



THE HIGHEST GOOD
a series in the Sermon on the Mount

*Beyond the Good as a duty
to the Good as Beauty.*



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Blaise Pascal
d. 1662



Blaise Pascal

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. . . . there was once in man a true happiness of which there now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present[.]



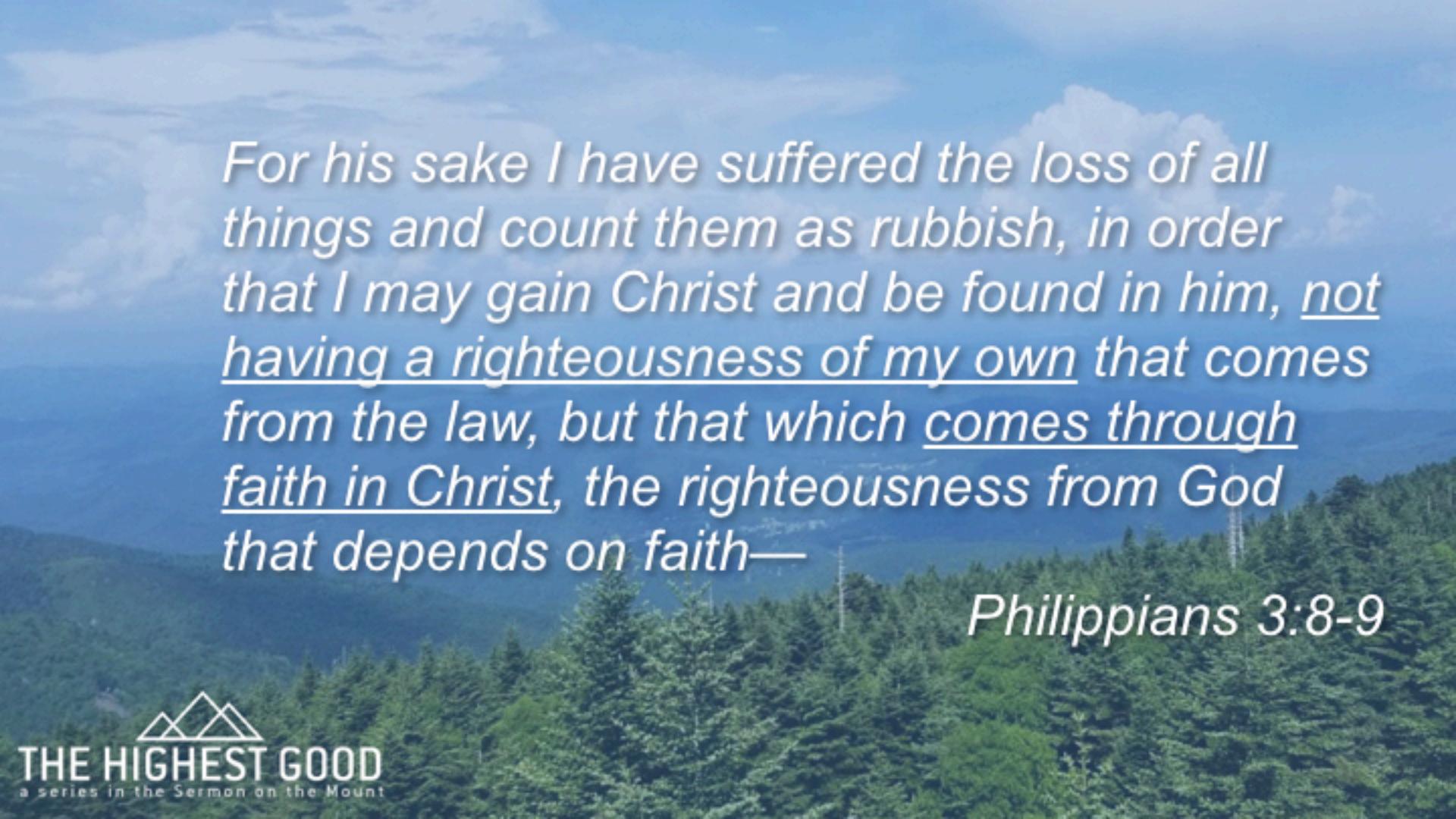


Blaise Pascal

But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself. He only is our true good. . . .



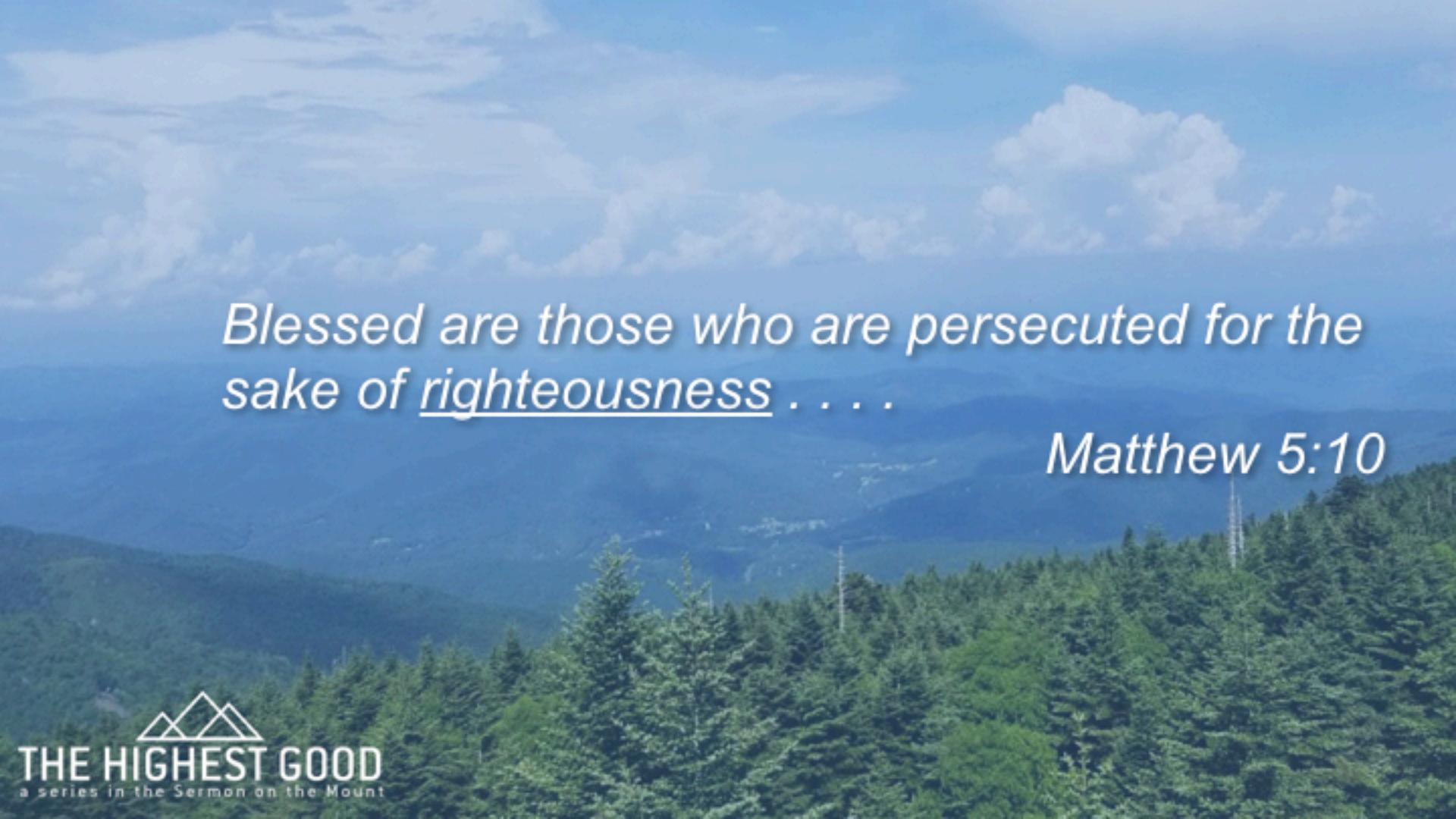
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For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

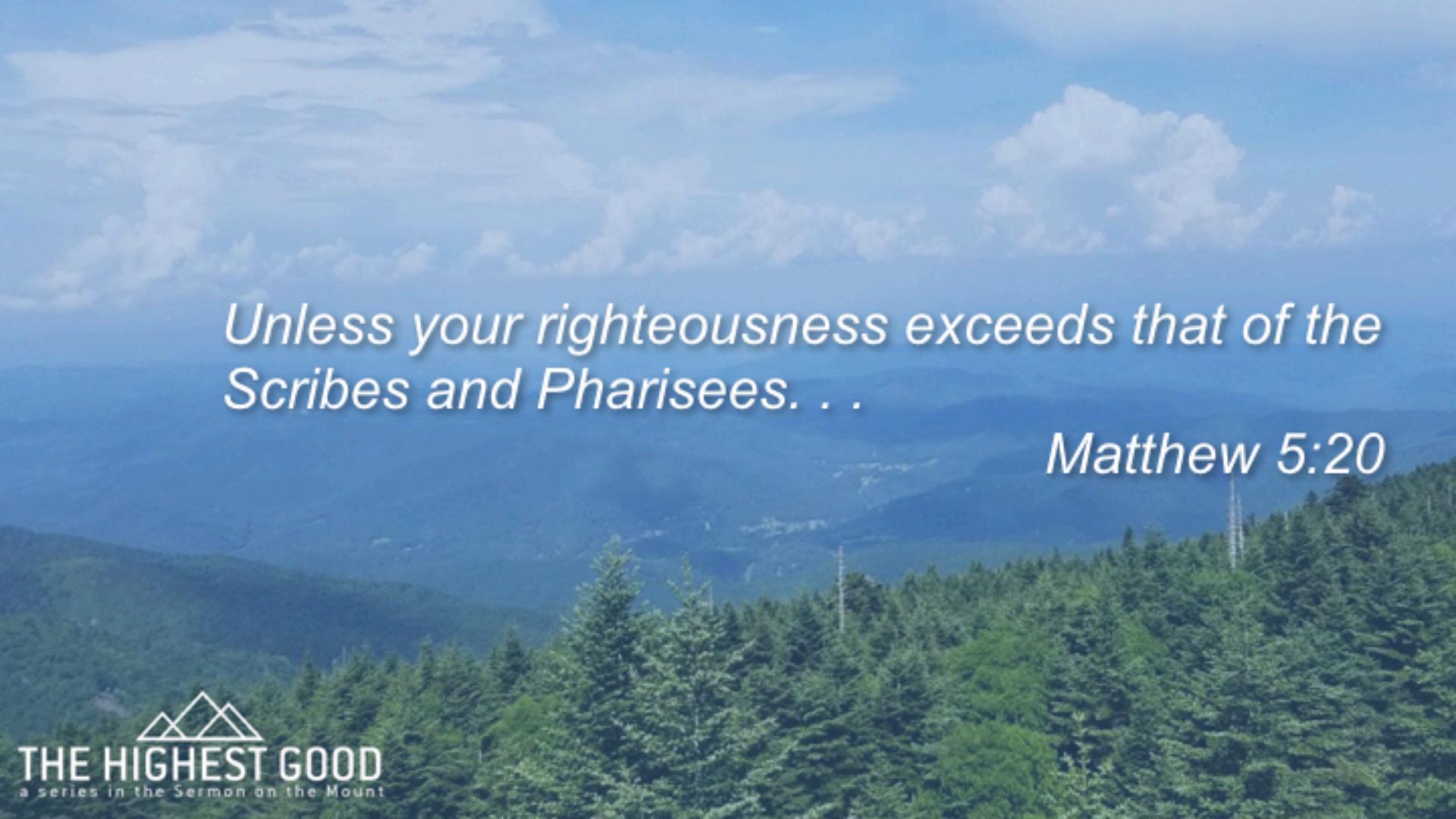
Philippians 3:8-9





Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness . . .

Matthew 5:10



Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees. . .

Matthew 5:20



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David Foster Wallace

Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship. . . is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.





David Foster Wallace

If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. . . .



David Foster Wallace

*Worship your body and beauty
and sexual allure and you will
always feel ugly. And when time
and age start showing, you will
die a million deaths before they
finally grieve you. . . .*



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David Foster Wallace

*Worship power, you will end up
feeling weak and afraid, and
you will need ever more power
over others to numb you to your
own fear. . . .*



David Foster Wallace

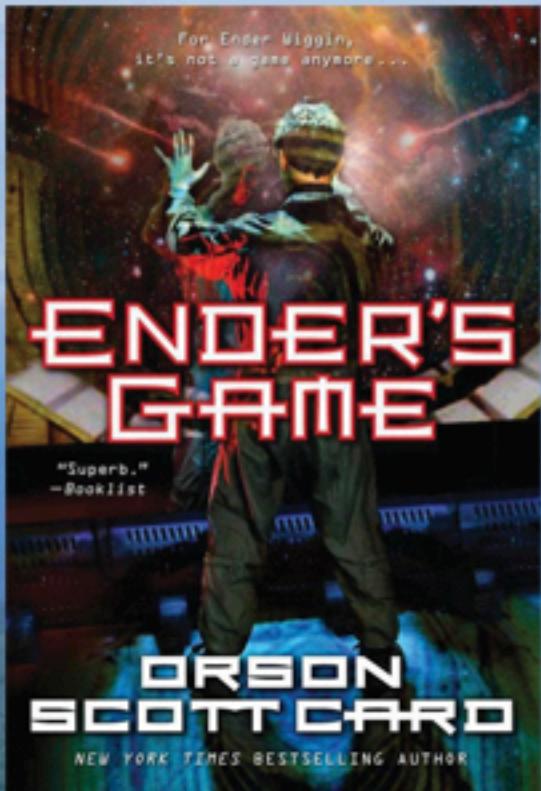
Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.

But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious.





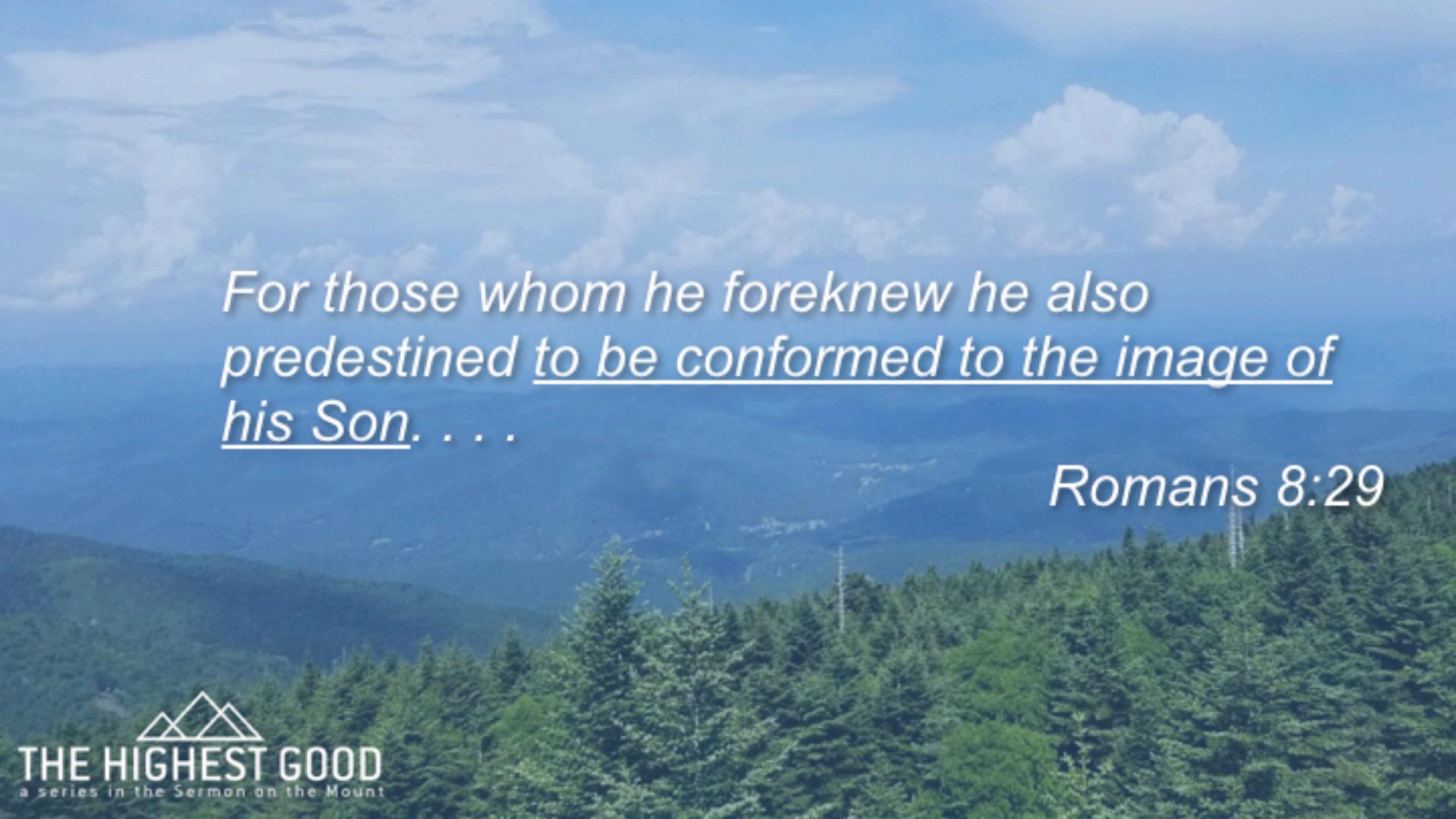
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"All our lives we've been unconsciously living by the philosophy, 'The only way to gain respect is doing so well you can't be ignored. . . . However in choosing [this] path most of us have ended up very satisfied in ourselves, but very lonely."



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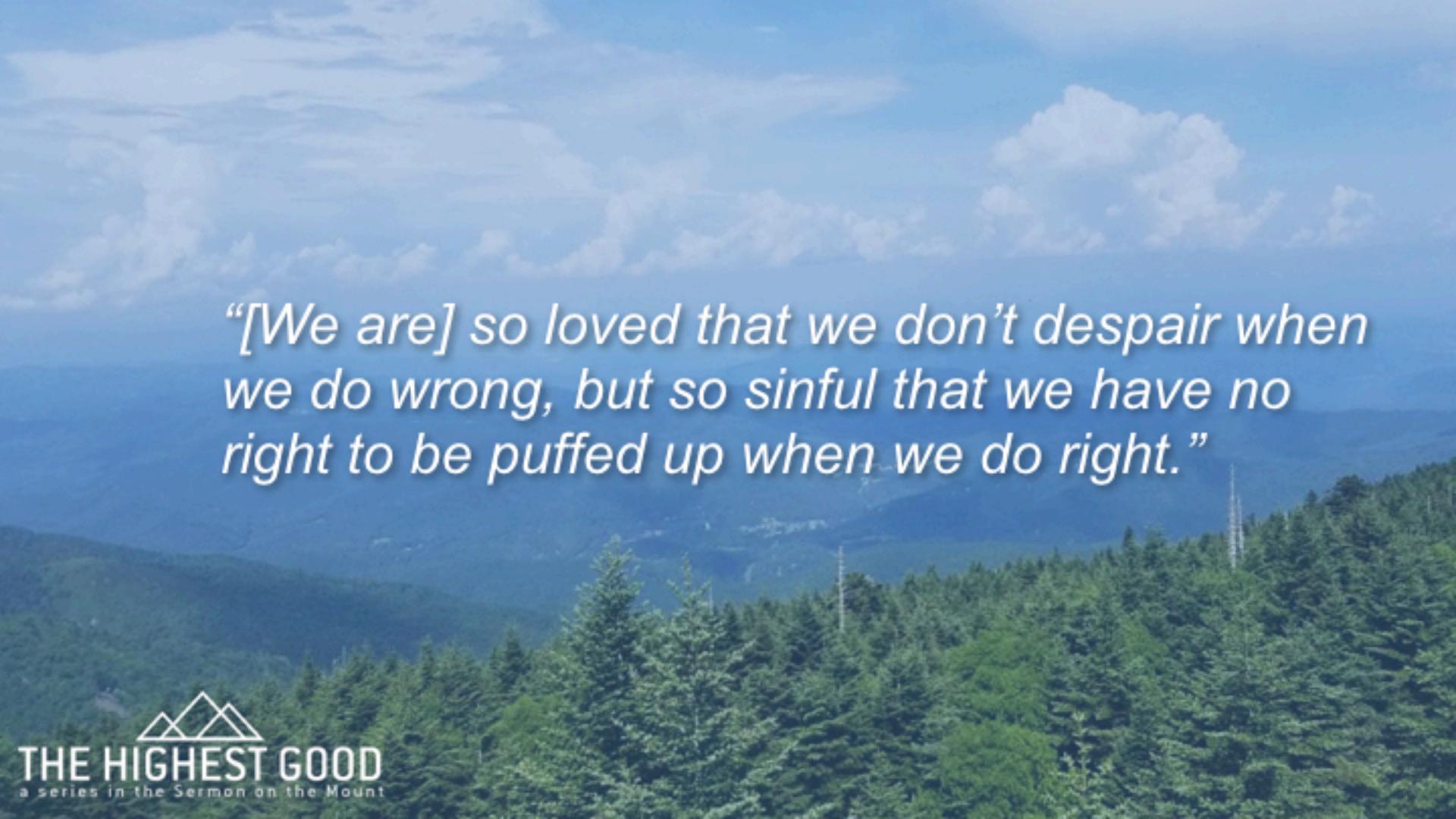


For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. . . .

Romans 8:29



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[We are] so loved that we don't despair when we do wrong, but so sinful that we have no right to be puffed up when we do right."

