

Till death do us part: You belong wholly to Christ.

1 COR 7:1-10; 17-24; 32-35



THE CHURCH
OF GOD
THAT IS IN
CORINTH
1 COR. 1:2

Questions? Questions? Questions?

- **Should married couples stop having sex?**
- **Should engaged couples still get married?**
- **If my spouse is not a Christian, should I leave?**
- **Is singleness better than marriage?**
- **If I am single or widowed, what is the best path forward?**

Till Death Do us Part:
You Belong Wholly to Christ

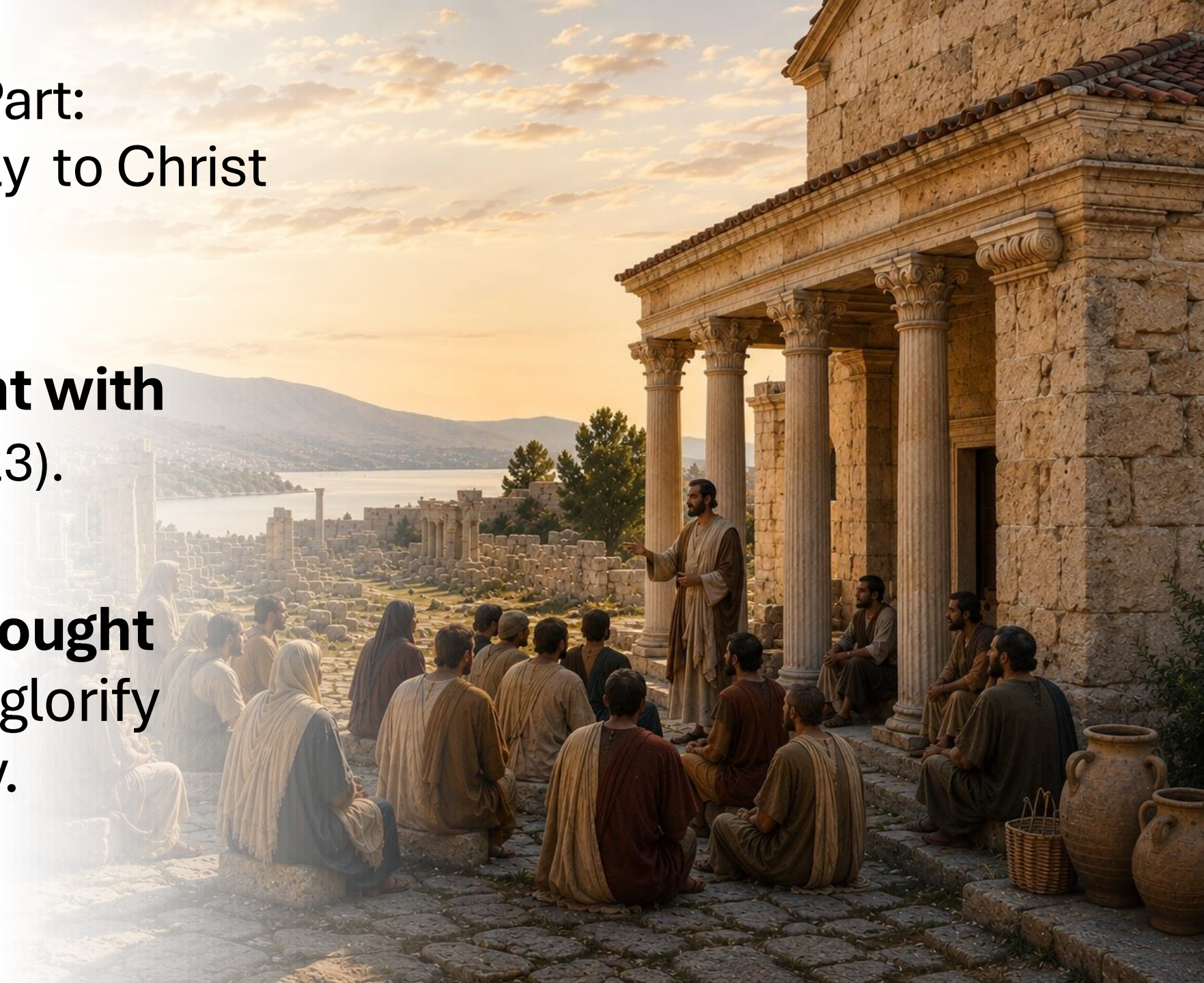
**It is good for a man not
to have sexual relations
with a woman.**

1 Cor 7:1



Till Death Do us Part: You Belong Wholly to Christ

- **You were bought with a price.** (1 Cor 7:23).
- **...for you were bought with a price.** So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor 6:20)



Till Death Do us Part: You Belong Wholly to Christ

- **Gift**
- **Called**
- **Remain**
- **Devotion**



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

Each has his own
gift from God.

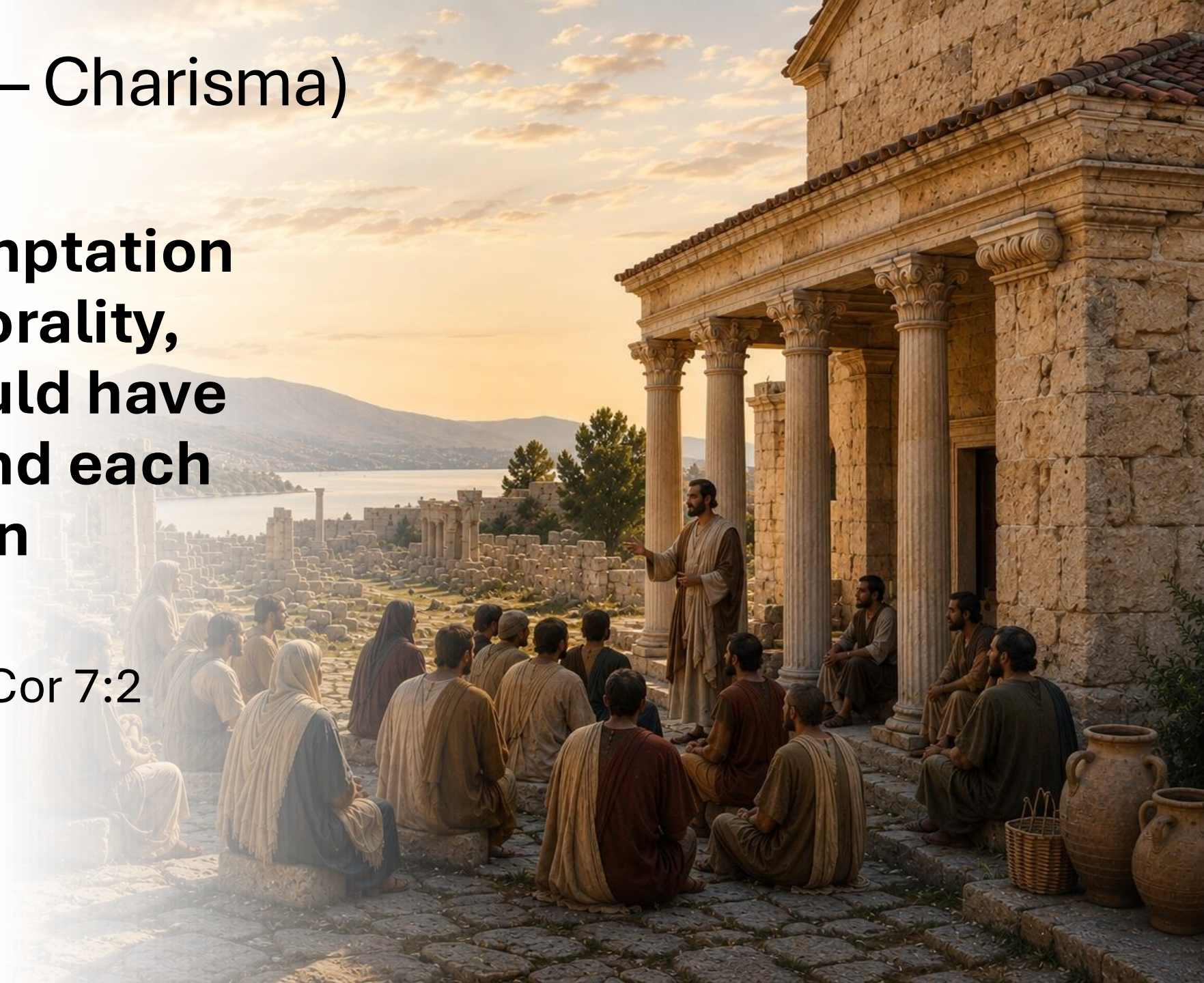
1 Cor 7:7



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

**Because of temptation
to sexual immorality,
each man should have
his own wife and each
woman her own
husband.**

1 Cor 7:2



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

1 Cor 7:3–4



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

Paul's understanding of marriage & sex was shaped by the **cross of Christ.**

Tim Keller



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

**How are you
stewarding the
life God has given
you ?**



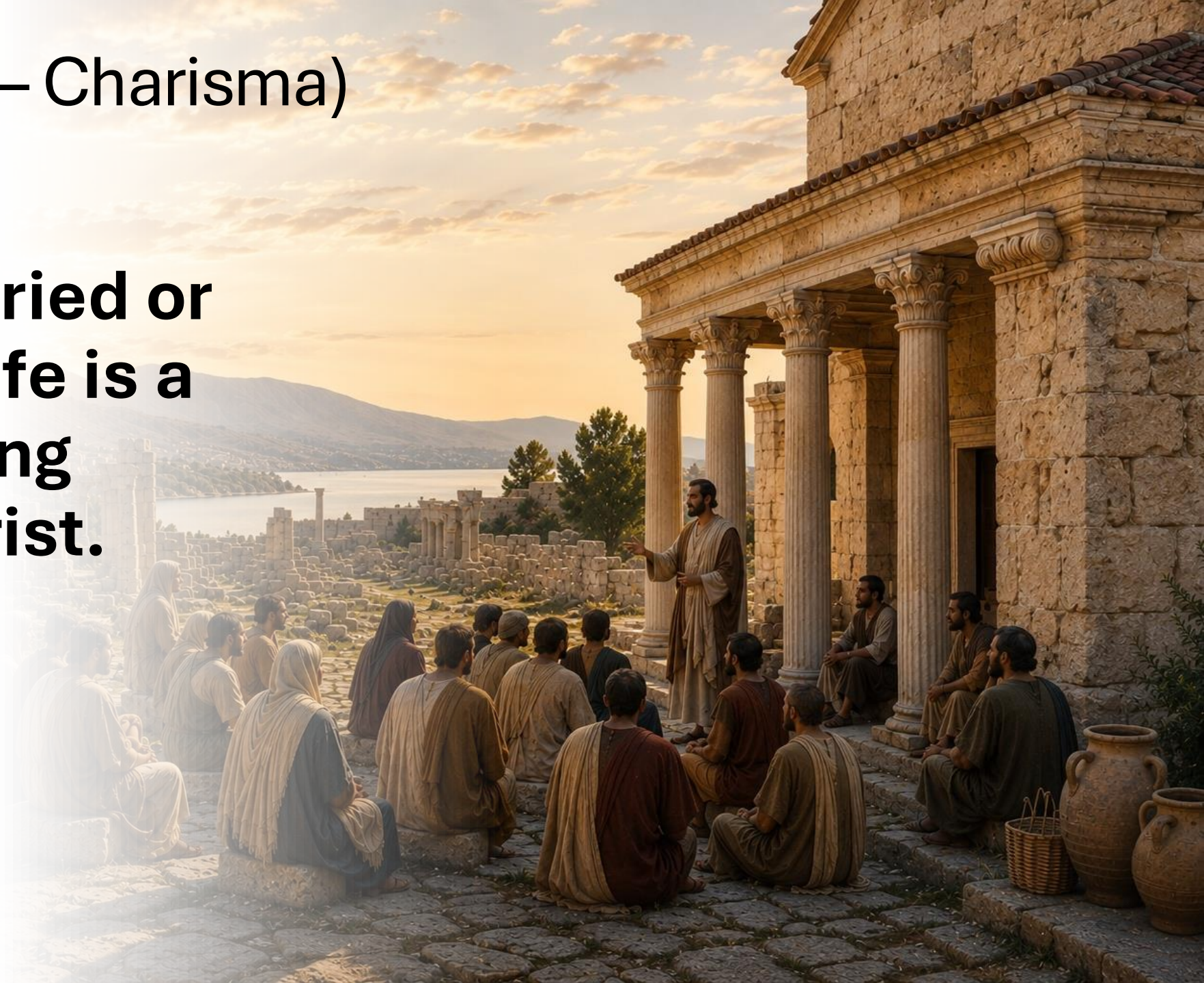
Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

**Christ is our
ultimate fulfilment.**



Gift (χάρισμα — Charisma)

Whether married or single, your life is a gift; you belong wholly to Christ.



Called (καλέω — Kaleō)

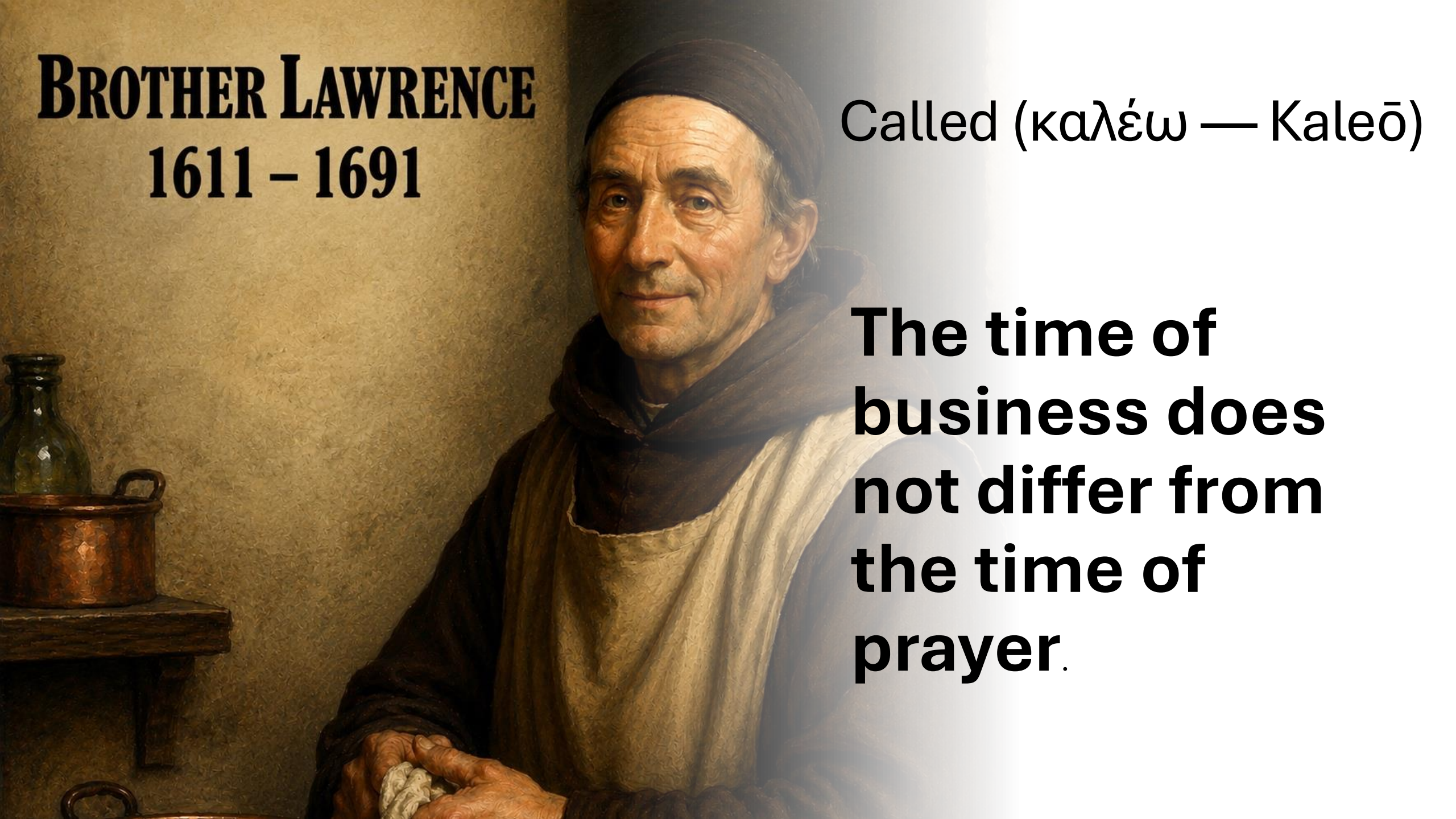
- *“Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has **called** him.” (v17a)*
- *“Each one should remain in the condition in which he was **called**.” (v20)*
- *For he who was **called** in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when **called** is a bondservant of Christ (v 22)*
- *“... whatever condition each was **called**, there let him remain with God.” (v24)*

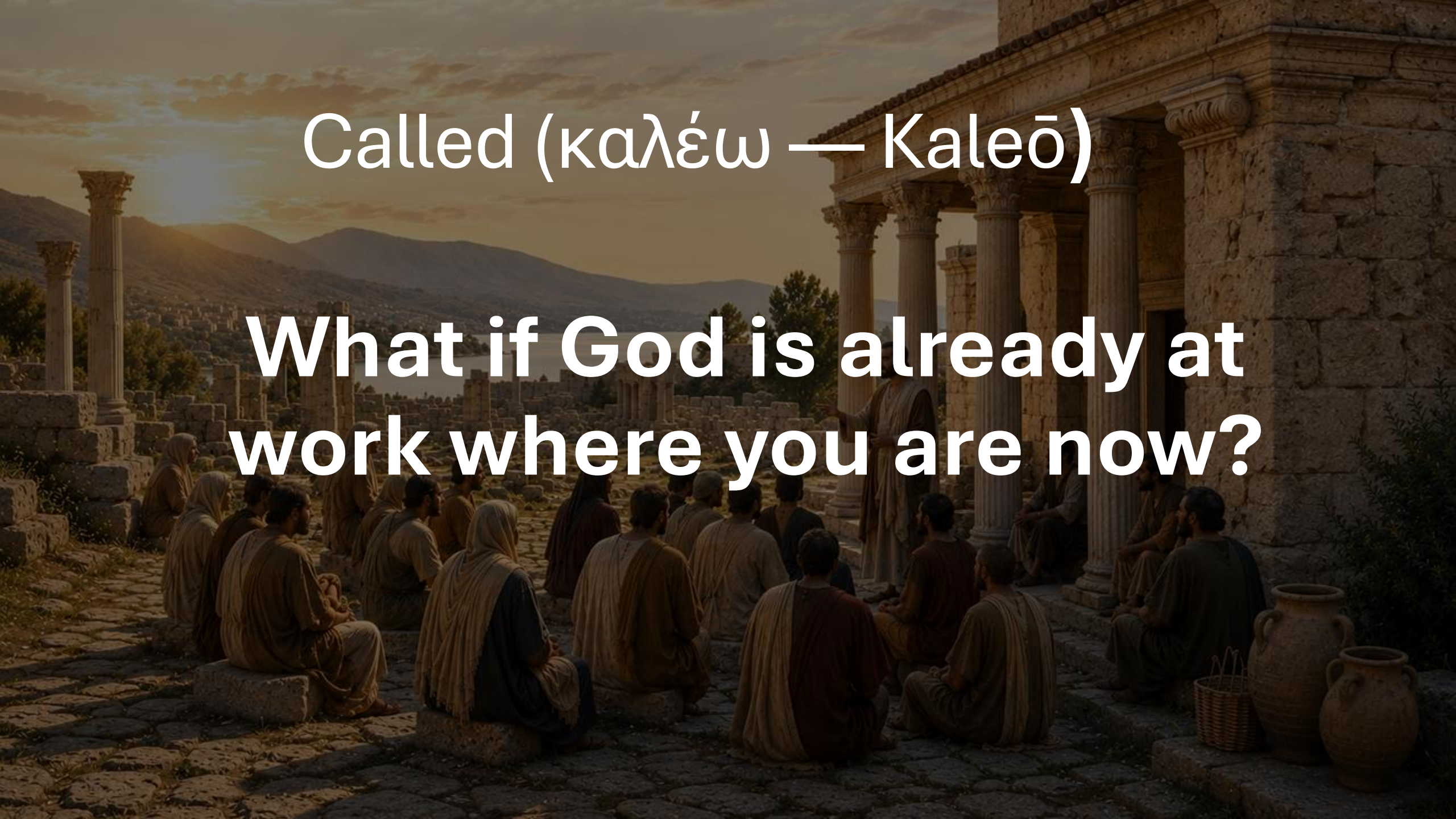
BROTHER LAWRENCE

1611 – 1691

Called (καλέω — Kaleō)

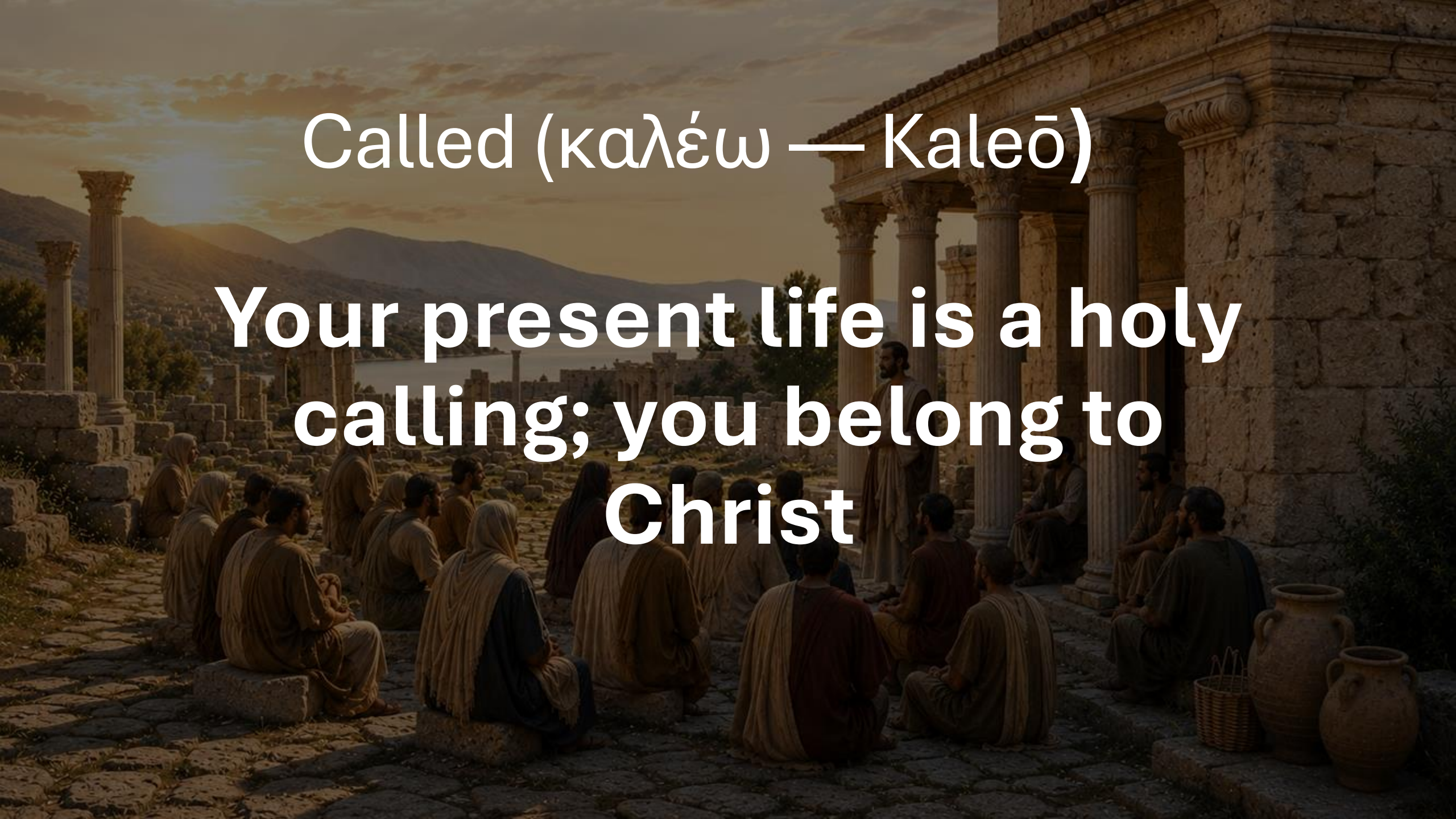
**The time of
business does
not differ from
the time of
prayer.**



A group of people in ancient attire are sitting in a circle on the stone steps of a ruined temple. The scene is set at sunset, with warm, golden light illuminating the ruins and the distant mountains. The people are dressed in simple, earth-toned robes and head coverings. In the foreground, several large, terracotta pots and a woven basket are visible on the ground. The background shows the extensive ruins of the temple, with several columns standing and others missing. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting the end of the day.

Called (καλέω — Kaleō)

**What if God is already at
work where you are now?**

A man in a long, light-colored robe stands in the center-right of the frame, addressing a large group of people. The group, consisting of men and women in simple, earth-toned clothing, is seated on the ground in a semi-circle, listening attentively. The setting is an ancient, open-air structure with classical columns and a stone wall. In the background, there are more ruins, a body of water, and mountains under a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant teaching or sermon.

Called (καλέω — Kaleō)

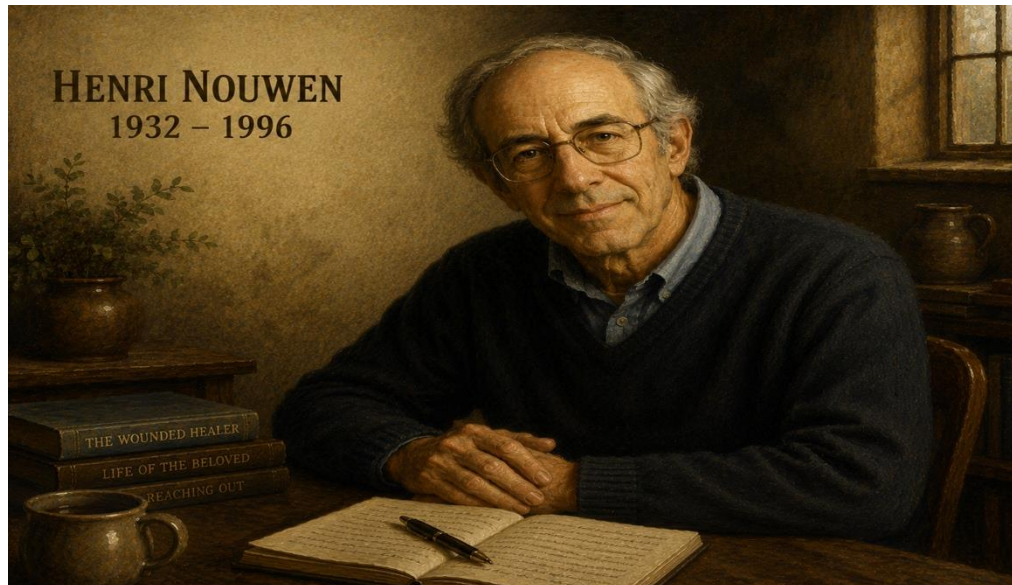
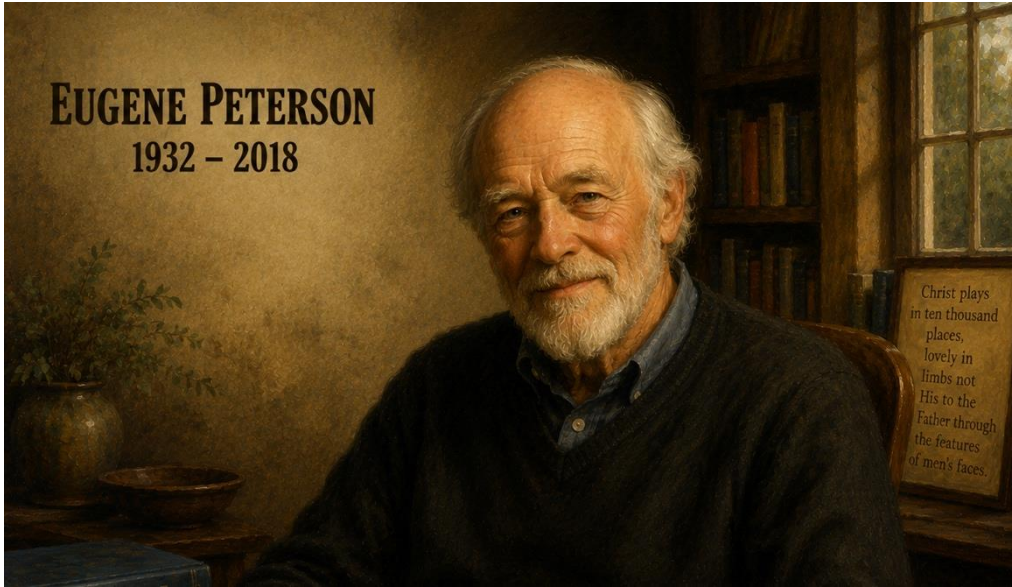
**Your present life is a holy
calling; you belong to
Christ**

Remain (μένω — Menō)


- *To the unmarried and the widows I say ... to **remain** single (v8)*
- *... (but if she does, she should **remain** unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband)...v11*
- *Each one should **remain** in the condition in which he was called(v20)*
- *... in whatever condition each was called, there let him **remain** with God.”(v24)*
- *I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to **remain** as he is (v26)*

Remain (μένω — Menō)

A long obedience in the same direction.



Our life is full of opportunities to leave, but staying is often where transformation happens.

A man in a white robe stands in a classical building, addressing a group of people sitting on the ground in an ancient city at sunset. The scene is set in a valley with a lake and mountains in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the ruins. The man is gesturing with his right hand as he speaks to the group. The people are dressed in simple, earth-toned robes. The architecture features large columns and a pedimented roof.

Remain (μένω —
Menō)

So, brothers and sisters, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

1 Cor 7:24



Remain (μένω —
Menō)

**You were
bought with a
price.**

1 Cor 7:23



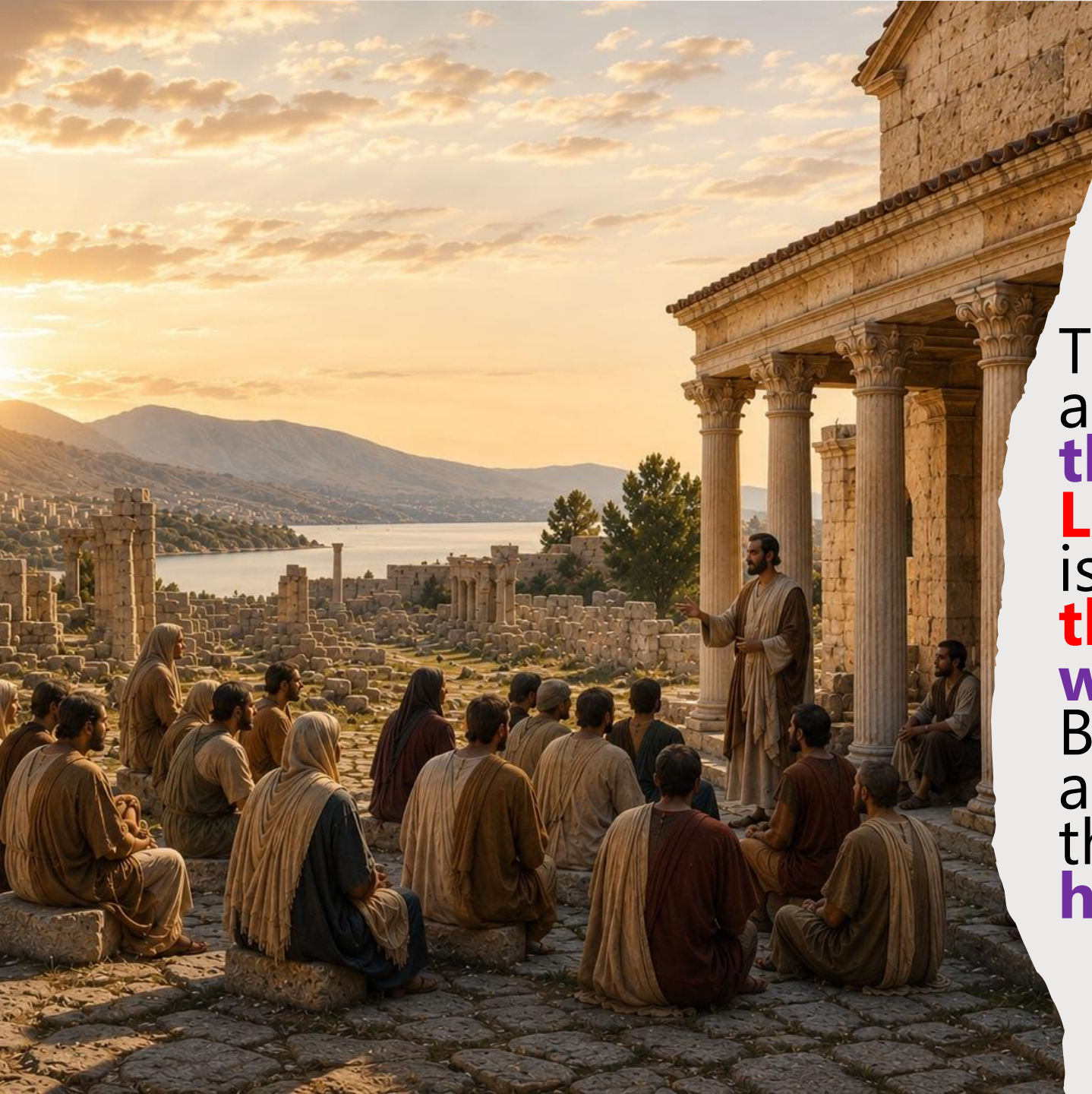
Remain (μένω —
Menō)

**Stay rooted in
contentment, trust,
and faithfulness;
you belong wholly
to Christ.**

Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος — *Aperispastos*)

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord

1 Cor 7:32-35



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

The **unmarried** man is anxious about the **things of the Lord**, how to **please the Lord**. But the **married** man is anxious about **worldly things**, how to **please his wife** ... things of the Lord ... But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to **please her husband....**

1Cor 7:32–35



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

**I want you to be free from
anxieties ... to secure
your **undivided devotion**
to the Lord**

1Cor 7:32–35



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

Undivided devotion is not merely about having less activities ... It is about greater love: an inward readiness and eagerness for the things of God ...



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

**Where is
your heart
going?**



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

**I want you to be free from
anxieties... **not to lay any
restraint upon you** ... to
secure your undivided
devotion to the Lord**

1Cor 7:32–35



Devotion (ἀπερίσπαστος —
Aperispastos)

**Return your heart
again and again to
Christ in undivided
devotion ; you belong
wholly to Christ.**

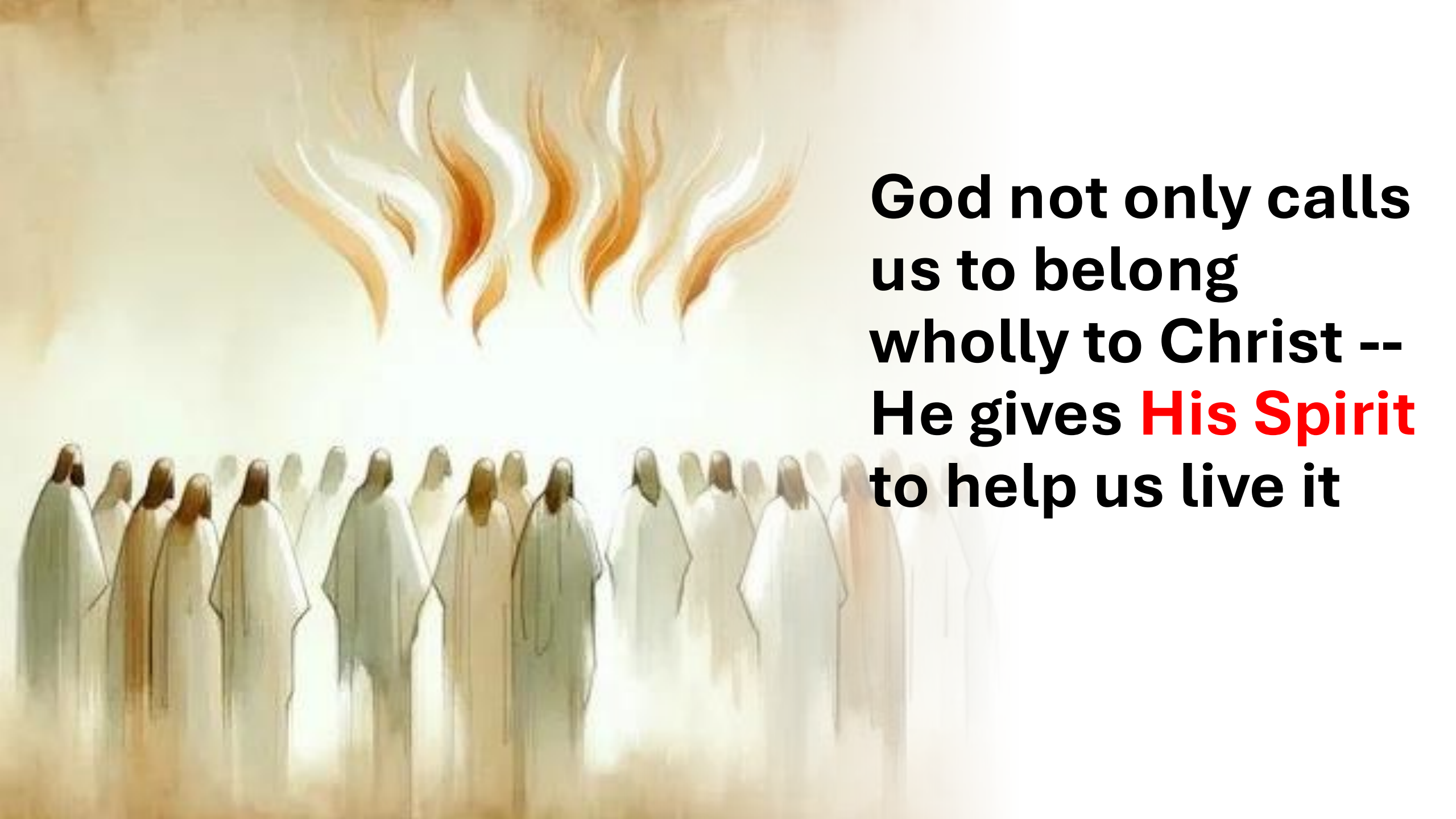
Caveat

- **Now as a concession, not a command, I say this...** (v6)
- **To the rest I say (I, not the Lord)...** (v12)
- **I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment** as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy (v25)

Till Death Do us Part: You Belong Wholly to Christ

- **Gift**
- **Calling**
- **Remaining**
- **Undivided
Devotion**



A group of people in white robes standing in a line, looking up at a large, stylized flame or fire in the sky. The scene is set against a light, hazy background. The flame is composed of several vertical, wavy shapes in shades of orange, yellow, and white, resembling fire or a large flame. The people are depicted in a simple, sketchy style, with their heads and shoulders visible. They are all facing the same direction, towards the flame. The overall mood is one of awe and reverence.

**God not only calls
us to belong
wholly to Christ --
He gives **His Spirit**
to help us live it**