


A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove. The background is dark and out of focus, with a faint circular light source visible in the upper left. The overall mood is celebratory and warm.

Gifts, Grace, and Glory

— Philippians 4:14-23 —

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is in the foreground, and the background is dark and out of focus.

Finding Joy

PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are



Today, we are saying “Goodbye”
to the Apostle Paul and the Philippians.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a Terminator character. The character is wearing dark sunglasses with a red light reflecting in the right lens. He is wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket over a dark t-shirt. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the character's face and the texture of the jacket.

**Hasta la
vista, baby.**

— The Terminator —



Here's looking at you, kid.

— Casablanca —





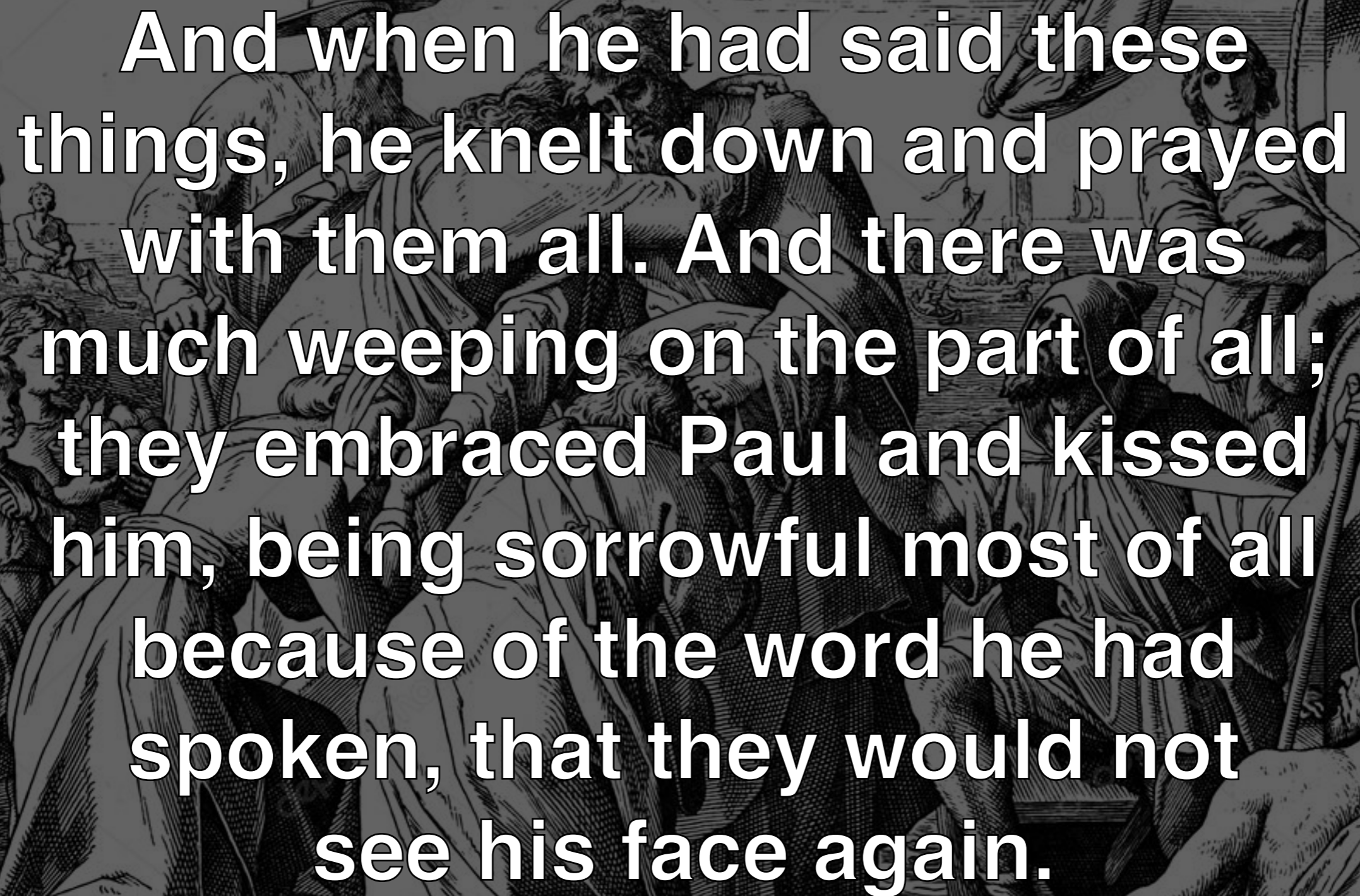
Leia: "I love you."
Han Solo: "I know."



**I don't know half of you half as well as
I should like; and I like less than half of
you half as well as you deserve.**

— Bilbo Baggins, *The Lord of the Rings* —





And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.

— The Book of Acts 20:36-38 —



PHILIPPIANS

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light patterns. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove.

Gifts, Grace, and Glory

— Philippians 4:14-23 —

Philippians 4

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

Philippians 4

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, **I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.** 13 **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4

14 Yet it was **kind of you to share my trouble.**

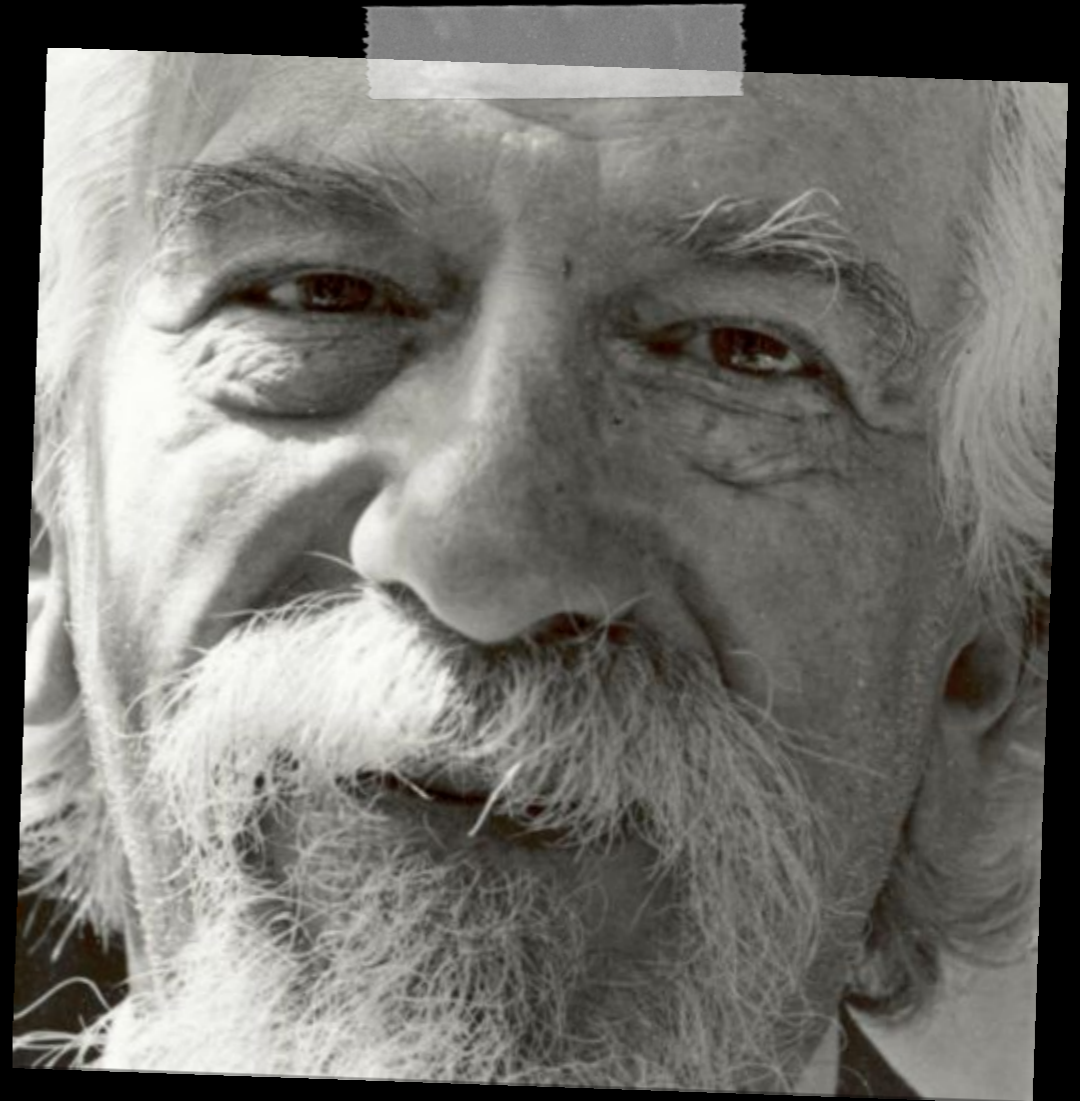


**The fruit of
the Spirit ...
is kindness.....**

— Galatians 5:22 —

**When I was young,
I admired clever
people. Now that
I am old, I admire
kind people.**

— Abraham Joshua Heschel —



Philippians 4

15 And you Philippians yourselves know that **in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into **partnership** with me in giving and receiving, except only you.**

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

partnership = *koinonia* (κοινωνία)



**A partnership, a participation,
an association or communion,
a fellowship.**



**I thank my God...because of your partnership
in the gospel from the first day until now.**

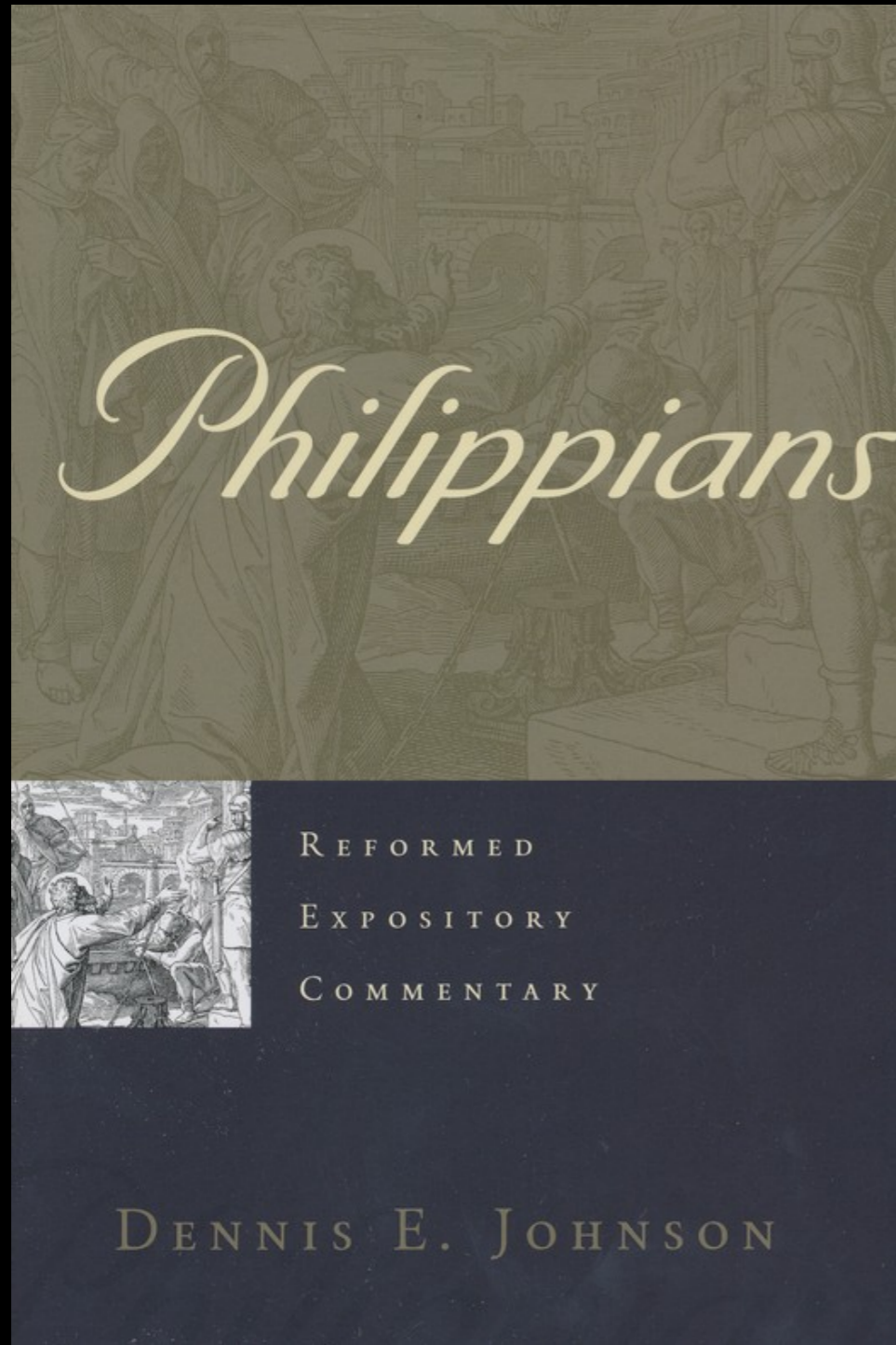
— Philipians 1:4-5 —

Philippians 4

15 ...no church entered into **partner-ship** with me in giving and receiving, except **only you**. 16 Even in Thessa-lonica **you sent me help for my needs once and again**.

Philippians 4

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.



**What thrills Paul about the Philip-
pians' gift is not
what it does for
him, but what it
does for his
friends in Philippi.**

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.



The Apostle Paul
— 2 Corinthians 8:2 —

**For they gave accord-
ing to their means,
as I can testify, and
beyond their means,
of their own accord,
begging us earnestly
for the favor of taking
part in the relief of
the saints....**



The Apostle Paul
— 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 —

...since you excel in everything —in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.



The Apostle Paul
— 2 Corinthians 8:7—



**It is more blessed
to give than to receive.**

Jesus of Nazareth

Acts 20:35



**Hey pastor, I know
what you're doing!
You just want folks
to give more money
to your church,
don't you?**

Philippians 4

17 Not that I seek **the gift**, but I seek **the fruit that increases to your credit.**



“...increases to your account.”

— New American Standard Bible —

“...credited to your account.”

— New International Version —

**And whoever gives
one of these little
ones even a cup of
cold water because
he is a disciple,
truly, I say to you,
he will by no means
lose his reward.**

— Jesus in Matthew 11:42 —



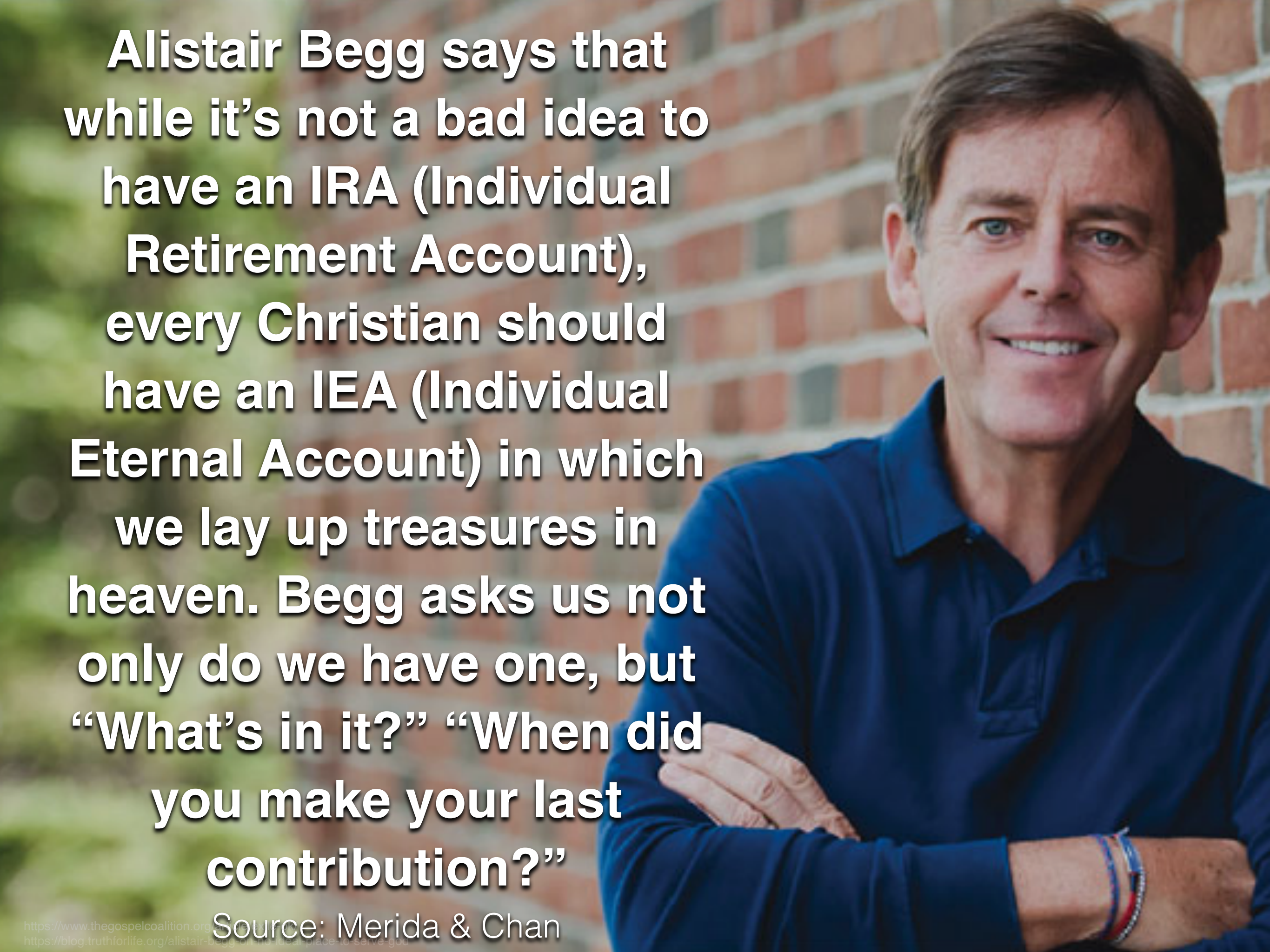
Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,



**where neither moth
nor rust destroys
and where thieves
do not break in and
steal. For where
your treasure is,
there your heart
will be also.**

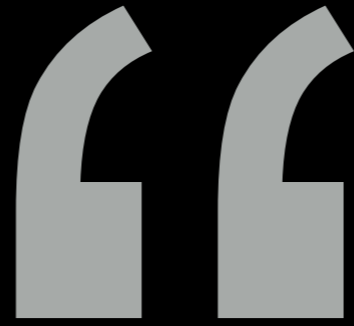
— Jesus in Matthew 6:19-21 —



A man with short brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue polo shirt, stands with his arms crossed against a brick wall. The background is slightly blurred, showing green foliage on the left.

Alistair Begg says that while it's not a bad idea to have an IRA (Individual Retirement Account), every Christian should have an IEA (Individual Eternal Account) in which we lay up treasures in heaven. Begg asks us not only do we have one, but "What's in it?" "When did you make your last contribution?"

Source: Merida & Chan



**Money is a deeply spiritual matter...
Where your funds are invested
shows where your heart really is, so
the question is: ‘Where is your heart?’**

— Dennis E. Johnson, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Philippians* —

Philippians 4

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus **the gifts you sent, **a fragrant offering, a sacrifice** acceptable and pleasing to God.**



**And walk in love,
as Christ loved us and
gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and
sacrifice to God.**

— The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:2 —

Philippians 4

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.



**Have you ever
stopped to think
that your giving
can be an act
of worship?**



Specifically, your giving to the worldwide advance of the Gospel of Jesus is a spiritual act of worship.



Specifically, our giving to help the weak and vulnerable—the widow, the orphan, the poor, the immigrant—is a spiritual act of worship.

**I appeal to you
therefore, brothers, by
the mercies of God, to
present your bodies
as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable
to God, which is your
spiritual worship.**



The Apostle Paul
— Romans 12:1 —



**I hear what you're
saying, but I am
just so worried
about finances...**

Philippians 4

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?



And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.



But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.



**But seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness, and
all these things will be added to you.**

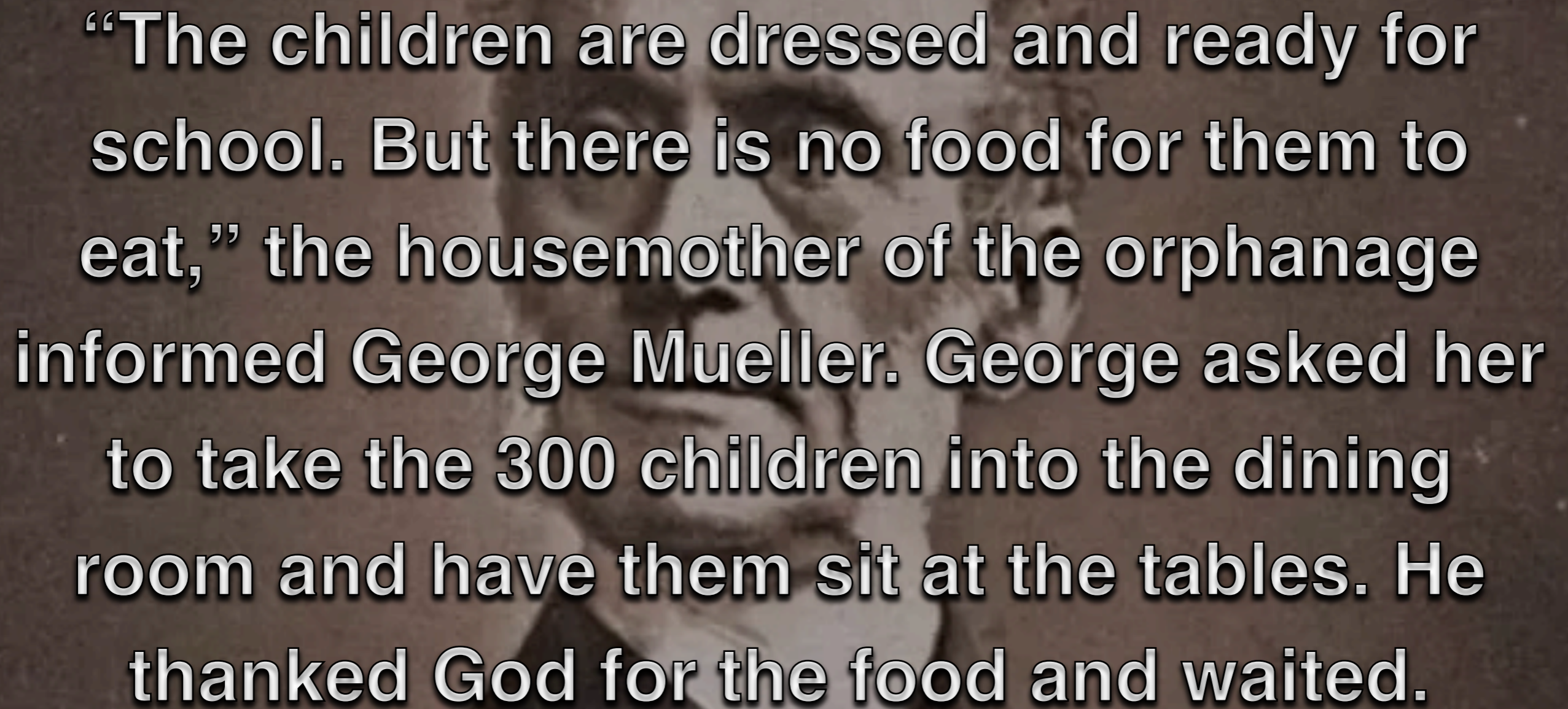
— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Matthew 6:25-33 —



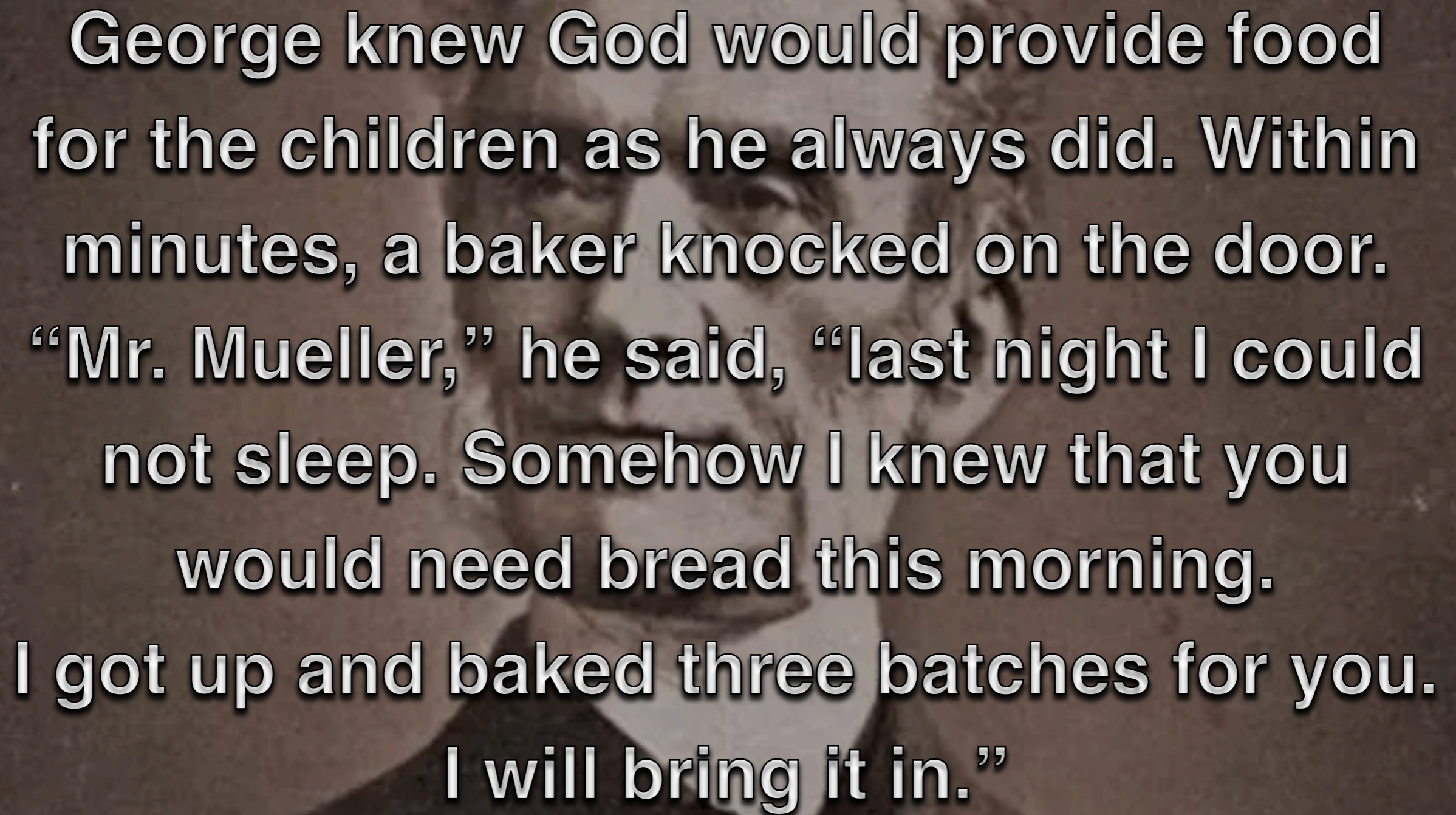
A black and white portrait of George Mueller, an elderly man with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression.

George Mueller 1805-1898

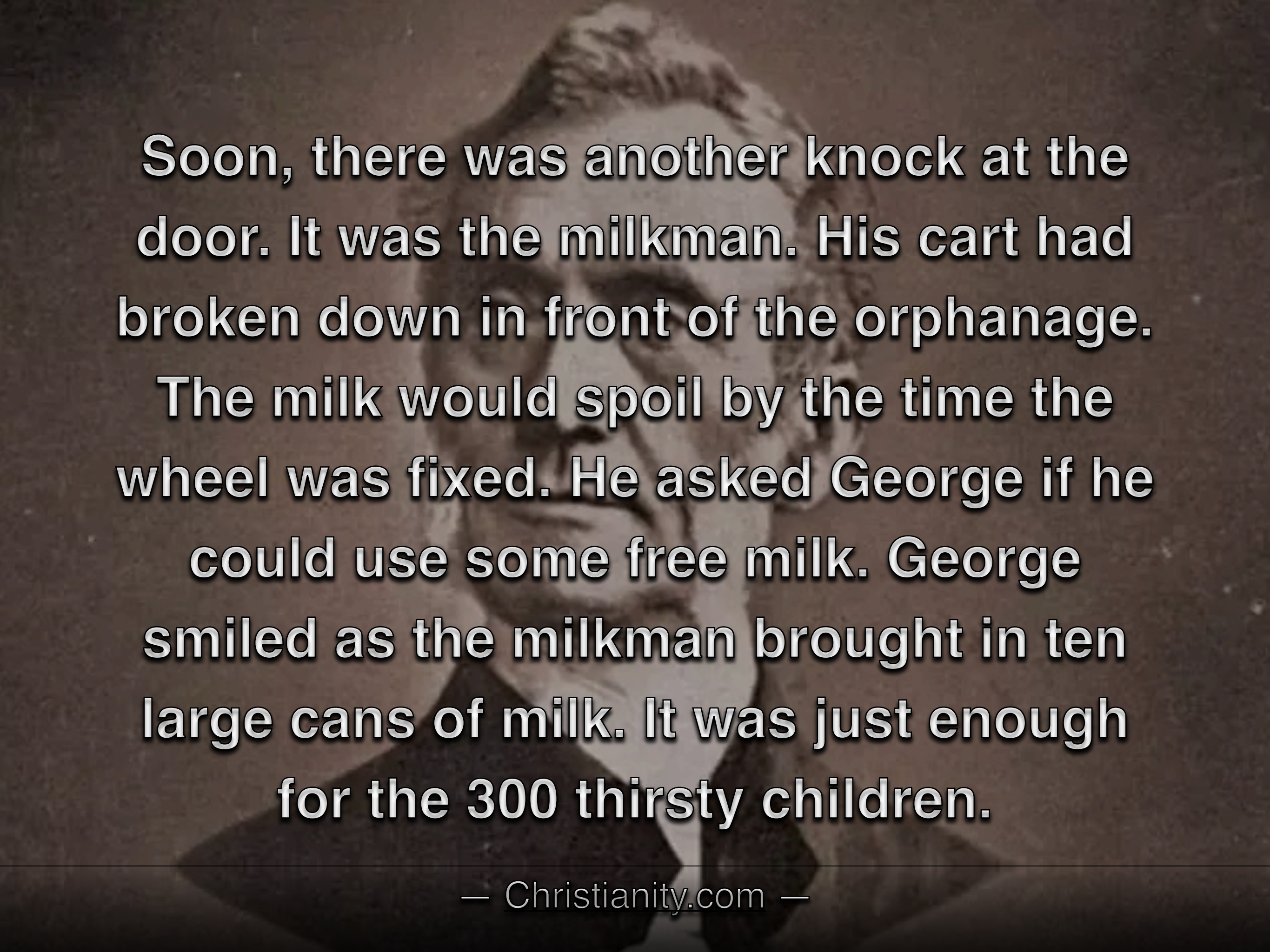
Director of the Ashely Down Orphanage, Bristol England



“The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat,” the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited.



George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. “Mr. Mueller,” he said, “last night I could not sleep. Somehow I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in.”



Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage.

The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.



Let's Study

Philippians

Sinclair B Ferguson

The Philippians were seeking to put the kingdom of God and it's advance first in their lives; that was why they gave so lovingly to Paul.



Let's Study

Philippians

Sinclair B Ferguson

Paul was assuring them, on the basis of Jesus' teaching and also out of his own experience that everything they needed would be provided.



Let's Study

Philippians

Sinclair B Ferguson

**Do I really believe
God will supply
what I need if I give
sacrificially?
Or do I always give
in such a way that
sacrifice will be
avoided?**

Philippians 4

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4

19 **And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** 20 **To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Philippians 4

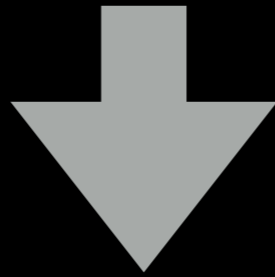
19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4

21 Greet **every saint** in Christ Jesus.



**To all the saints in Christ Jesus
who are at Philippi....**

— Philippians 1:1 —

Greet every ~~Christian~~

Greet every ~~follower of Jesus~~

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus



The term "saint" is the New Testament word for ordinary Christians.

Philippians 4

21 Greet **every saint** in Christ Jesus.
The brothers who are with me greet
you.

Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.... Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother... Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas... and Jesus who is called Justus. Epaphras, a servant of Christ Jesus... Luke the beloved Physician greets you, as does Demas.

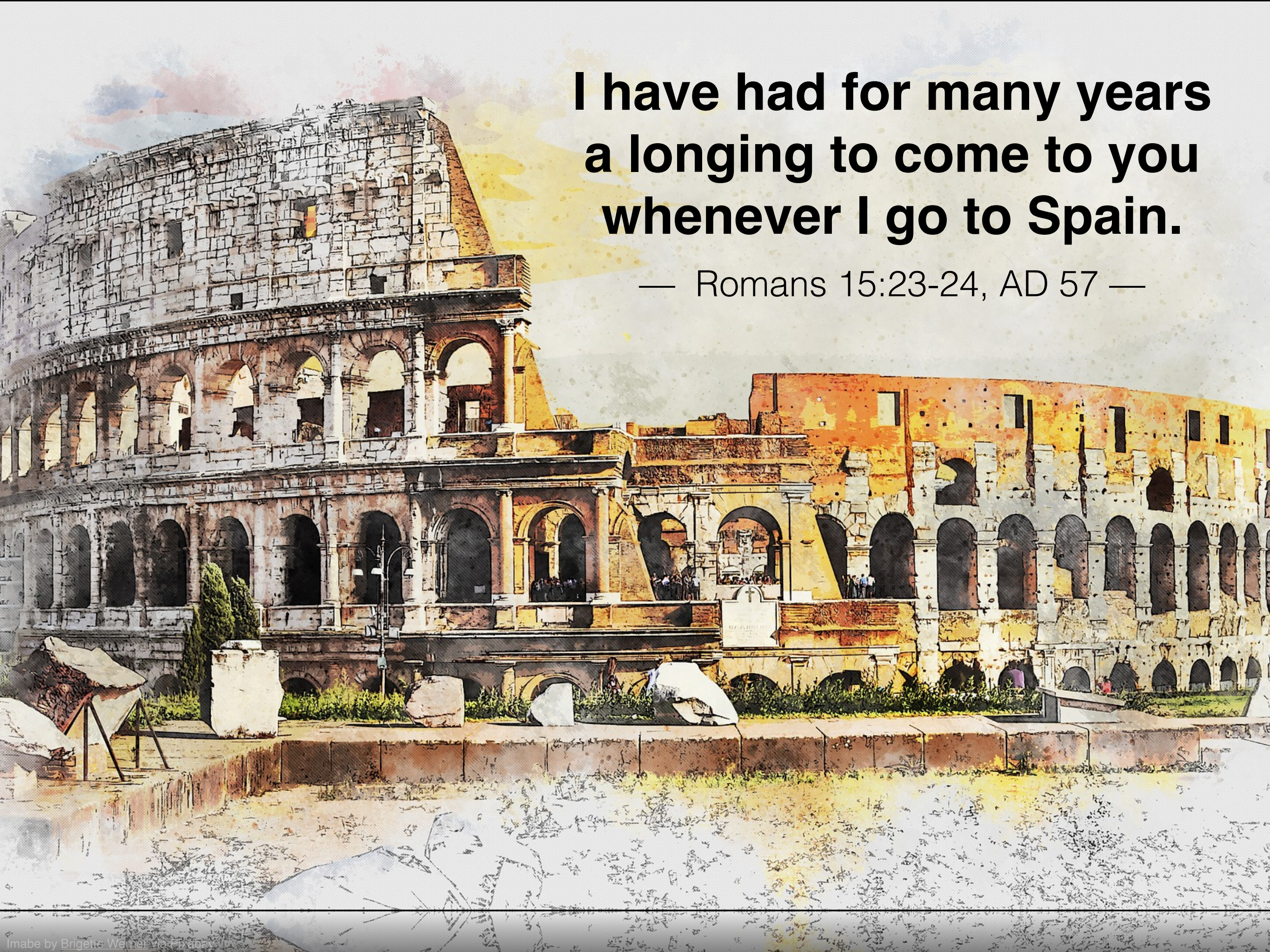
— Paul's Final Greetings to the Colossians (4: 7ff) —

Philippians 4

21 Greet **every saint** in Christ Jesus.
The brothers who are with me greet
you. 22 **All the saints** greet you.....,

**Greet Prisca and Aquila...Mary...
Andronicus and Junia.... Greet
Apelles.... Greet the family of
Aristobulus. Greet my kinsman
Herodian. Greet those in the Lord who
belong to the family of Narcissus...
Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the
beloved Persis..., Rufus..., Philogus,
Julia, Nereus and his sister, and
Olympas, and all the saints who
are with them.**

— Paul's Final Greetings to the Romans 16 —



**I have had for many years
a longing to come to you
whenever I go to Spain.**

— Romans 15:23-24, AD 57 —

Philippians 4

22 All the saints greet you, especially those from Caesar's household.



**I want you to know,
brothers, that what
has happened to me
has really served to
advance the gospel,
so that it has become
known throughout the
whole imperial guard
and to all the rest that
my imprisonment is
for Christ.**

— Philippians 1:12 —



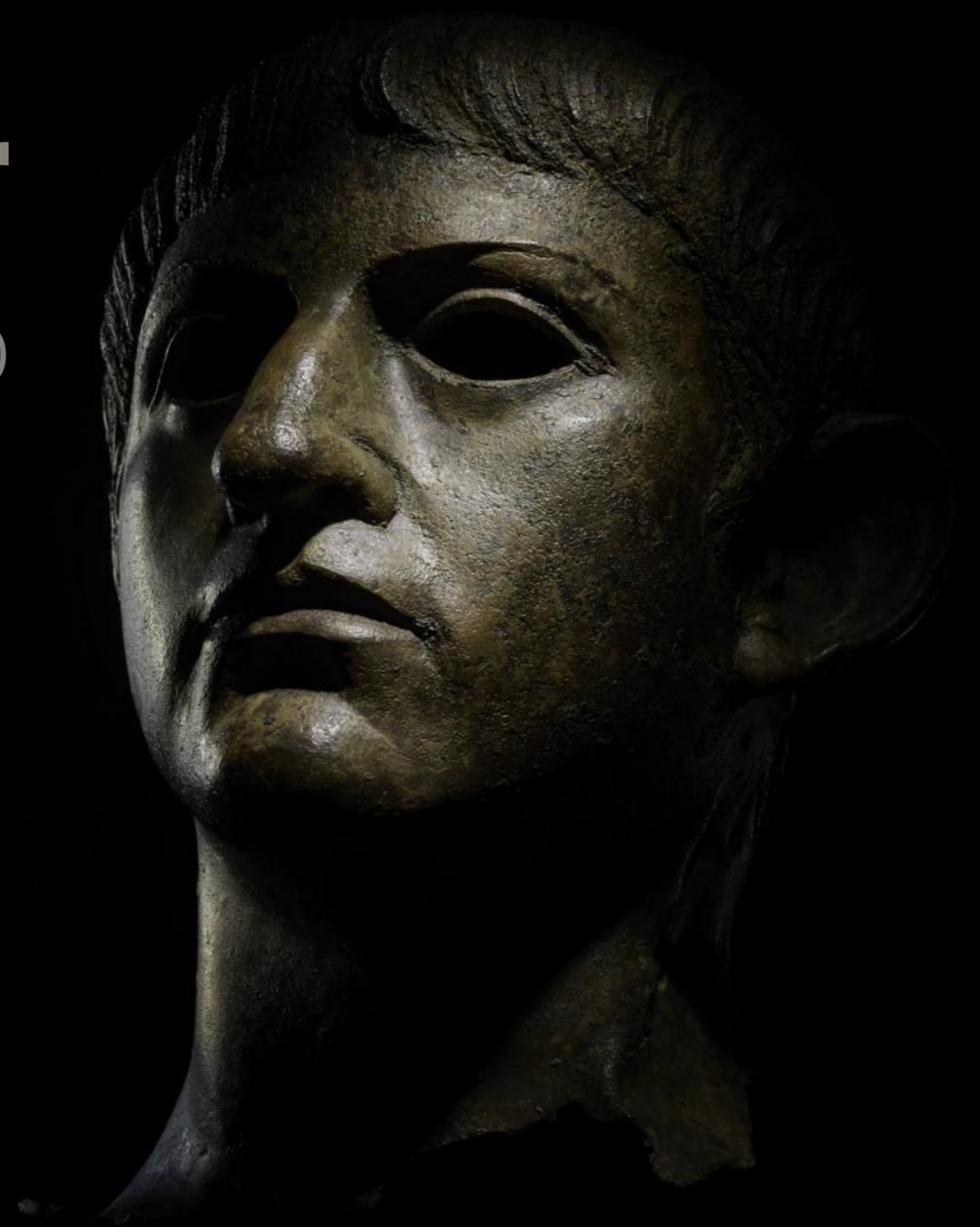
The Imperial Guard was a unit of some 9,000 soldiers trusted with the task of guarding the Roman Emperor & his palace.

Nero Ceasar

Roman Emperor 54-68AD

**All the saints greet you,
especially those from
Caesar's household.**

— Philippians 4:22 —





**For all the saints,
Who from their labors rest
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed
Alleluia, Alleluia**



**Thou wast their rock
their fortress and their might
Thou, Lord, their captain,
in the well fought fight
Thou, in the darkness drear,
their one true Light. Alleluia, Alleluia**

— Williams Walsham How, 1864) —



Philippians 4

**23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit.**

Philippians 4

**23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit.**

1:1 To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are
at Philippi... Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



So, MHC, as we say “Goodbye” to Paul and the Philippians, it’s okay if you’re feeling a little emotional or sentimental. Our time with them has been so transformational.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying outwards. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

**May God supply your every
need as you seek first
Christ and His kingdom!**