

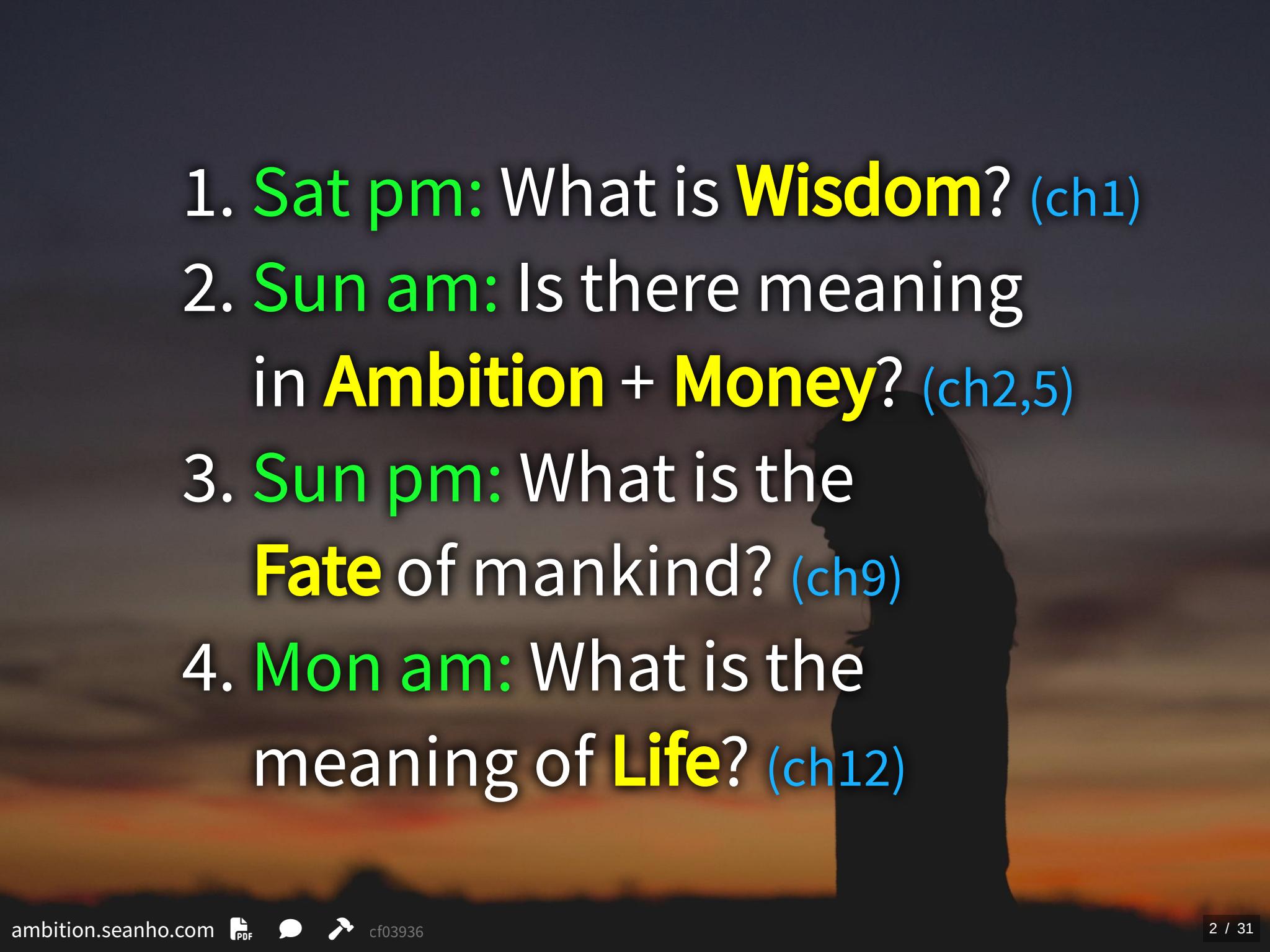


# Ambition

## Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

### The Search for Meaning (2/4)

Caleb George

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- A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is centered against a background of a sunset or sunrise with warm orange and yellow hues.
1. Sat pm: What is **Wisdom**? (ch1)
  2. Sun am: Is there meaning in **Ambition** + **Money**? (ch2,5)
  3. Sun pm: What is the **Fate** of mankind? (ch9)
  4. Mon am: What is the meaning of **Life**? (ch12)

**What are my  
goals in life?**

1 I said in my heart, “Come now,  
I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.”  
But behold, this also was vanity.

2 I said of laughter, “It is mad,”  
and of pleasure, “What use is it?”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 (ESV) (p.1/7)

3 I searched with my heart  
how to cheer my body with wine –  
my heart still guiding me with wisdom –  
  
and how to lay hold on folly,  
till I might see what was good for  
the children of man to do under heaven  
during the few days of their life.

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (ESV) (p.2/7)

4 I made great works.

I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

5 I made myself gardens and parks,  
and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.

6 I made myself pools from which to water  
the forest of growing trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 (ESV) (p.3/7)

7 I bought male and female slaves,  
and had slaves who were born in my house.

I had also great possessions of herds and flocks,  
more than any who had been before me in  
Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 2:7 (ESV) (p.4/7)

8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold  
and the treasure of kings and provinces.

I got singers, both men and women,  
and many concubines,  
the delight of the sons of man.

9 So I became great and surpassed all  
who were before me in Jerusalem.

Also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And whatever my eyes desired  
I did not keep from them.

I kept my heart from no pleasure,  
for my heart found pleasure in all my toil,  
and this was my reward for all my toil.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 (ESV) (p.6/7)

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done  
and the toil I had expended in doing it,

and behold, all was vanity  
and a striving after wind,  
and there was nothing to be gained  
under the sun.

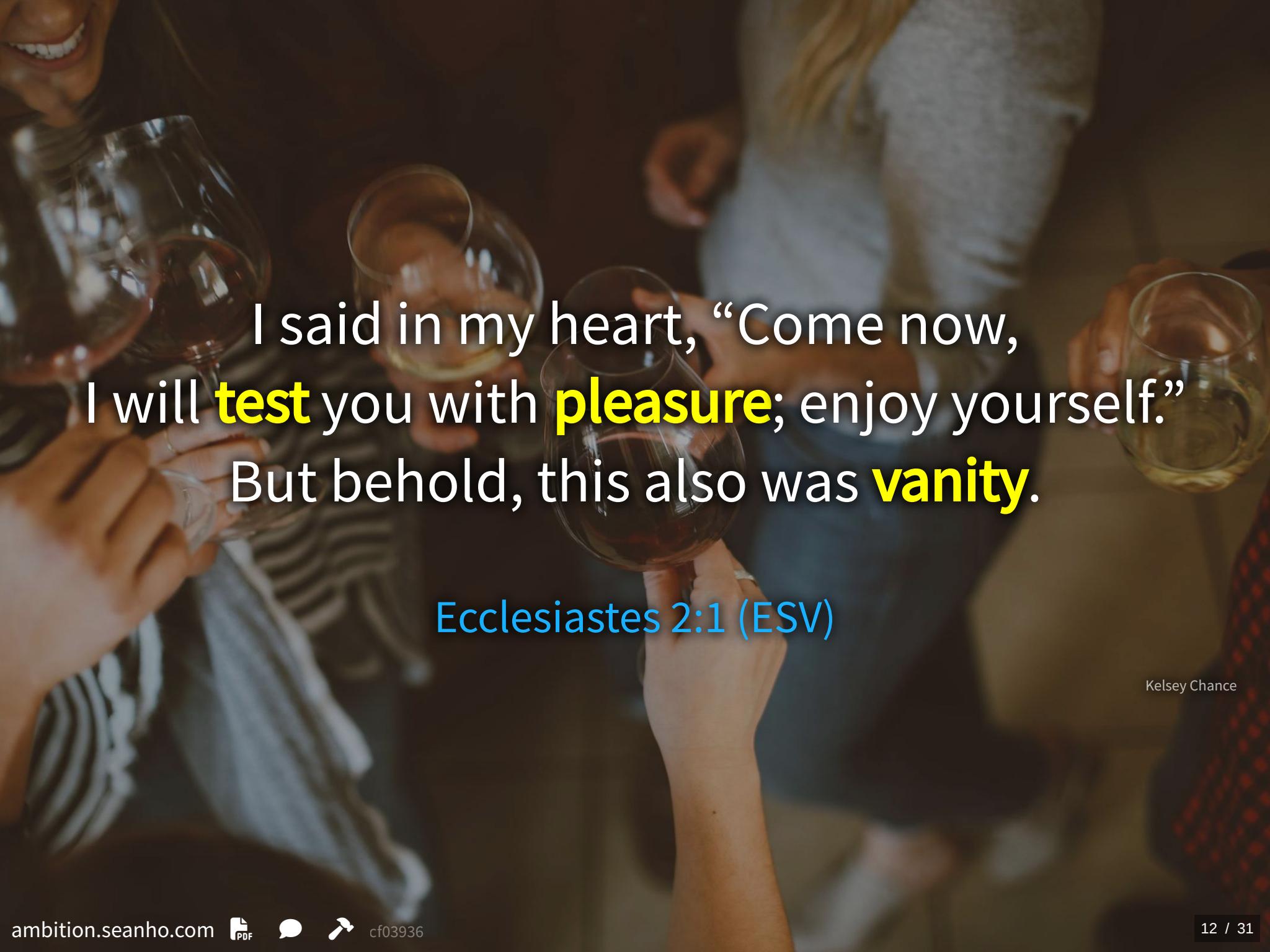
Ecclesiastes 2:11 (ESV) (p.7/7)



# Ambition (Ecc2)

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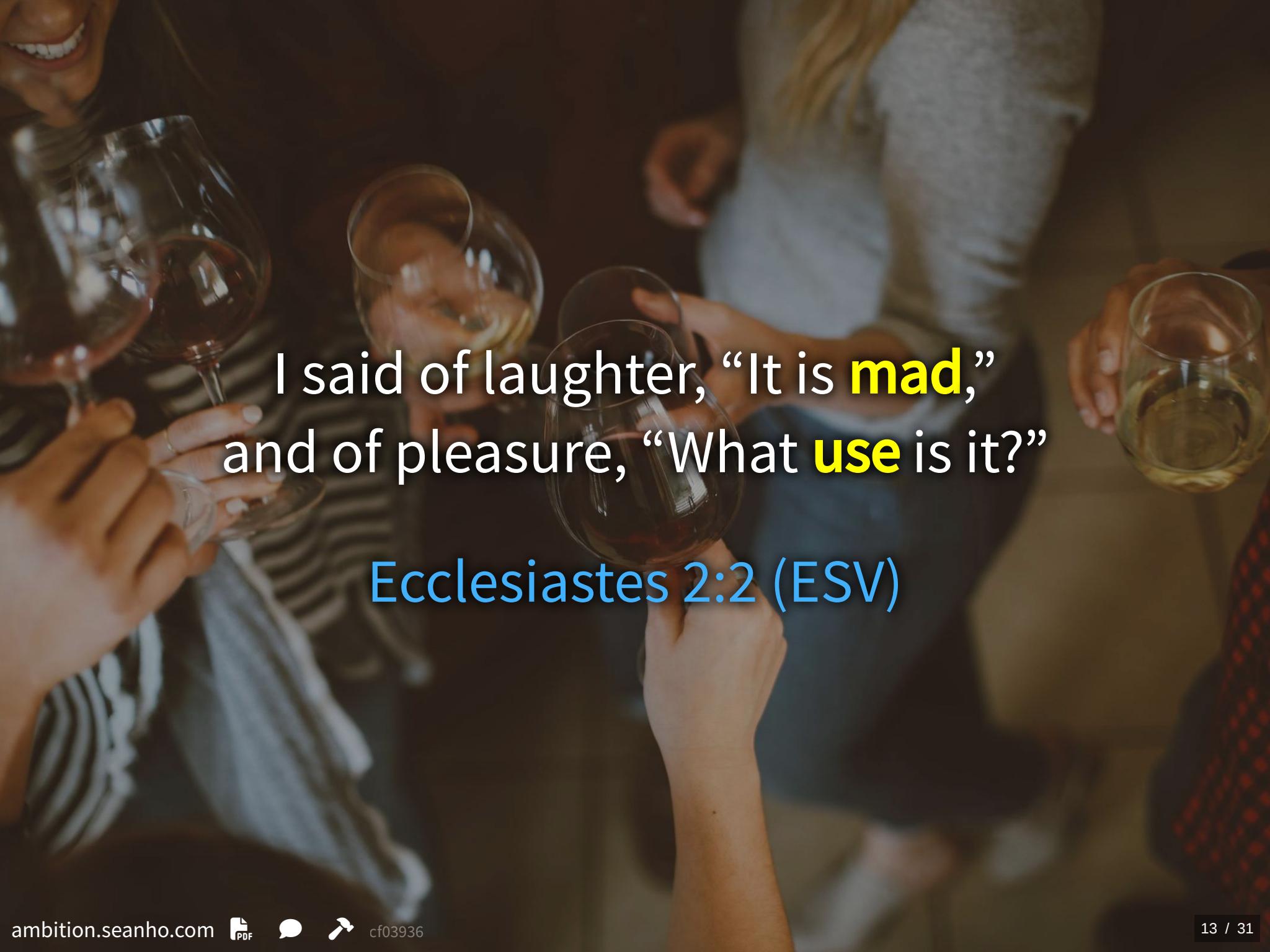
1. Pleasure (v1-3)
2. Projects (v4-6)
3. Possessions (v7-9)

A photograph showing several people at a social gathering, holding glasses of wine and smiling. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening event.

I said in my heart, “Come now,  
I will **test** you with **pleasure**; enjoy yourself.”  
But behold, this also was **vanity**.

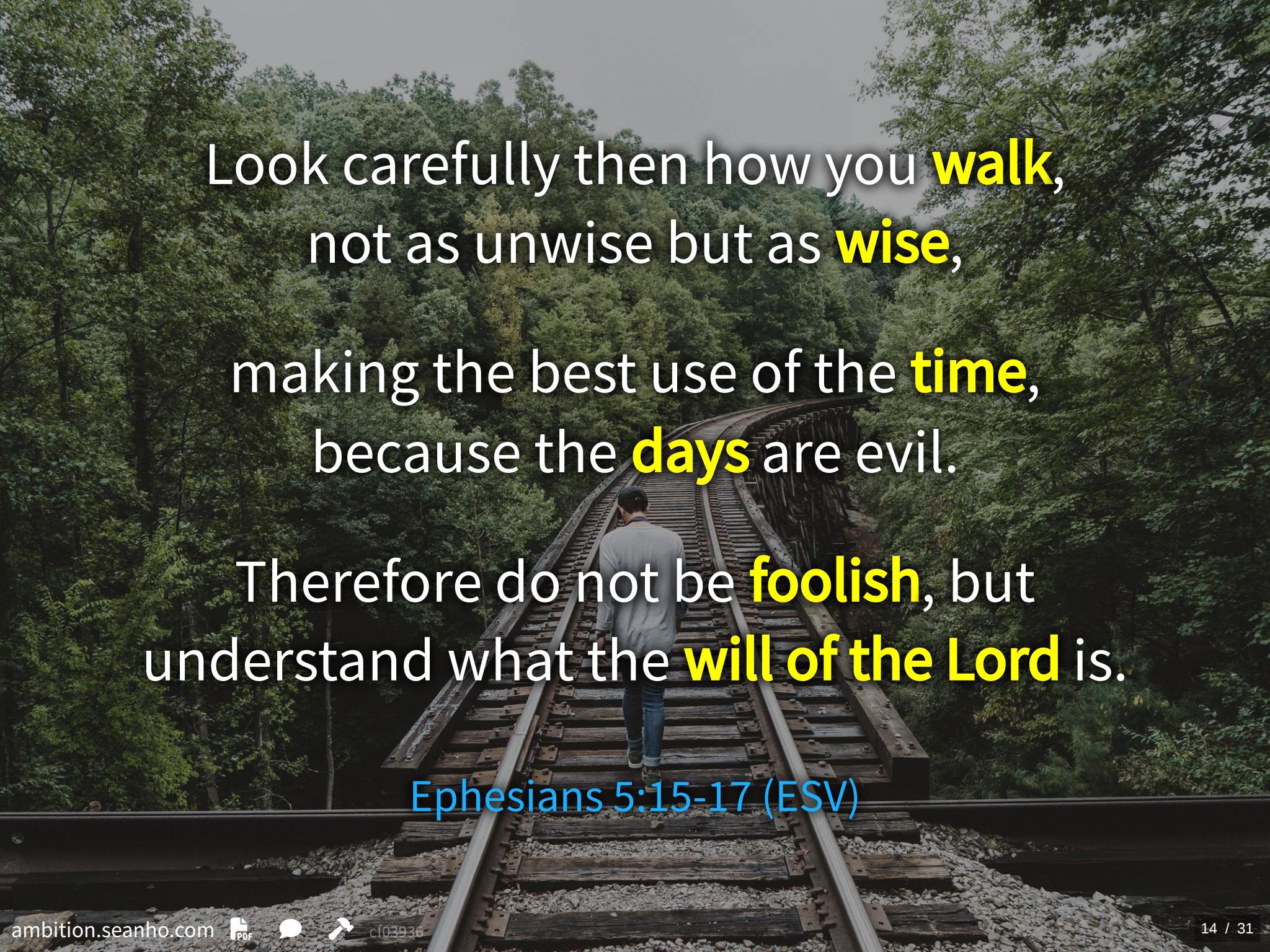
Ecclesiastes 2:1 (ESV)

Kelsey Chance

A photograph showing several hands holding wine glasses, some containing red wine and others white, against a dark background. The scene suggests a social gathering or toast.

I said of laughter, “It is **mad**,”  
and of pleasure, “What **use** is it?”

Ecclesiastes 2:2 (ESV)

A photograph of a man from behind, walking away on a set of railroad tracks that curve through a dense forest. The tracks are made of wood and metal, and the surrounding trees are lush and green.

Look carefully then how you **walk**,  
not as unwise but as **wise**,  
making the best use of the **time**,  
because the **days** are evil.

Therefore do not be **foolish**, but  
understand what the **will of the Lord** is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)

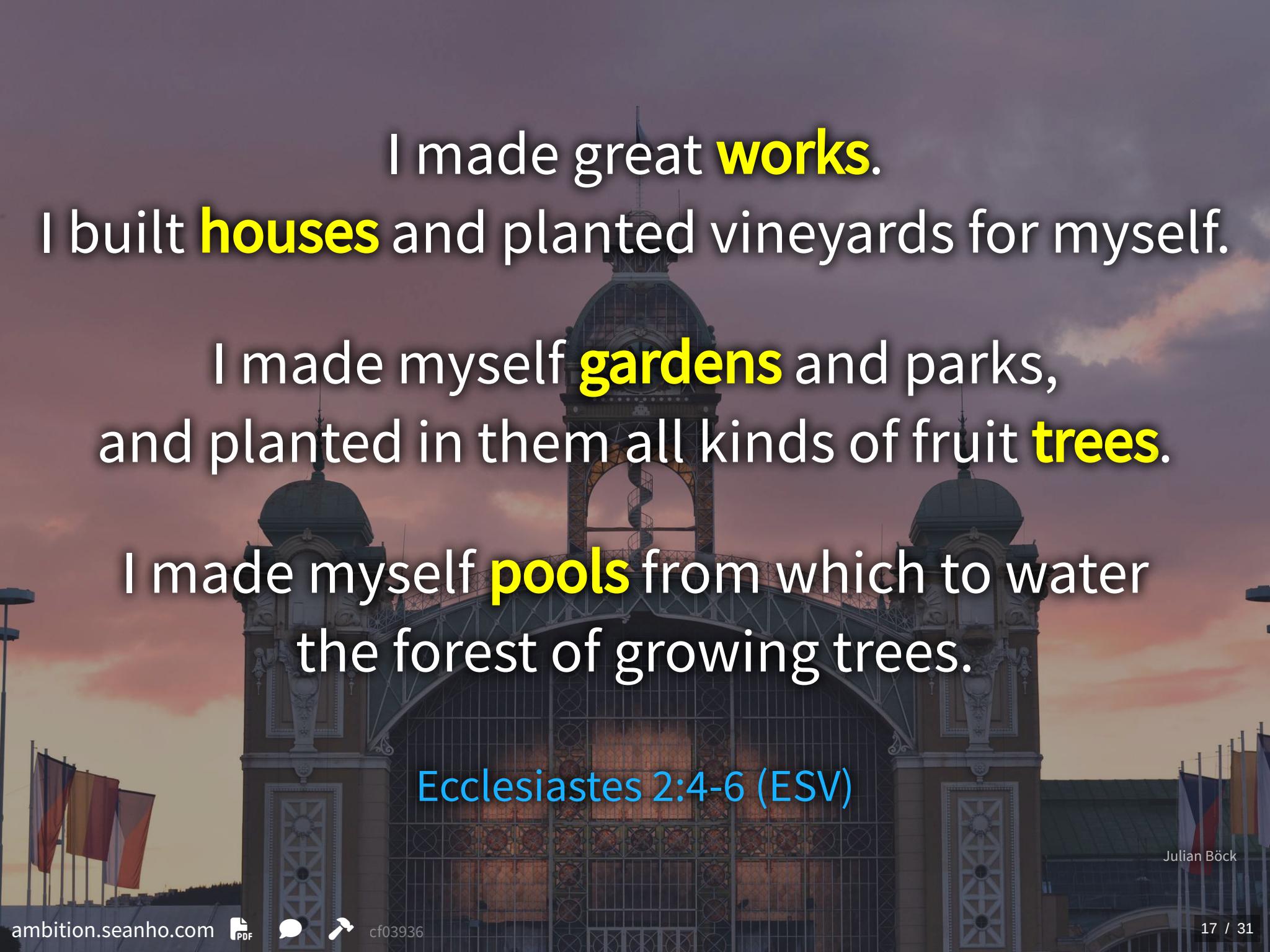
Is it wrong to  
pursue happiness?



# Ambition (Ecc2)

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1. Pleasure (v1-3)
2. **Projects** (v4-6)
3. Possessions (v7-9)



I made great **works**.

I built **houses** and planted vineyards for myself.

I made myself **gardens** and parks,  
and planted in them all kinds of fruit **trees**.

I made myself **pools** from which to water  
the forest of growing trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 (ESV)

Julian Böck

Then I considered all that my **hands** had done  
and the **toil** I had expended in doing it,

and behold, all was **vanity**  
and a striving after **wind**,

and there was nothing to be gained  
**under the sun.**

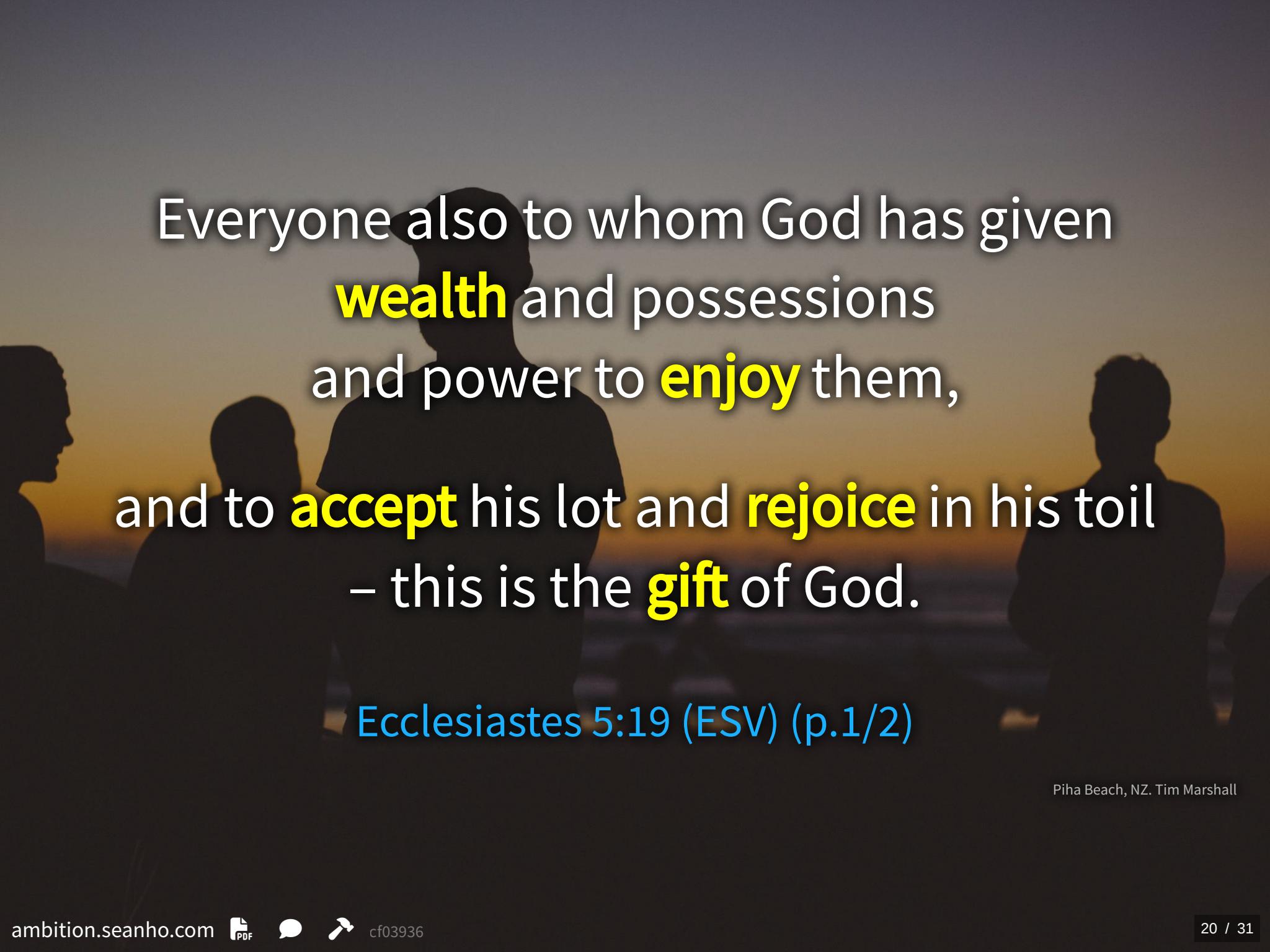
Ecclesiastes 2:11 (ESV)

Ian Espinosa



My heart found pleasure in all my **toil**,  
and this was my **reward** for all my toil.

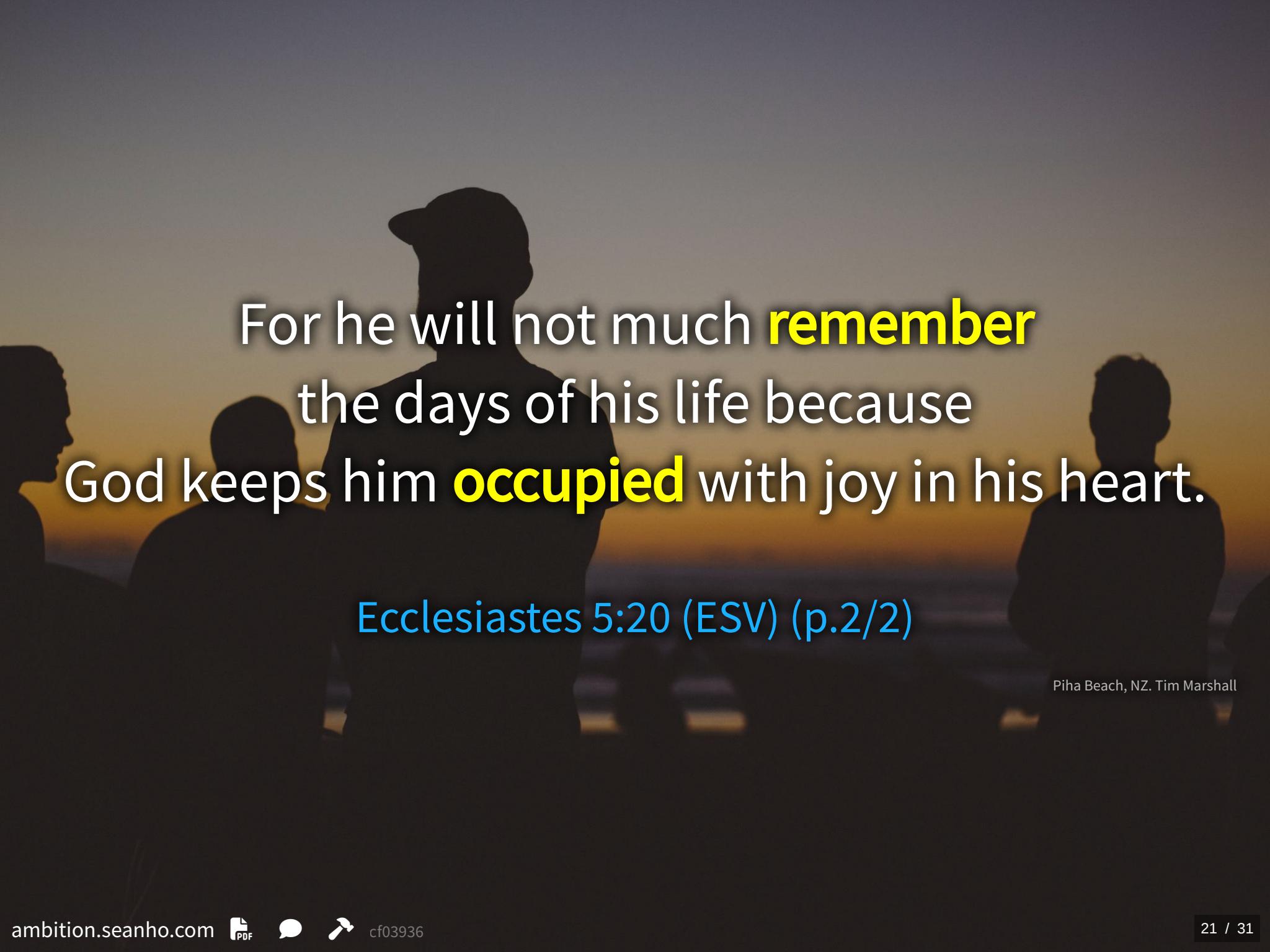
Ecclesiastes 2:10 (ESV)

A photograph showing silhouettes of several people standing on a beach at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning into a darker blue. The silhouettes are dark against this colorful background.

Everyone also to whom God has given  
**wealth** and possessions  
and power to **enjoy** them,  
and to **accept** his lot and **rejoice** in his toil  
– this is the **gift** of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (ESV) (p.1/2)

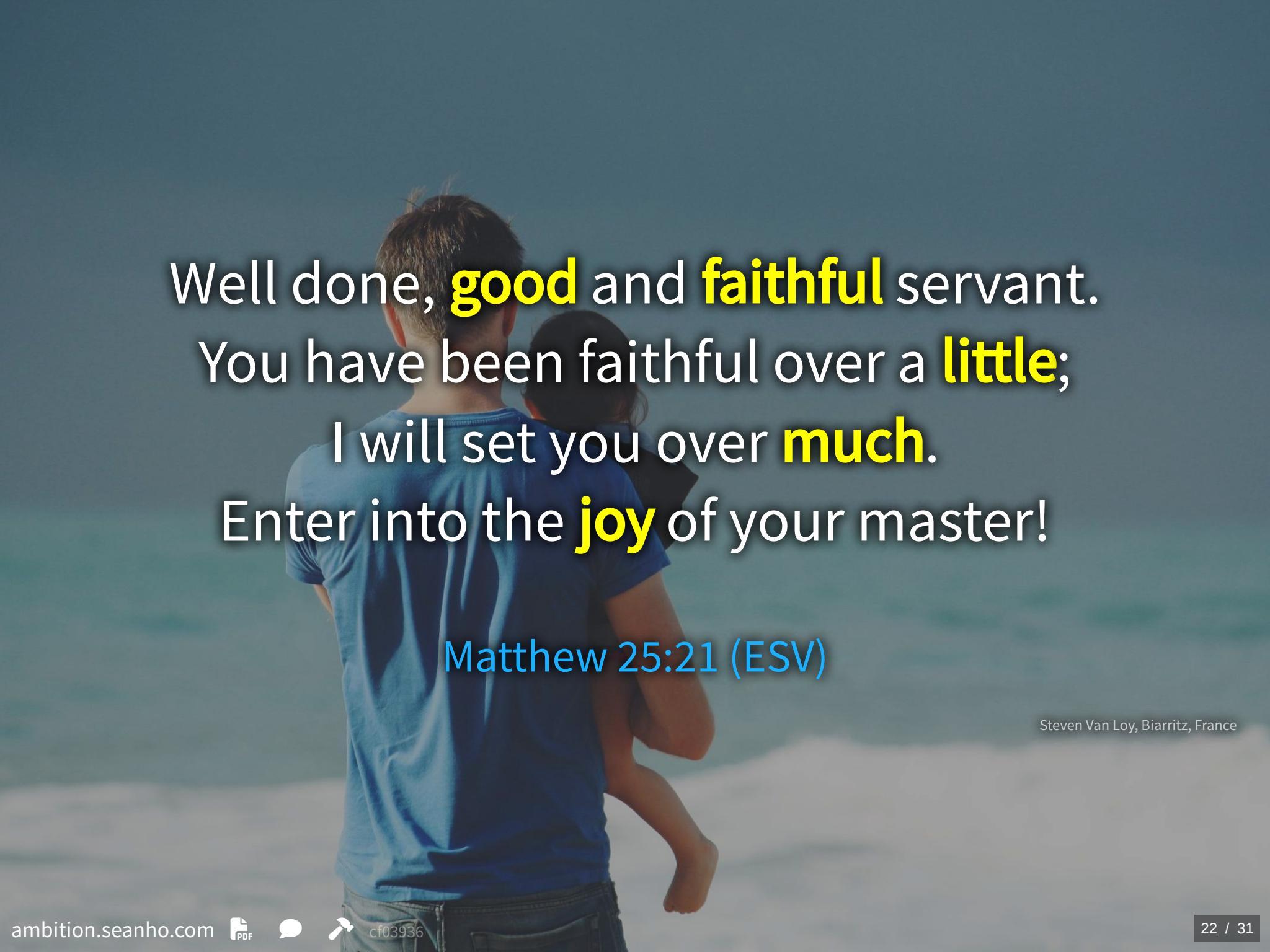
Piha Beach, NZ. Tim Marshall

A photograph showing silhouettes of several people standing on a beach at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, and the horizon shows the ocean. The silhouettes are dark against the bright background.

For he will not much **remember**  
the days of his life because  
God keeps him **occupied** with joy in his heart.

Ecclesiastes 5:20 (ESV) (p.2/2)

Piha Beach, NZ. Tim Marshall

A photograph of a man from behind, wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans, walking away from the camera towards a body of water. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky.

Well done, **good** and **faithful** servant.  
You have been faithful over a **little**;  
I will set you over **much**.  
Enter into the **joy** of your master!

Matthew 25:21 (ESV)

Steven Van Loy, Biarritz, France

Have I had the  
**satisfaction** of  
a “job well done”?



# Ambition (Ecc2)

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1. Pleasure (v1-3)
2. Projects (v4-6)
3. **Possessions** (v7-9)

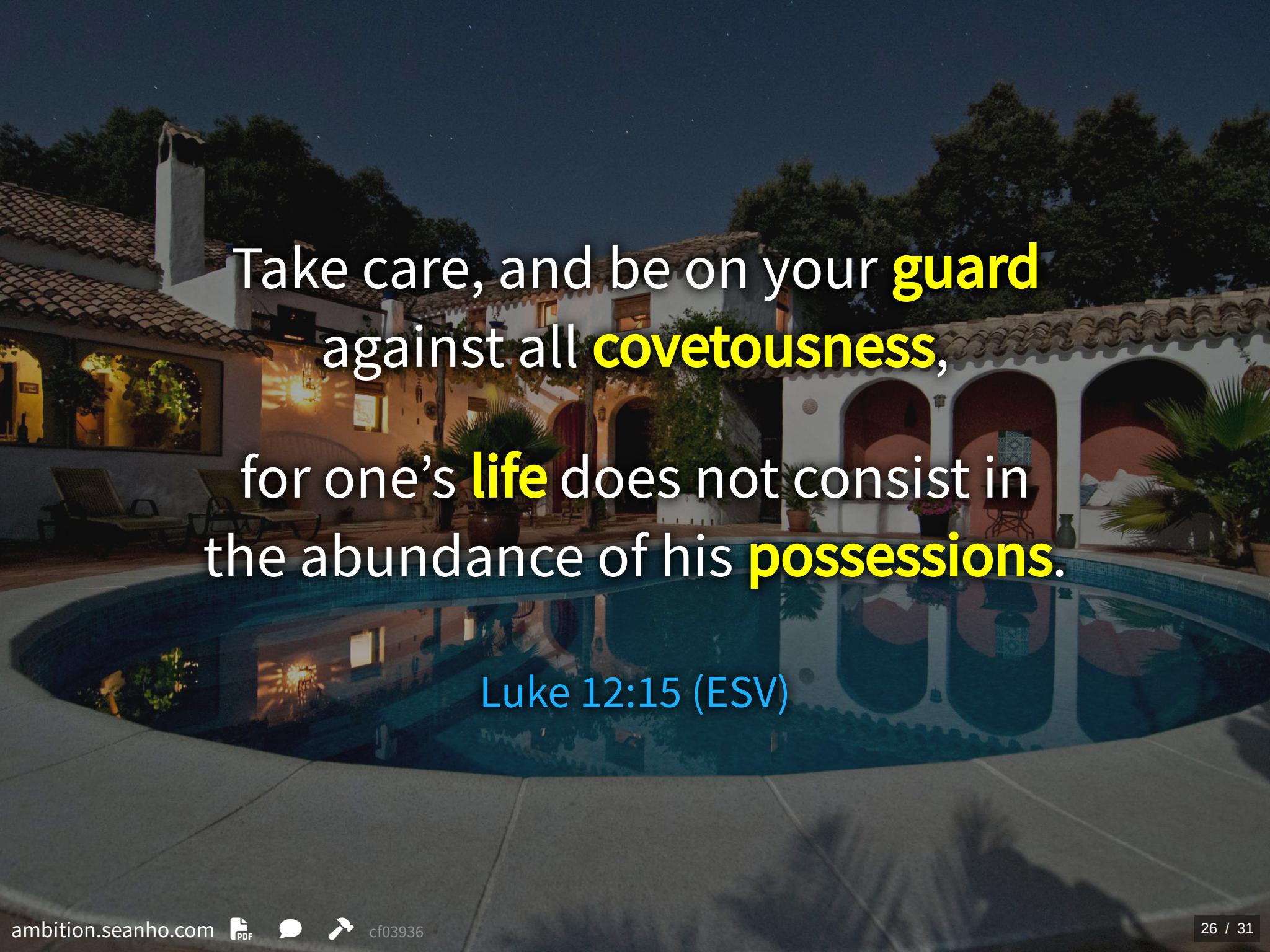
A blurred background image showing several gold coins stacked together and a small, round leather pouch with a metal clasp resting on a surface.

I had also great **possessions**  
of herds and flocks,  
more than any who had been  
before me in Jerusalem.

I also gathered for myself **silver** and **gold**  
and the **treasure** of kings and provinces.

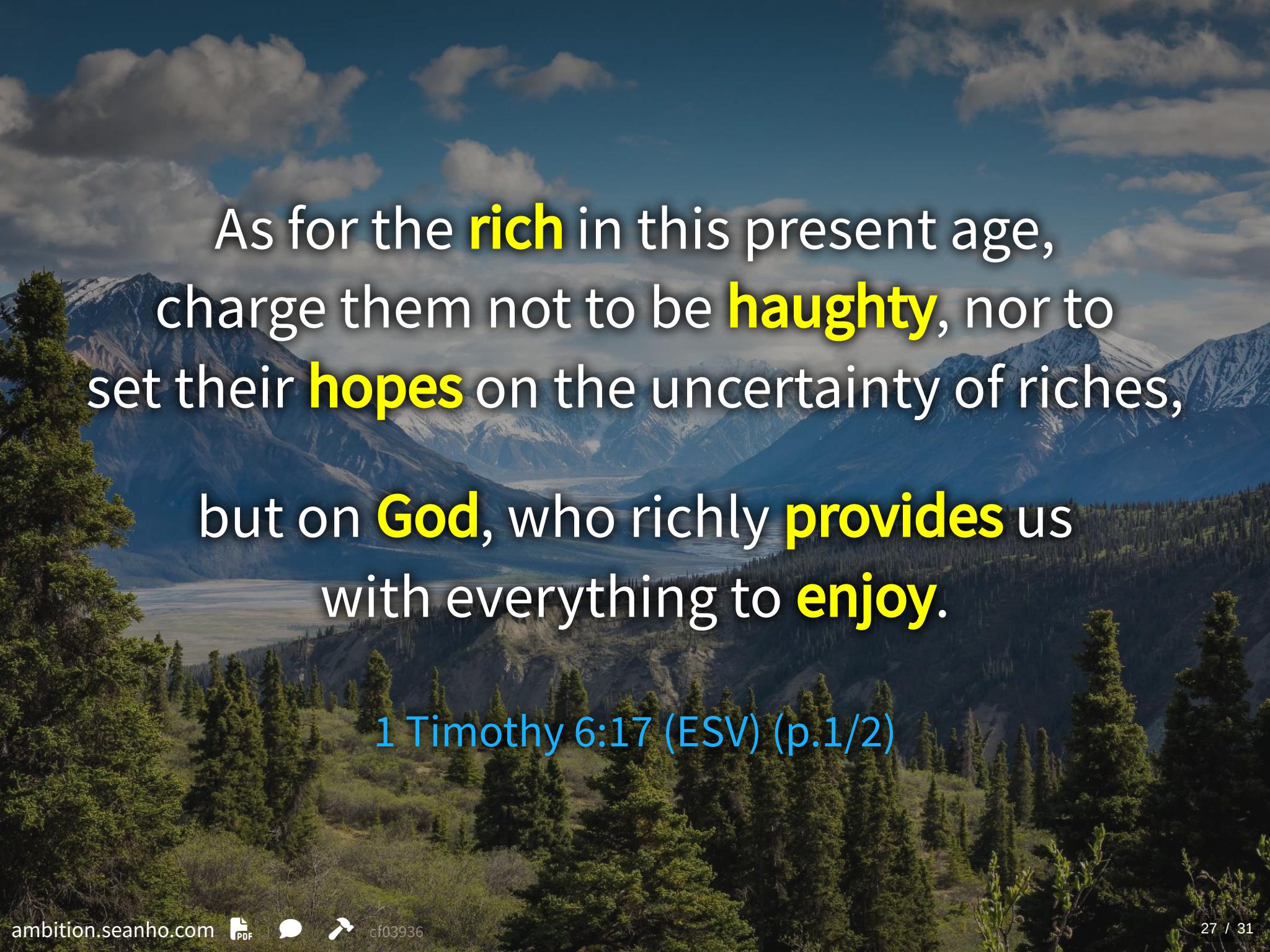
Ecclesiastes 2:7,8 (ESV)

NegativeSpace.co/money



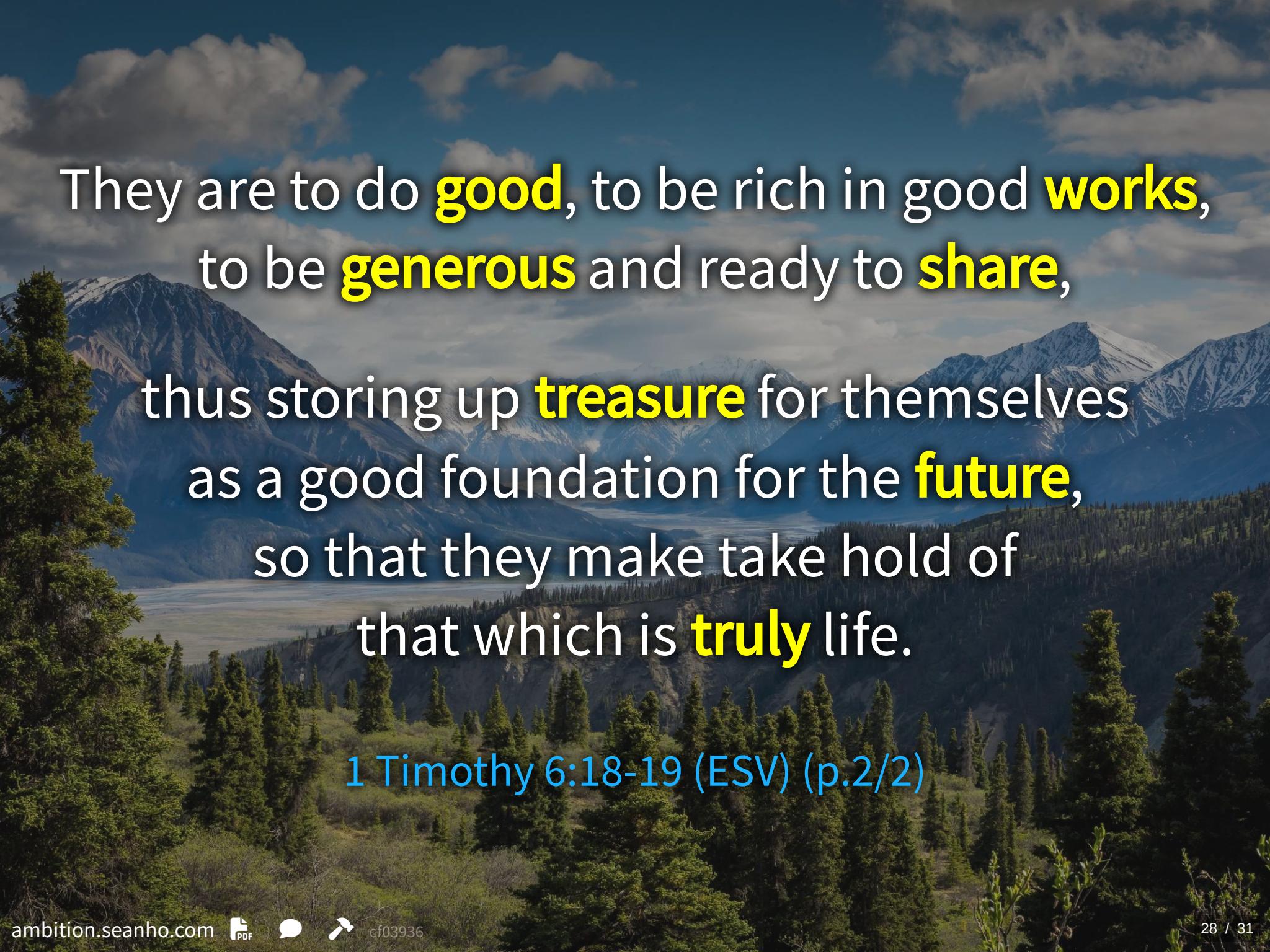
Take care, and be on your **guard**  
against all **covetousness**,  
for one's **life** does not consist in  
the abundance of his **possessions**.

Luke 12:15 (ESV)



As for the **rich** in this present age,  
charge them not to be **haughty**, nor to  
set their **hopes** on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on **God**, who richly **provides** us  
with everything to **enjoy**.

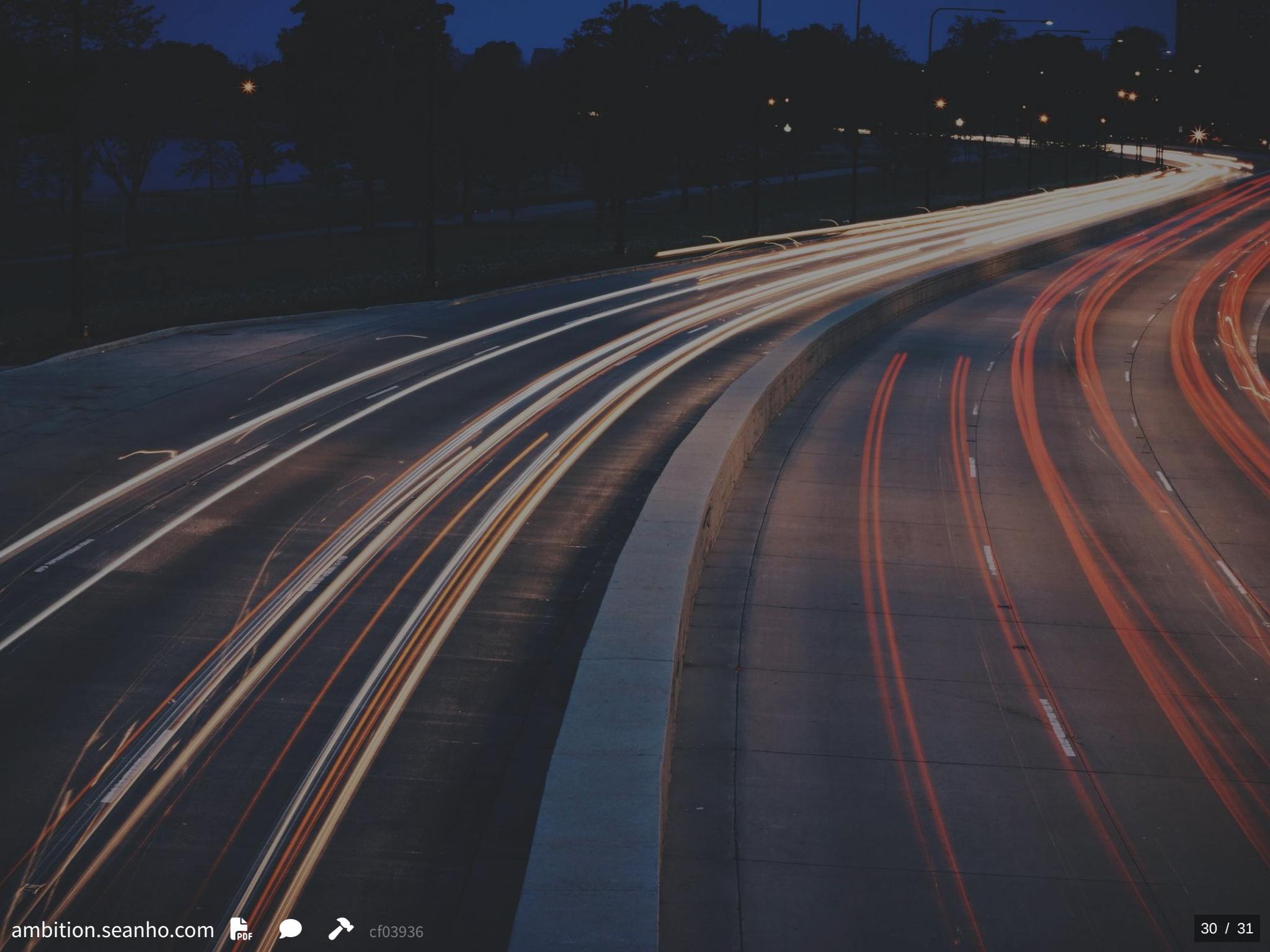
1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) (p.1/2)



They are to do **good**, to be rich in good **works**,  
to be **generous** and ready to **share**,  
thus storing up **treasure** for themselves  
as a good foundation for the **future**,  
so that they make take hold of  
that which is **truly** life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (ESV) (p.2/2)

**What gives me  
security?**



1. What are my **goals** in life?
2. Is it wrong to pursue **happiness**? (**Eph5:15-17**)
3. Have I had the **satisfaction** of a “job well done”? (**Mt25:21**)
4. What gives me **security**?  
**(1Tim6:17-19)**