

*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*



# II Thessalonians

"COUNTED WORTHY OF  
THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

*(2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)*



## 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, <sup>4</sup> so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

## 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,



## 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. <sup>11</sup> Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *Introduction To The Epistle (1:1-2)*



### ► **First Thessalonians**

- ✦ Written shortly after the establishment of the church in Thessalonica while Paul was in Corinth about 52 AD. (Acts 17:1-4)
- ✦ The theme "*Living In View of the end*"
  - ✦ *Mentions the coming of Christ in each of the five chapters,*
  - ✦ *Comfort and confidence regarding those who have died*
  - ✦ *Practical instructions for holy living.*



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *Introduction To The Epistle (1:1-2)*



### ▶ **Second Thessalonians**

- ❖ Written shortly after the First epistle, perhaps close to the end of Paul's 18 month stay in Corinth — about 53 AD. (Acts 18:11)
- ❖ A threefold purpose:
  - ❖ *To encourage them in their steadfastness under persecution — 1:3-6*
  - ❖ *To correct misunderstandings about the the Lord's return — 1:7-2:17*
  - ❖ *Instructions concerning those walking disorderly — 3:1-18*



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

*Salutation, and thanksgiving for their spiritual growth - 1:1-4*

2 Thessalonians 1:3  
(NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank  
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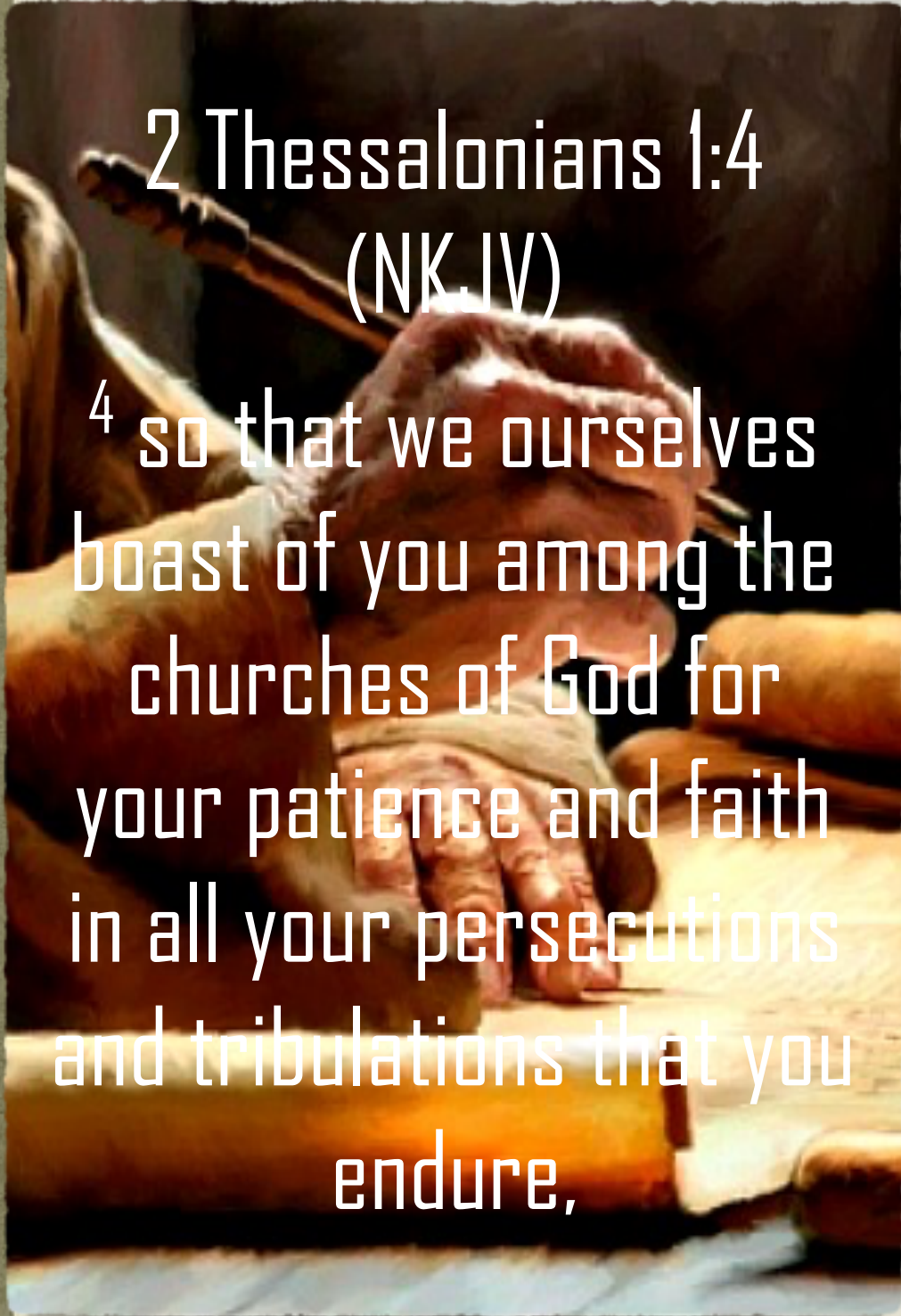
### ► **Paul Was Thankful To God -**

- ◆ "Because *their* faith *grew* exceedingly" and their "love" for one another was increasing — vs. 3; 1 Thes. 1:3; 3:6
- ◆ Faith essential to facing and overcoming obstacles — Heb. 11; Rom. 5:1-6; 8:17-39; 2 Cor. 4:13-18
- ◆ Sacrificial love encourages and sustains us in the midst of trials — vs. 3; *as it did Paul* — 1 Thes. 3:6,7 — *as it did Jesus* — 1 John 3:16
- ◆ Troubles will come - do we have the faith & love to endure?



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

*Salutation, and thanksgiving for their spiritual growth - 1:1-4*



2 Thessalonians 1:4  
(NKJV)

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in all your persecutions  
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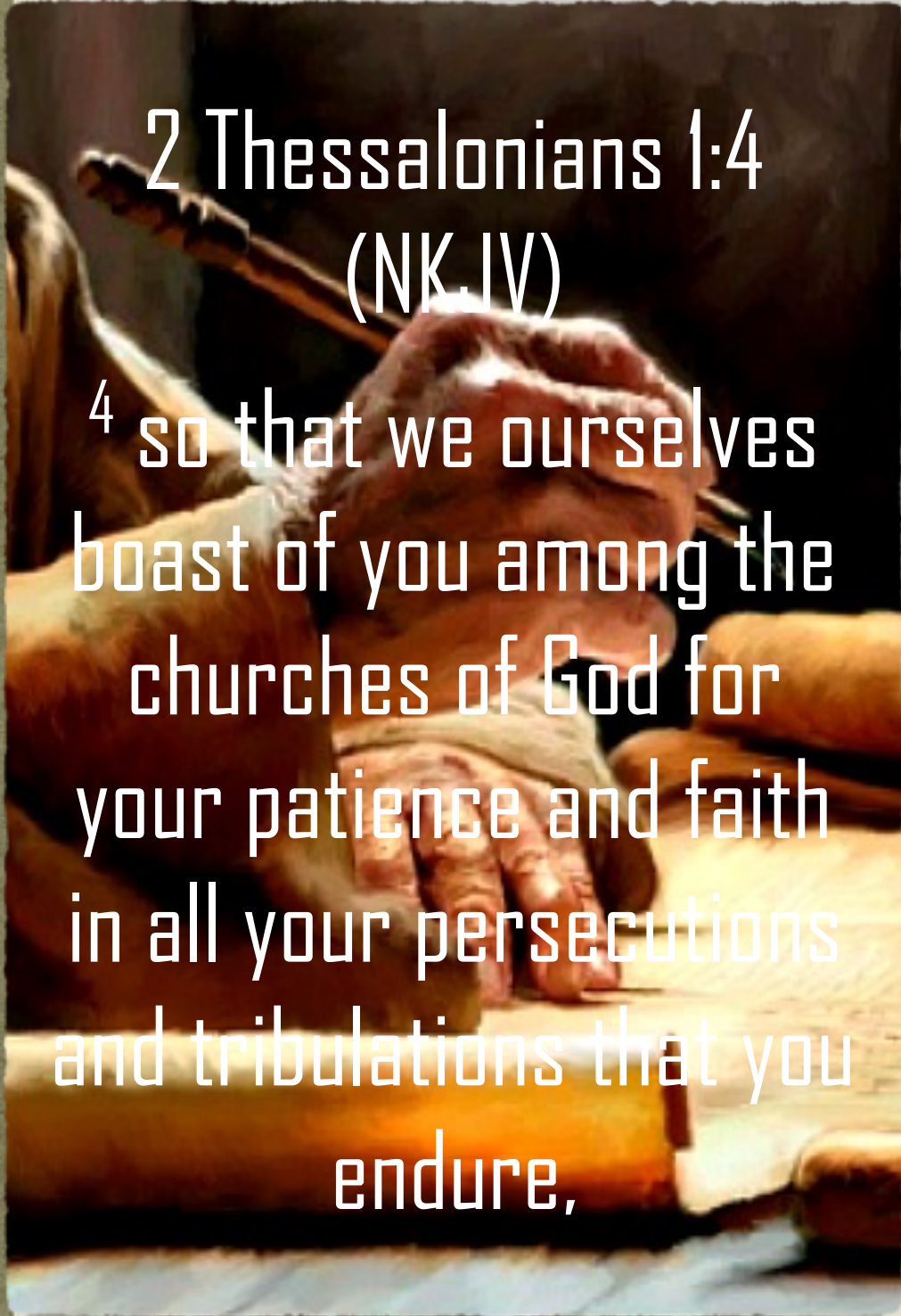
### ► **Paul Boasted of Them -**

- ◆ Because of *their* patience & faith in *persecutions* and *tribulations* — vs. 4; 1 Thes. 1:3; 3:2-8
- ◆ They were patiently enduring ... persecutions (*diōgmois*) from hostile enemies of the gospel (cf. 1 Thes. 3:3-4).
- ◆ The trials (*thlipseis*, “pressures, troubles”; cf. 2 Thes. 1:6-7) were painful circumstances resulting from their conversion to Christ (cf. 1 Thes. 1:6; 2:14; Acts 17:5-9).



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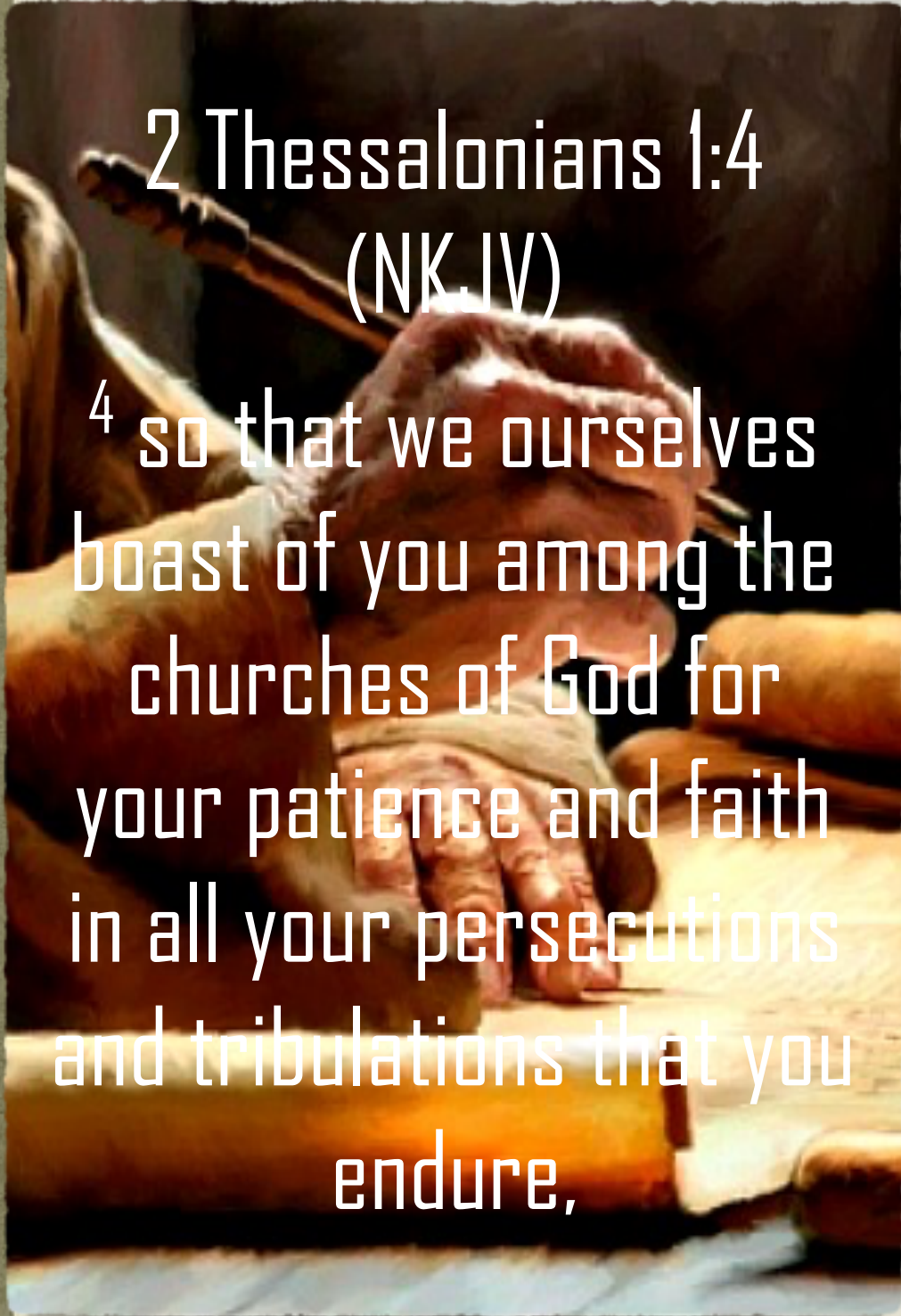
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### ► **Paul Boasted of Them -**

- ◆ Because of *their* patience & faith in *persecutions* and *tribulations* — vs. 4; 1 Thes. 1:3; 3:2-8
- ◆ Their persecutions and trials were numerous. Yet, in spite of them all, the Thessalonians kept on standing strong and stable in their faith. — (cf. Col. 1:23; Rom 5:3,4; James 1:2-12; 2 Cor. 11:22-12:10)
- ◆ Is it more difficult to remain faithful in times of trial or times of comfort? — Rev 2:10; 3:17



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *The Righteous Judgment of God – 1:5-10*

2 Thessalonians 1:5-6  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

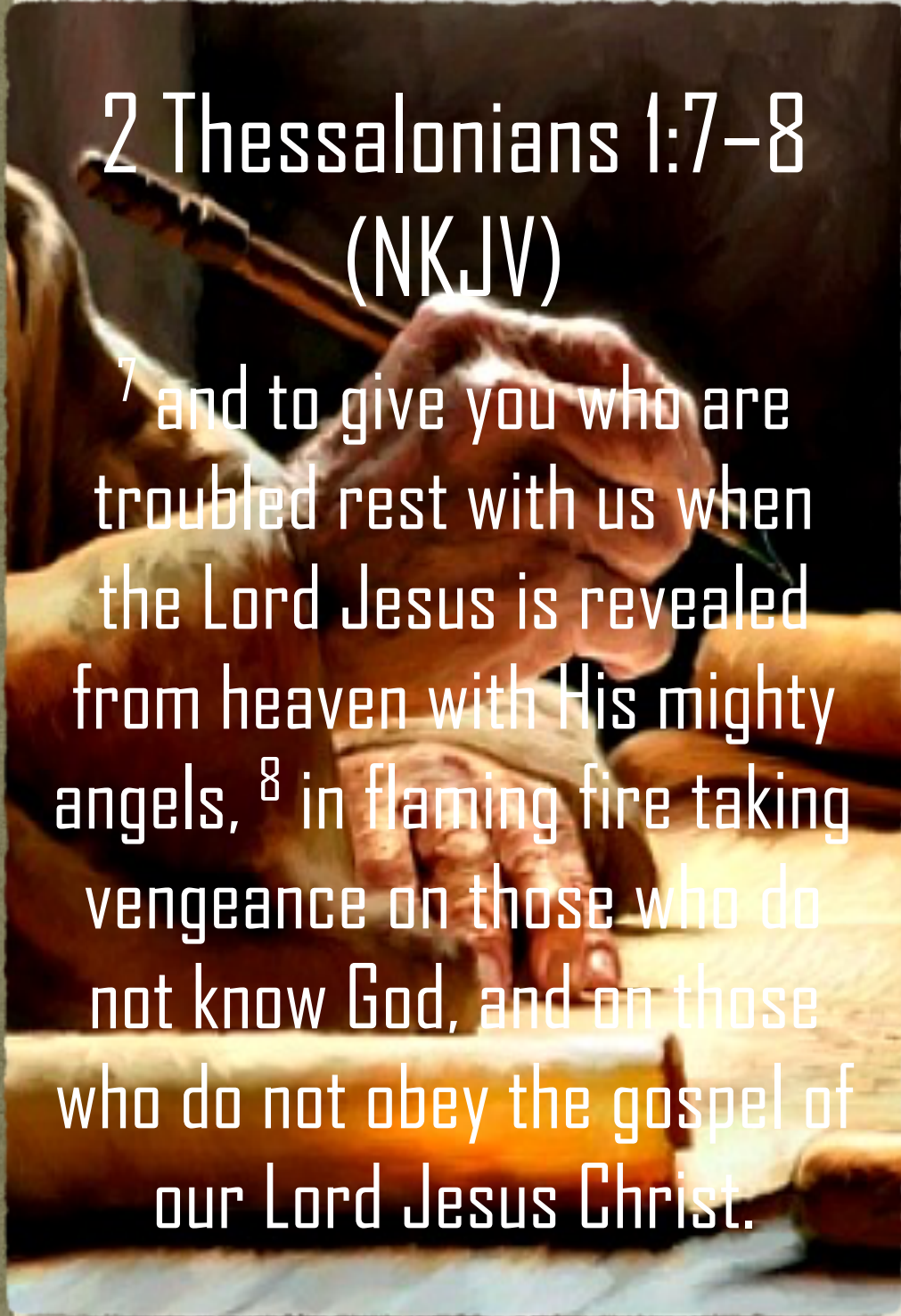
### ► **God's Repays -**

- ◆ God's judgment is righteous / just — cf. Romans 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:9-11
- ◆ The "*manifest evidence*" of God's righteousness in judgment is that those who endure are blessed, but the wicked will be repaid with tribulation — cf. Phil 1:28; 1 Pet 4:14-18; Rom. 2:5;
- ◆ Their suffering demonstrated that they were considered worthy of God's kingdom — Acts 13:46; Col. 1:12; Rom 8:17;



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *The Righteous Judgment of God – 1:5-10*



2 Thessalonians 1:7-8  
(NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ► **God's Repays -**

- ◆ Those who endure will be given REST — cf. Mat. 5:10-12; Luke 16:25; 2 Cor. 4:17; Heb 4:1-11; 1 Pet 1:3-9
- ◆ *"When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven ..."* — Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:16; Rev. 1:7
- ◆ *"In flaming fire taking vengeance"* — He. 10:27; 12:29; 2 Pe. 3:7. 10-12; Re. 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8.



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### ► **God's Repays -**

◆ *"Vengeance on those who do not know God"* — Is. 27:11; John 3:16-21; Acts 17:30,31; Rom 1:28; 1 Thes. 4:5

◆ *"Vengeance ... on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* — Mark 16:15,16; Rom. 1:16,17; 2:7; 6:16-18; 10:16; 2 Cor. 10:5; Gal. 3:1; Heb. 2:1; 3:14-18; 5:8,9; 1 Pet 4:17; James 2:14-26



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *The Righteous Judgment of God – 1:5-10*

2 Thessalonians 1:9  
(NKJV)

These shall be  
punished with  
everlasting  
destruction from the  
presence of the Lord  
and from the glory of  
His power,

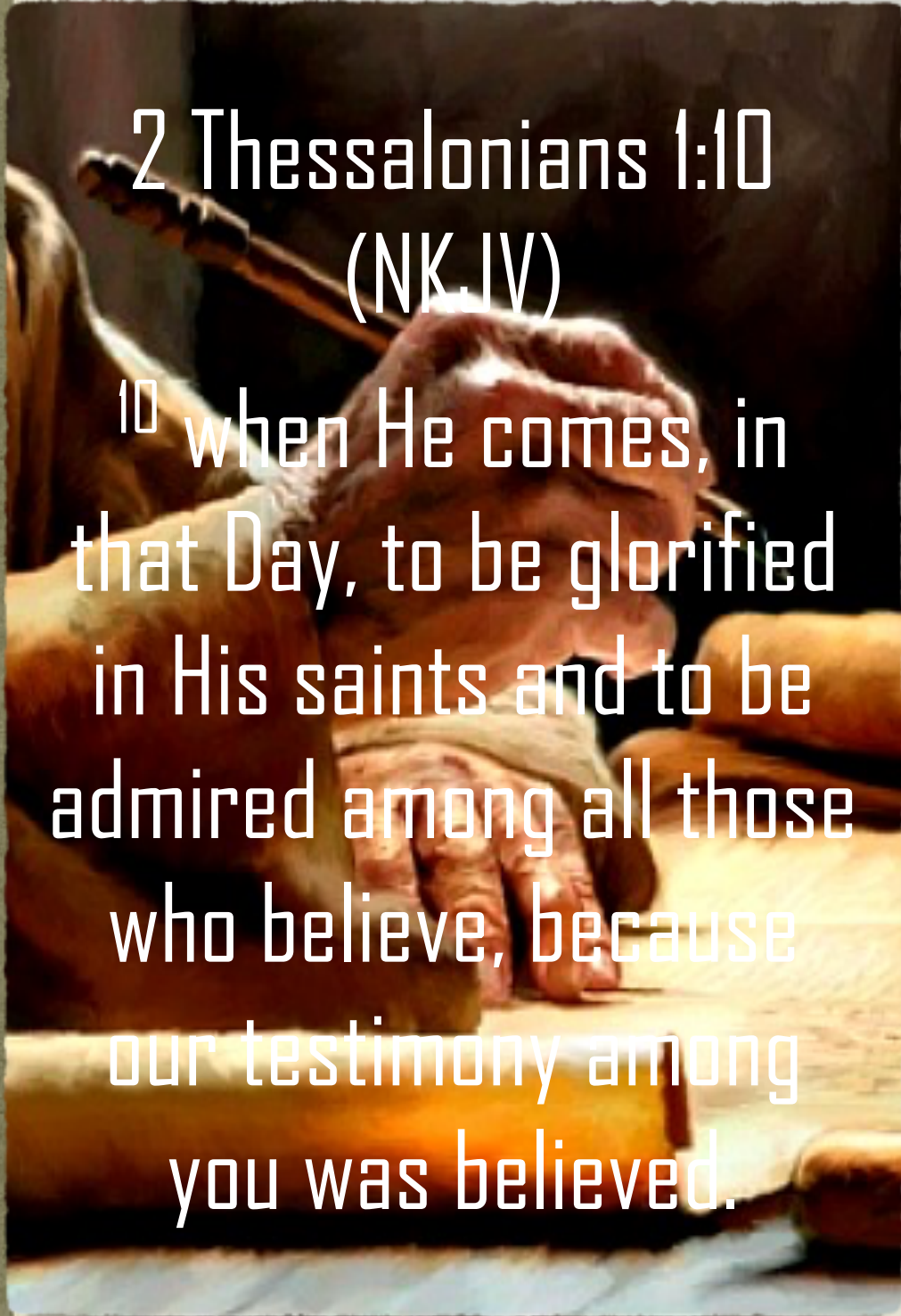
### ► **God's Repays -**

- ◆ For their rejection of God's grace they will experience endless or everlasting ruin (*olethron aiōnion*).
- ◆ The punishment of the wicked will be neither temporary nor will it be annihilation, but it will continue eternally — Mark 9:43-49; Rom 2:8,9; 2 Pet 2:17
- ◆ The punished will be conscious. It is eternal death as opposed to eternal life — Matt. 25:46.



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## *The Righteous Judgment of God – 1:5-10*



2 Thessalonians 1:10  
(NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

### ► **God's Repays -**

- ◆ It will be a day of judgment for the lost and a day of glory and marveling for believers. Christ will be "glorified in" (not by) His saints, that is, His glory will be mirrored in them. — John 17:10; 1 Thes. 2:12
- ◆ Because they believed Paul's testimony they would share in this great day.
- ◆ Such a hope strengthens the believer who might be buckling under the pressure of persecution by unbelievers (v. 4; 2 Ti. 1:12, 18; 4:8; Rom 5:1-4)



"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## Paul's Prayer for Them – 1:11-12

### **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,  
<sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.





"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

## *Our Prayer for You & All*



### ► **Believe & Obey The Gospel -**

- ◆ Hear the good news of salvation in Jesus — Rom 1:16; 10:13-17
- ◆ Believe on Jesus the Christ — Jn 8:24; Acts 2:36; Col. 1:14-16
- ◆ Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, Who has been raised from the dead — Mat. 10:32; Rom. 10:9,10
- ◆ Repent — Lk. 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
- ◆ Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins — Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6; 1 Pet 3:21
- ◆ Endure — Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 2:12







## Colossians 1:9-14 (NKJV)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;



## Colossians 1:9-14 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.