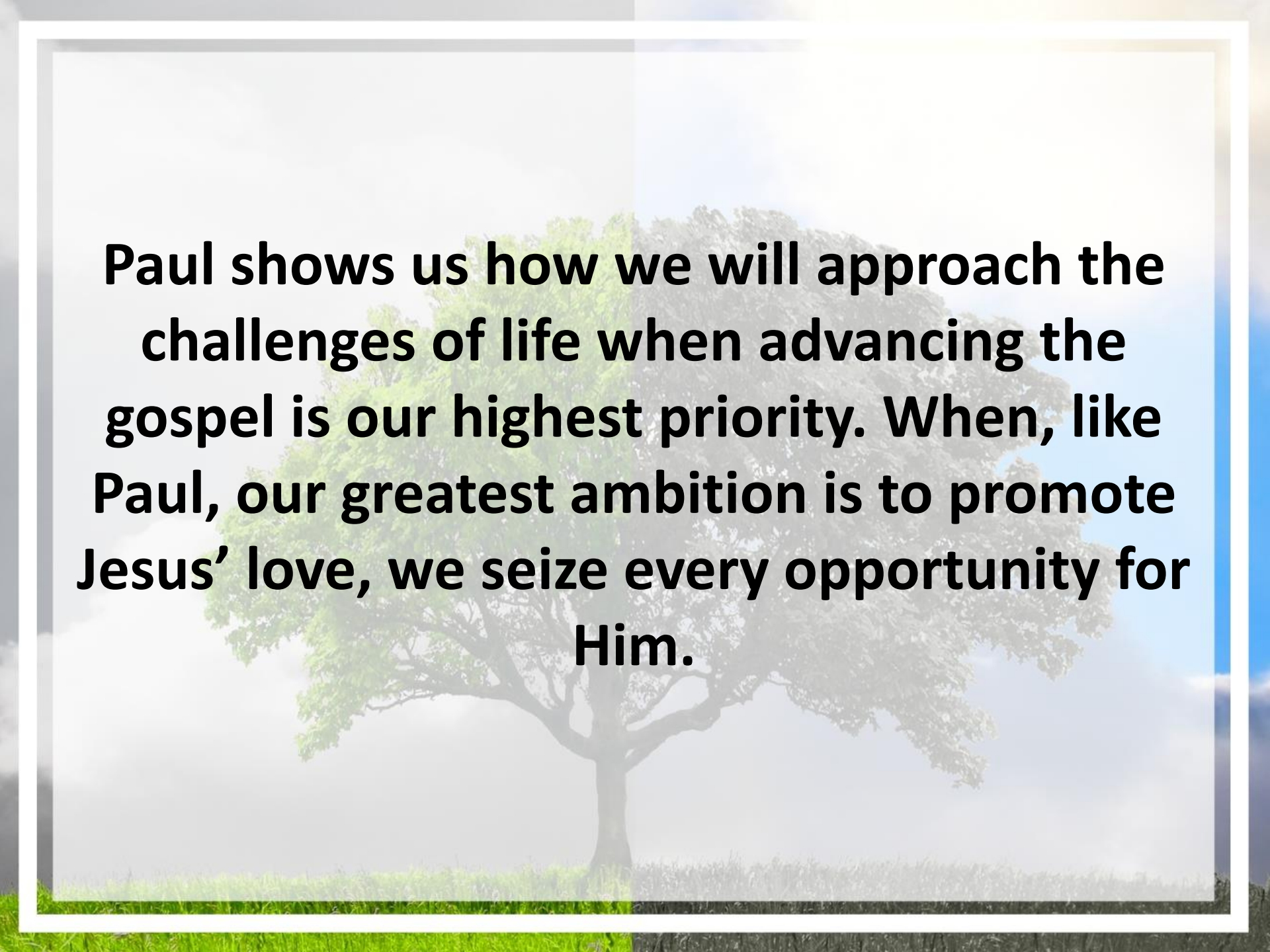


A large, leafy tree stands in a field under a blue sky with clouds. The tree is the central focus, with its branches spreading out. The background is a bright, slightly hazy sky. The foreground shows a green field.

# Advancing the Gospel: Our Highest Priority

September 24, 2017

A large, leafy tree stands in a field under a blue sky with light rays. The tree is the central focus, with its branches spreading out. The sky is bright blue with some white clouds, and there are rays of light emanating from the top right corner. The ground is a mix of green grass and brown earth.

**Paul shows us how we will approach the challenges of life when advancing the gospel is our highest priority. When, like Paul, our greatest ambition is to promote Jesus' love, we seize every opportunity for Him.**

# Philippians 1:12-18

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.<sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. <sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup> The latter do it out of

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**We approach difficult circumstances  
as opportunities. 1:12-14**



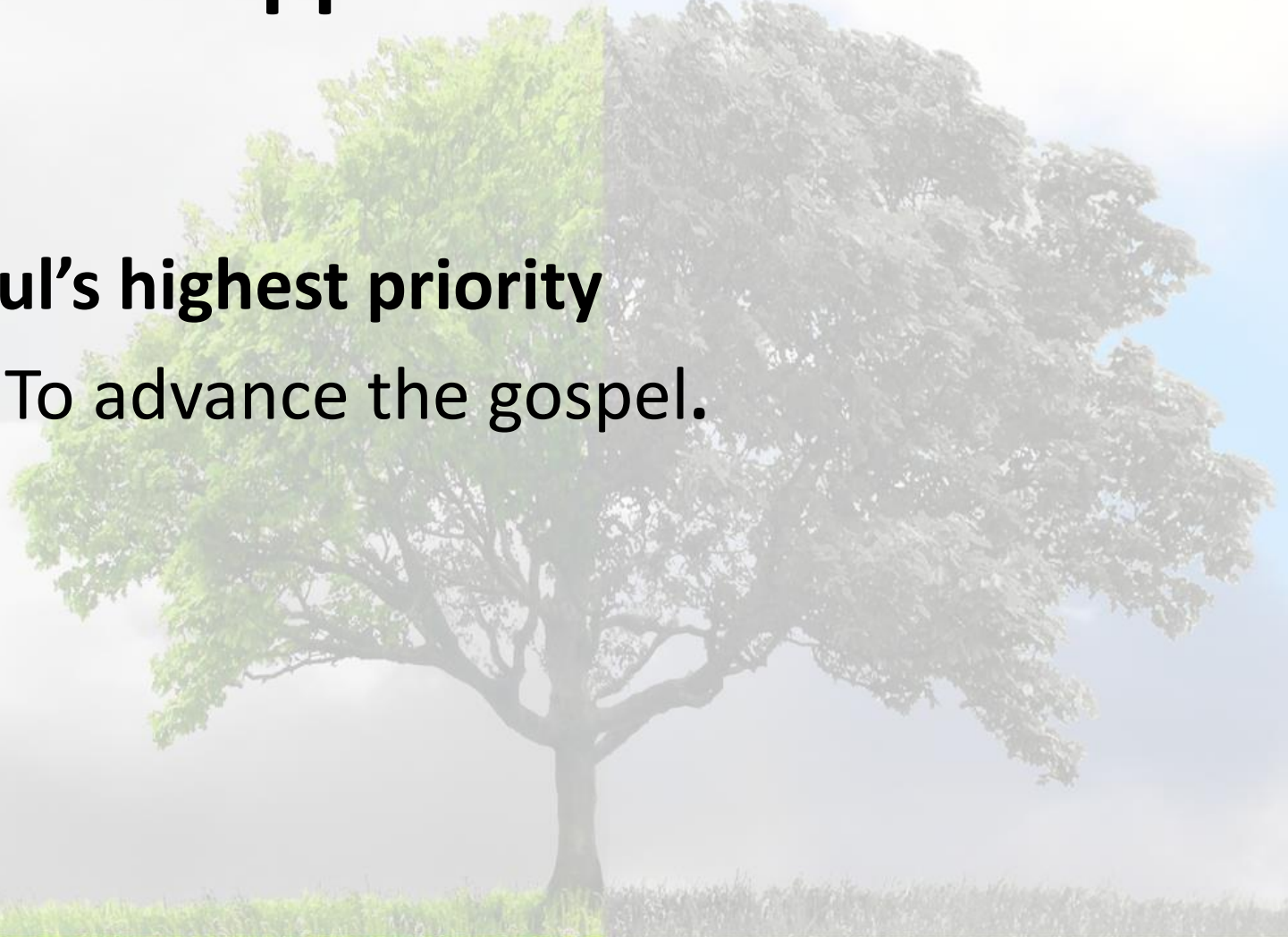
# **We approach difficult circumstances as opportunities. 1:12-14**

- **Paul's highest priority**



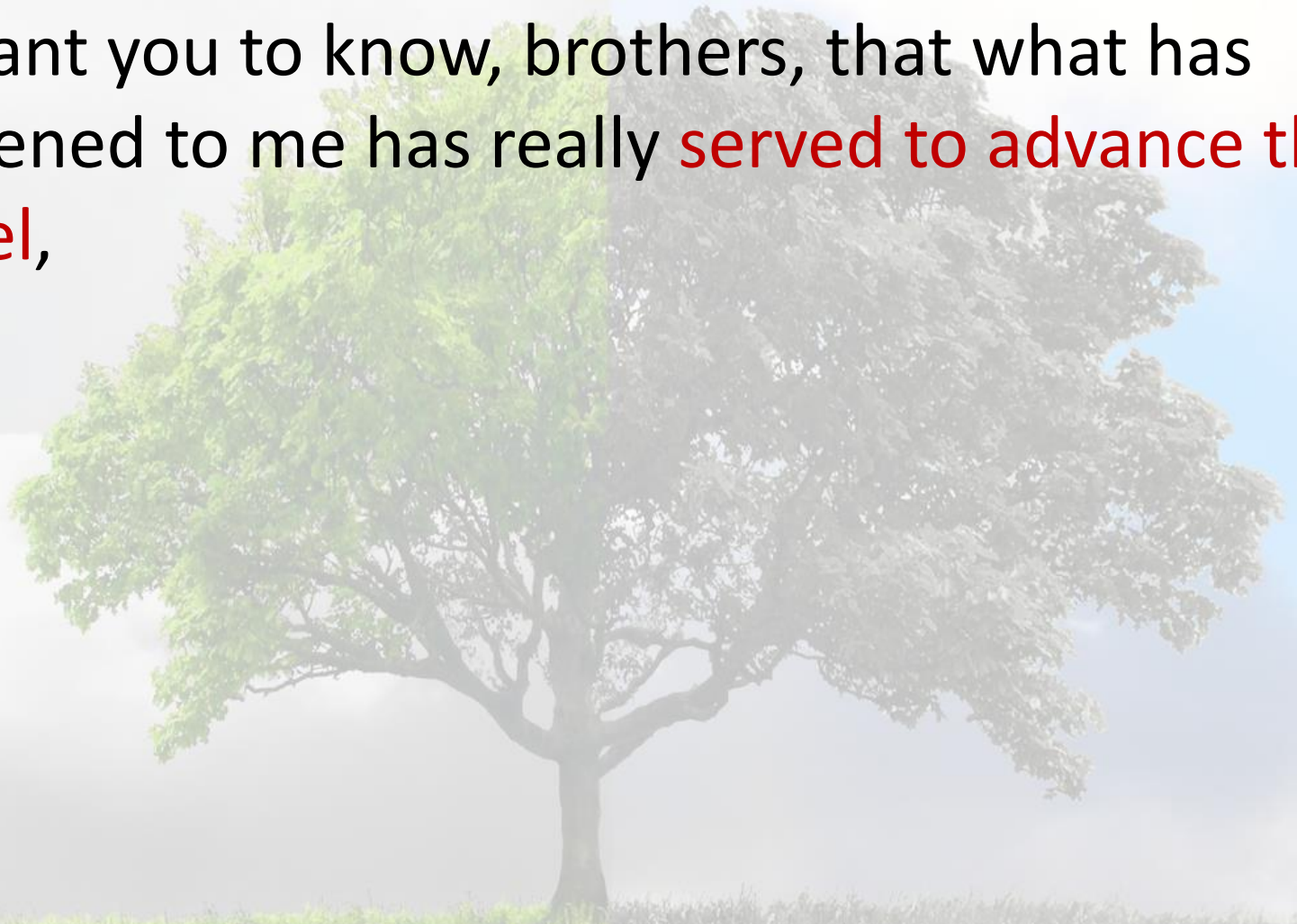
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# Philippians 1:12

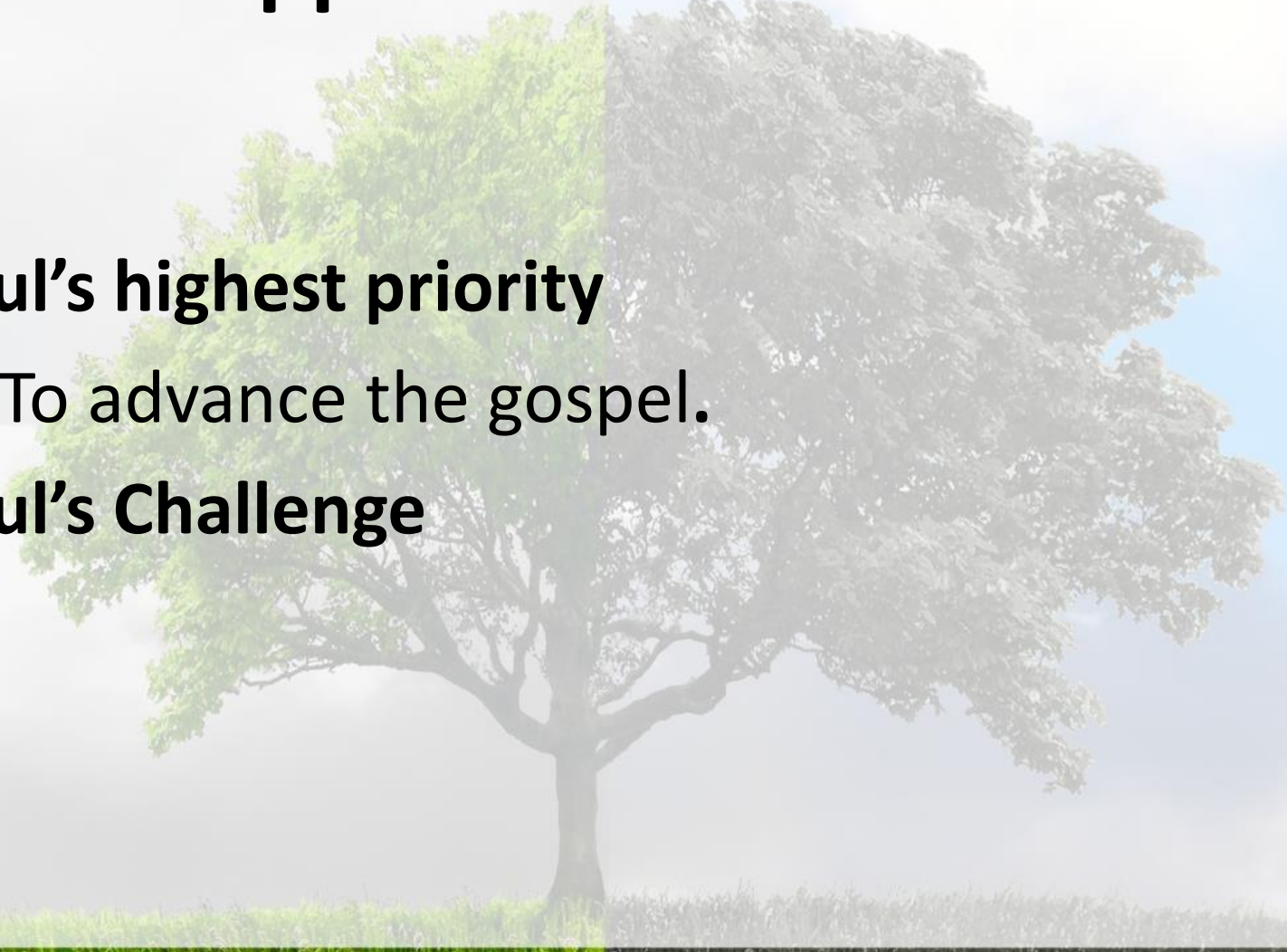
<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really **served to advance the gospel,**





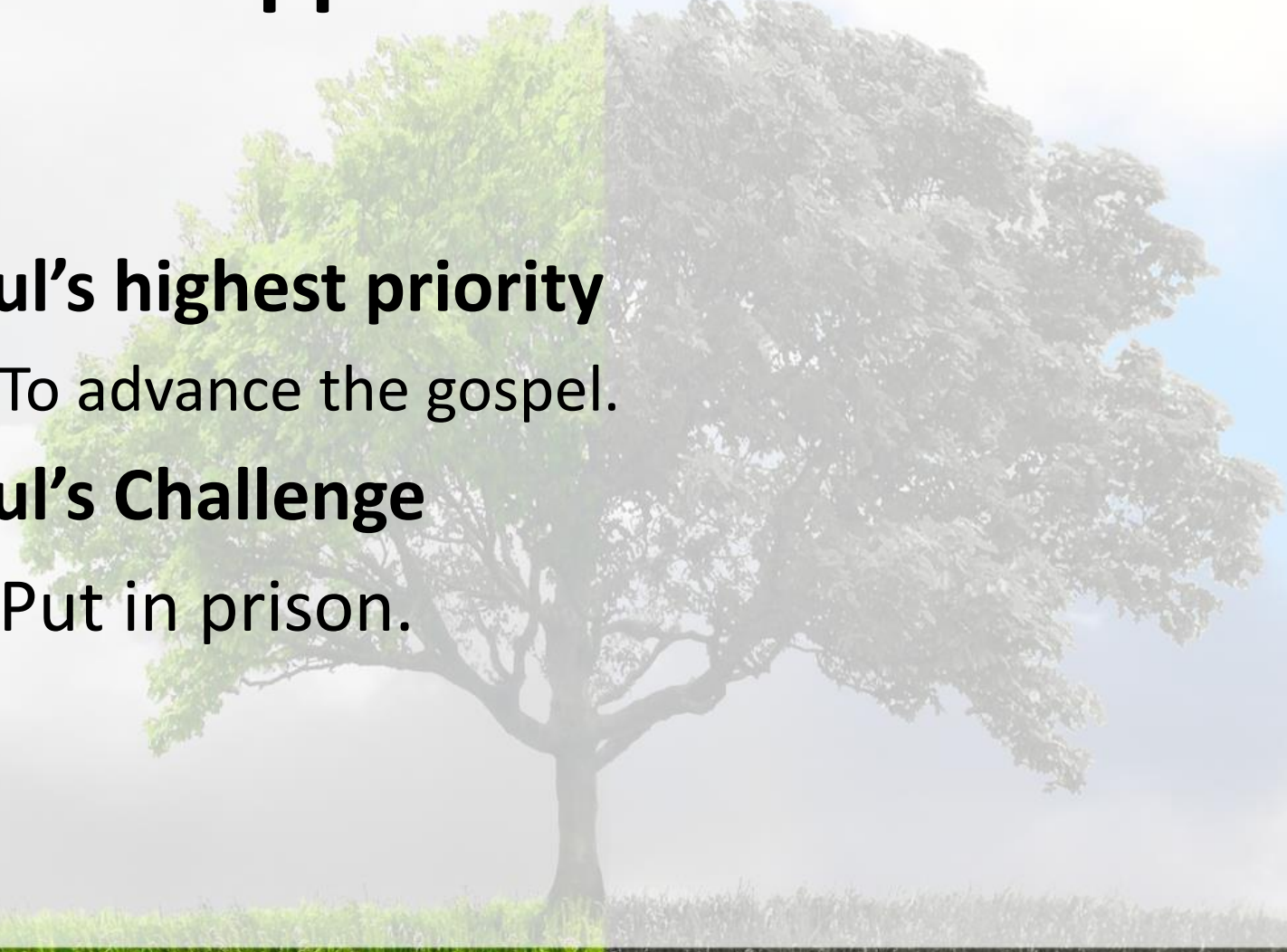
# **We approach difficult circumstances as opportunities. 1:12-14**

- **Paul's highest priority**
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- **Paul's Challenge**



# **We approach difficult circumstances as opportunities. 1:12-14**

- **Paul's highest priority**
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# Philippians 1:12-14

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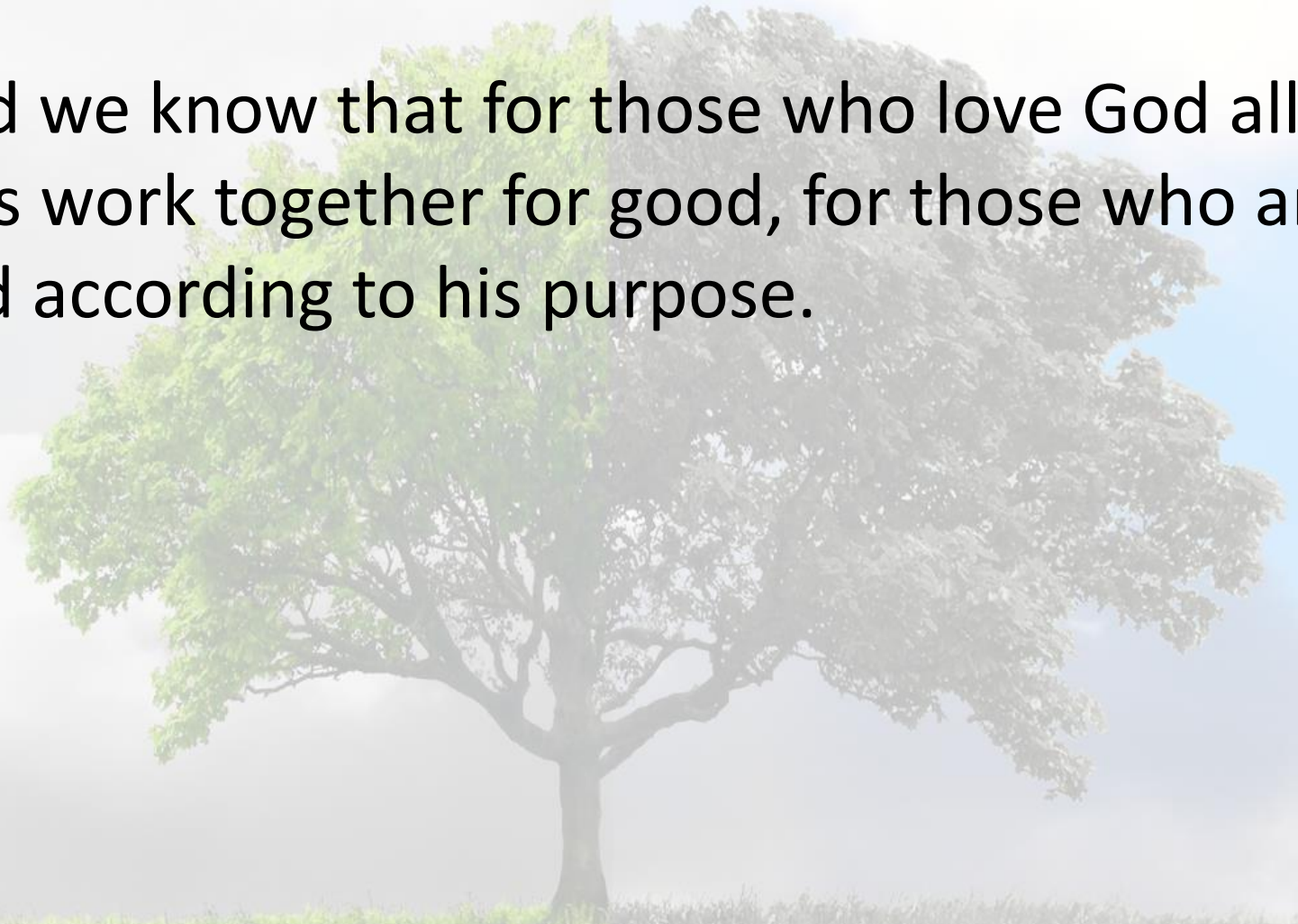
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  - Believes God designed his lousy circumstances.

# Romans 8:28

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.





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# **We approach difficult people wisely, not defensively. 1:15-18**

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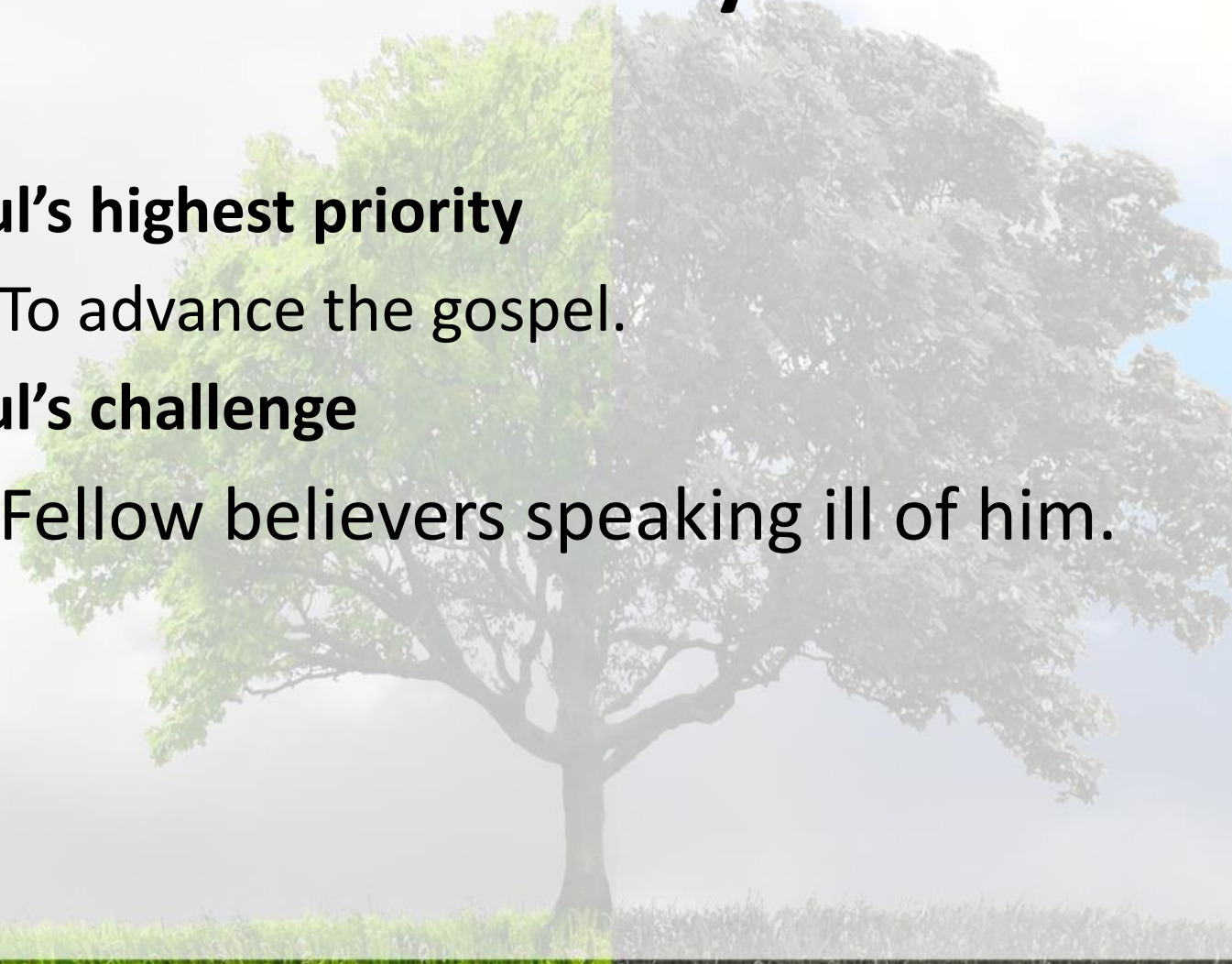
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# Philippians 1:15-18

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# We approach difficult people wisely, not defensively. 1:15-18

- **Paul's highest priority**
  - To advance the gospel.
- **Paul's challenge**
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  - Potentially diminishing Paul's credibility



# **We approach difficult people wisely, not defensively. 1:15-18**

- **Paul's highest priority**
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# **We approach difficult people wisely, not defensively. 1:15-18**

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# We approach difficult people wisely, not defensively. 1:15-18

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    - Rivalry
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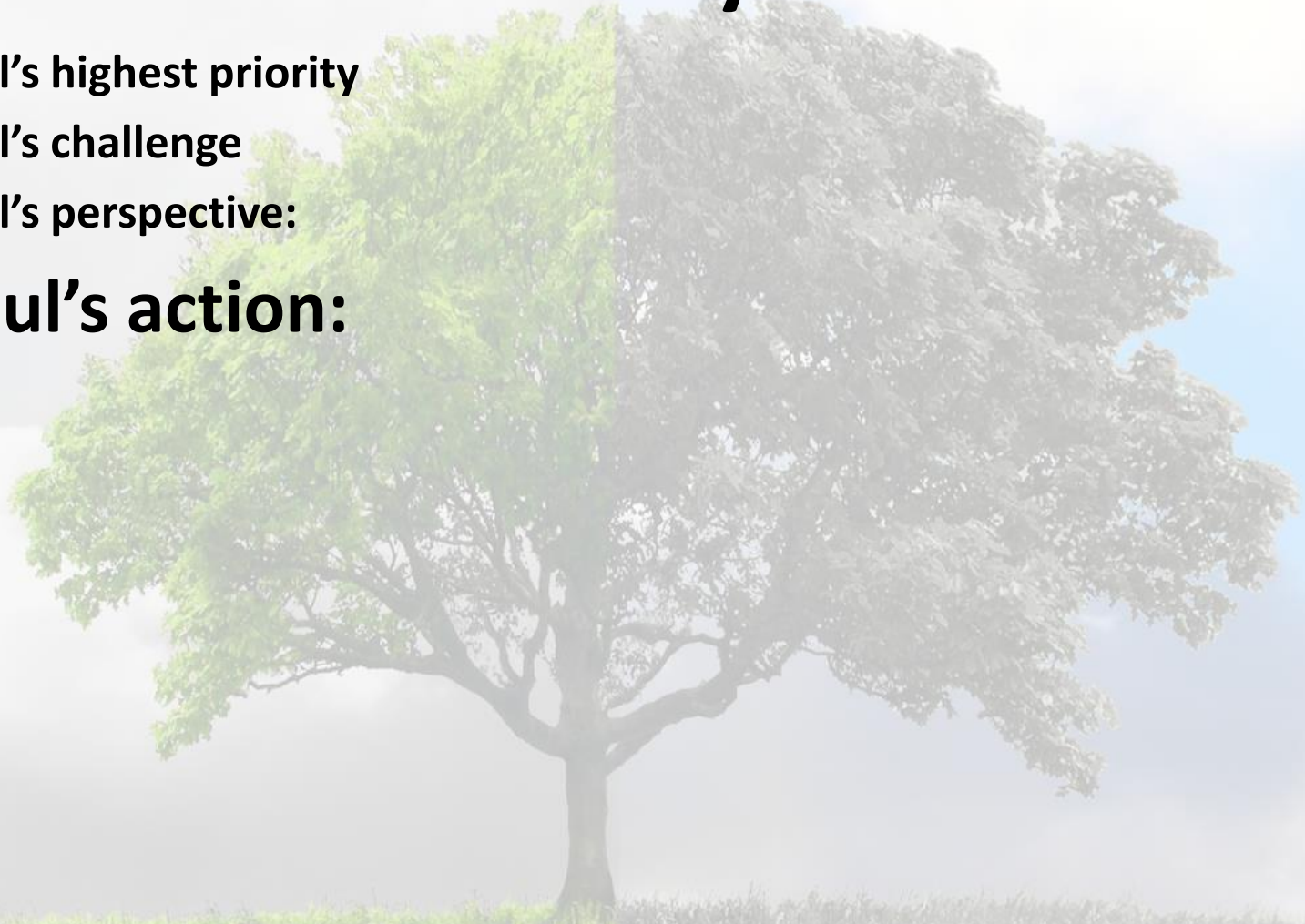
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    - Inflict Paul in imprisonment
  - Pretense

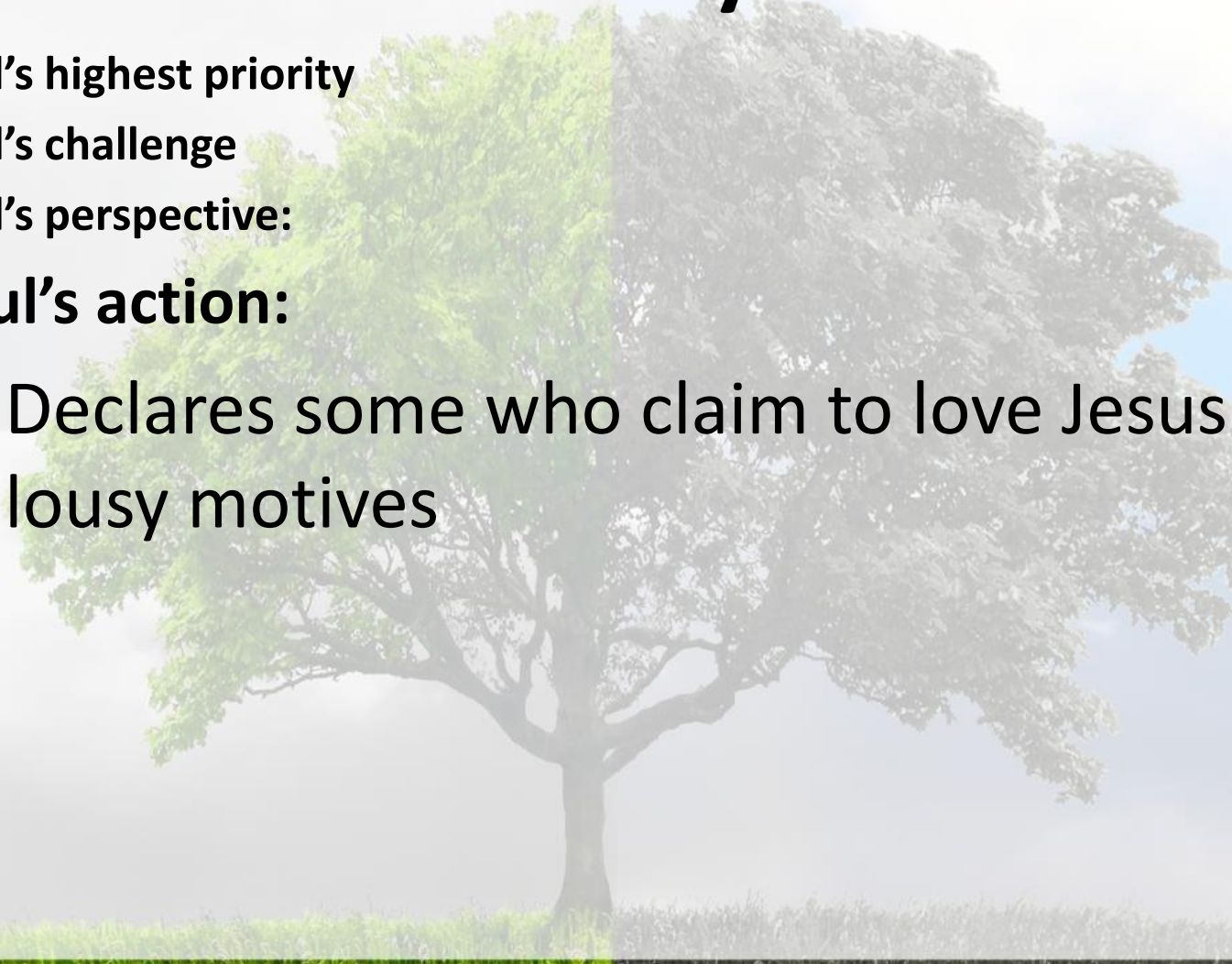
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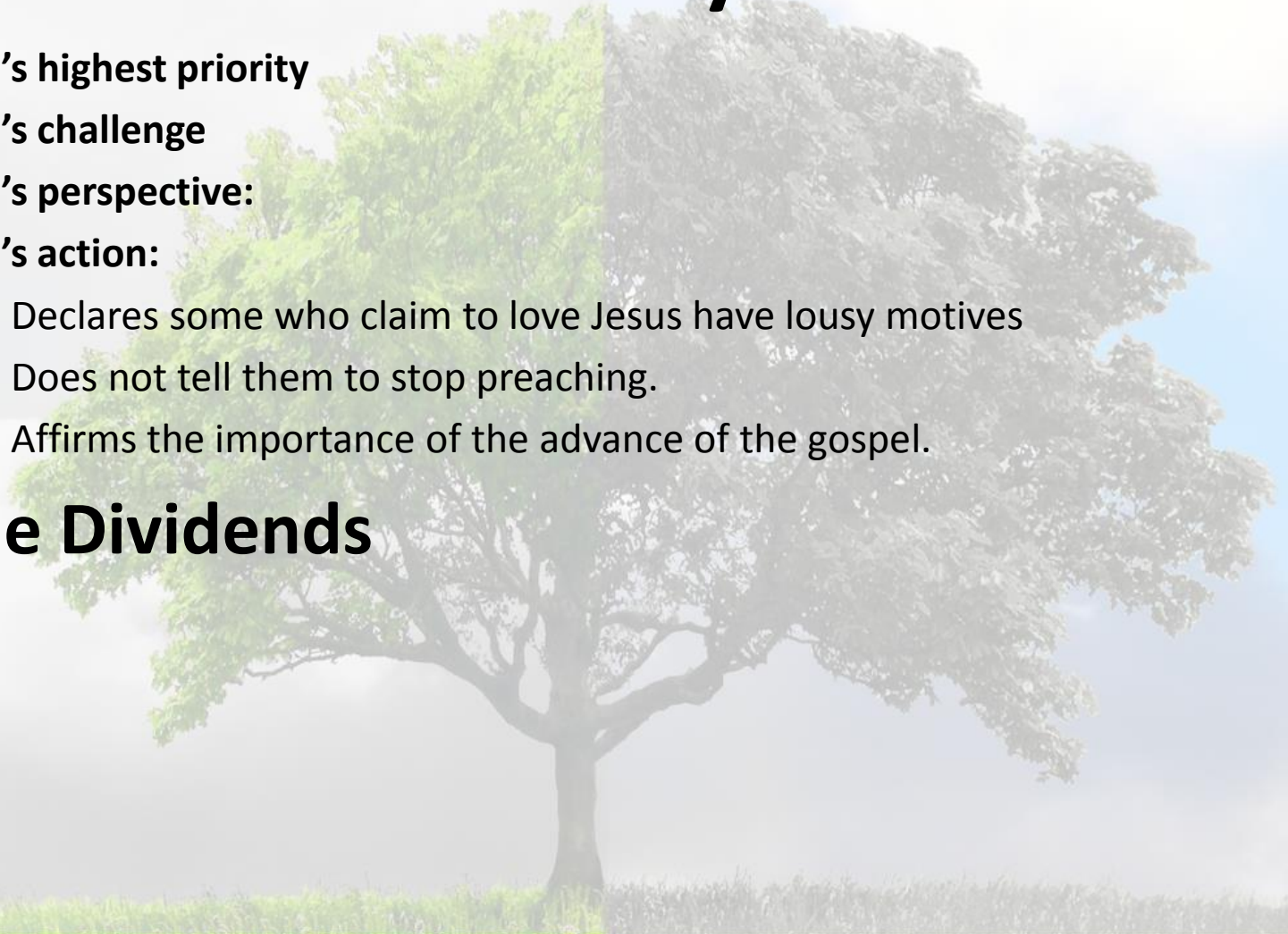
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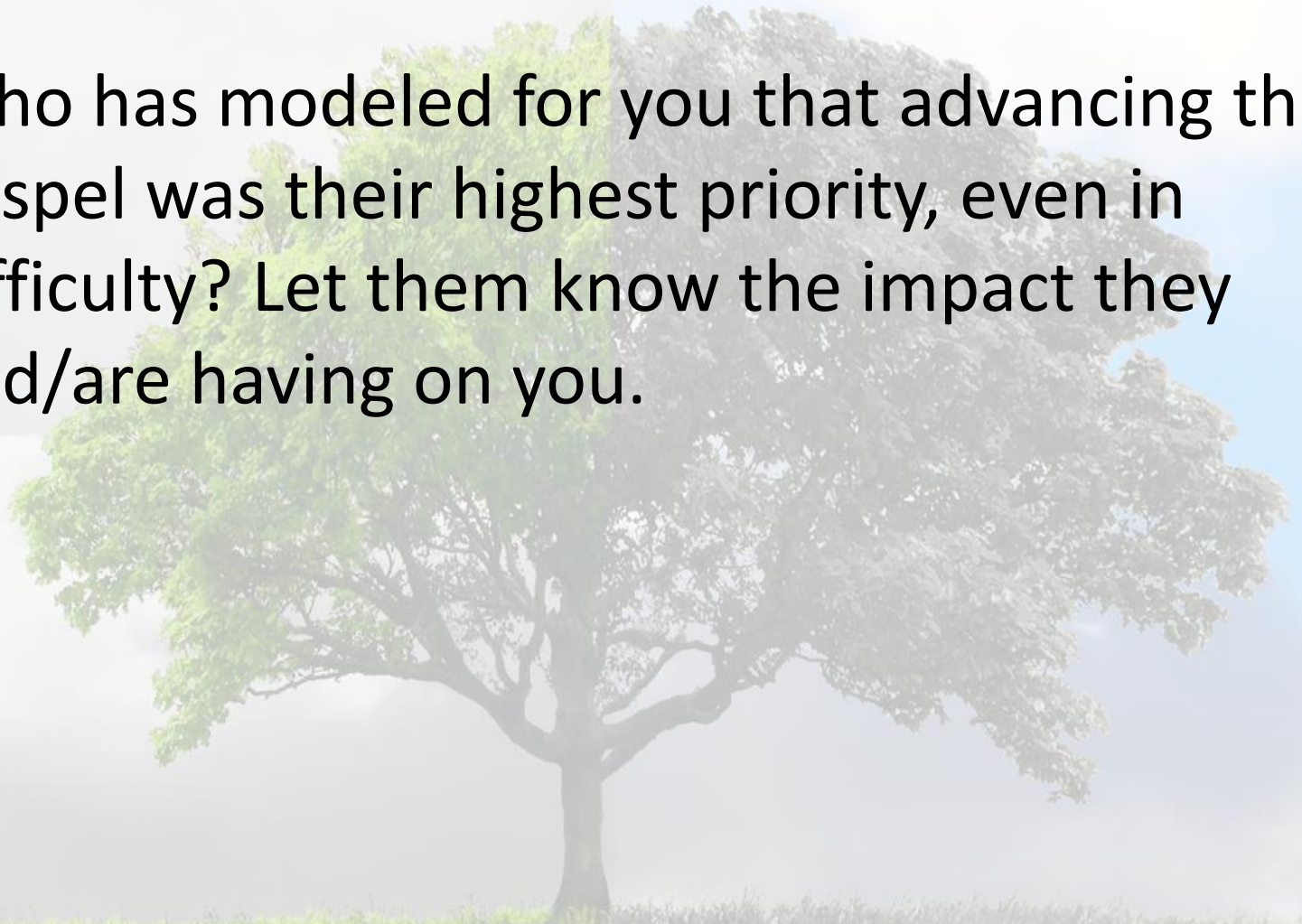
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- Each time you write a date, reflect on God's faithfulness.