



A Psalm for All Seasons

Week 8: The Spirit for a New Year
Psalm 121 (Psalm of Ascent)

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, December 29, 2024

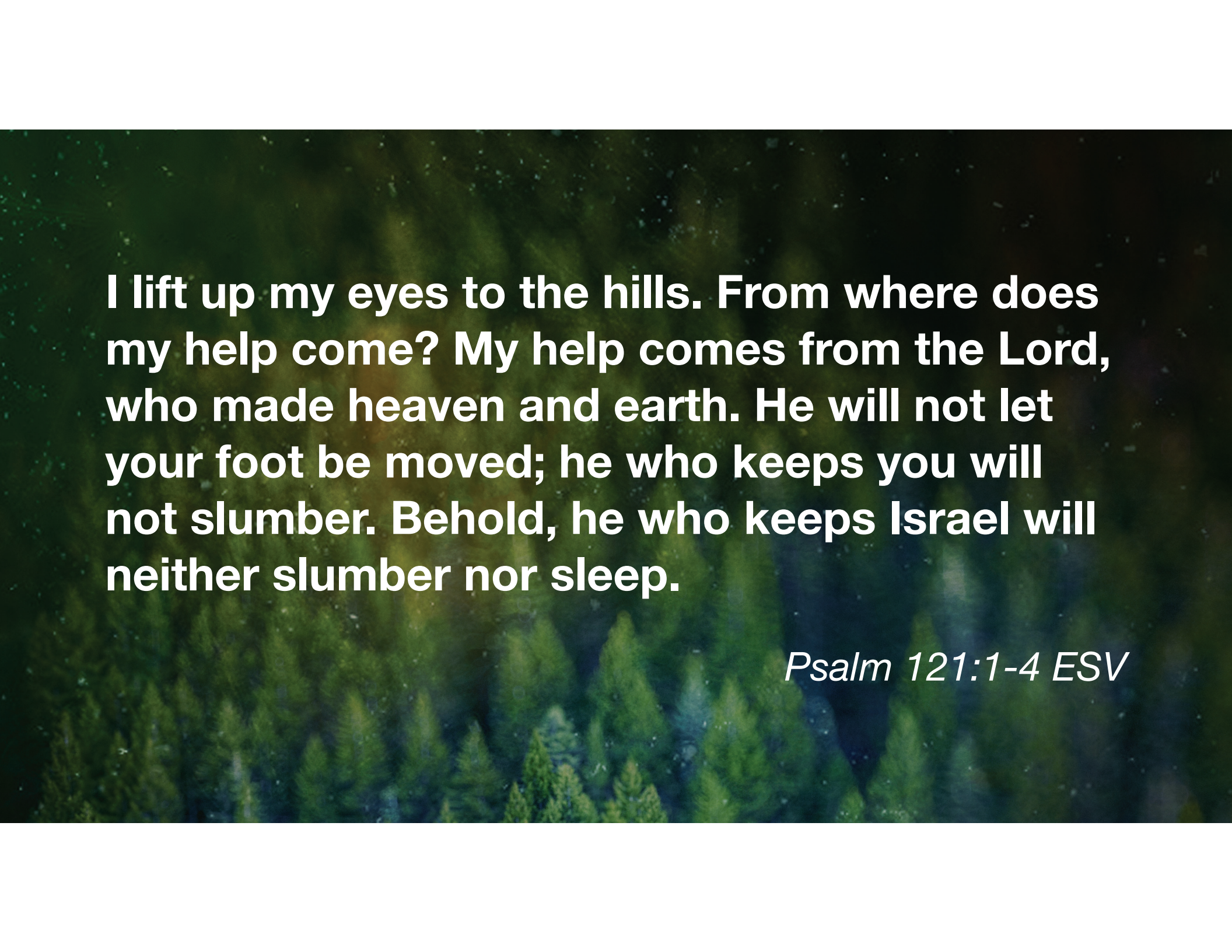
An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant green glow. The sky above is dark and filled with numerous stars, suggesting a clear night sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

I will **extol you**, my God and King, and
bless your name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:1 ESV


An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest. The trees are a mix of dark green and lighter green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The overall scene is serene and natural.

**Psalms are Songs of Praise for
Gathered Worship**



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 121:1-4 ESV



The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121:5-8 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are dark green and densely packed. A bright, starburst light effect is visible in the upper left quadrant, illuminating the surrounding trees. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

Psalm 121: God's Provision & Providence

The Spirit for a New Year!



Providence - omnisciently directing the universe and the affairs of humankind with wise benevolence.

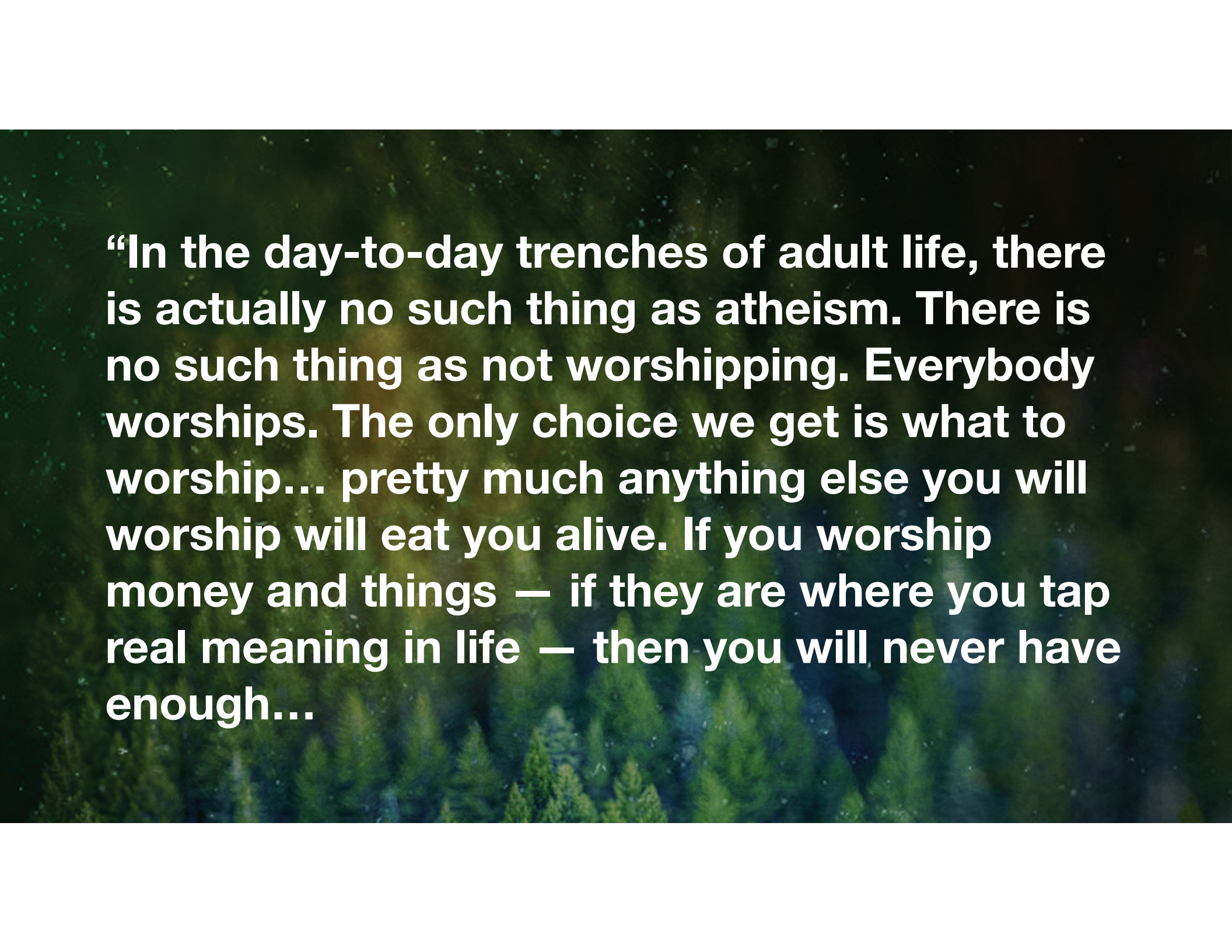
“There are two biblical designations for people of faith that are extremely useful: disciple and pilgrim. Disciple says we are people who spend our lives apprenticed to our master, Jesus Christ... Pilgrim tells us that we are people who spend our lives going someplace, going to God, and whose path for getting there is the way, Jesus Christ.”

*Eugene Peterson,
Theologian*

Introduction: Declaration of Allegiance to God

I lift up my eyes to the **hills**. From where does my **help** come? My **help** comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2 ESV



“In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship... pretty much anything else you will worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things — if they are where you tap real meaning in life — then you will never have enough...”

Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million different deaths before they finally plant you...Worship power — you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart — you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.”

David Foster Wallace

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, likely a coniferous forest, with a river or stream winding through the center. The trees are a deep green color, and the water is a dark blue-grey. The overall scene is somewhat dark and moody.

Hills: The mountainous region of Judea

Help: The competent one who comes
alongside the one in need



God's Provision & Providence are
Perpetual (v.3-4), **Protective** (v.5-6),
and **Pervasive** (v.7-8)

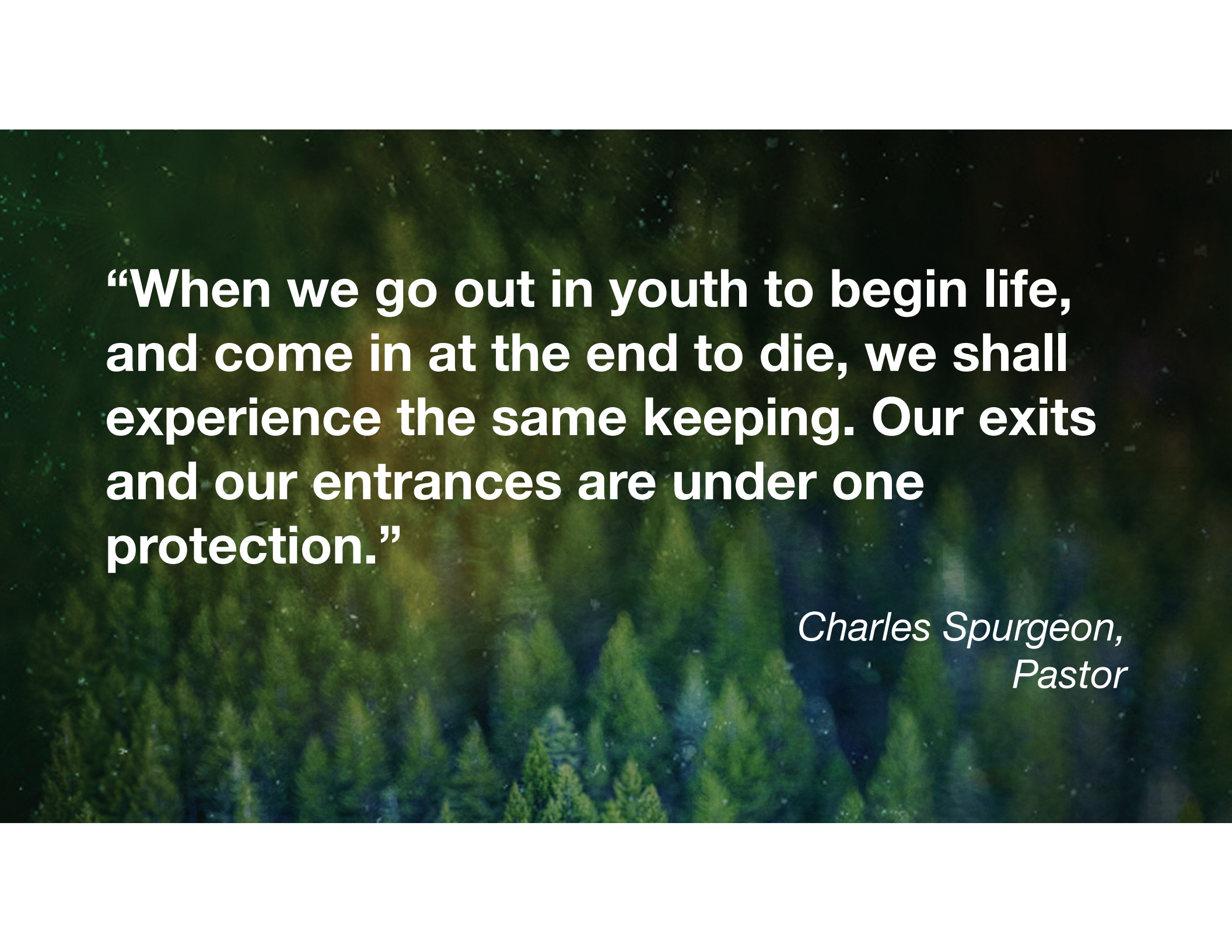
1. God's Provision & Providence are **Perpetual**

He will not let your foot be moved; he who **keeps** you will not slumber. Behold, he who **keeps** Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 121:3-4 ESV

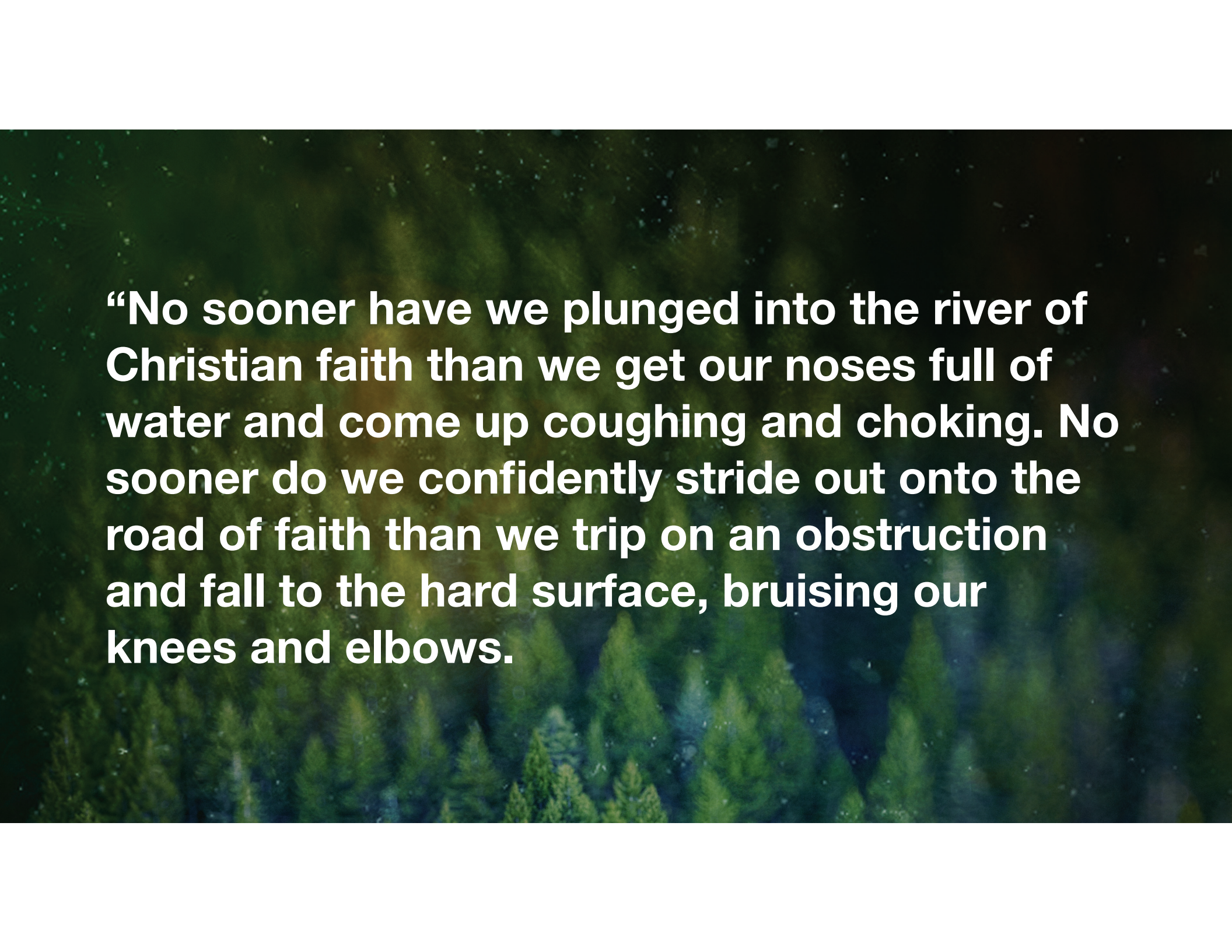
An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant green glow. The sky above is dark and filled with numerous bright stars, suggesting a clear night sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Keep: preserve, watch, maintain in
safety from injury and harm

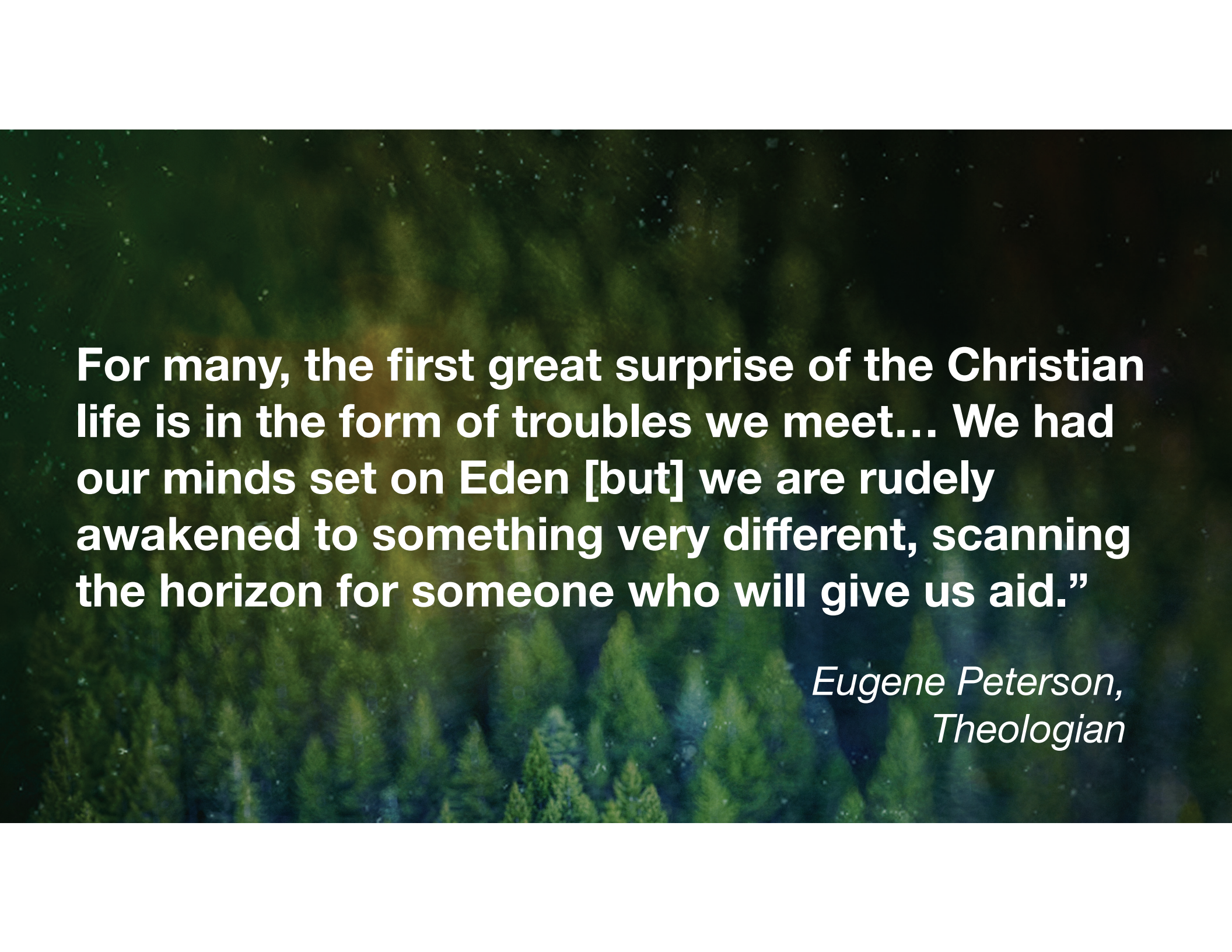


**“When we go out in youth to begin life,
and come in at the end to die, we shall
experience the same keeping. Our exits
and our entrances are under one
protection.”**

*Charles Spurgeon,
Pastor*

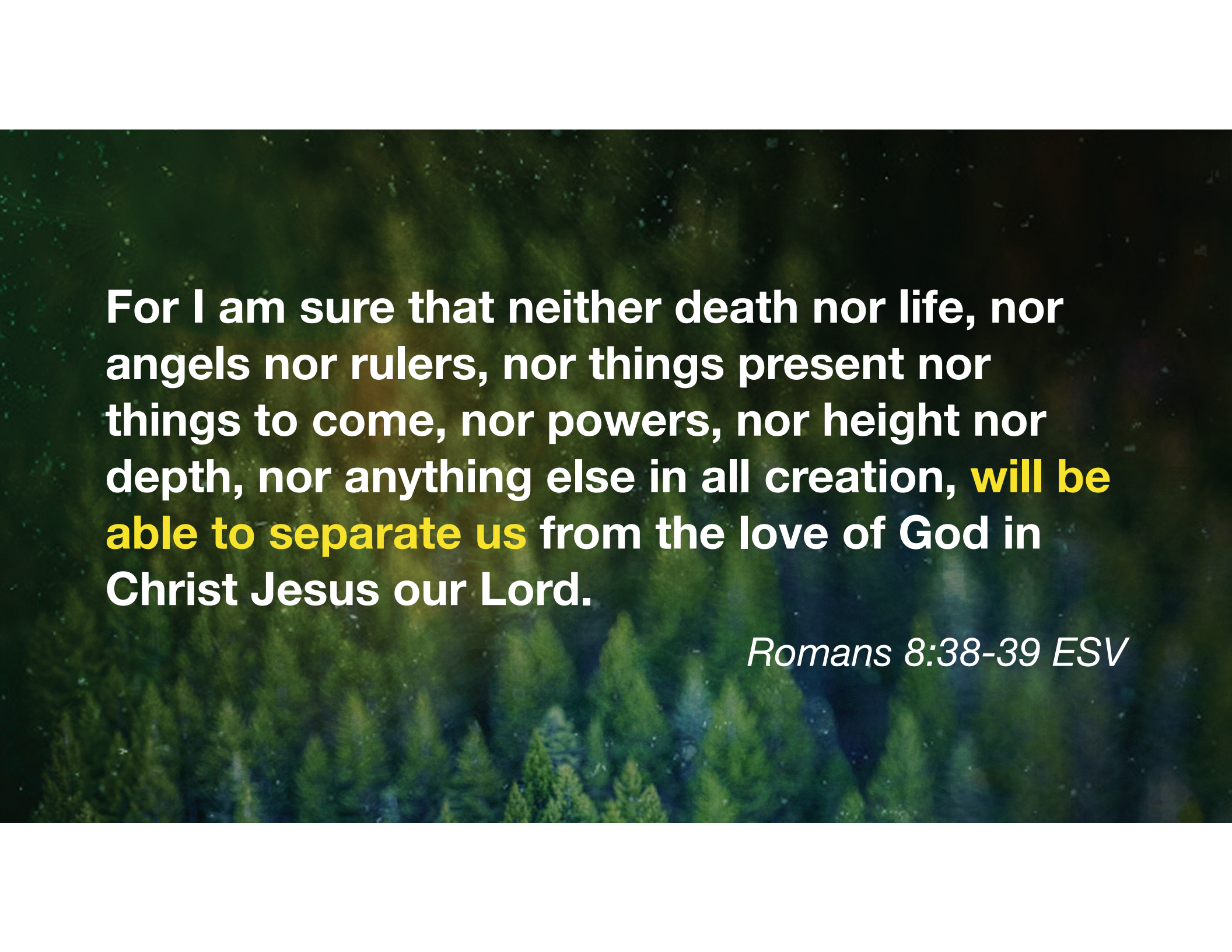


“No sooner have we plunged into the river of Christian faith than we get our noses full of water and come up coughing and choking. No sooner do we confidently stride out onto the road of faith than we trip on an obstruction and fall to the hard surface, bruising our knees and elbows.



For many, the first great surprise of the Christian life is in the form of troubles we meet... We had our minds set on Eden [but] we are rudely awakened to something very different, scanning the horizon for someone who will give us aid.”

*Eugene Peterson,
Theologian*



For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us** from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 ESV

2. God's Provision and Protection are **Protective**

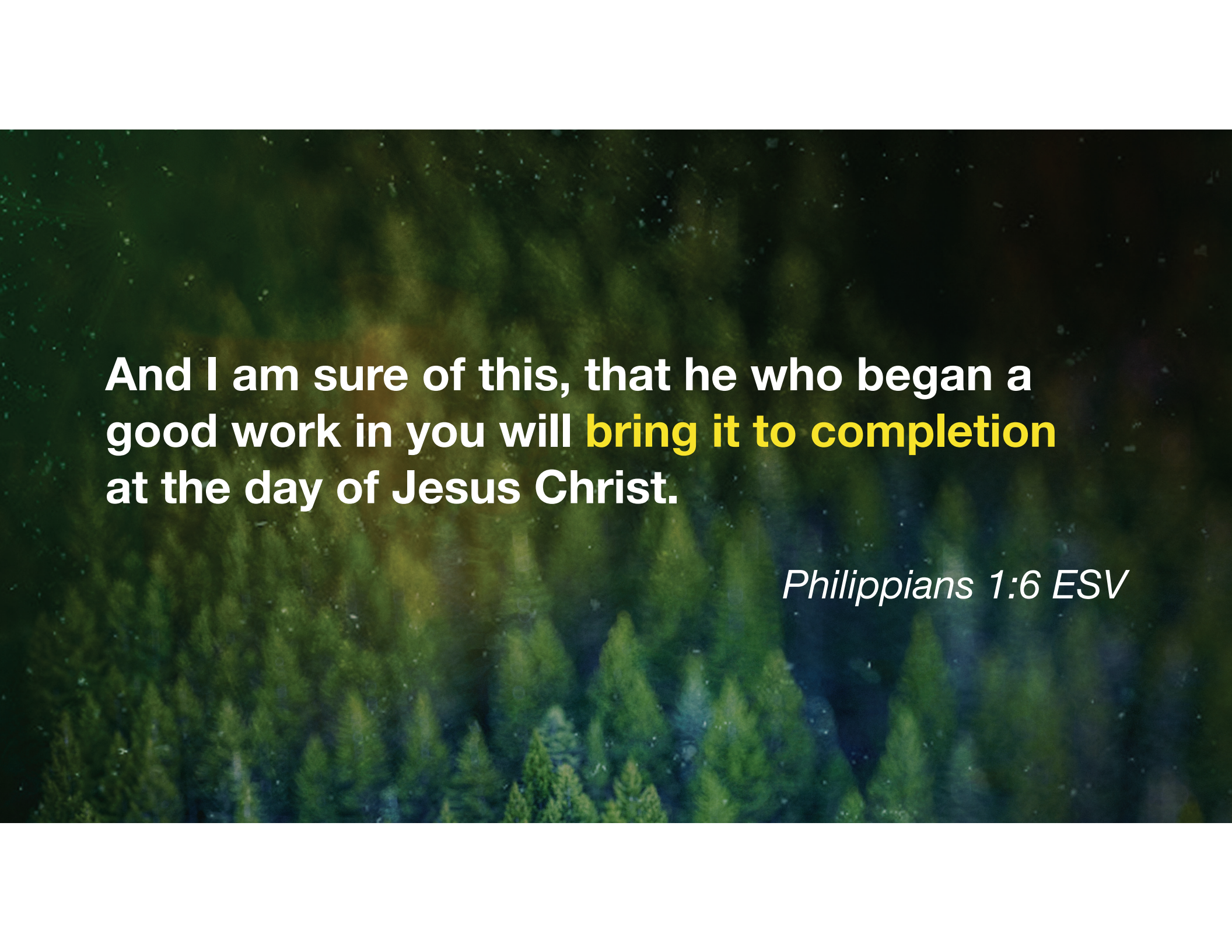
The Lord is your **keeper**; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Psalm 121:5-6 ESV

3. God's Provision and Protection are **Pervasive**

The Lord will **keep** you from all evil; he will **keep** your life. The Lord will **keep** your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121:7-8 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow that contrasts with the dark, starry sky above. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the forest canopy.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will **bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 ESV



God's Provision & Providence is:

- Perpetual**
- Protective**
- Pervasive**

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant green and blue glow. The sky above is dark and filled with numerous bright stars, suggesting a clear night. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

1. Trust God

2. Set Goals for the Future

The heart of **man plans** his way,
but the **Lord establishes** his steps.

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

Instead you ought to say, “**If the Lord wills,**
we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:15 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant green and blue glow. The sky above is dark with numerous stars visible, suggesting a clear night. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

3. Serve the Lord with Boldness

God's Provision & Providence is:

- **Perpetual**
- **Protective**
- **Pervasive**

Application:

- **Trust God**
- **Set Goals for the Future**
- **Serve God with Boldness**