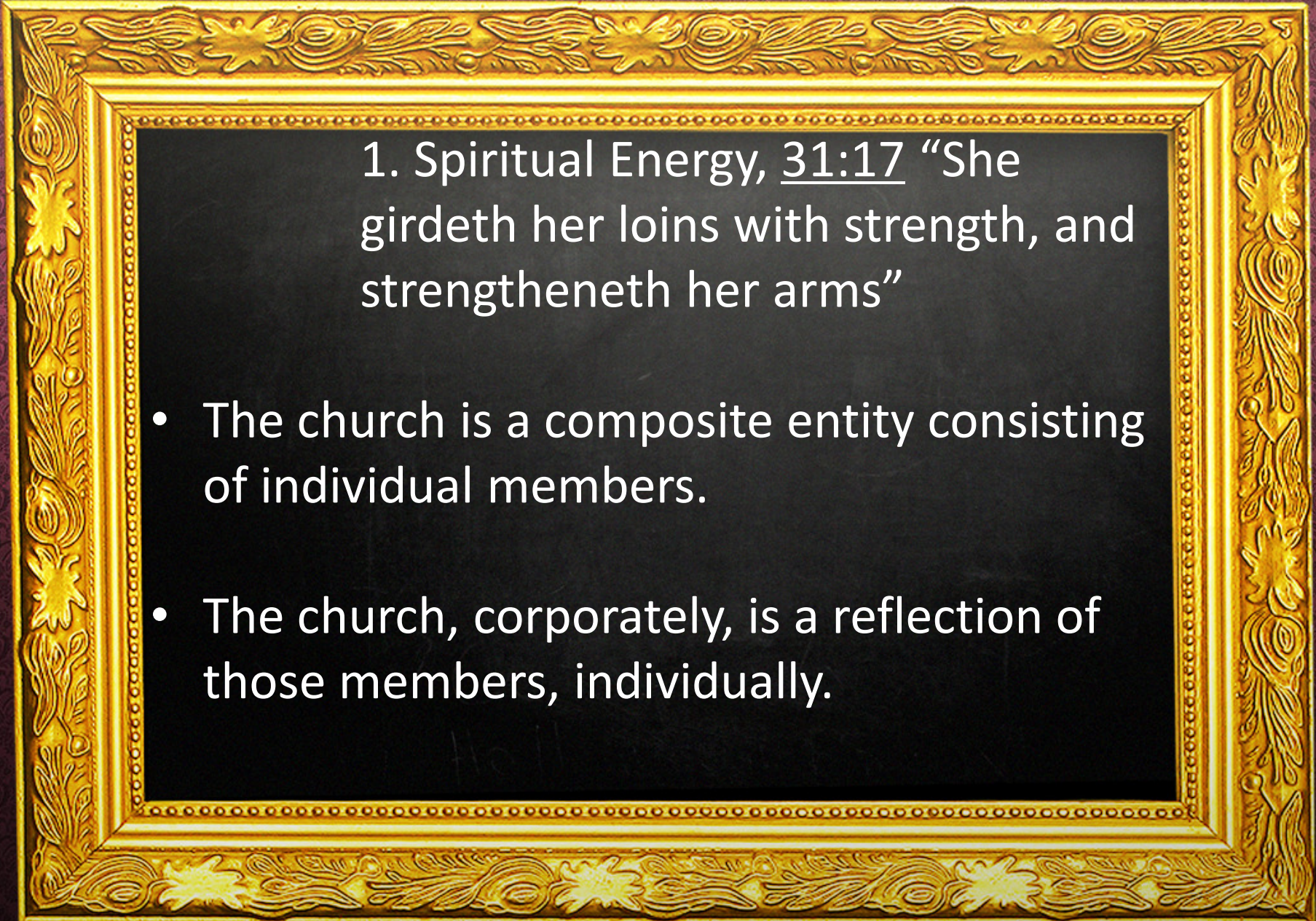
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

A Priceless Church is focused upon...

IV. Taking care of GIRDING SELF FOR THE SAVIOR, 31:17-18, 22, 25-26

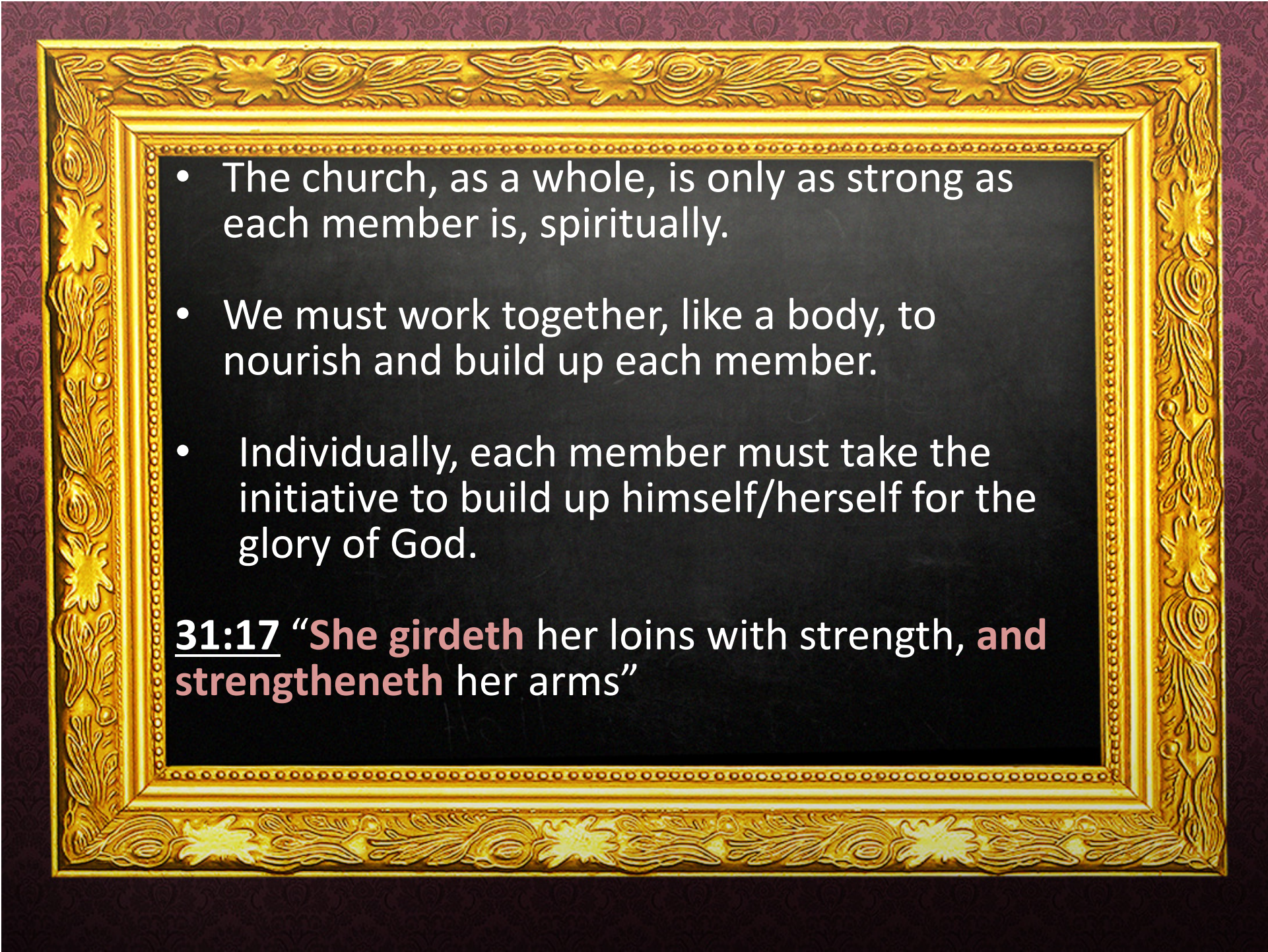
Eph. 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints,
for the work of the ministry, for the
edifying of the body of Christ:

A. The Girding for Inner Strength, 31:17-18



1. Spiritual Energy, 31:17 “She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms”

- The church is a composite entity consisting of individual members.
- The church, corporately, is a reflection of those members, individually.

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- The church, as a whole, is only as strong as each member is, spiritually.
 - We must work together, like a body, to nourish and build up each member.
 - Individually, each member must take the initiative to build up himself/herself for the glory of God.

31:17 “She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms”

A Priceless Church is building up herself, inwardly.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

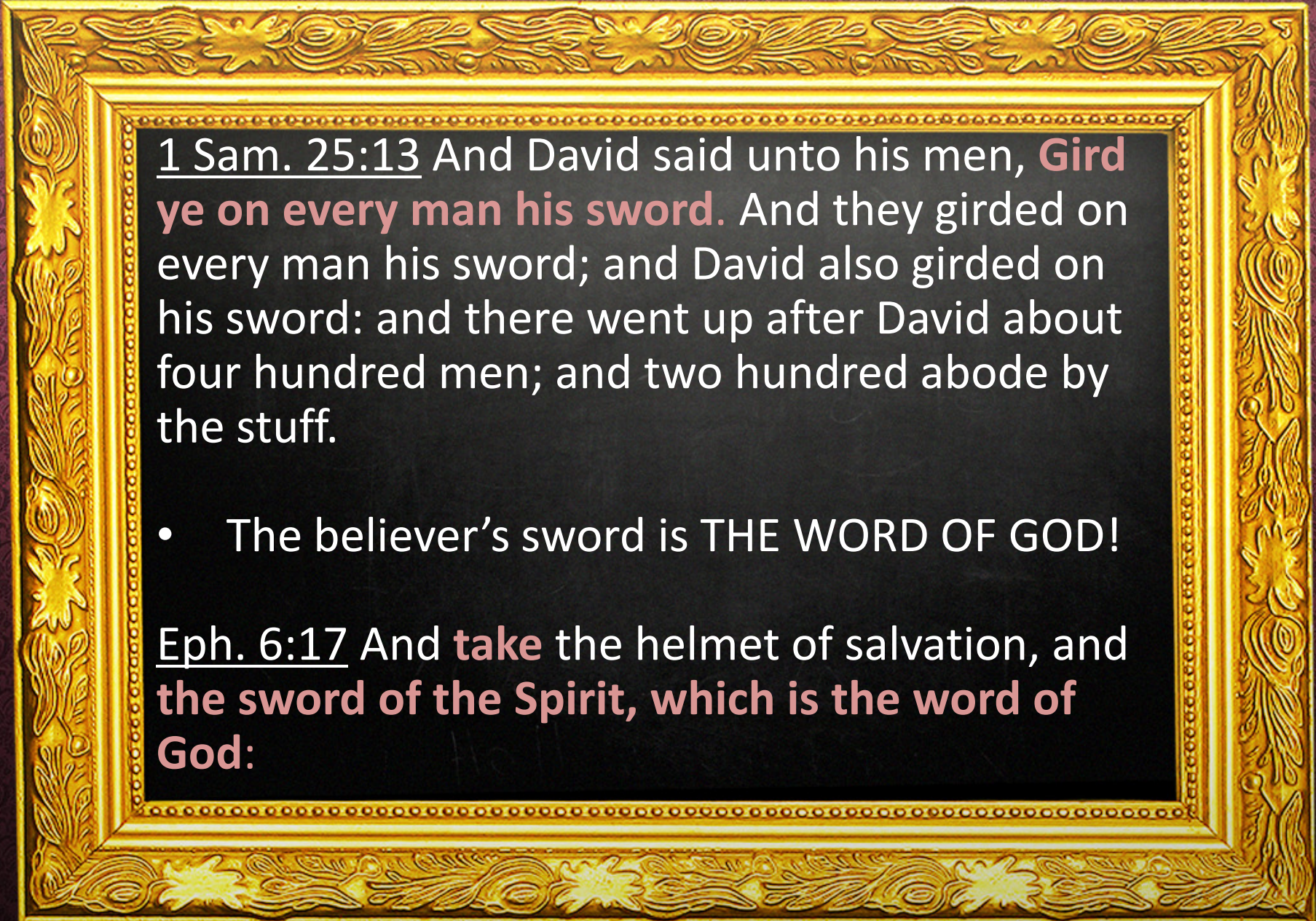
Gird

1. To encircle or bind with a belt or band.
2. To surround; enclose; hem in.
3. To prepare (oneself) for action:

He girded himself for the trial ahead.

4. To provide, equip, or invest, as with power or strength.

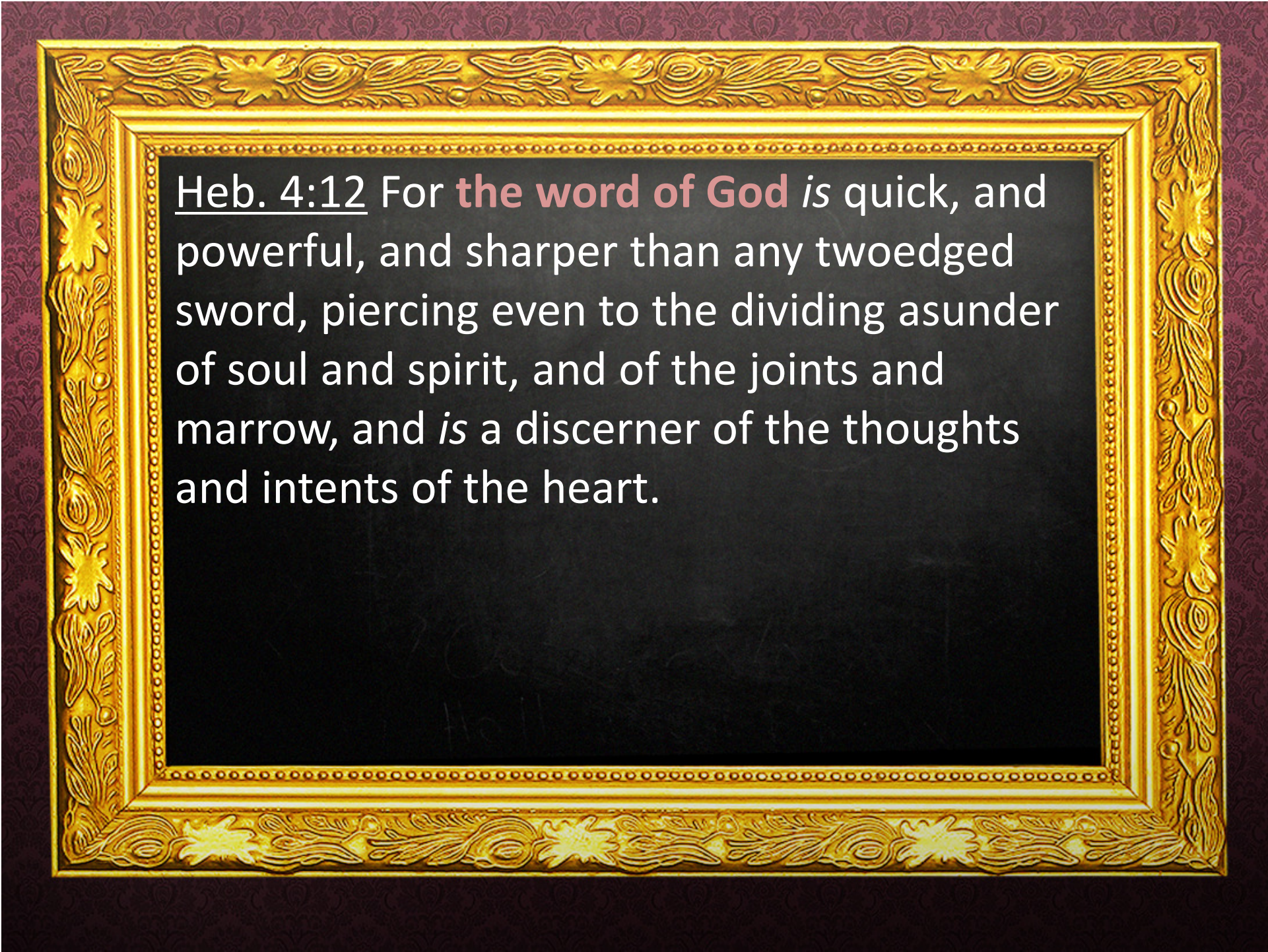
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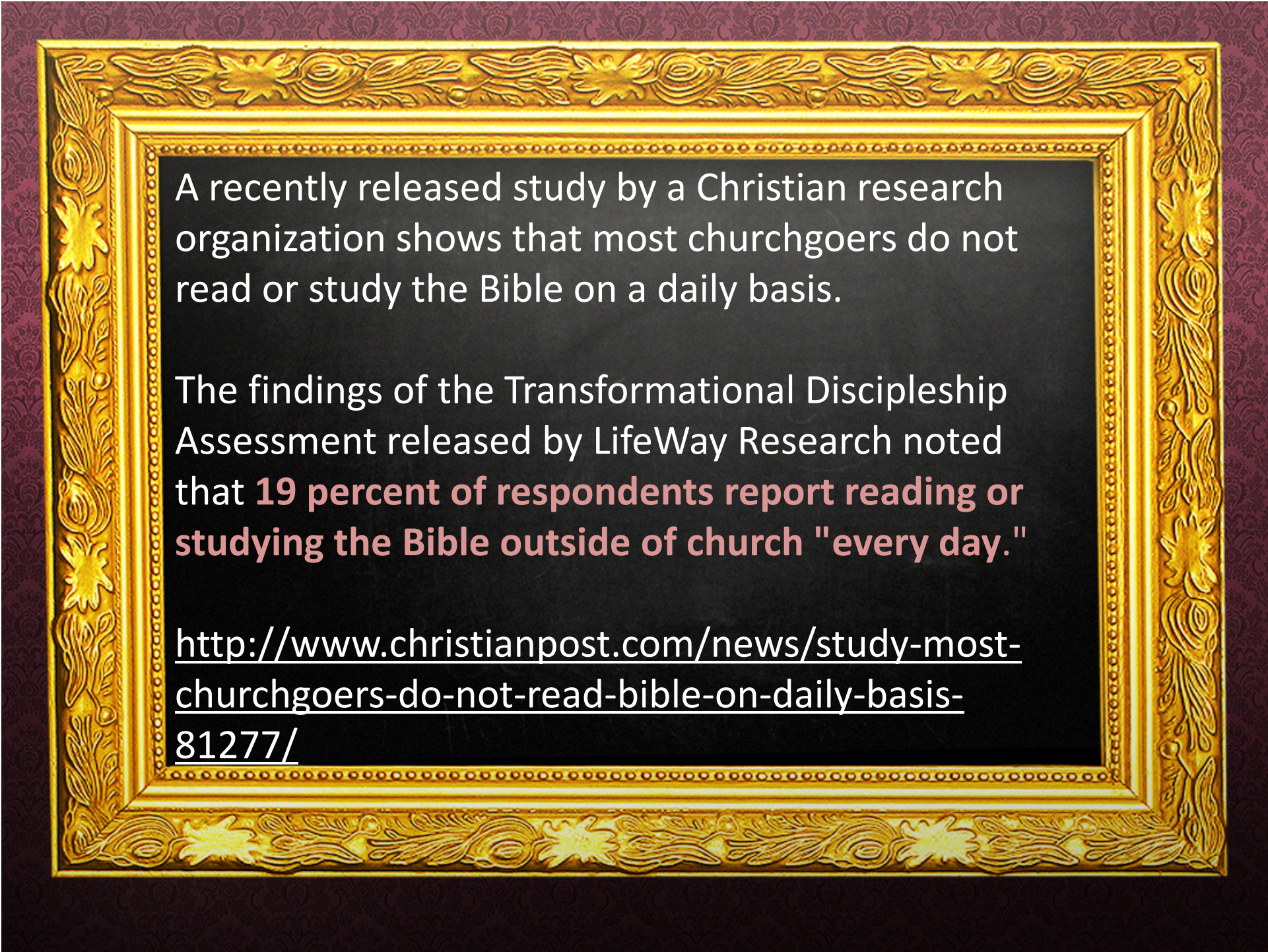
1 Sam. 25:13 And David said unto his men, **Gird ye on every man his sword.** And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

- The believer's sword is THE WORD OF GOD!

Eph. 6:17 And **take** the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**



Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



A recently released study by a Christian research organization shows that most churchgoers do not read or study the Bible on a daily basis.

The findings of the Transformational Discipleship Assessment released by LifeWay Research noted that **19 percent of respondents report reading or studying the Bible outside of church "every day."**

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/study-most-churchgoers-do-not-read-bible-on-daily-basis-81277/>

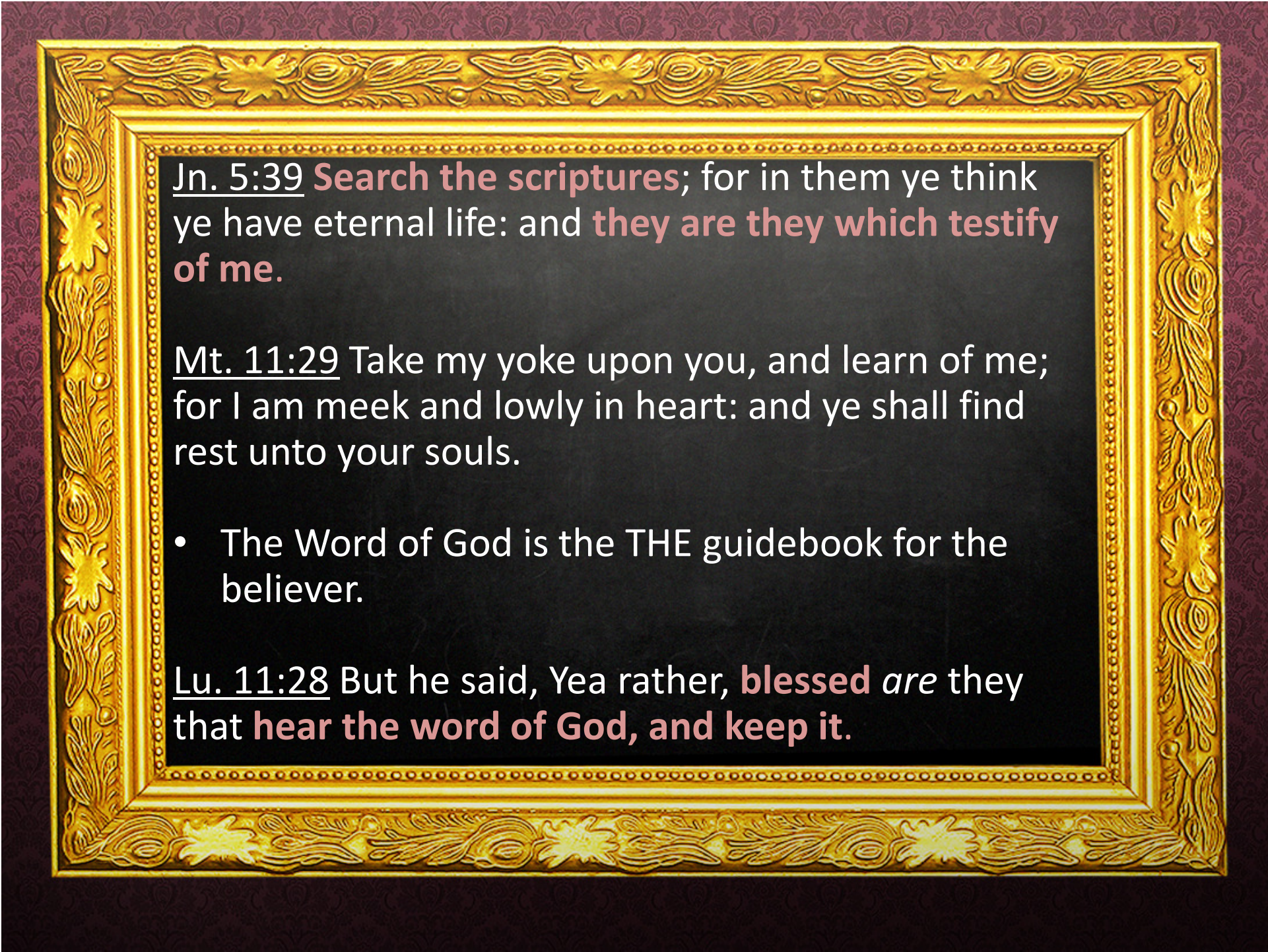


81% OF CHURCHGOERS are NOT reading or studying the Bible daily!

- The believer must be a perpetual student of the Word of God!

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- To know the Bible is to know the Lord Jesus Christ!

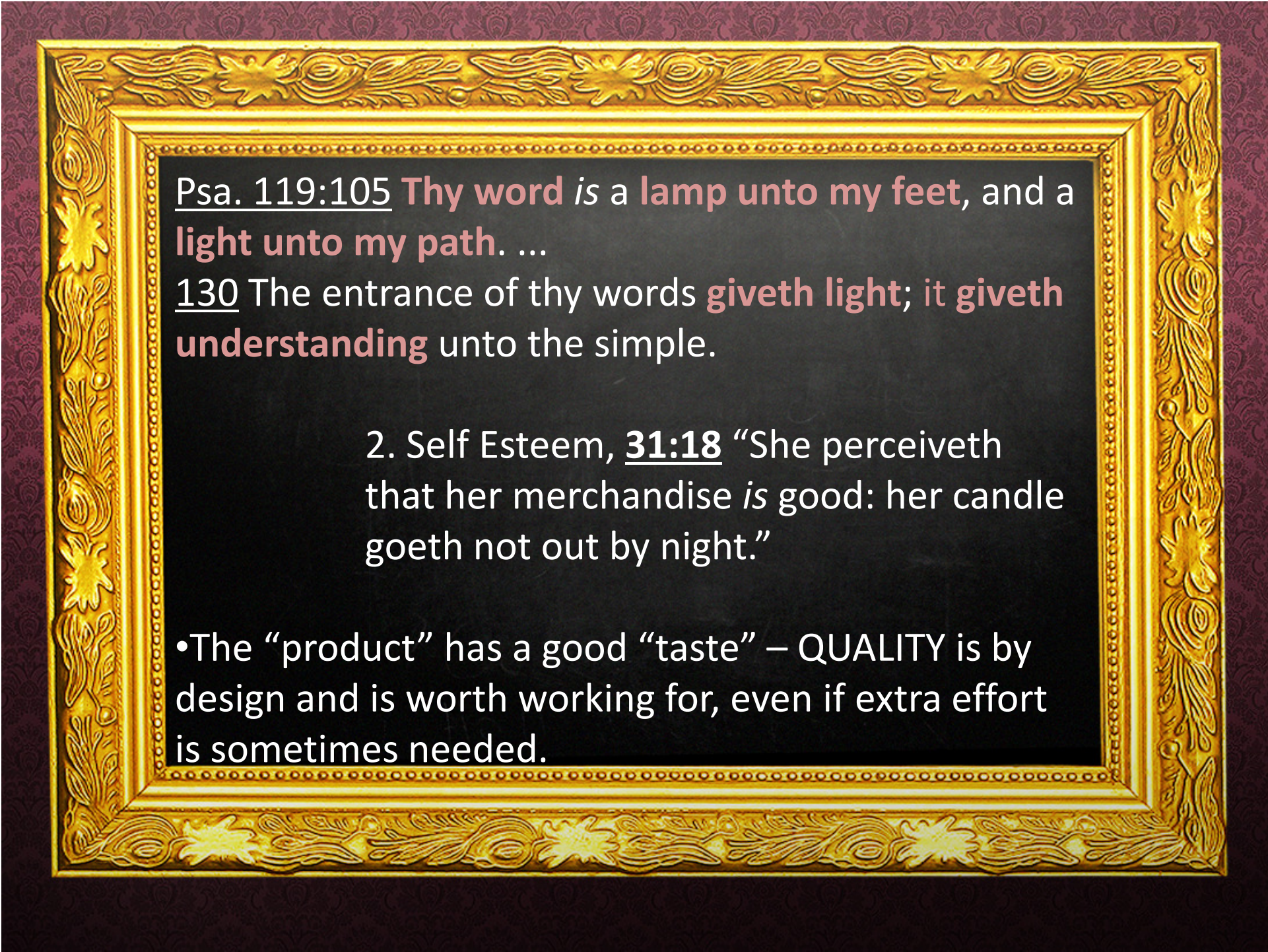


Jn. 5:39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.**

Mt. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

- The Word of God is the THE guidebook for the believer.

Lu. 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, **blessed** are they that **hear the word of God, and keep it.**



Psa. 119:105 **Thy word** *is* a **lamp unto my feet**, and a **light unto my path**. ...

130 The entrance of thy words **giveth light**; it **giveth understanding** unto the simple.

2. Self Esteem, 31:18 “She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.”

- The “product” has a good “taste” – QUALITY is by design and is worth working for, even if extra effort is sometimes needed.

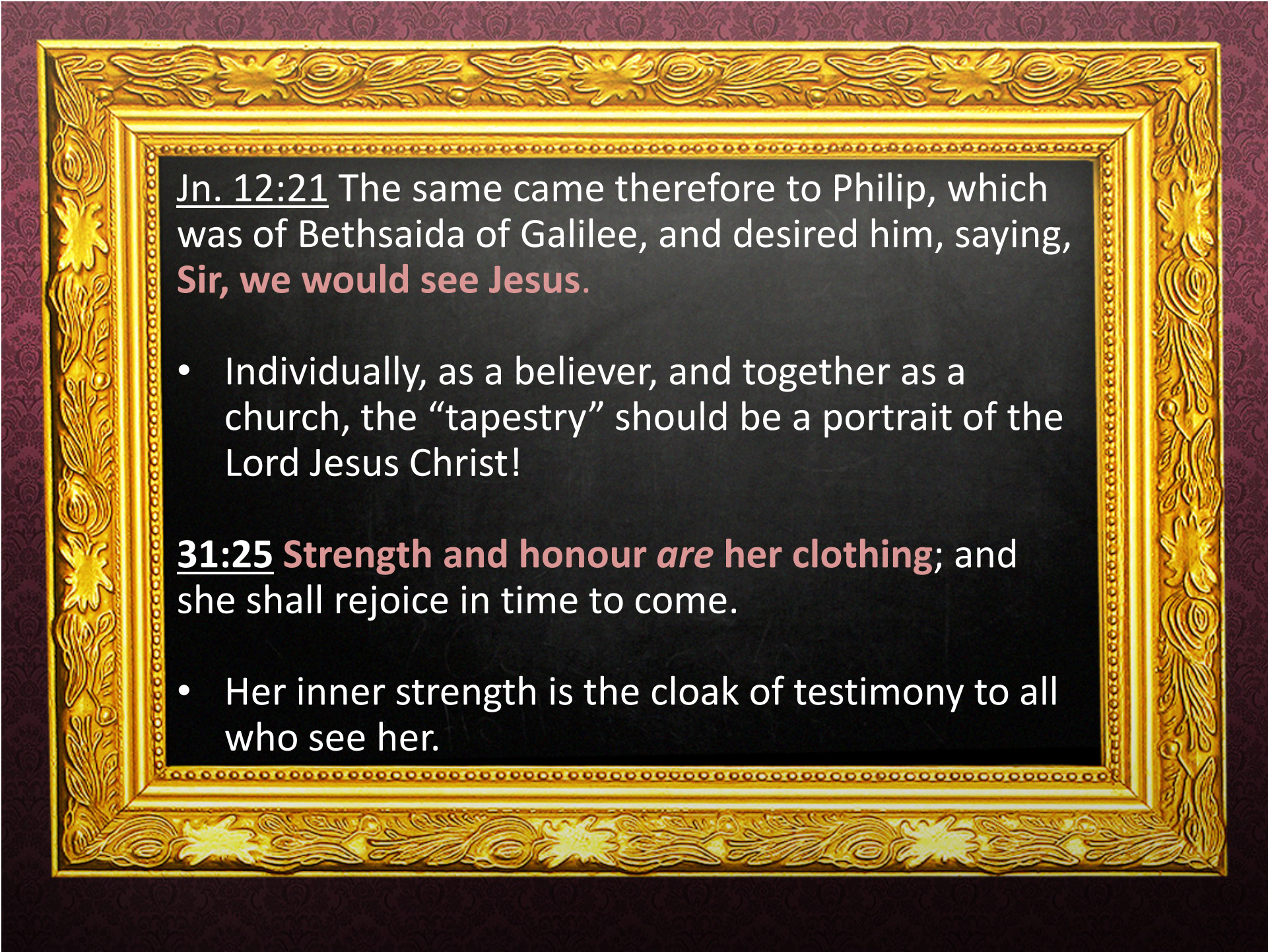
B. The Girding for the Importance of Self-sufficiency, 31:22, 25-26

31:22 She **maketh herself** coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

TAPESTRY

A fabric consisting of a warp upon which colored threads are woven by hand to produce a design, often pictorial, used for wall hangings, furniture coverings, etc.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/%20tapestry?s=t>

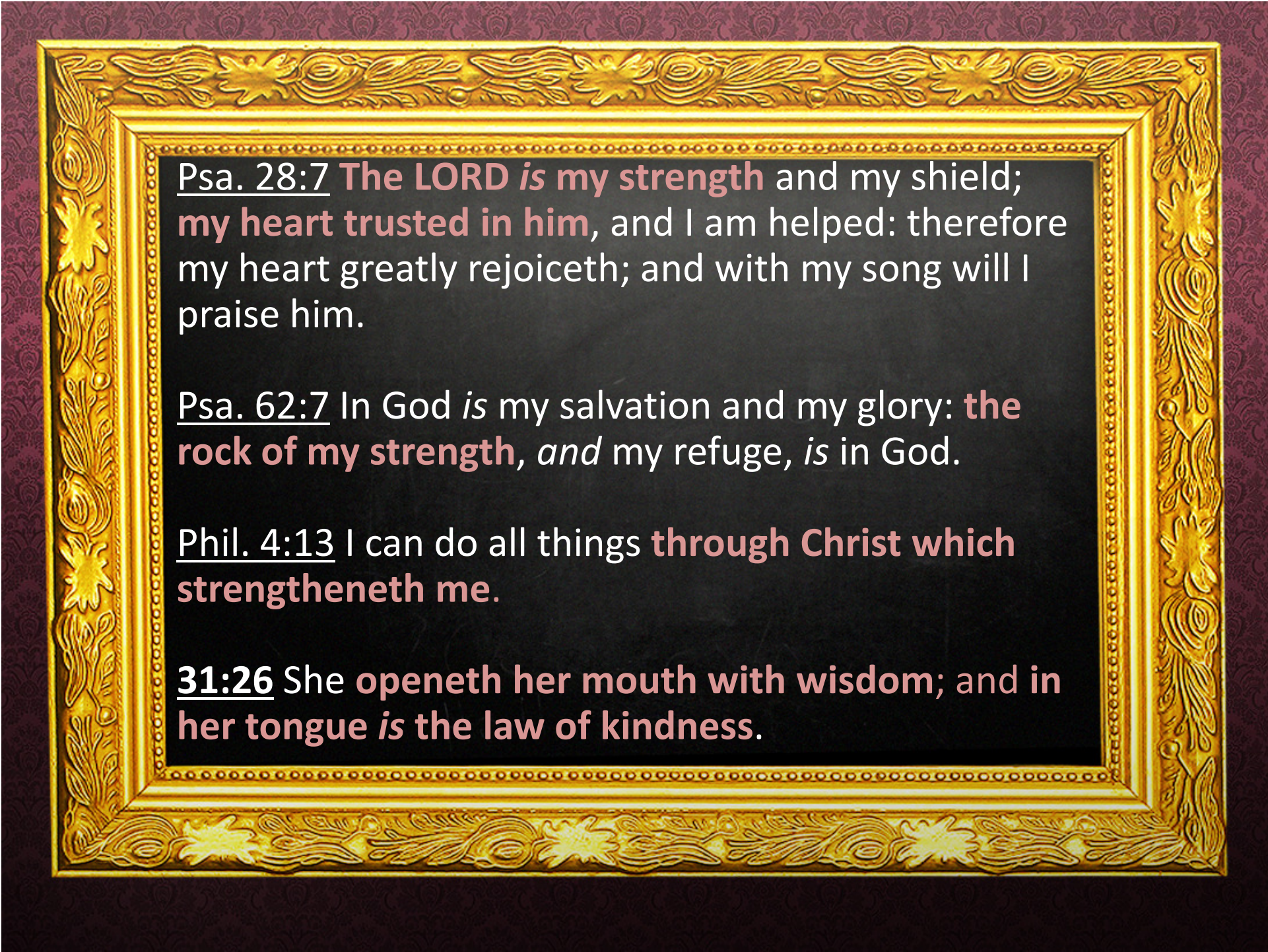


Jn. 12:21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, **Sir, we would see Jesus.**

- Individually, as a believer, and together as a church, the “tapestry” should be a portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ!

31:25 **Strength and honour are her clothing;** and she shall rejoice in time to come.

- Her inner strength is the cloak of testimony to all who see her.

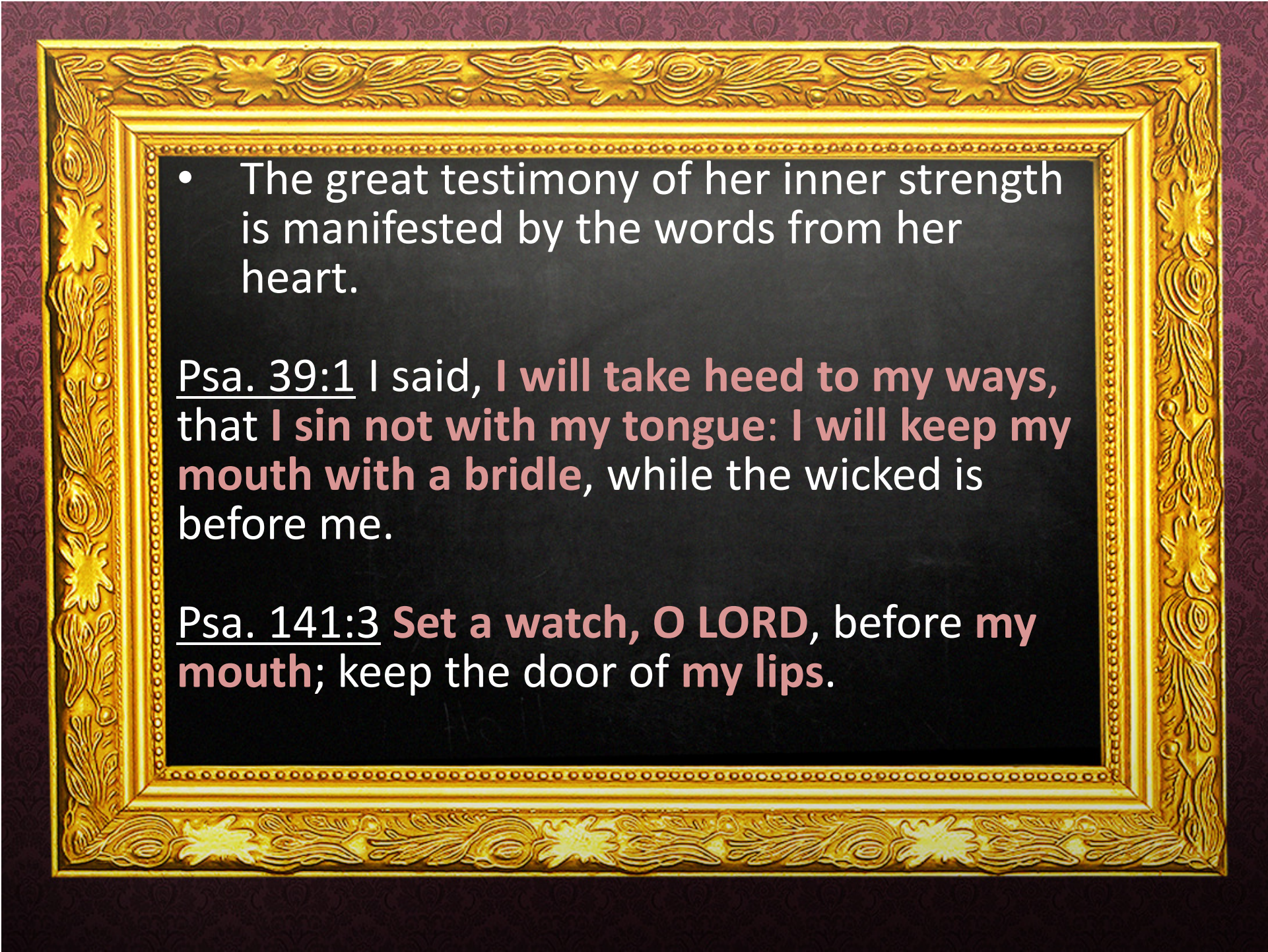


Psa. 28:7 **The LORD is my strength** and my shield; **my heart trusted in him**, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psa. 62:7 In God *is* my salvation and my glory: **the rock of my strength**, and my refuge, *is* in God.

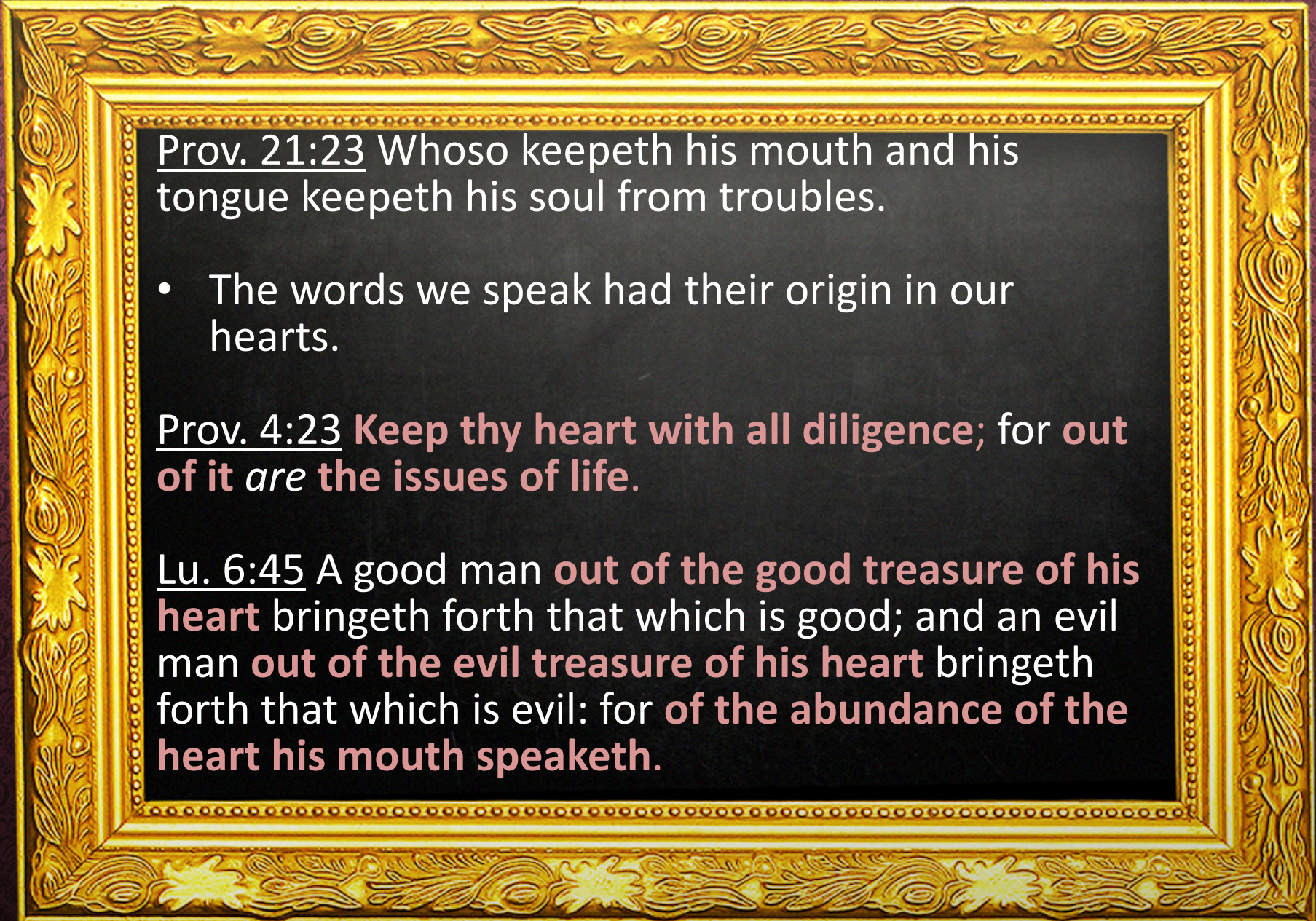
Phil. 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ which strengtheneth me**.

31:26 She **openeth her mouth with wisdom**; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

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- The great testimony of her inner strength is manifested by the words from her heart.

Psa. 39:1 I said, **I will take heed to my ways,** that **I sin not with my tongue:** I will keep my **mouth with a bridle,** while the wicked is before me.

Psa. 141:3 **Set a watch, O LORD,** before my **mouth;** keep the door of **my lips.**

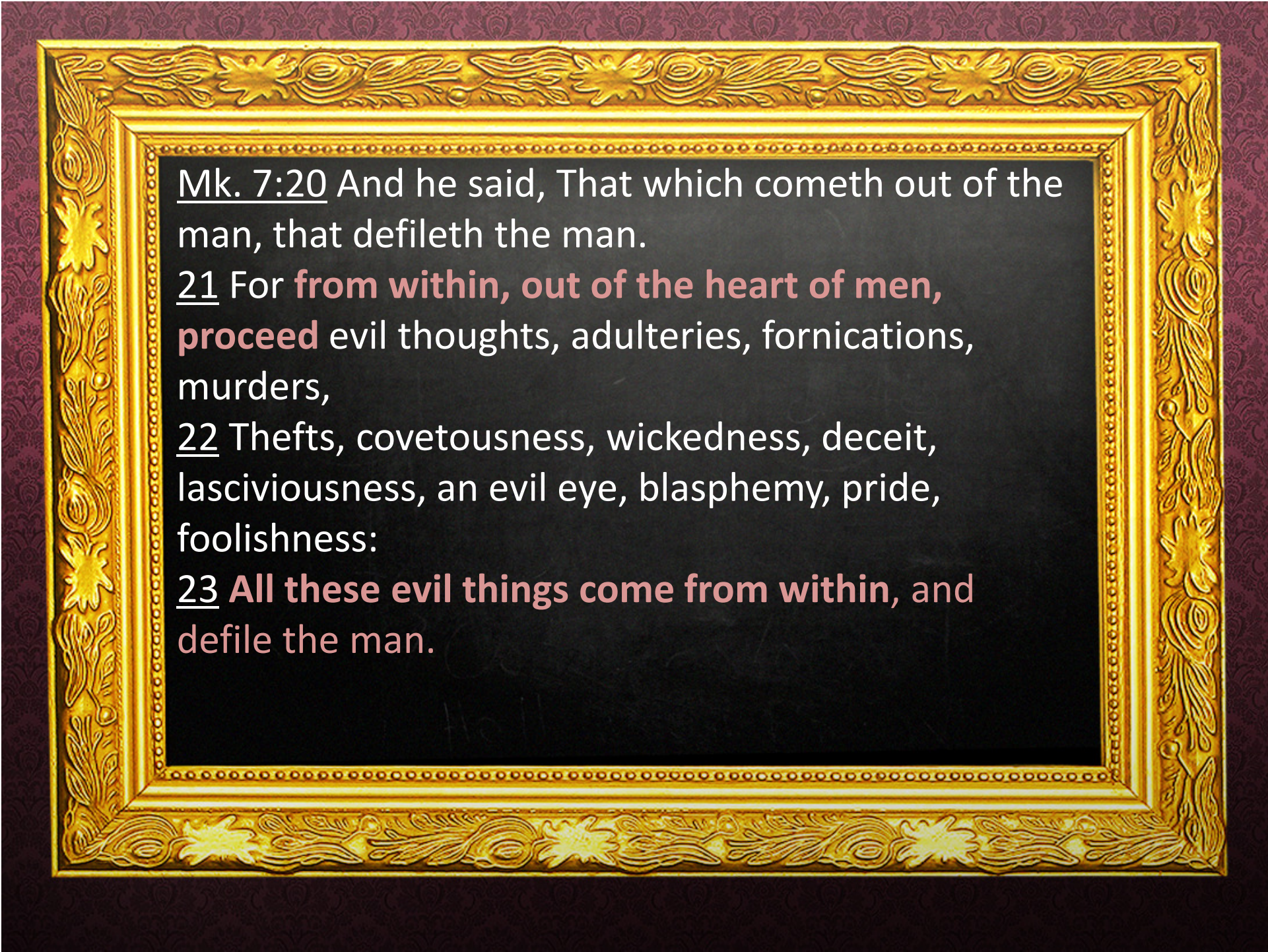


Prov. 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

- The words we speak had their origin in our hearts.

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**

Lu. 6:45 A good man **out of the good treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man **out of the evil treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for **of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**



Mk. 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 For **from within, out of the heart of men, proceed** evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 **All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

Conclusion

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

4 But **after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**
5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,** by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 **Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;**

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Eph. 4:32 And **be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**