



ECCLESIASTES

A grayscale photograph of a lone, wind-swept tree in a desolate, hazy landscape. The tree is the central focus, with its branches leaning to the right. The ground is flat and covered in sparse, low-lying vegetation. The background is a misty, overcast sky, creating a somber and isolated atmosphere. The text "Living in this Fallen World" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Living in this Fallen World

Ecclesiastes 7:15 (ESV)

**¹⁵ In my vain life I have seen everything.
There is a righteous man who perishes in
his righteousness, and there is a wicked
man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.**

Psalm 73:12-14 (ESV)

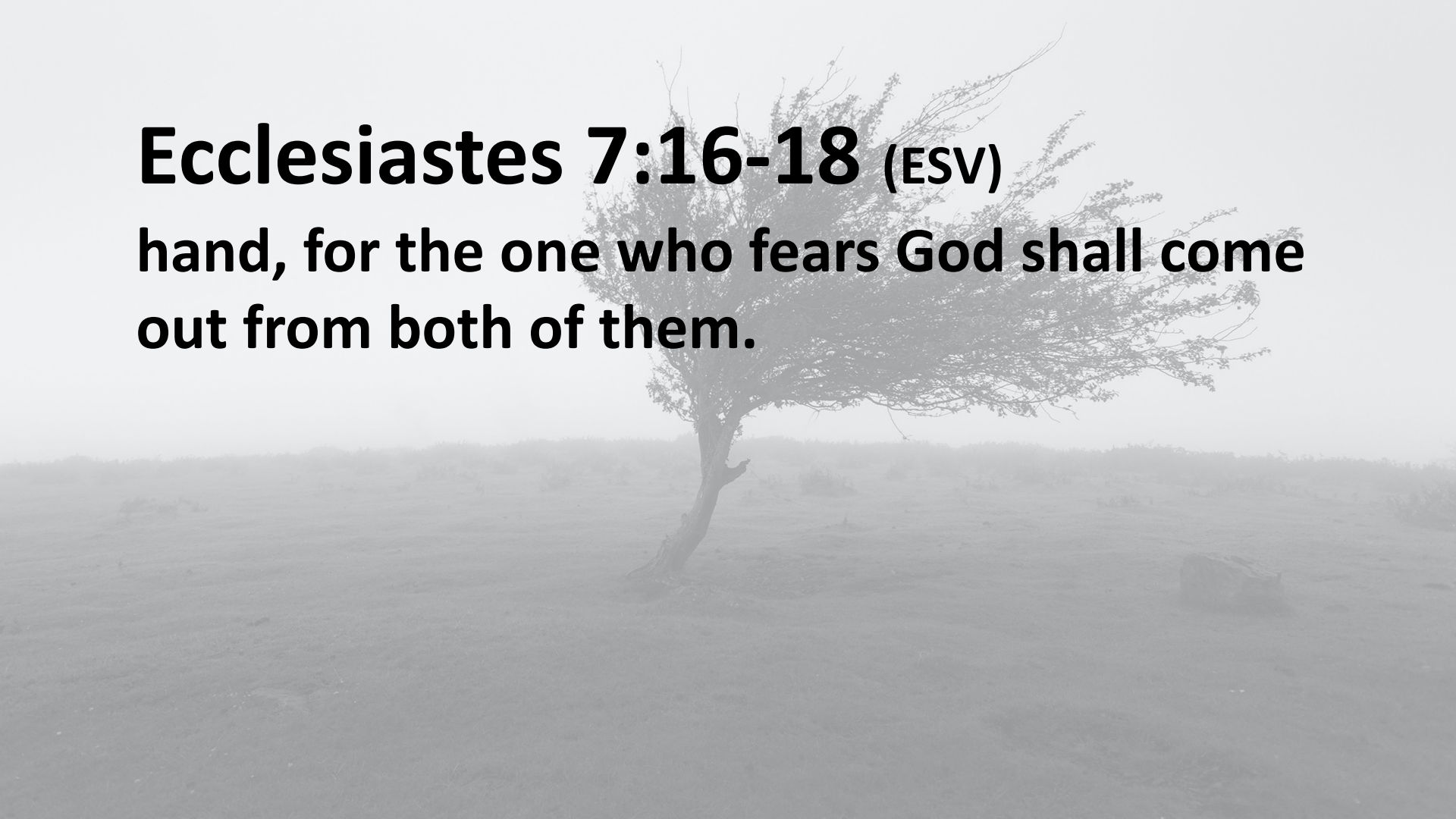
¹² Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. ¹³ All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

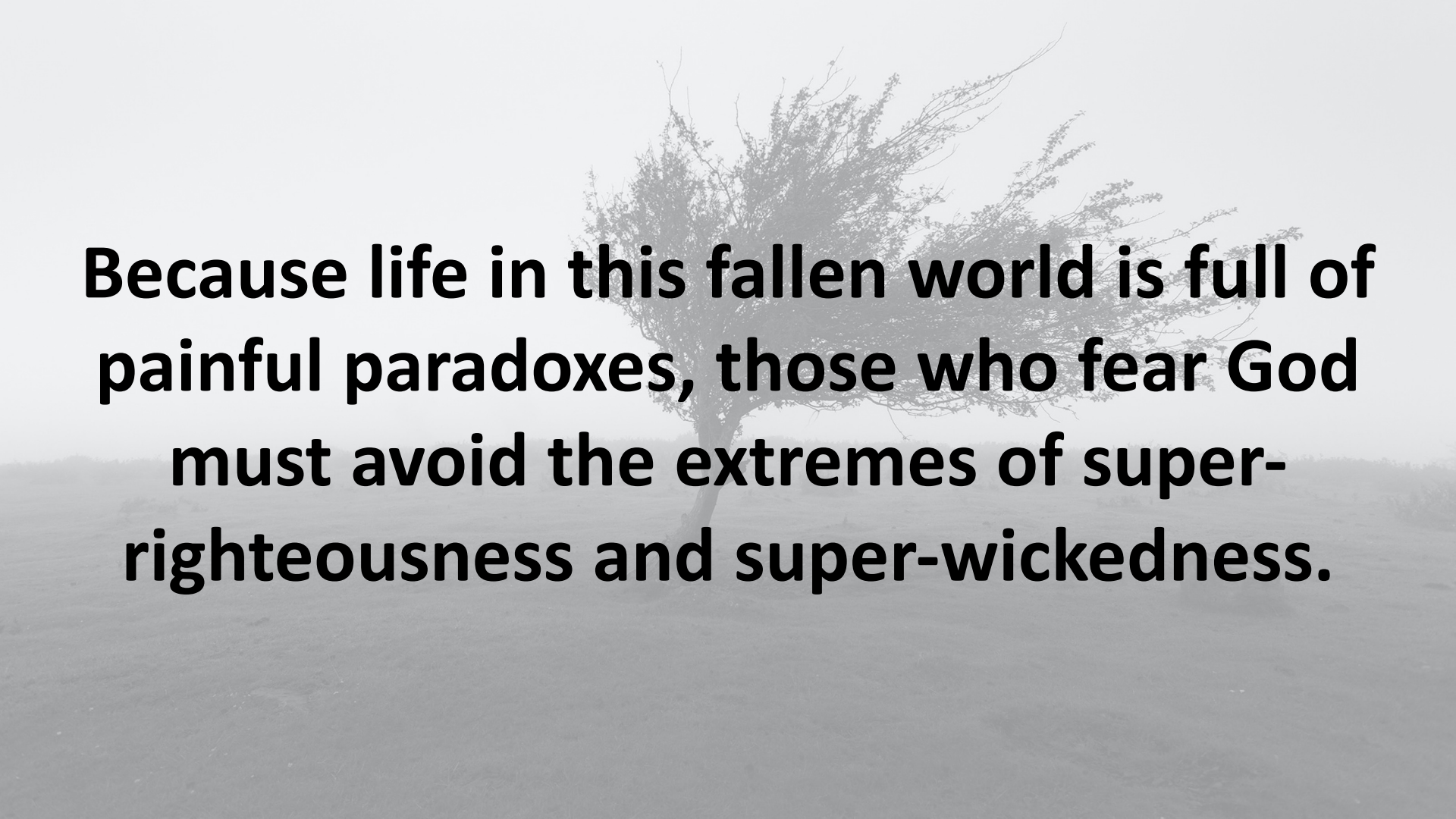
Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸ It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 (ESV)

hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.



A faded, grayscale background image of a tree in a field. The tree is the central focus, with its branches spreading out. The ground is a flat, light-colored expanse, possibly a field or a plain. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

Because life in this fallen world is full of painful paradoxes, those who fear God must avoid the extremes of super-righteousness and super-wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 7:19-22 (ESV)

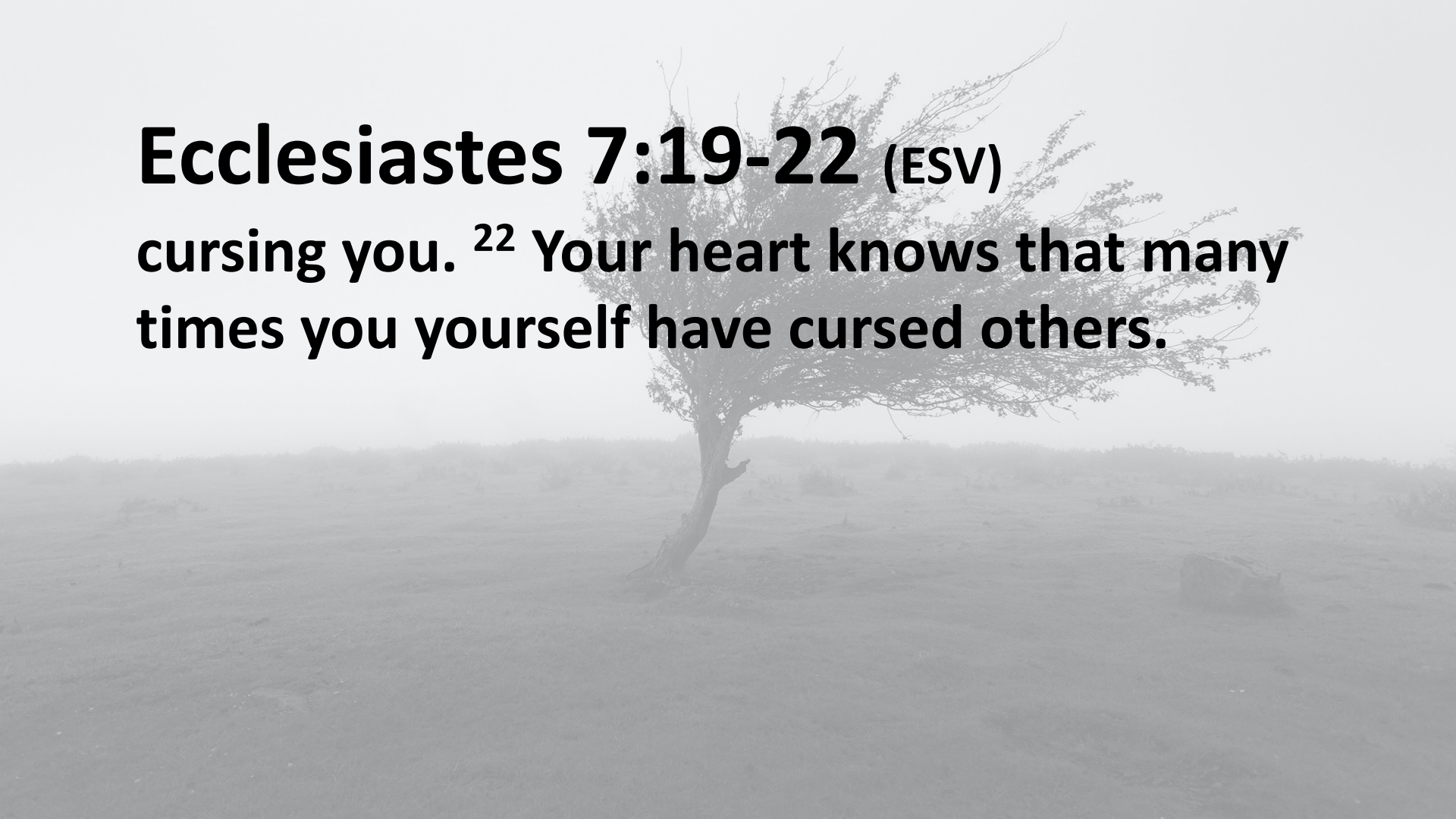
¹⁹ Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

²¹ Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant

Ecclesiastes 7:19-22 (ESV)

cursing you. ²² Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.



Ecclesiastes 7:23-29 (ESV)

23 All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me.

24 That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

25 I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of

Ecclesiastes 7:23-29 (ESV)

things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.²⁶ And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is

Ecclesiastes 7:23-29 (ESV)

**taken by her. ²⁷ Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—
²⁸ which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all**

A grayscale background image of a lone tree in a misty, open landscape. The tree is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with its branches spreading out. The ground is flat and appears to be a field or plain, with a soft, hazy horizon line in the distance. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

Ecclesiastes 7:23-29 (ESV)

these I have not found. ²⁹ See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him or email him.



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