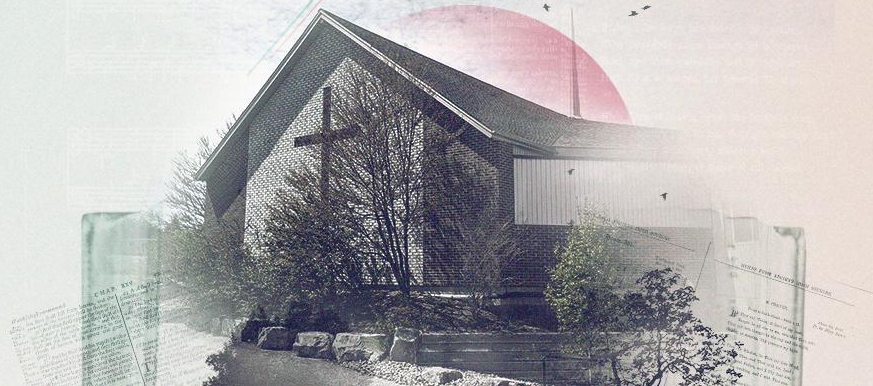
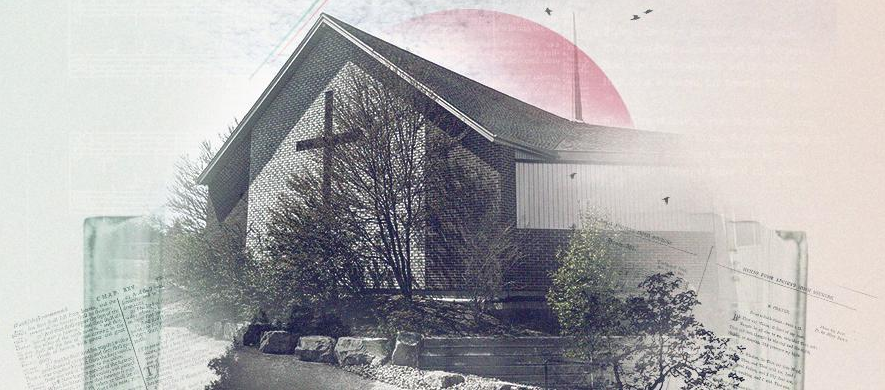


Why Church?



PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS



¹ The word of the LORD came to me:
² “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?’

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

³ You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

You have ruled them harshly and brutally.

⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. ⁶ My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them. ⁷ “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

¹¹ ““For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

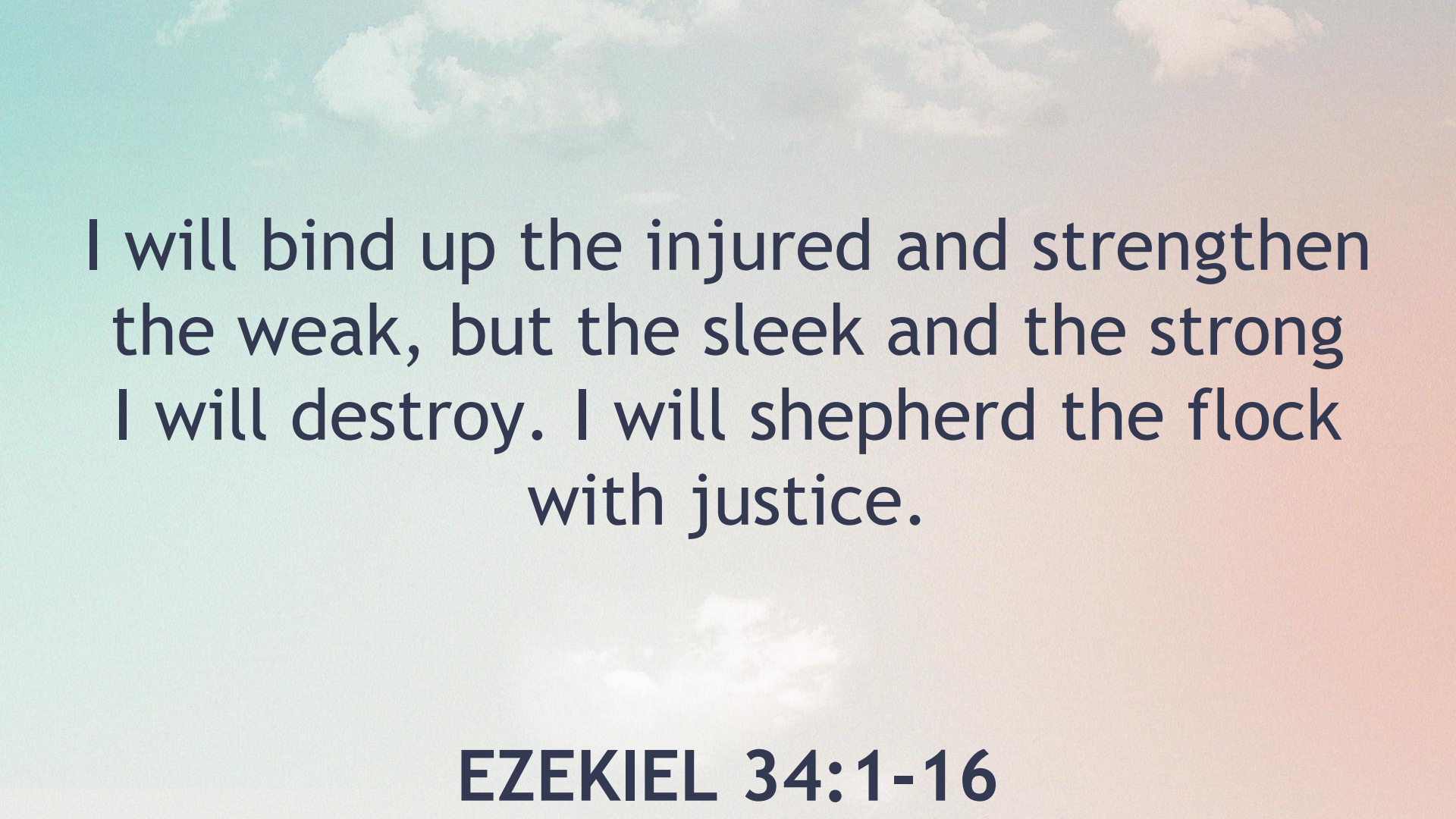
¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

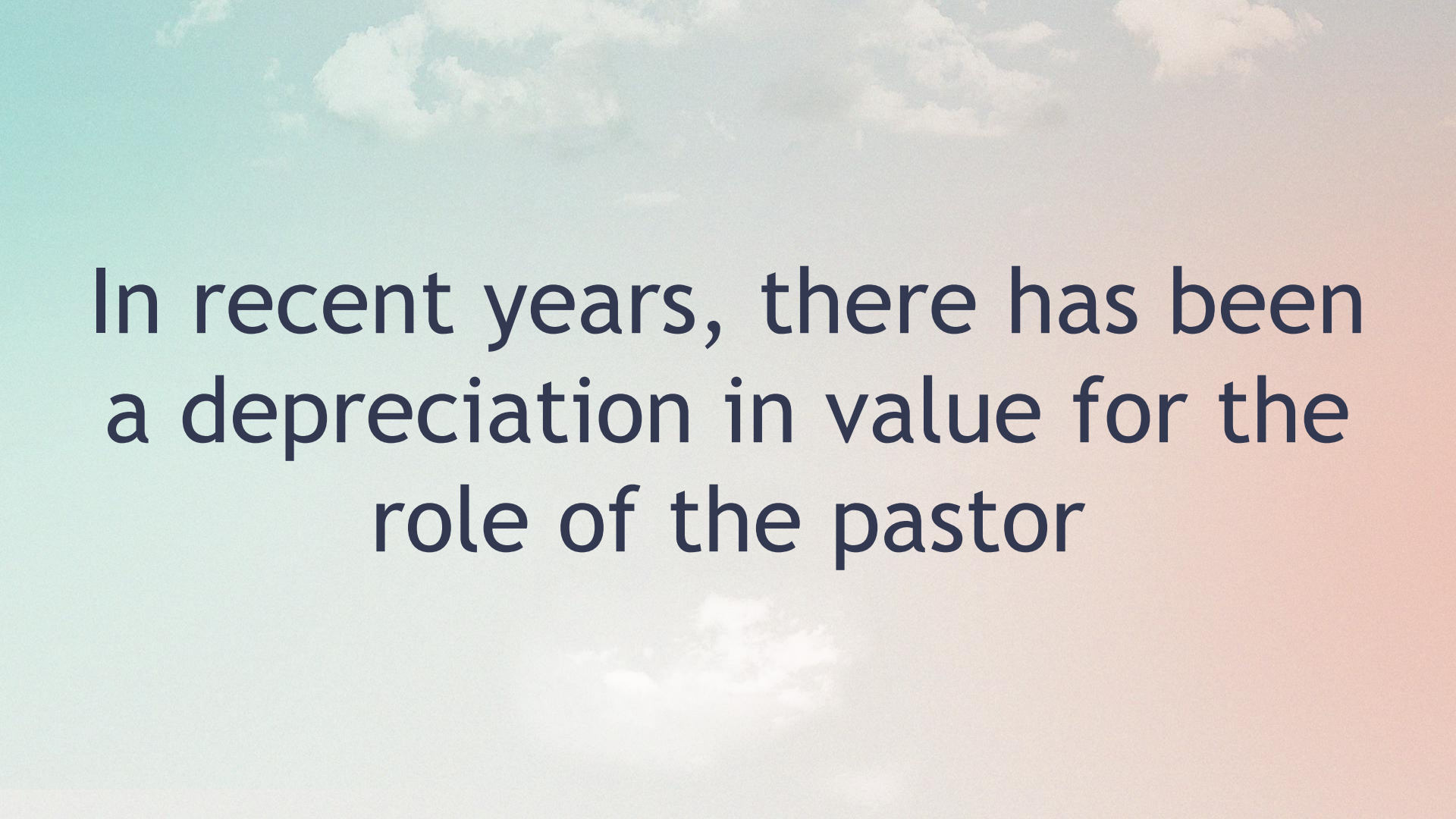
¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

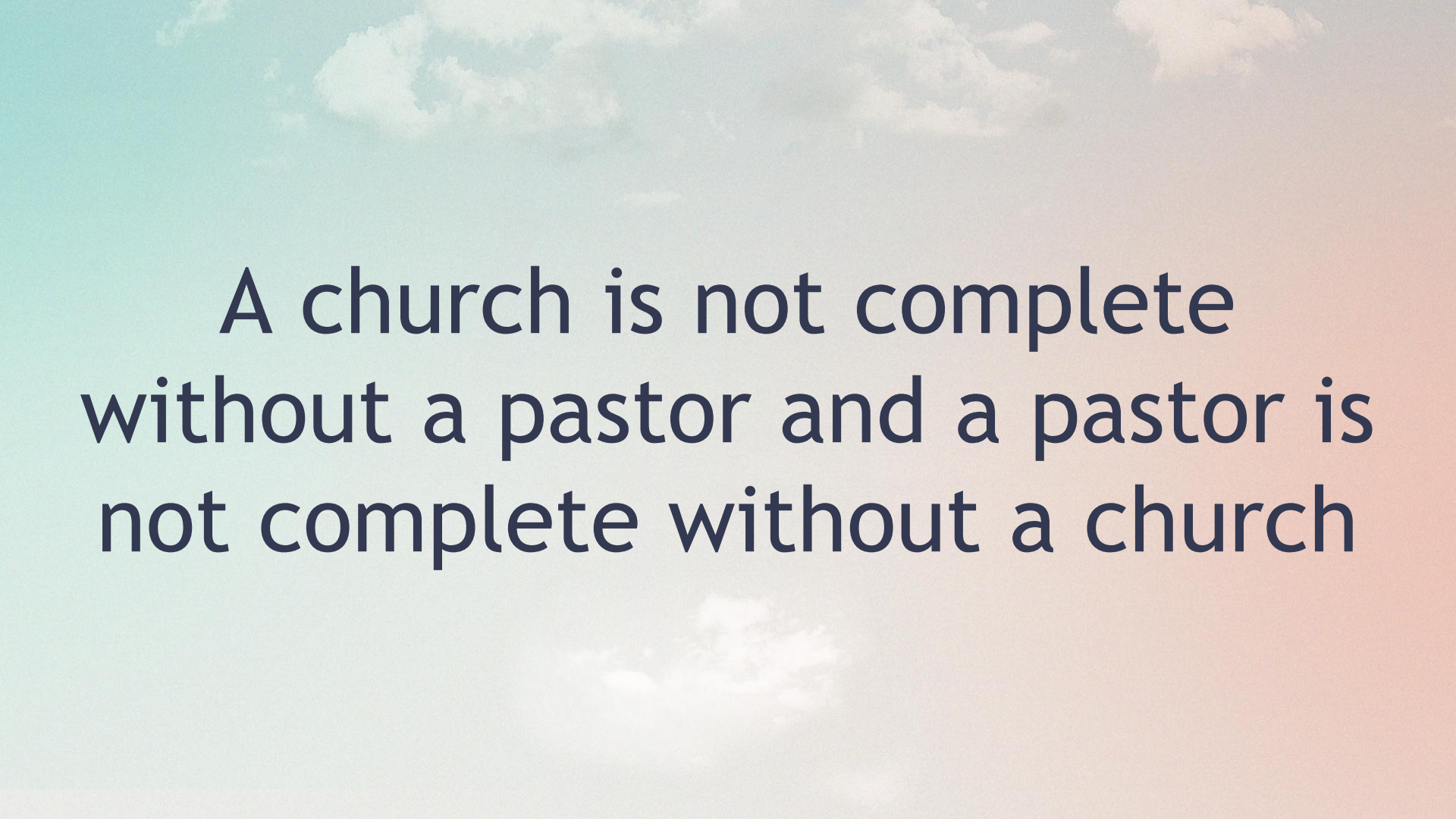


I will bind up the injured and strengthen
the weak, but the sleek and the strong
I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock
with justice.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

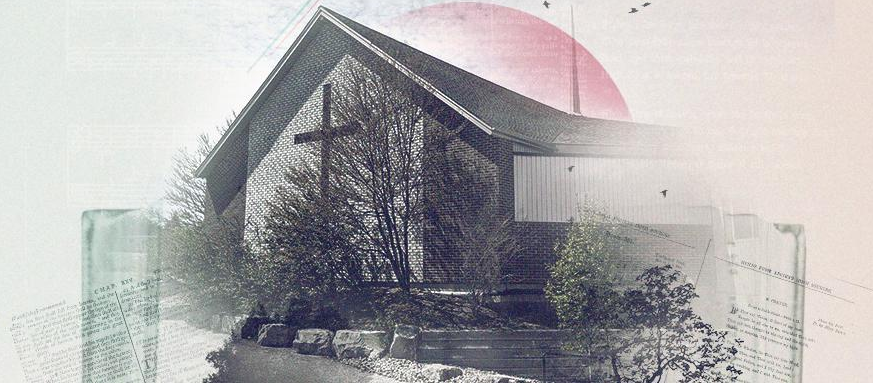


In recent years, there has been
a depreciation in value for the
role of the pastor



A church is not complete
without a pastor and a pastor is
not complete without a church

1) A WOE TO SHEPHERDS



¹ The word of the LORD came to me:
² “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves!’

EZEKIEL 34:1-6

Should not shepherds take care of the flock? ³ You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured.

EZEKIEL 34:1-6

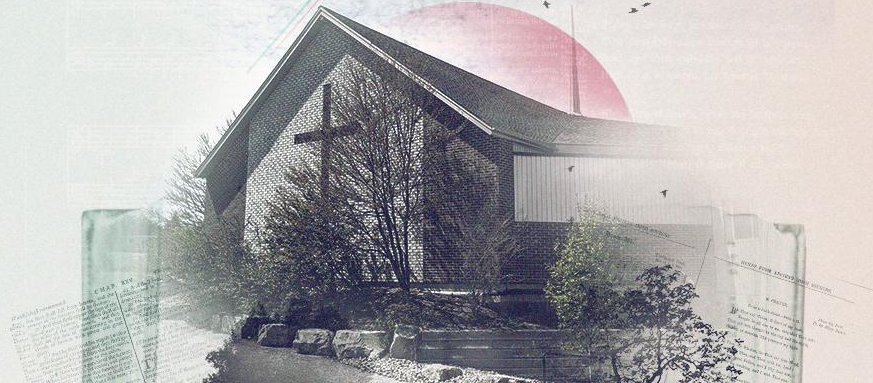
You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. ⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.

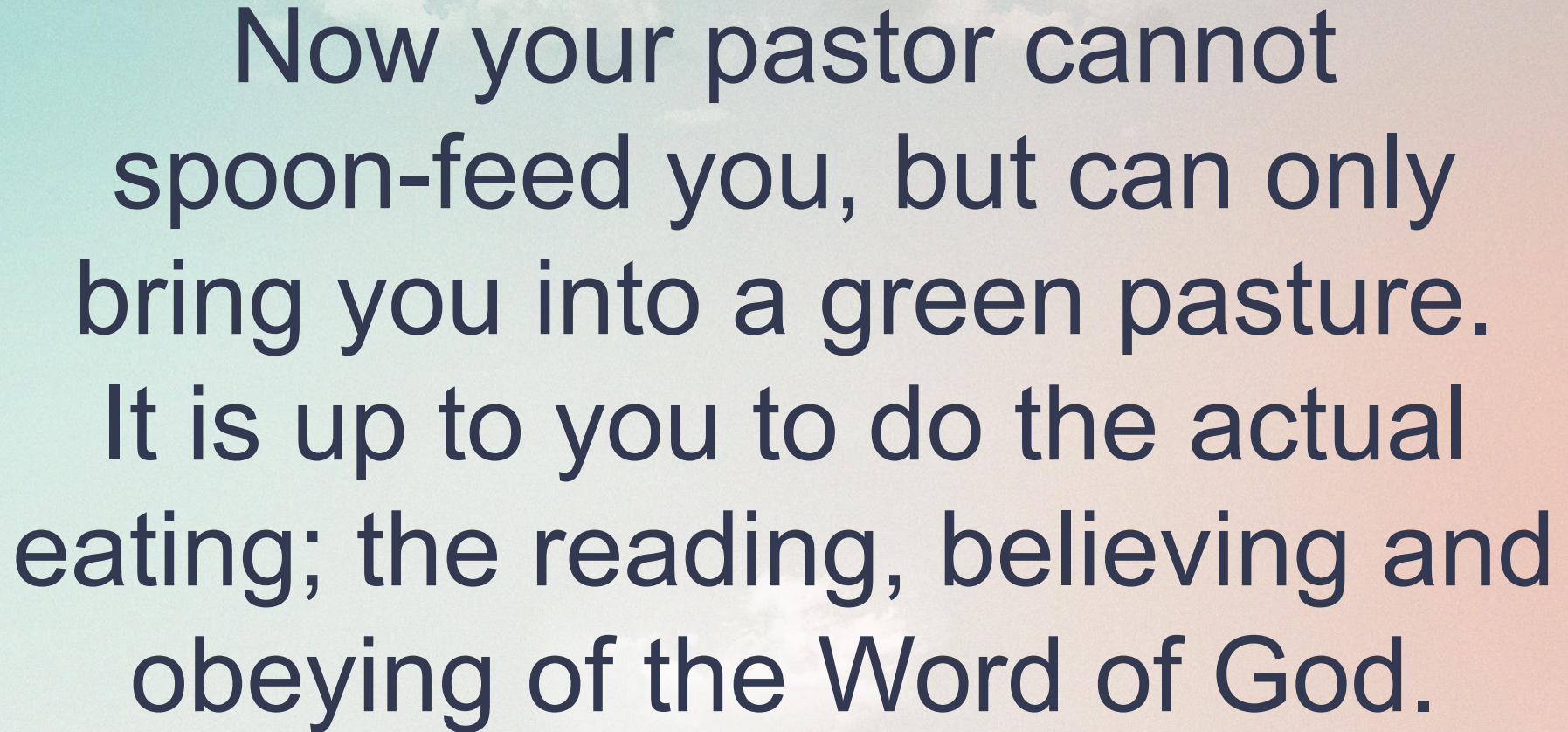
EZEKIEL 34:1-6

⁶ My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

EZEKIEL 34:1-16

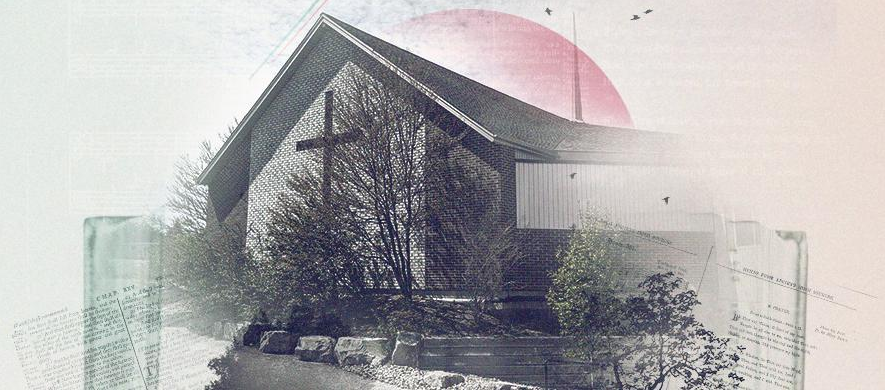
A) A WOE FOR NEGLECTING SHEEP





Now your pastor cannot spoon-feed you, but can only bring you into a green pasture. It is up to you to do the actual eating; the reading, believing and obeying of the Word of God.

B) A WOE FOR SCATTERING SHEEP



⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way.

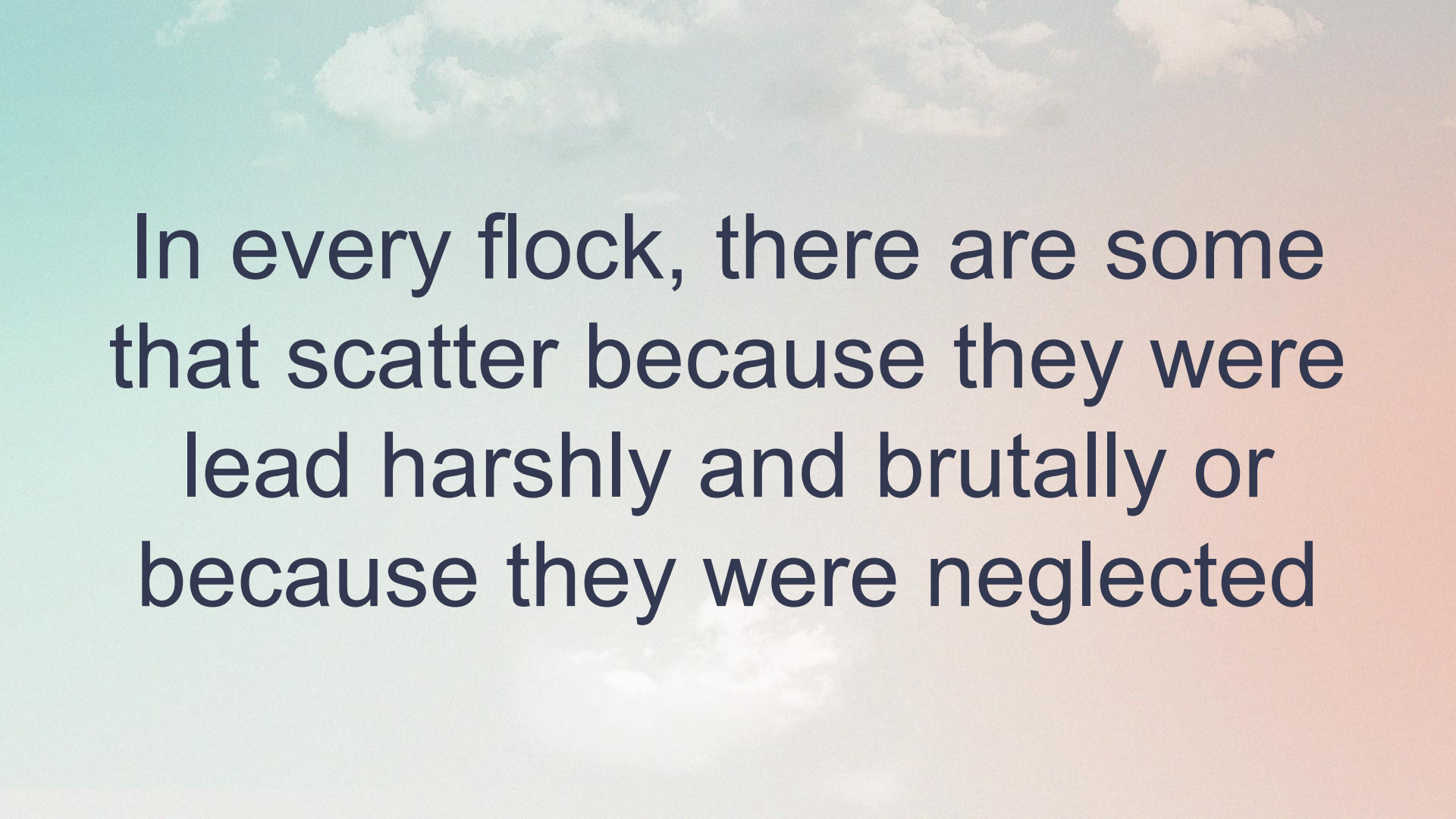
ISAIAH 53:6

⁶ “My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains. They wandered over mountain and hill and forgot their own resting place.

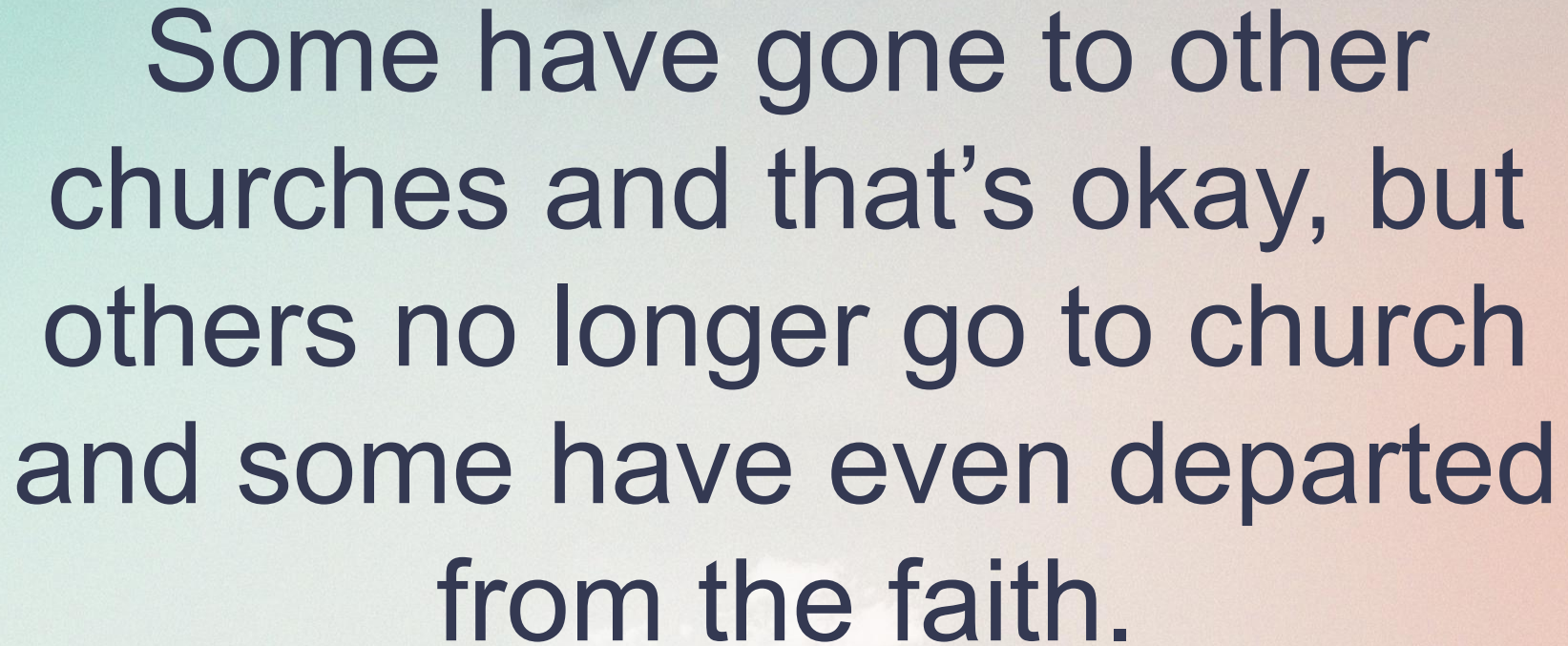
JEREMIAH 50:6-7

⁷ Whoever found them devoured them; their enemies said, ‘We are not guilty, for they sinned against the LORD, their verdant pasture, the LORD, the hope of their ancestors.’

JEREMIAH 50:6-7



In every flock, there are some
that scatter because they were
lead harshly and brutally or
because they were neglected

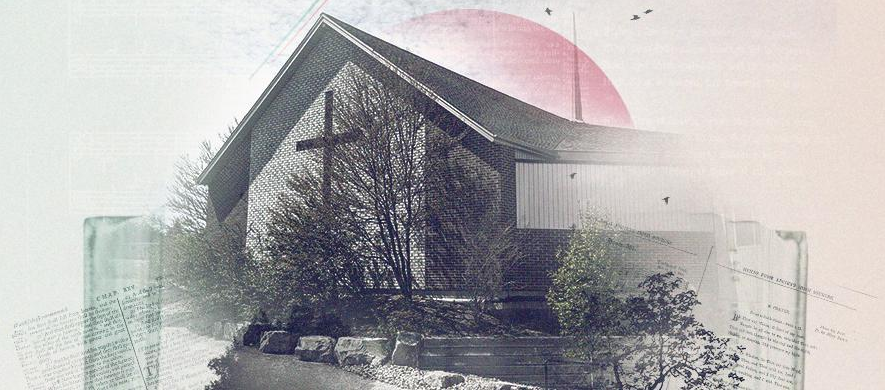


Some have gone to other churches and that's okay, but others no longer go to church and some have even departed from the faith.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

MATTHEW 9:36

2) A WORD FOR SHEPHERDS



7 “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 8 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered plundered and has become food for all the wild animals,

EZEKIEL 34:7-10

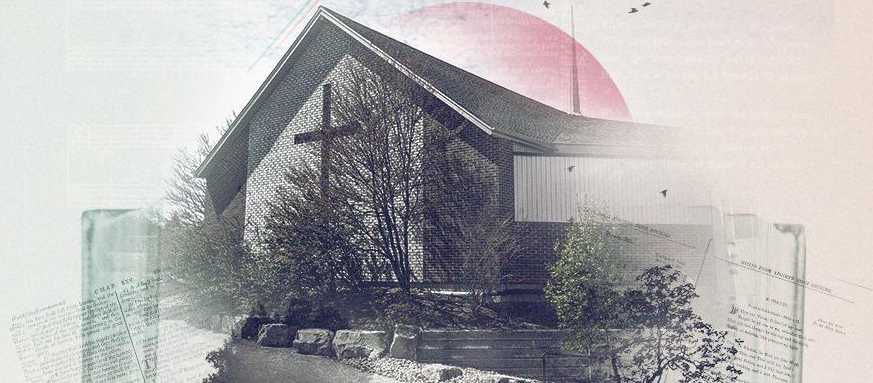
and because my shepherds did not search
for my flock but cared for themselves
rather than for my flock, ⁹ therefore, you
shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:
¹⁰ This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

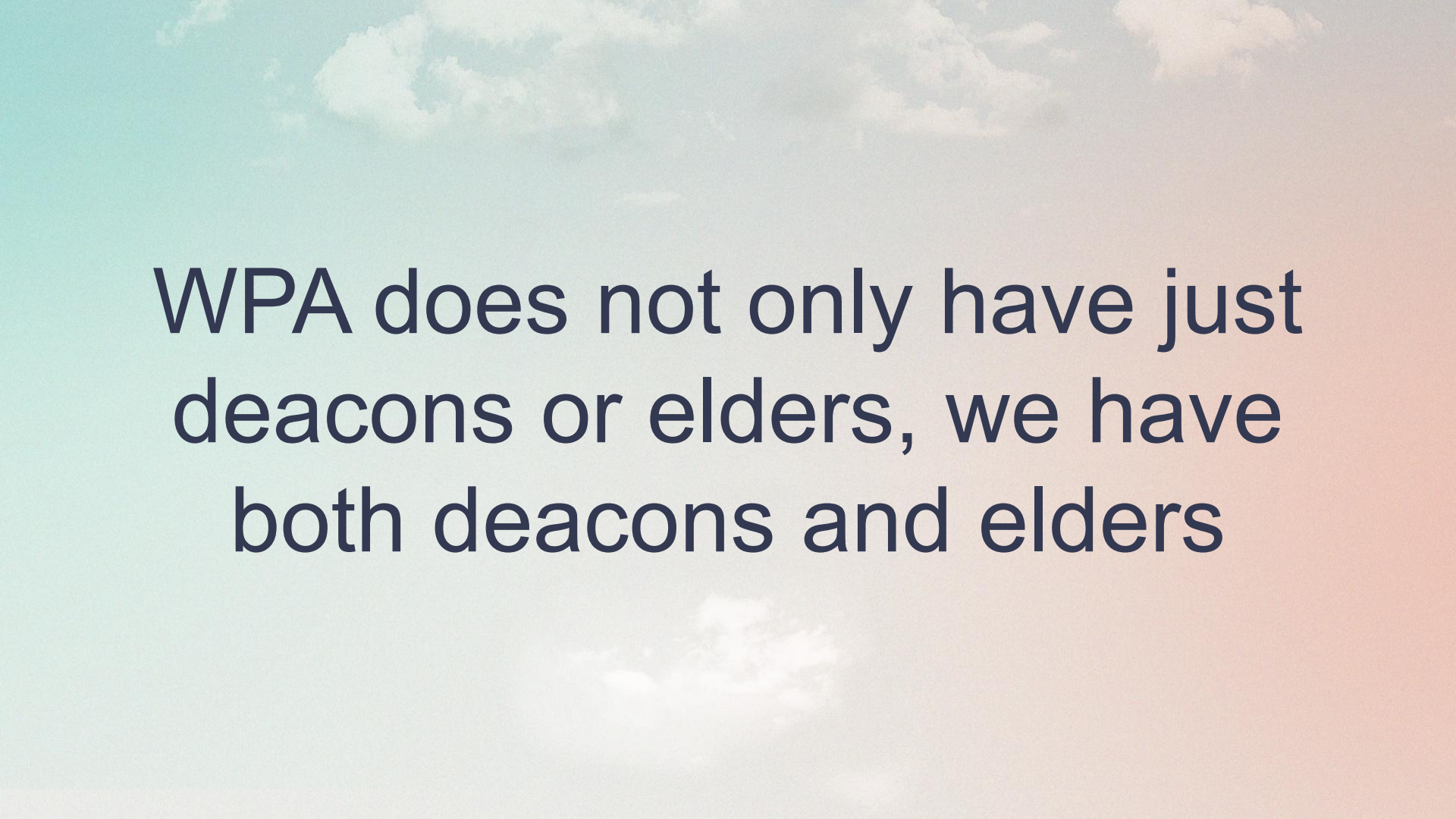
EZEKIEL 34:7-10

I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

EZEKIEL 34:7-10

A) ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE SHEPHERD






WPA does not only have just
deacons or elders, we have
both deacons and elders

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.

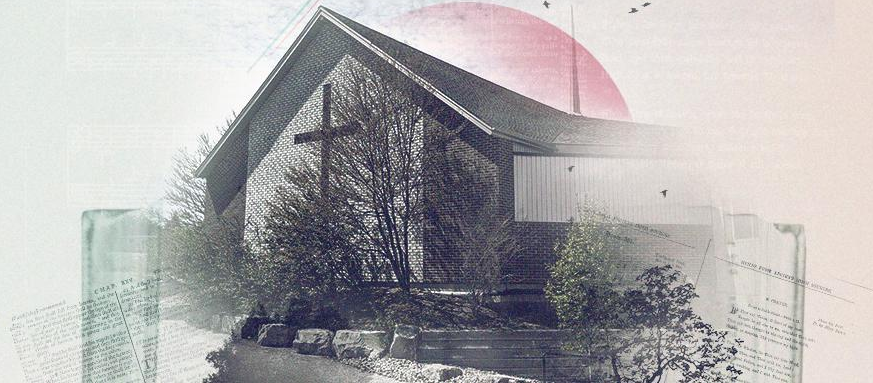
HEBREWS 13:17



³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

HEBREWS 10:31

B) DISCIPLINE OF THE SHEPHERD



¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

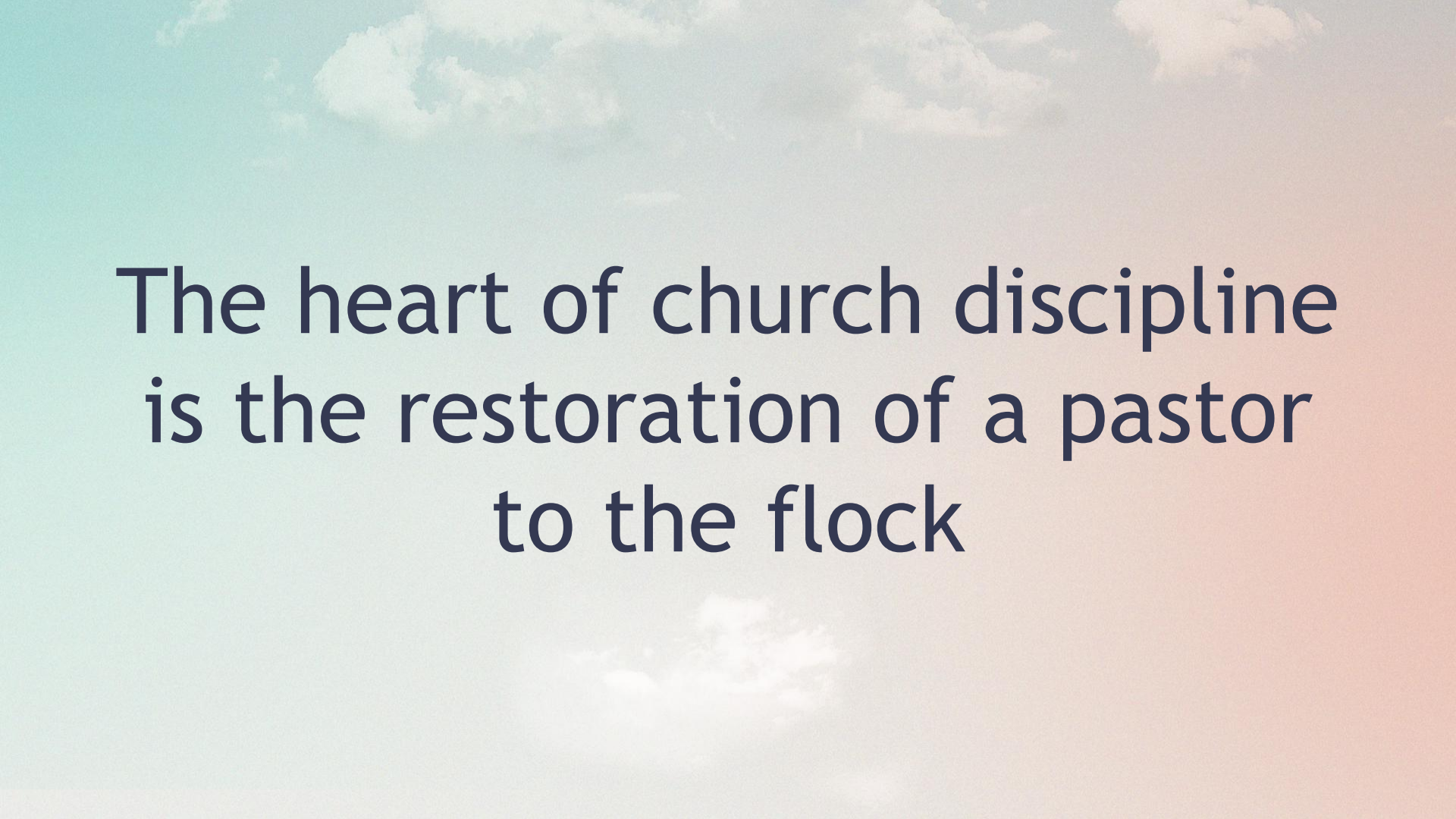
1 TIMOTHY 5:17-21

¹⁹ Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. ²⁰ But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-21

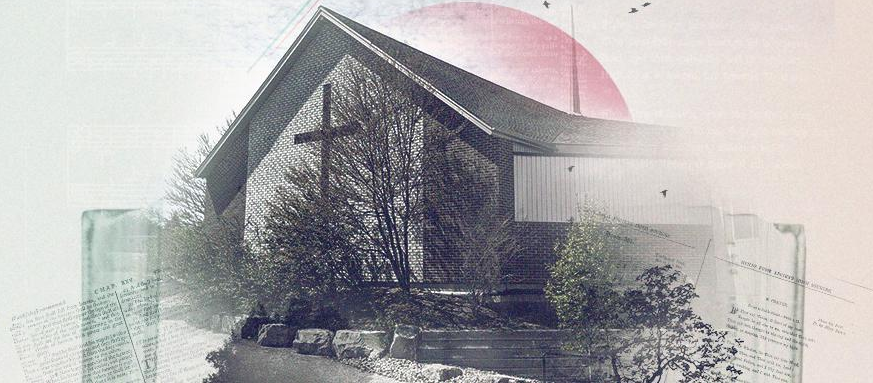
²¹ I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-21



The heart of church discipline
is the restoration of a pastor
to the flock

3) THE CHIEF SHEPHERD



¹¹ ““For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

EZEKIEL 34:11-16

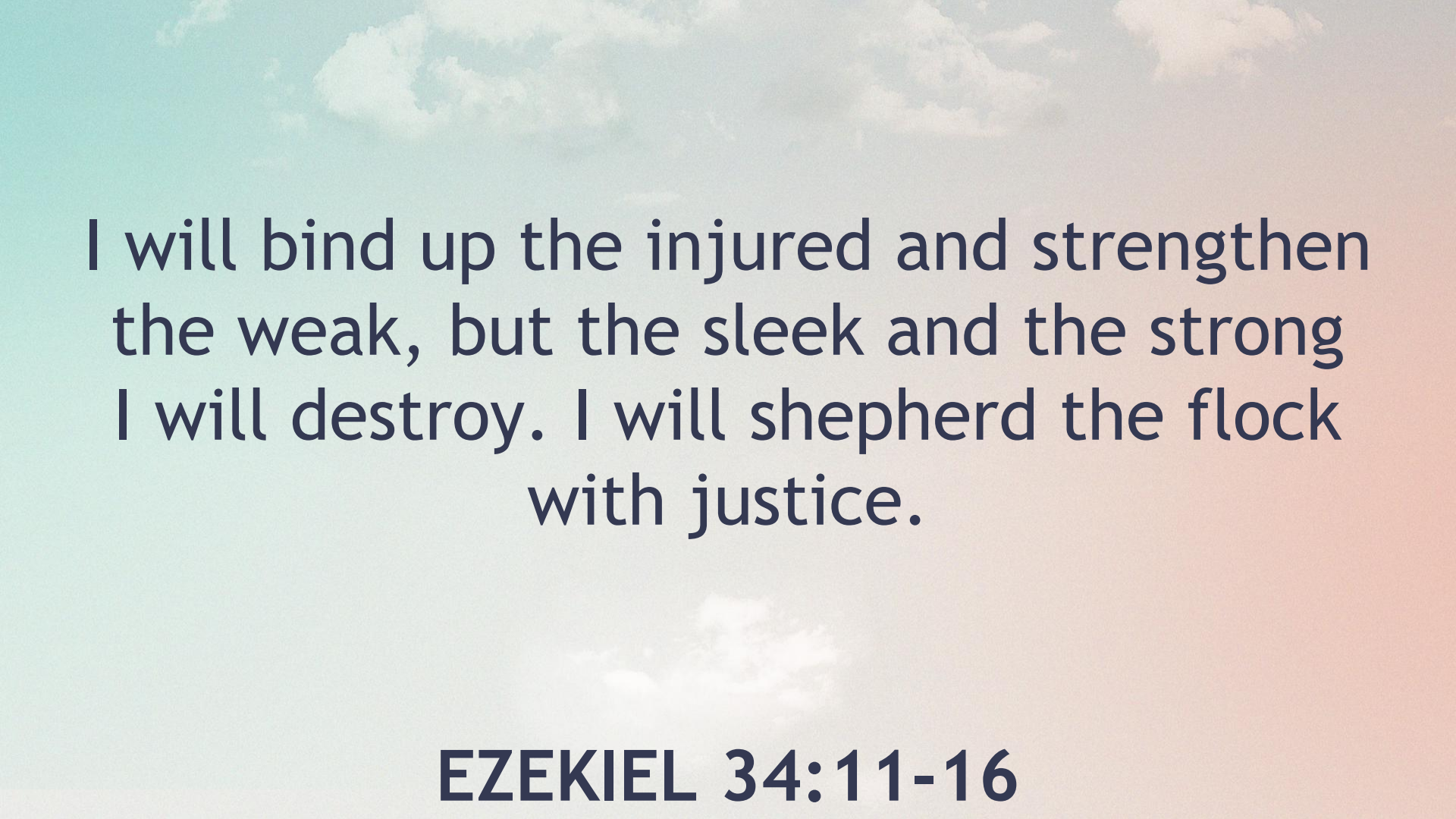
¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

EZEKIEL 34:11-16

There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

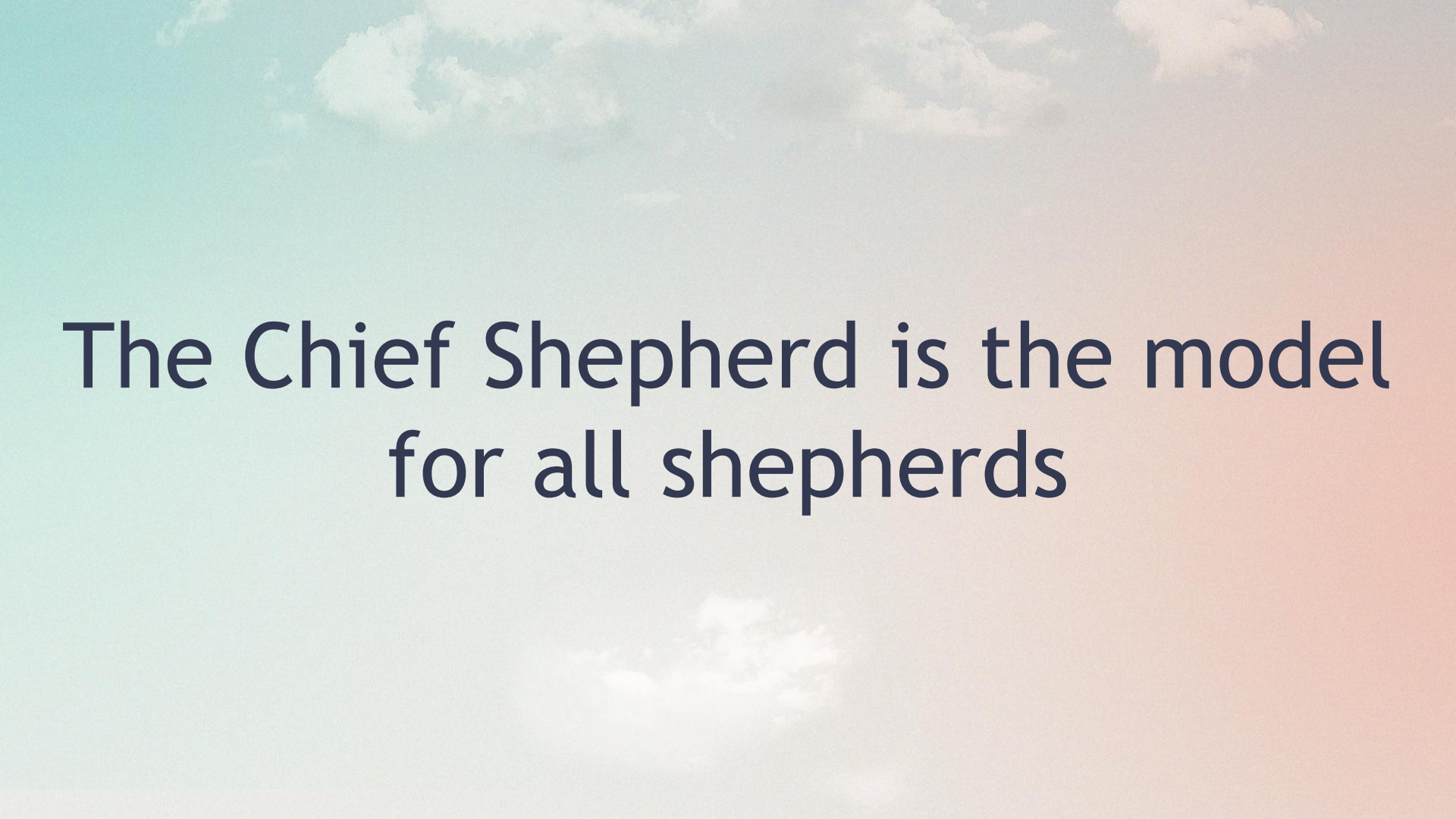
¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.

EZEKIEL 34:11-16



I will bind up the injured and strengthen
the weak, but the sleek and the strong
I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock
with justice.

EZEKIEL 34:11-16



The Chief Shepherd is the model
for all shepherds

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

JOHN 10:11-16

¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

JOHN 10:11-16

¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

JOHN 10:11-16

A) RESCUE THE SHEEP



4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

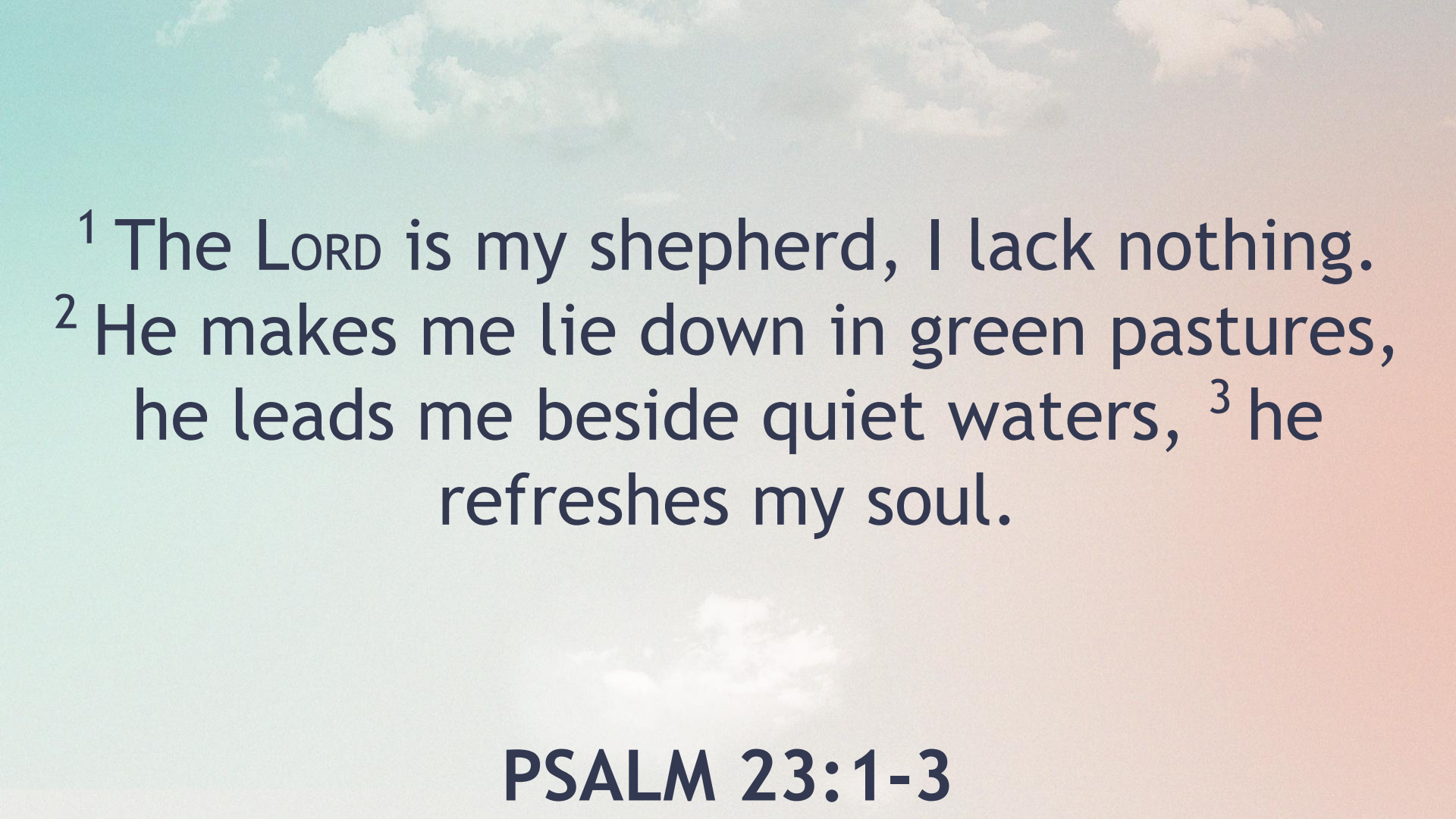
LUKE 15:4

25 For “you were like sheep going astray,”
but now you have returned to the
Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 PETER 2:25

B) TEND TO THE SHEEP





¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he
refreshes my soul.

PSALM 23:1-3

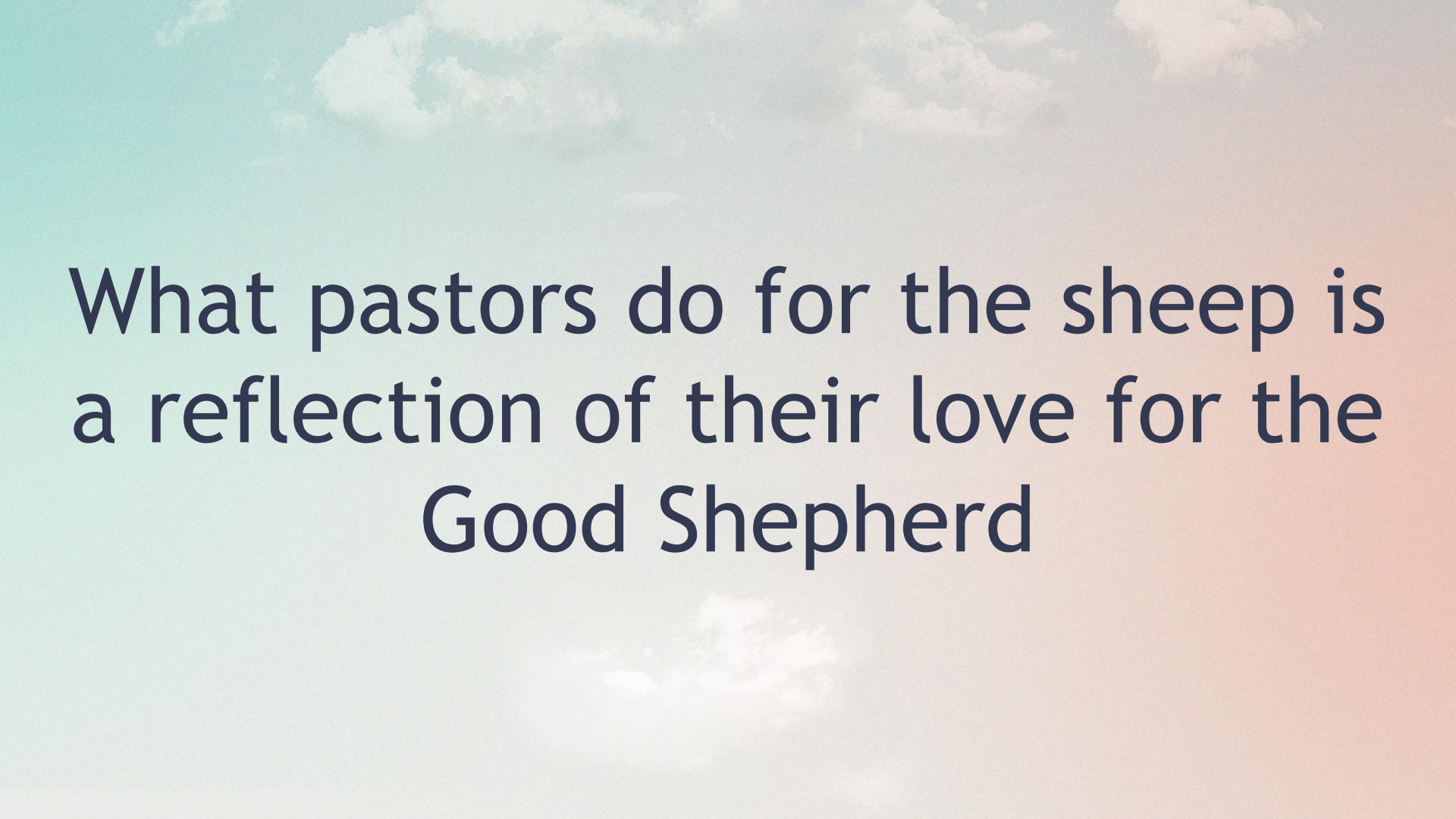
¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

JOHN 21:15-17

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”
¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

JOHN 21:15-17



What pastors do for the sheep is
a reflection of their love for the
Good Shepherd

³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

PSALM 100:3

Why Church?

