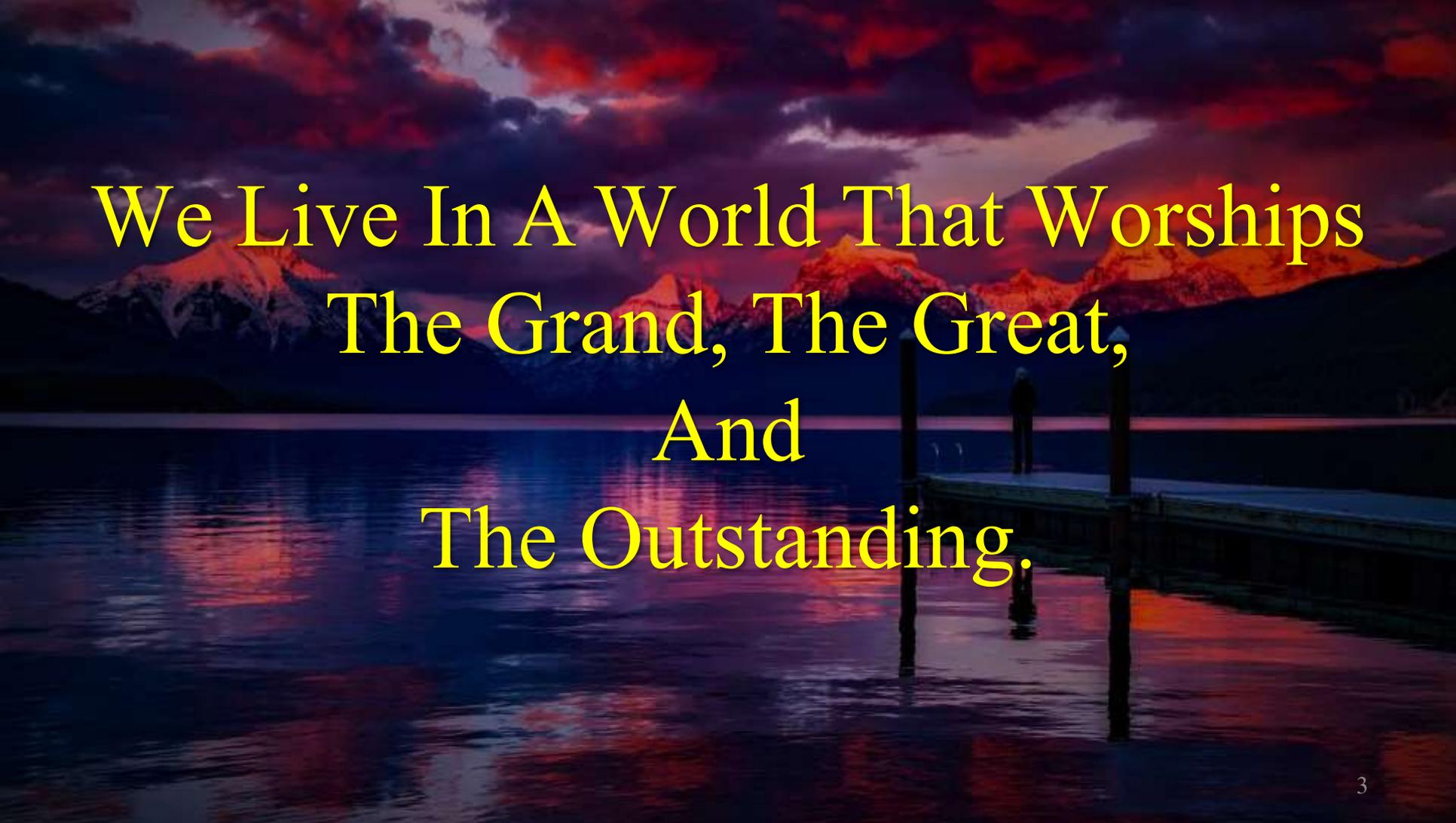


A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant palette of reds, oranges, and purples. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with their peaks and ridges catching the low light. The foreground features a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. On the right side of the frame, a wooden dock extends into the water, supported by several dark posts. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Seeking the Heart of God

“The God Who Glorified The Ordinary”



A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a mix of deep blues, purples, and oranges. In the background, a range of rugged mountains is visible, with some peaks covered in snow and also catching the low light of the sun. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side, a wooden dock extends into the water, supported by several dark posts. A small, dark silhouette of a person is standing on the dock, looking out towards the water. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

We Live In A World That Worships
The Grand, The Great,
And
The Outstanding.

Isaiah 53:2-3 (NIV)

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Jesus Was Not The Messiah They Expected

- Born in a stable
- Spent his early years in Egypt
- The son of a peasant girl and a tradesman who trained him to be carpenter, an ordinary trade
 - Raised in Nazareth – a *No-place* – not even mentioned in the Hebrew bible, the Jewish Talmud and Midrash, nor in any existing pagan writings.
- Crucified, a death reserved for slaves and traitors
 - Buried in a borrowed tomb

Those Hands

- Those hands that shaped galaxies and formed planets were now making or fixing tables and benches.
- Those hands, whose touch would later give sight to the blind, heal the sick, and raise the dead, were now carving ox yokes and sweeping up the shavings.
- Those hands would later be nailed to a cross, as though they belonged to a traitor or a common slave.

Ninety-one Percent Of Jesus' Perfect Life Was Spent Being Ordinary.

He played and helped around the house and, when old enough, he joined Joseph in the carpenter shop. He obediently and worshipfully fitted handles onto farm implements, smoothed table tops, rounded chair legs and drove nails into wood joints until he was thirty.

Only then did he hear the whisper of God calling him to the Judean desert, to John and to the mission of God.

Mark 6:1-3 (NIV)

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

John 1:43-46 (NIV)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, *"Follow me."*

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, *"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. *"Come and see,"* said Philip.

God Chose “Ordinary” To Be The Canvas On Which He Painted His Masterpiece.

- God uses ordinary people to do important things that bring about extraordinary results.
- There are millions of Mothers and Fathers and Mentors who, in their ordinary lives, have shaped and are shaping our world for generations to come.

*What elevates the ordinary things of life to
The extraordinary things of God?*

The “Why” Makes All The Difference.

- *Why* are you raising those kids and regularly taking them to church and praying with them at night?
- *Why* are you doing the best you can at your job?
- *Why* are you helping out your neighbor or the guy on the side of the road that you don't even know?
- *Why* are you volunteering to coach that team?

The “Why” is that every ordinary thing you do is being done for the Lord. Every word and deed is being dedicated to God as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

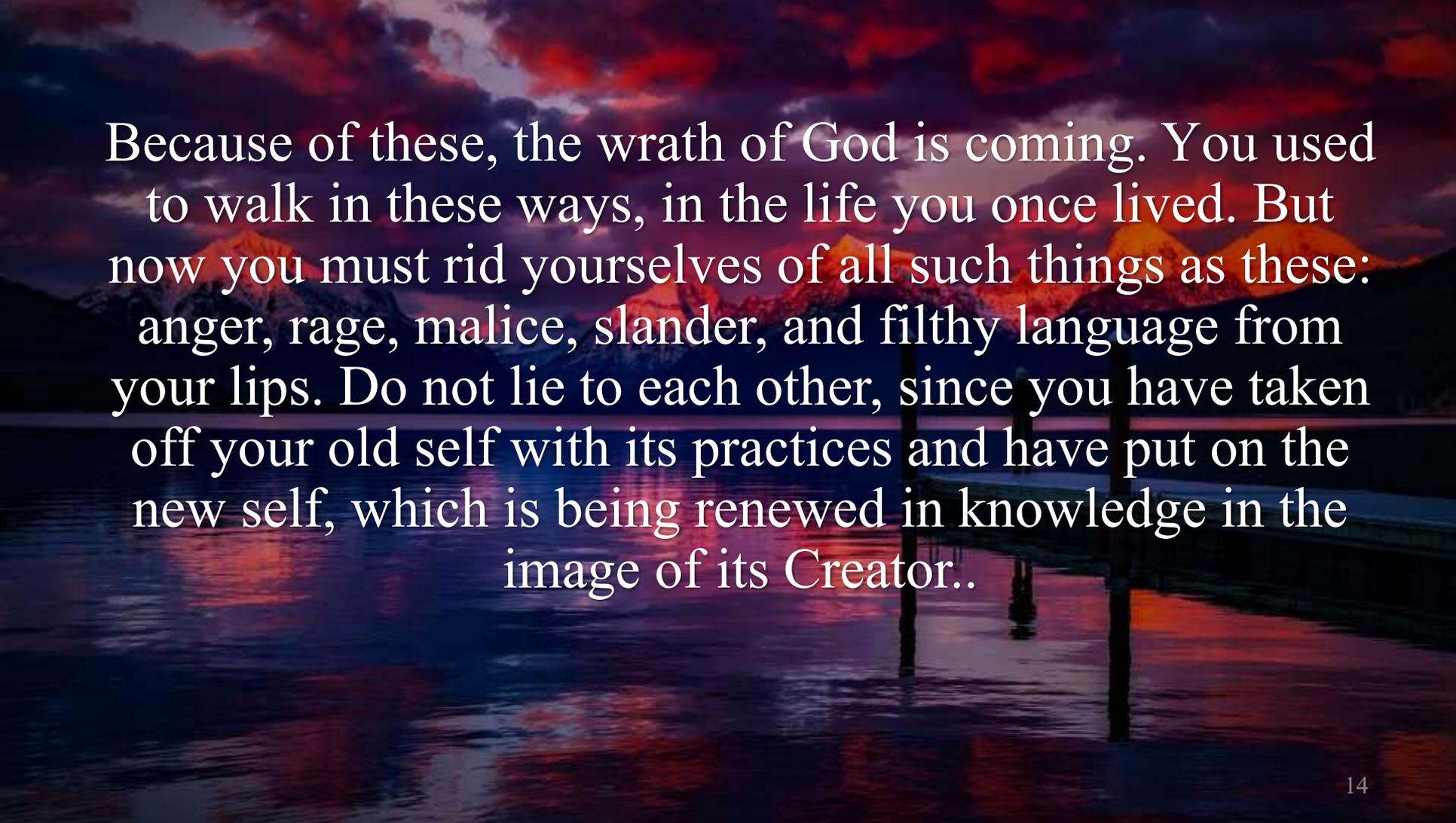
“Sacred” And “Secular”

- Sacred: *connected with or dedicated to God*
- Secular: *that which does not pertain to God*

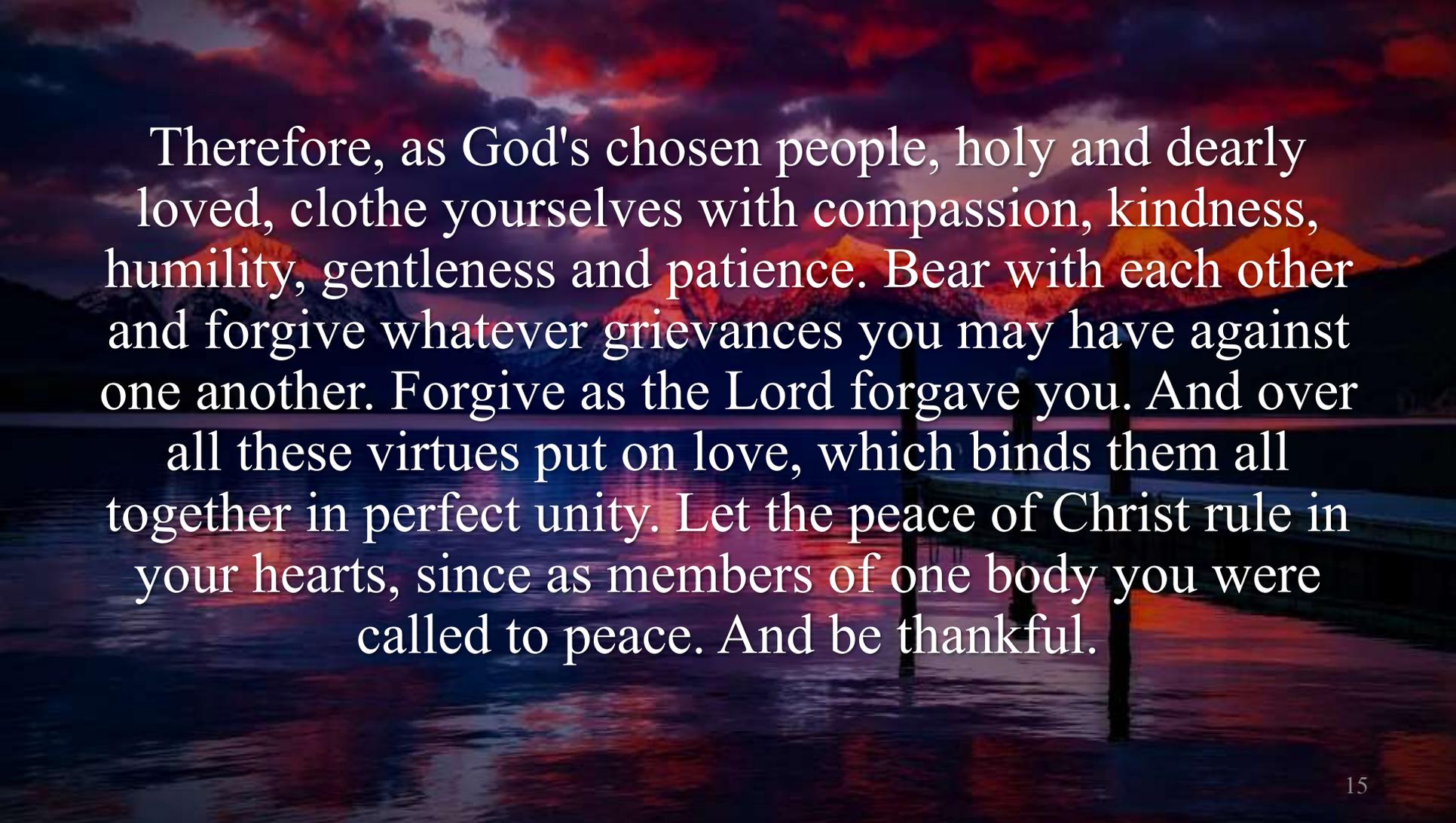
Should there be anything in a Christian's life that is not dedicated to God or that does not pertain to God?

Colossians 3:1-24 (NIV)

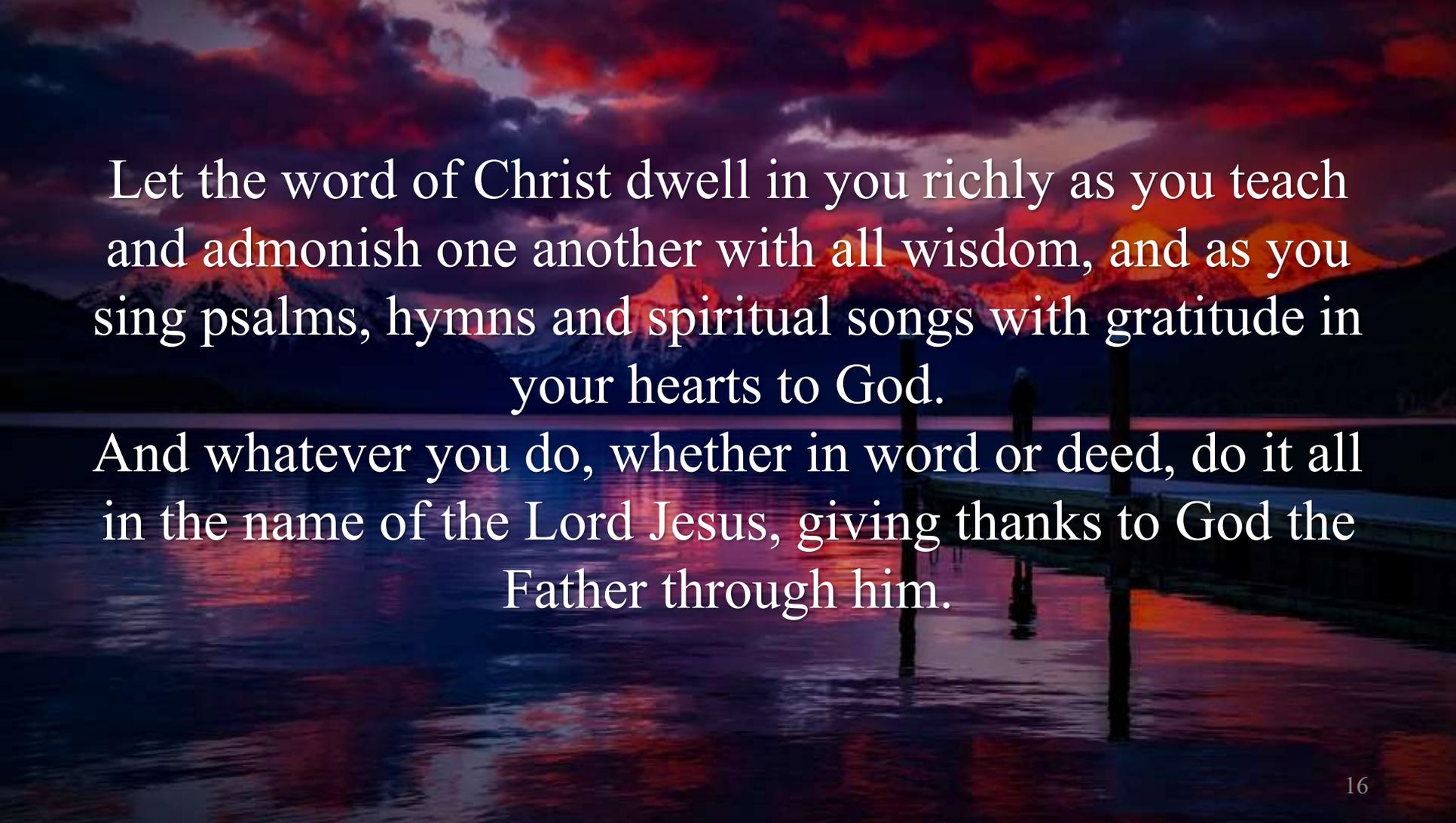
Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.



Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator..

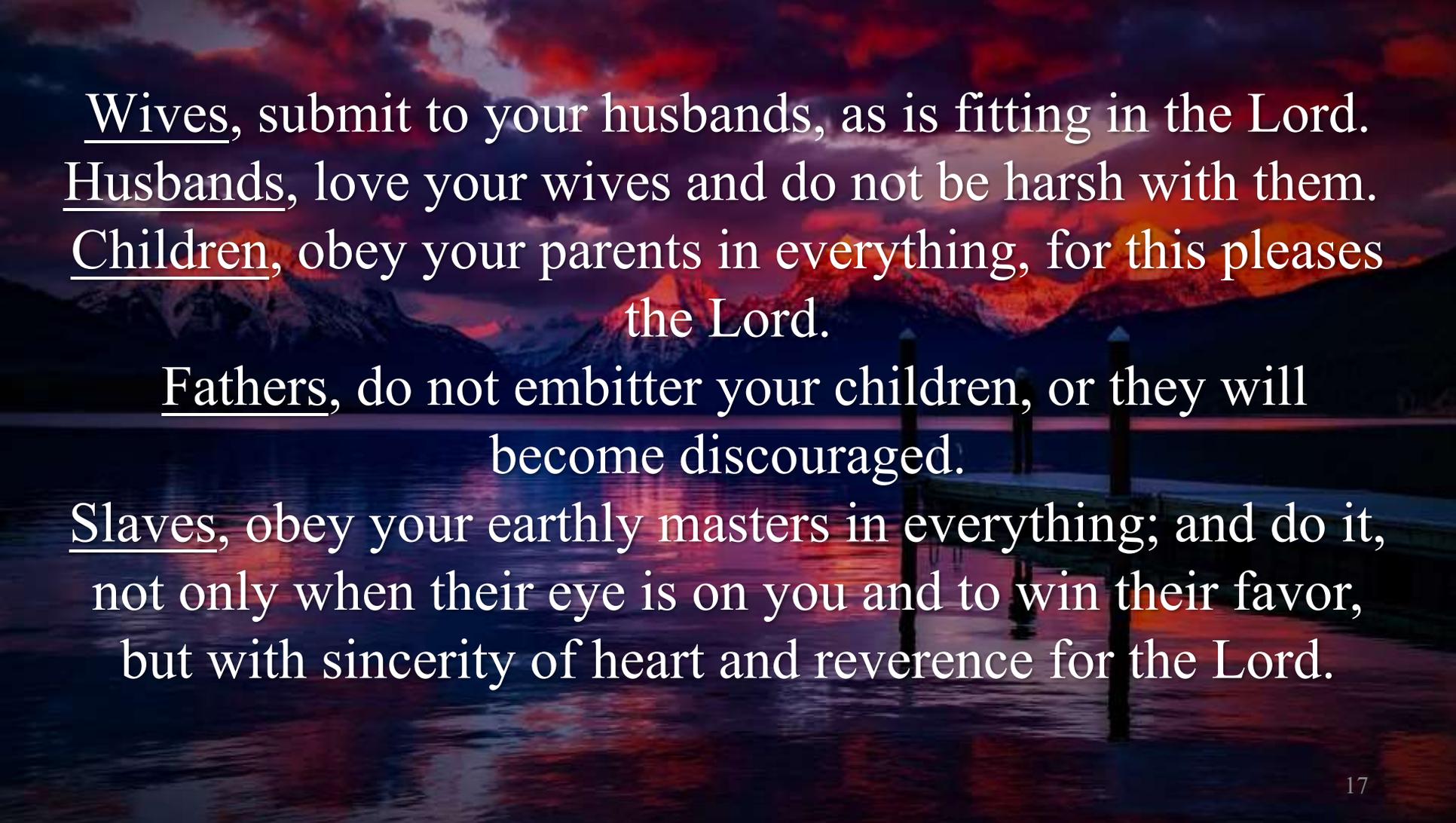


Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

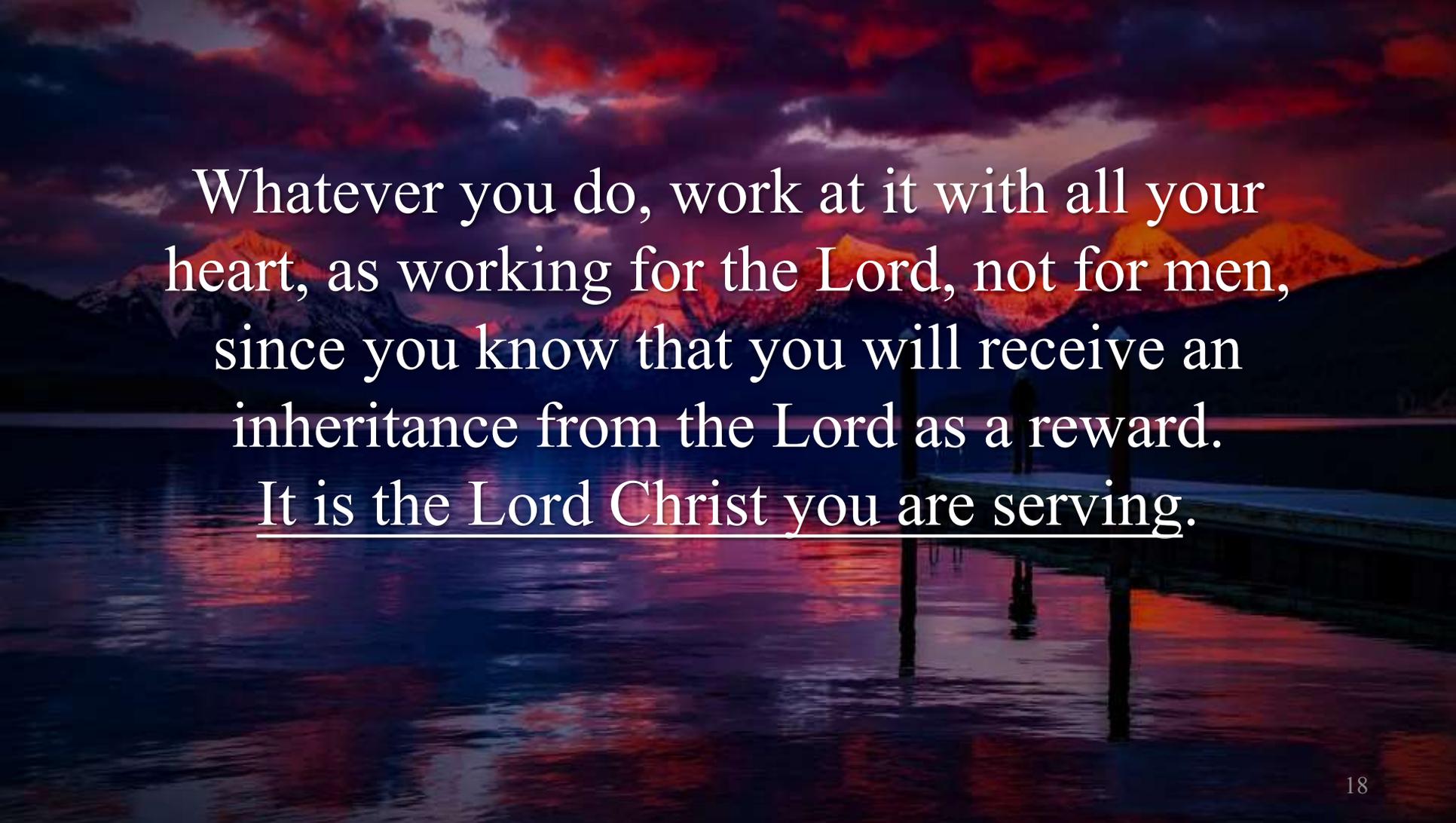
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



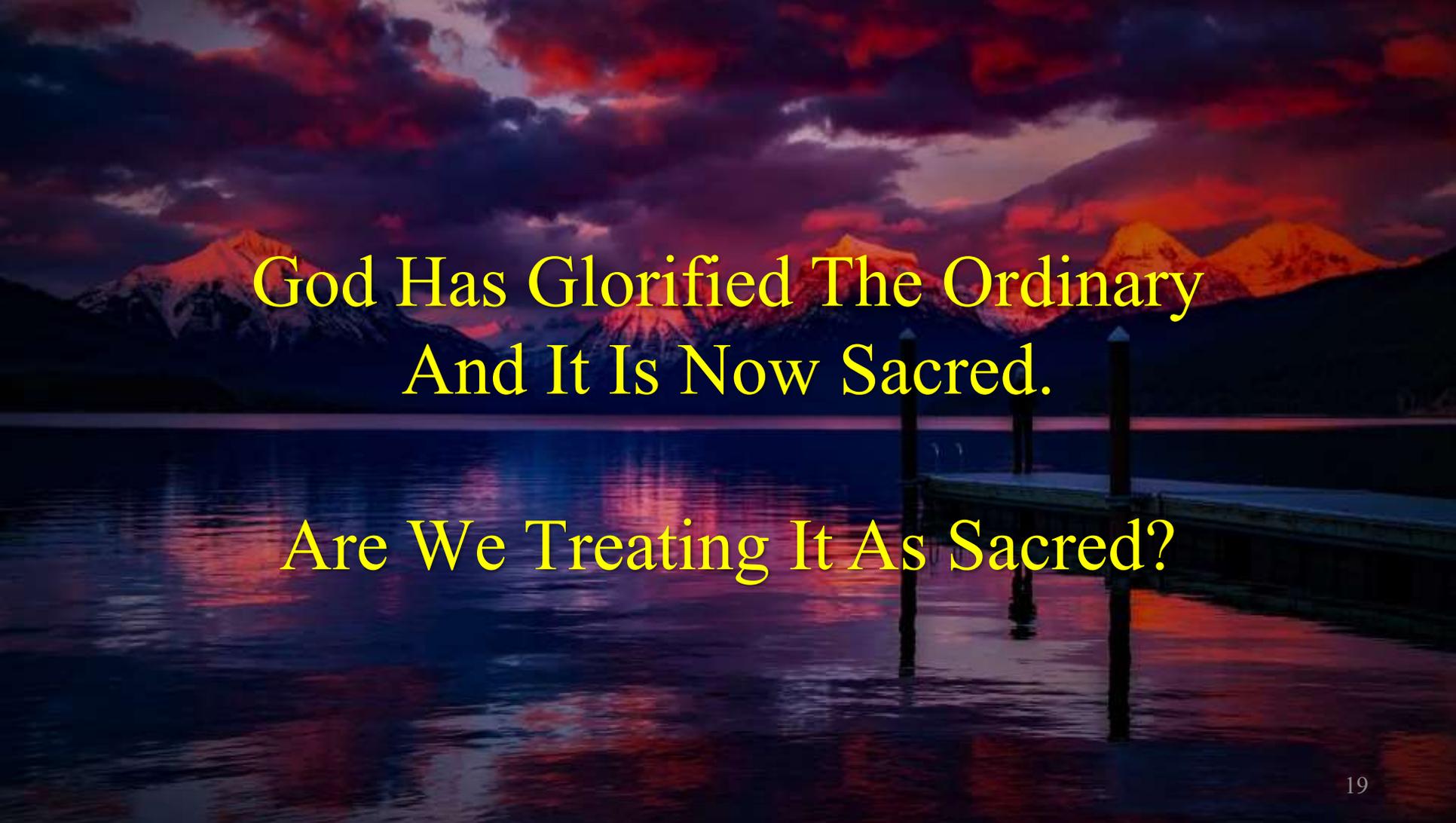
Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases
the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will
become discouraged.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it,
not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor,
but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.
It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, several mountain peaks are visible, their tops also catching the low light. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. A wooden dock with several vertical posts extends from the right side into the water. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

God Has Glorified The Ordinary
And It Is Now Sacred.

Are We Treating It As Sacred?

Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.