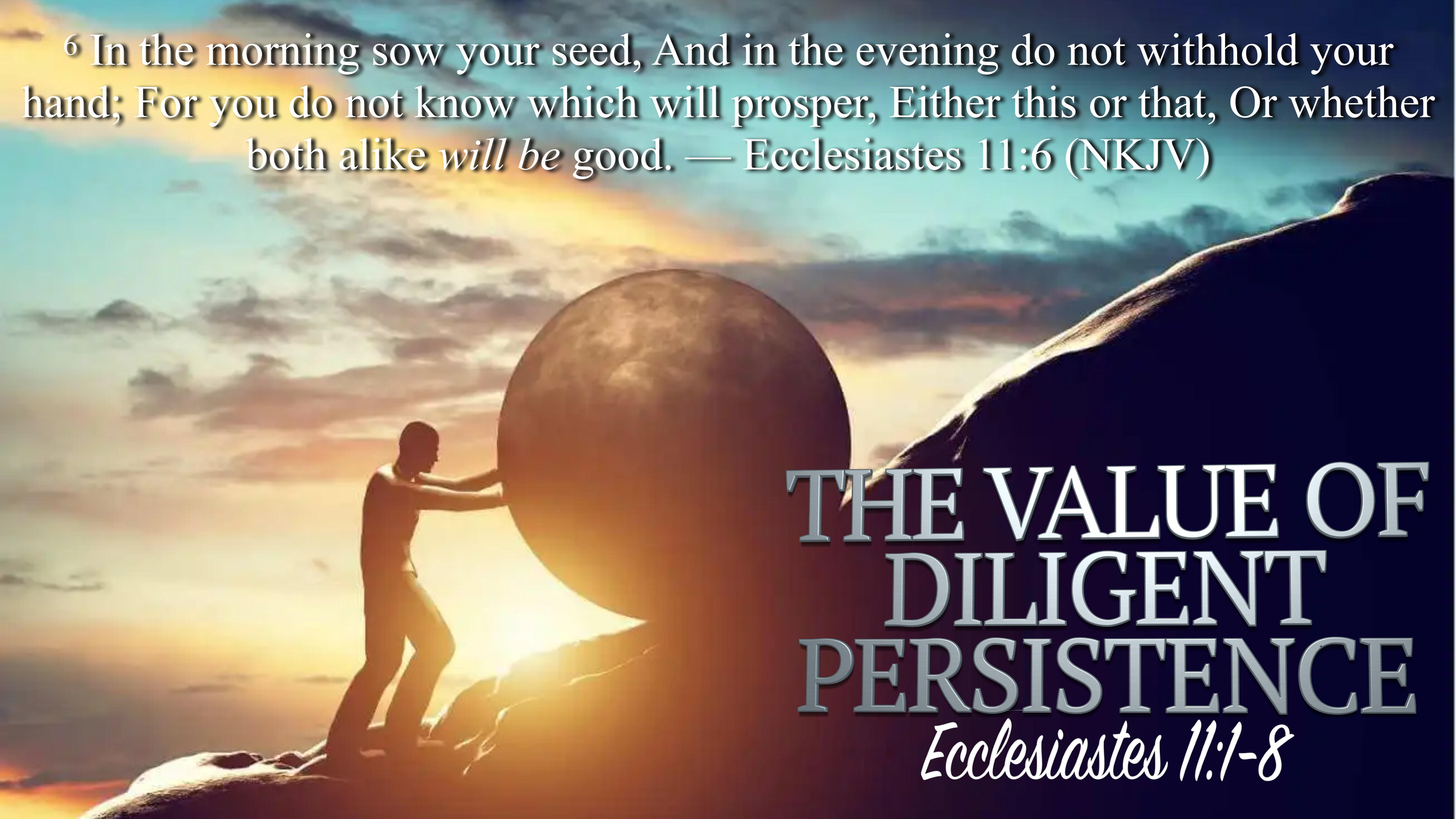


<sup>6</sup> In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good. — Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NKJV)

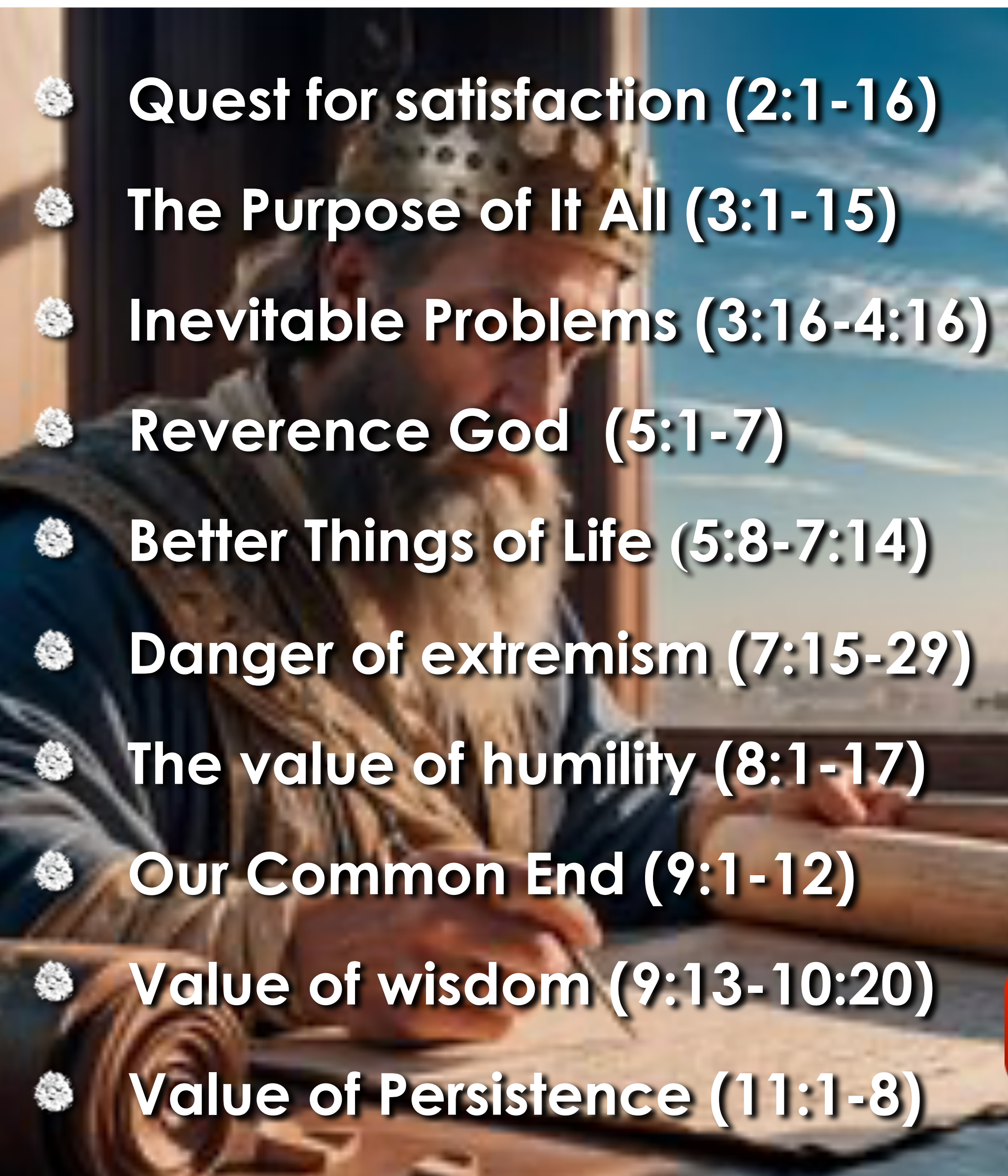


# THE VALUE OF DILIGENT PERSISTENCE

*Ecclesiastes 11:1-8*



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE



- Quest for satisfaction (2:1-16)
- The Purpose of It All (3:1-15)
- Inevitable Problems (3:16-4:16)
- Reverence God (5:1-7)
- Better Things of Life (5:8-7:14)
- Danger of extremism (7:15-29)
- The value of humility (8:1-17)
- Our Common End (9:1-12)
- Value of wisdom (9:13-10:20)
- Value of Persistence (11:1-8)





# VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

*Ecclesiastes 11:1-8*

**Life is not fair, or easy, but  
regardless of how difficult, those  
diligent in their service to God  
WILL be victorious!**

**The last 2 chapters emphasize the need to INVEST our  
resources, time, efforts, & abilities toward that which will  
LAST instead of towards things that will PERISH — 12:7  
God will hold us all accountable to our PURPOSE in the  
end. — 12:13,14**



## Ecclesiastes 11:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth. <sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain, They empty *themselves* upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.



# Ecclesiastes 11:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. <sup>6</sup> In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good. <sup>7</sup> Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; <sup>8</sup> But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming *is* vanity.



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

A black and white photograph of Thomas Edison. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark bow tie. He is holding a glowing lightbulb in his right hand, which is raised towards his face. The background is dark and out of focus.

Opportunity is missed  
by most people because  
it is dressed in overalls  
and looks like work.

*Thomas Edison*



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)

A man with a long beard and a crown, likely King Solomon, is shown writing on a scroll. He is wearing a blue robe and is seated at a desk. The background shows a window with a view of a city and a body of water.

### Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

■ Various interpretations have been given:

- ▶ Sowing seed in wetlands ...
- ▶ Engaging in thankless tasks.
- ▶ Be willing to take risks ...
- ▶ A merchant sending food abroad on ships ...



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1–2)



### **Ecclesiastes 11:1–2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

■ **Various interpretations have been given:**

### **Ecclesiastes 11:1–2 (NET)**

<sup>1</sup> Send your grain overseas, for after many days you will get a return. <sup>2</sup> Divide your merchandise among seven or even eight investments, for you do not know what calamity may happen on earth.



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)

A man with a long beard and a crown, likely King Solomon, is shown writing on a scroll. He is wearing a blue robe and is seated at a desk. The background shows a window with a view of a city and a blue sky with clouds.

### Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

- The traditional Jewish view is one of charity, i.e., we should give freely without a view to personal return.
- The general principle is “we **EVENTUALLY** reap what we sow” (Deut. 15:10; Prov. 19:17; Mt 7:2; Luke 6:38; Mt. 10:42; 2 Cor. 9:8; Gal. 6:9, 10; Heb. 6:10).



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)



### Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

■ Eventually, there is **CERTAIN** reward for **ALL** who by faith persevere in doing good (1 Cor 15:58)

► **Job** (Job 1:12,22; 2:10; Jam. 5:11)

► **Moses** (Heb. 11:24-26)

► **Paul** (2 Cor. 4:16-5:7; 2 Tim. 4:6-8)

► **All faithful** (2 Tim 4:8; Rev 14:13; Gal. 6:7-9)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)



### Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

■ **“Give a serving to 7, & also to 8” ...  
Invest In Many / DIVERSIFY (2)**

- ▶ Do good for as many as you can / whenever you can / as often as you can (Luke 6:30-35; 16:9; 1 Tim. 6:18; Jam 4:17).
- ▶ Practical wisdom, (Luke 16:9), we will probably need help from others one day (Ga. 6:1. Ep. 5:16)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)



### Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

### ■ Making Applications:

- ▶ Be diligent in **GOOD WORKS** (Mat 5:13-16; Rom 12:1,2; 1 Pet 3:1-6)
- ▶ Be **MERCIFUL & FORGIVING** (Luke 6:38; James 2:13)
- ▶ Be **EVANGELISTIC** (Mark 16:15; Mat 13:18-23; 28:19; 1 Cor 3:5-8)
- ▶ Be a **SERVANT** in the body (Rom 12:6,7; James 4:17)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)

**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty *themselves* upon  
the earth; And if a tree falls to  
the south or the north, In the  
place where the tree falls,  
there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who  
observes the wind will not  
sow, And he who regards the  
clouds will not reap.

■ **Circumstances NO excuse for  
NOT doing what we should**

- ▶ Its going to rain / trees fall ...
- ▶ The future is uncertain & we will find ourselves HELPLESS against the forces of nature, BUT we cannot ALLOW uncertainty to rob us of our diligence (9:10)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)



**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**

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**Proverbs 20:4 (NKJV)**

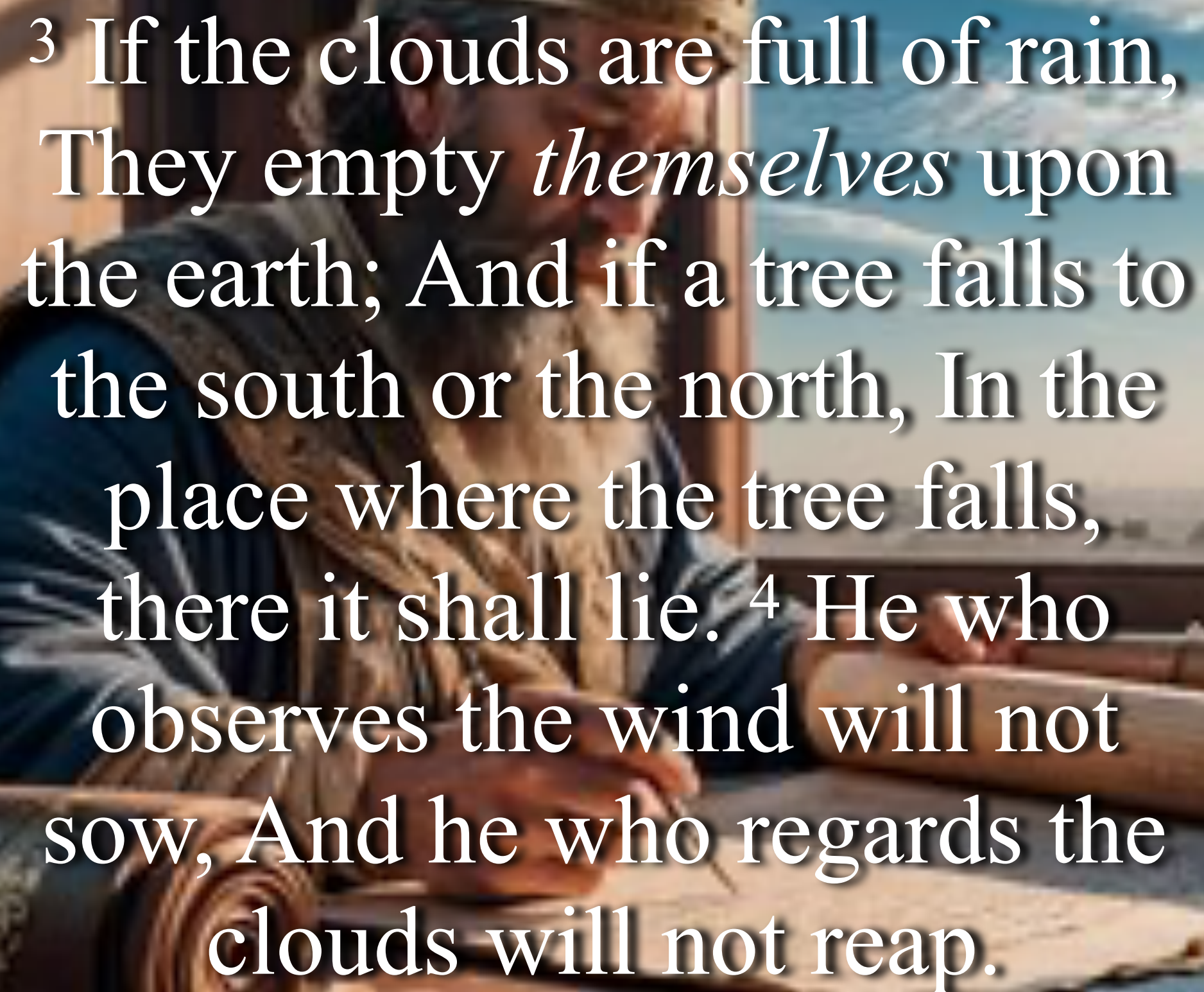
<sup>4</sup> The lazy *man* will not plow  
because of winter; He will  
beg during harvest and  
*have nothing*.



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)

**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**



<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty *themselves* upon  
the earth; And if a tree falls to  
the south or the north, In the  
place where the tree falls,  
there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who  
observes the wind will not  
sow, And he who regards the  
clouds will not reap.

**Proverbs 22:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> The lazy *man* says,  
“*There is a lion outside! I  
shall be slain in the  
streets!*”



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)



**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty *themselves* upon  
the earth; And if a tree falls to  
the south or the north, In the  
place where the tree falls,  
there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who  
observes the wind will not  
sow, And he who regards the  
clouds will not reap.

**Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)**

<sup>41</sup> “... ‘Depart from Me, you  
cursed, into the everlasting  
fire prepared for the devil  
and his angels:



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)



**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain,  
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the south or the north, In the  
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there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who  
observes the wind will not  
sow, And he who regards the  
clouds will not reap.

- We cannot allow our focus to be on the negatives of life (Philippians 4:8)
- SELF-DISCIPLINE is required to overcome adverse circumstances (Proverbs 3:27; Matthew 14:28-31)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)



**Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain,  
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place where the tree falls,  
there it shall lie. <sup>4</sup> He who  
observes the wind will not  
sow, And he who regards the  
clouds will not reap.

- ▶ We cannot allow APPARENT lack of success to dissuade us from being faithful (1 Cor 3:5-8; James 4:17)
- ▶ **THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OPPOSITION TO DOING RIGHT!**



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## NEED FOR PERSISTENT FAITHFULNESS (11:5-6)



**Ecclesiastes 11:5-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

### ■ OBEDIENCE REGARDLESS ...

- ▶ There are MANY things we CANNOT know (Deut 29:29; Rom 11:33-36; etc.)
- ▶ If we TRULY TRUST GOD, we will continue to obey His commands, even if we do NOT understand the why of it (Josh. 6; 2 Ki 5; Gen 16-18; 22; Dan. 3:17,18; Mk 16:16)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## NEED FOR PERSISTENT FAITHFULNESS (11:5-6)

A man with a long white beard, wearing a gold crown and a blue robe, is seated at a desk. He is writing on a large, unrolled scroll with a quill pen. The background shows a window with a view of a blue sky and clouds.

Ecclesiastes 11:5-6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good.

■ OBEDIENCE REGARDLESS ...

**OBEY IN FAITH DESPITE  
Our Ignorance of The  
FUTURE or THE WHY &  
HOW of GOD's  
INSTRUCTIONS**



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## BE DILIGENT TODAY (11:7-8)



**Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; <sup>8</sup> But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming *is* vanity.

■ **Today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7,13)**

- ▶ A believer is to enjoy their physical life (Ecc 2:24; 3:12,22; 5:18; 8:15).
- ▶ There is beauty in every stage of life (Eccl 3:1-11)
- ▶ True joy can ONLY be realized by faith & obedience (Phili 4:6-13).



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## BE DILIGENT TODAY (11:7-8)



**Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Truly the light is sweet, And  
*it is* pleasant for the eyes to  
behold the sun; <sup>8</sup> But if a man  
lives many years *And* rejoices  
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remember the days of  
darkness, For they will be  
many. All that is coming *is*  
vanity.

■ **Today is the day of salvation  
(2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7,13)**

- ▶ Daily faithfulness brings true fulfillment and joy to life (Acts 16:34; Phil 4:6-13).
- ▶ We have today, we do not know what will be tomorrow (Eccl. 9:10; Mt 6:33,34; Eph 5:16; Jam 4:13-17)



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

BE DILIGENT TODAY (11:7-8)

**Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Truly the light is sweet, And  
*it is* pleasant for the eyes to  
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lives many years *And* rejoices  
in them all, Yet let him  
remember the days of  
darkness, For they will be  
many. All that is coming *is*  
vanity.

**One day,  
tomorrow will  
not come!  
(Luke 12:13-21)**



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

## 2 Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

**“BE EVEN MORE DILIGENT”**



- ▶ Place a greater value on **spiritual things** (Mat. 6:19-21,33)
- ▶ Increase **spiritual focus** and **desire** (Mat 6:22,23; Col. 3:1,2)
- ▶ Increase **loyalty to Jesus and His cause** (Mat. 6:24; Luke 9:23)
- ▶ Bear more **fruit** by growing in **knowledge** of Christ and in His likeness (Gal. 5:22,23; Phili 2)
- ▶ **Press** even more diligently towards the **goal** (Phili 3:14)



# VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

*Ecclesiastes 11:1-8*

Life is not fair, or easy, but regardless of how difficult, those diligent in their service to God WILL be victorious!

**Be WISE - NEVER GIVE UP / KEEP GOING  
(11:1-8)**



# THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

**“BE EVEN MORE DILIGENT”**



- ▶ **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17)
- ▶ **Believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 8:24; Heb 11:6)
- ▶ By faith - **repent** (Acts 17:30)
- ▶ By faith **confess** Jesus (Rom 10:10)
- ▶ Become a child of God by faith by being **baptized** into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6; Gal 3:26,27; Col 2:12,13)
- ▶ **Live faithfully** / Abide in Christ (Jn 10:1-15; 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Pet 1:5-10)







# THE VALUE OF DILIGENT PERSISTENCE

*Ecclesiastes 11:1-8*

*Sunday evening lesson live stream  
4:00 PM <sup>CDT</sup> August 31, 2025  
100 Cornerstone*



<https://www.youtube.com/user/donmcclain11/live> / [ALEXANDERCHURCHOFCRIST.COM](https://www.alexanderchurchofchrist.com)



## 2 Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.