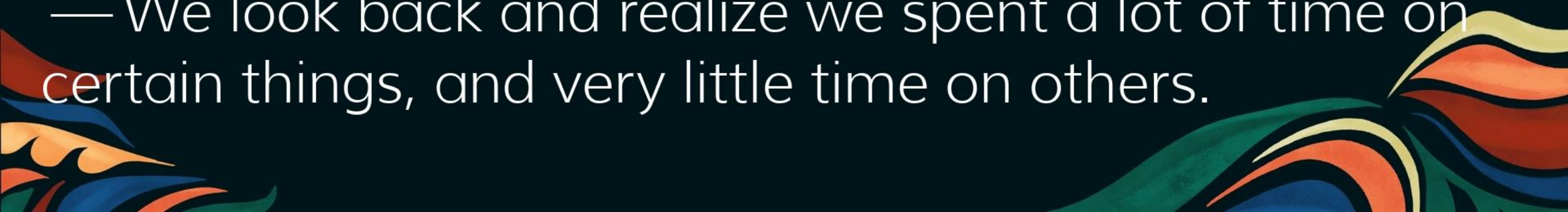


Our conflicted relationship with time -

— We sense from birth that God is eternal, and we are finite.

— We live under the 'illusion' that we have plenty of time to do what we want to do.

— We look back and realize we spent a lot of time on certain things, and very little time on others.



⁴² And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

Luke 12:42–43

ESV



²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and where
thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your
treasure is, there your heart will be also.

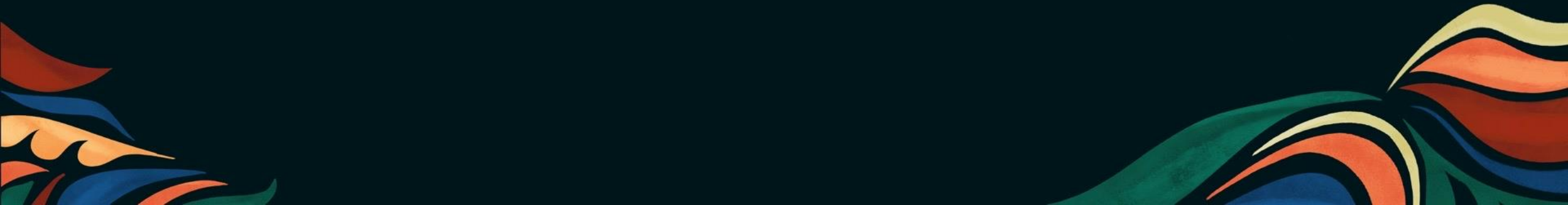
Matthew 6:20–21

ESV



Main Point-

The passing of time may be neutral, but the way we invest time is never neutral. As Christians, we get a head start on eternity now.



²⁰ So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun,
²¹ because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:20–21

ESV



¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 3:11–13

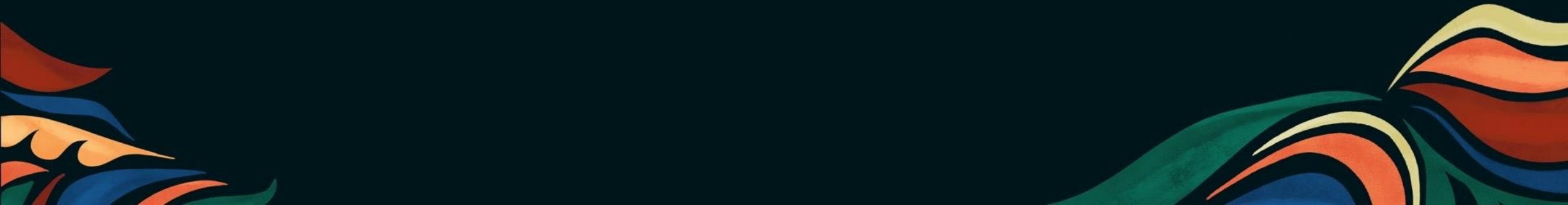
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Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

First Perspective-

We yearn for a sense of God's timing



¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:13–16

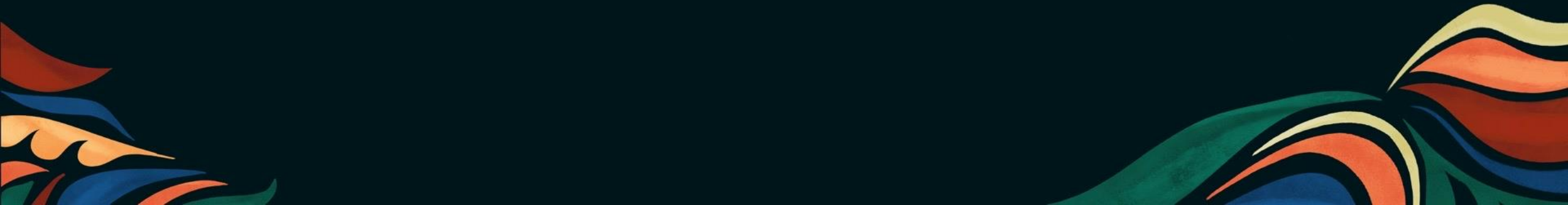
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Ecclesiastes 3:11-15

Second Perspective-

We must choose by faith what to do with the time that we have.



³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:30–31

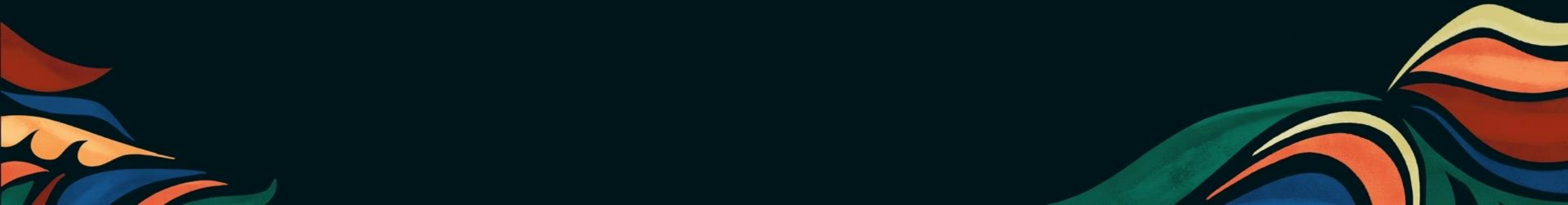
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As Christians, everything in our lives falls under the following:

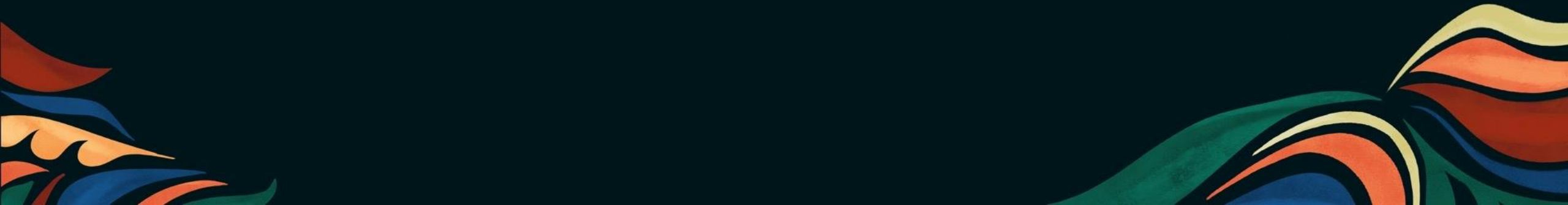
- Becoming more like Jesus ourselves
- Helping others become followers of Jesus
- Helping other Christians become more like Jesus

How we spend the time we have is never neutral!



Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

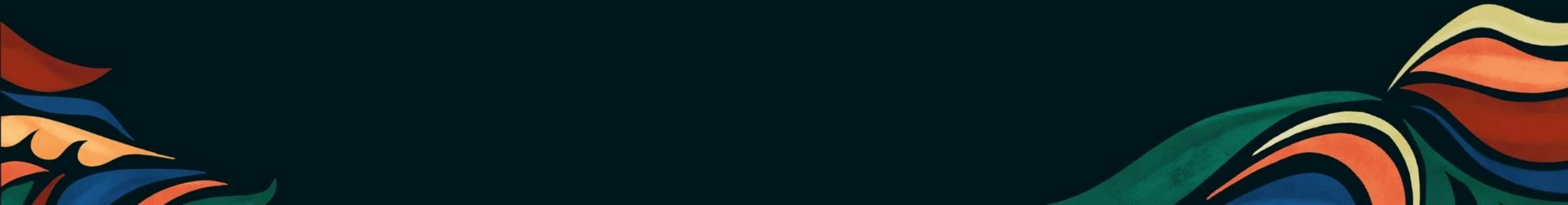
Third Perspective- The cry of "Unfair!"



Where is our hope?

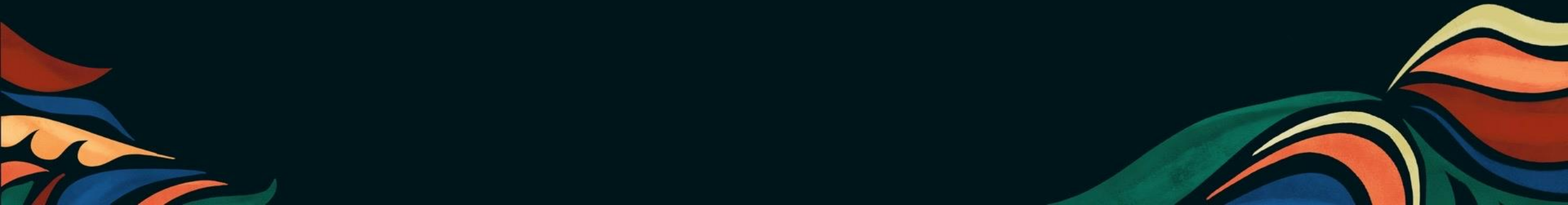
“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me though he dies, yet will he live. And he who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26



Our hope is in the promise, *“my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19*

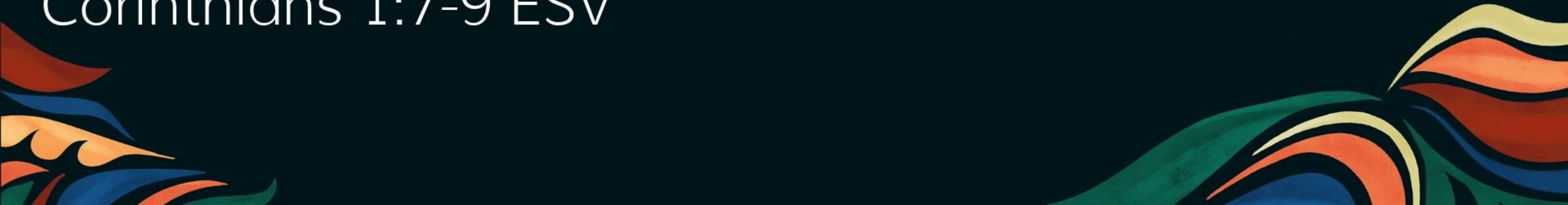
Our hope is in the truth that God has given us a pattern of work and rest- when we honor him in that pattern, He will refresh us.



Our hope is in the truth that He is the sustainer of our lives — He is faithful and trustworthy:

so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1

Corinthians 1:7-9 ESV



Our hope is in the plans God has made for us, not in our plans: (Romans 8:27-28 esv)

[27] And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. [28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

