

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus



*Paul's Letter to the*

# Philippians

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code may abound more and more, with knowledge and  
all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be  
pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of

“That I May Gain Christ”  
(Philippians 3:1-11)





# PHILIPPIANS

## Joy No Matter What

- **Those IN CHRIST can HAVE TRUE JOY & PEACE:**

- Regardless of our past - (our sins or what others have done to us)
- Regardless of our circumstances - (Our physical or material condition or how others are mistreating us)



# “That I May Gain Christ”

- “Paul’s Prayer For The Brethren In Philippi” - (1:3-11)
- “Making The Most of Our Circumstances” - (1:12-26)
- “Conduct Worthy of The Gospel” — (1:21-30)
- “Joyful Unity In Christ” — (Philippians 2:1-5) —
- “The Humbled & Exalted Christ” — (2:5-11) —
- “Working Out Our Own Salvation” — (2:12-18)





# “That I May Gain Christ”

- Last week we examined Paul's remarks concerning two men; one described as a “son,” the other as a “brother” (Php 2:19-30)
- These two men demonstrated the type of “humility & sacrificial service” expected of the disciple of Jesus Christ.





# Philippians 3:1–11 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe. <sup>2</sup> Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! <sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,



# Philippians 3:1–11 (NKJV)

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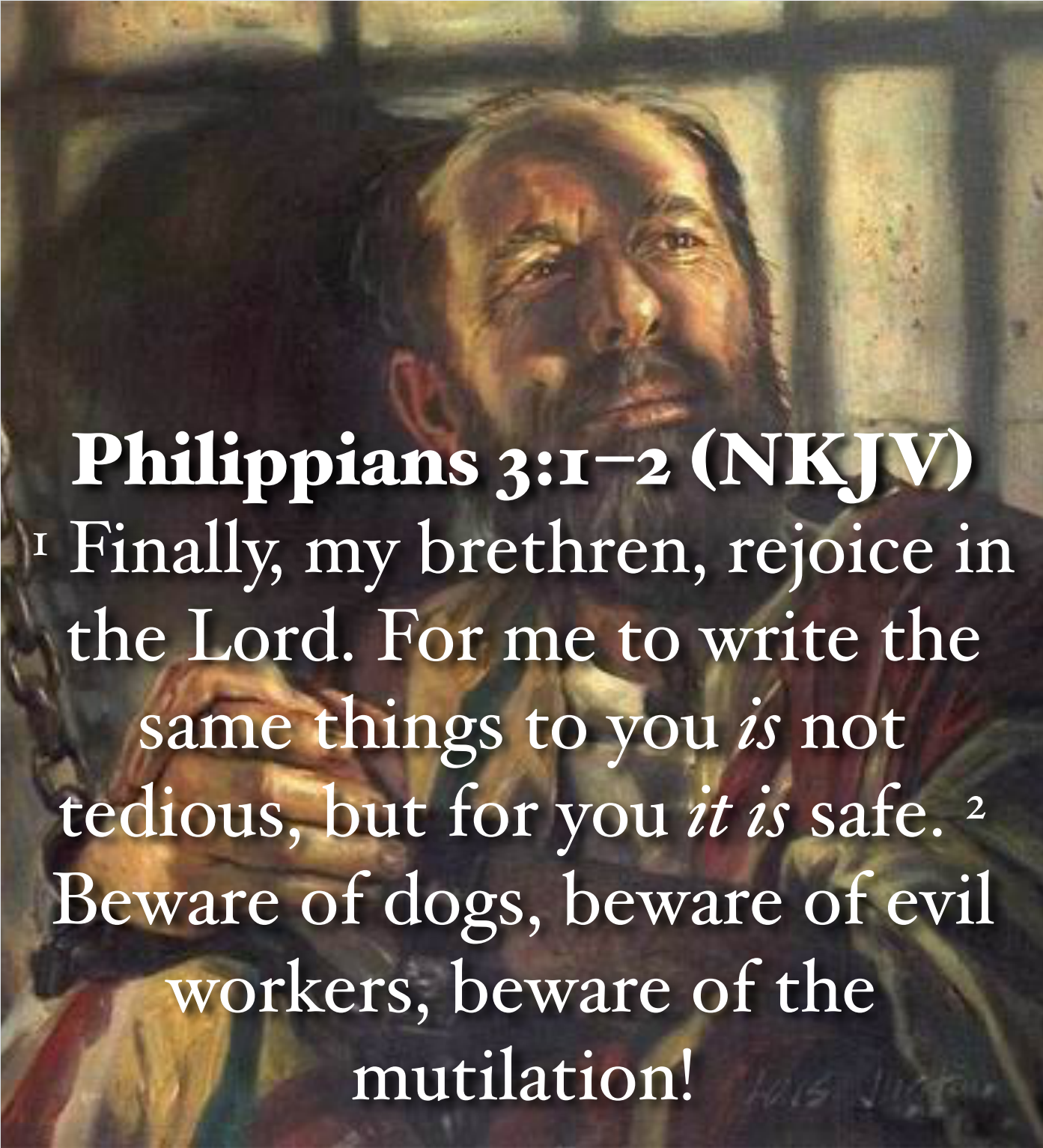
# Philippians 3:1–11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;  
<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,  
<sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## WARNING AGAINST JUDAIZERS - 1,2



### **Philippians 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

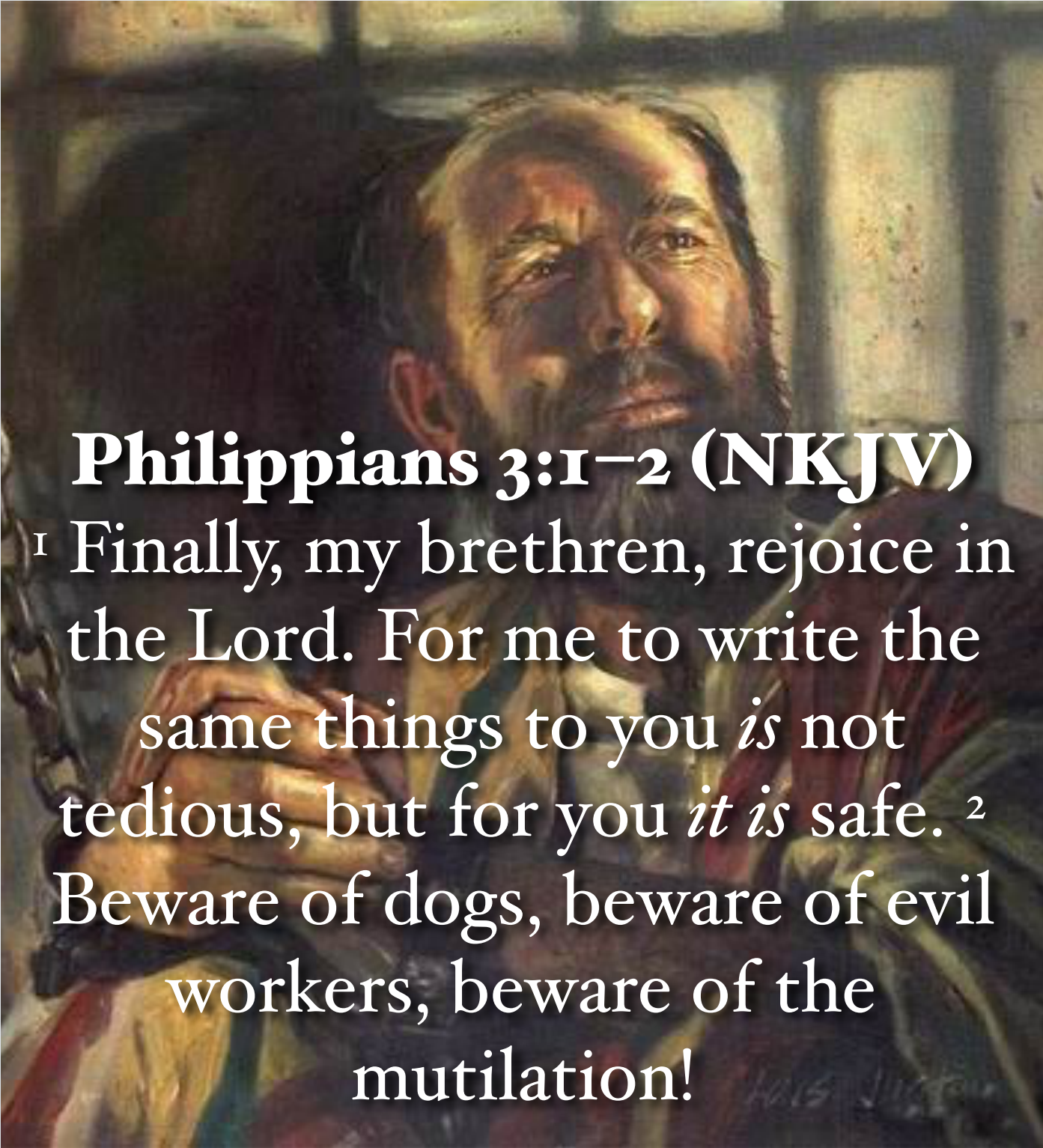
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- The word **finally** is used to introduce a new subject - A dire warning concerning false teachers - 1
- Throughout his ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul had to contend with certain Jewish Christians Known today as "Judaizers",



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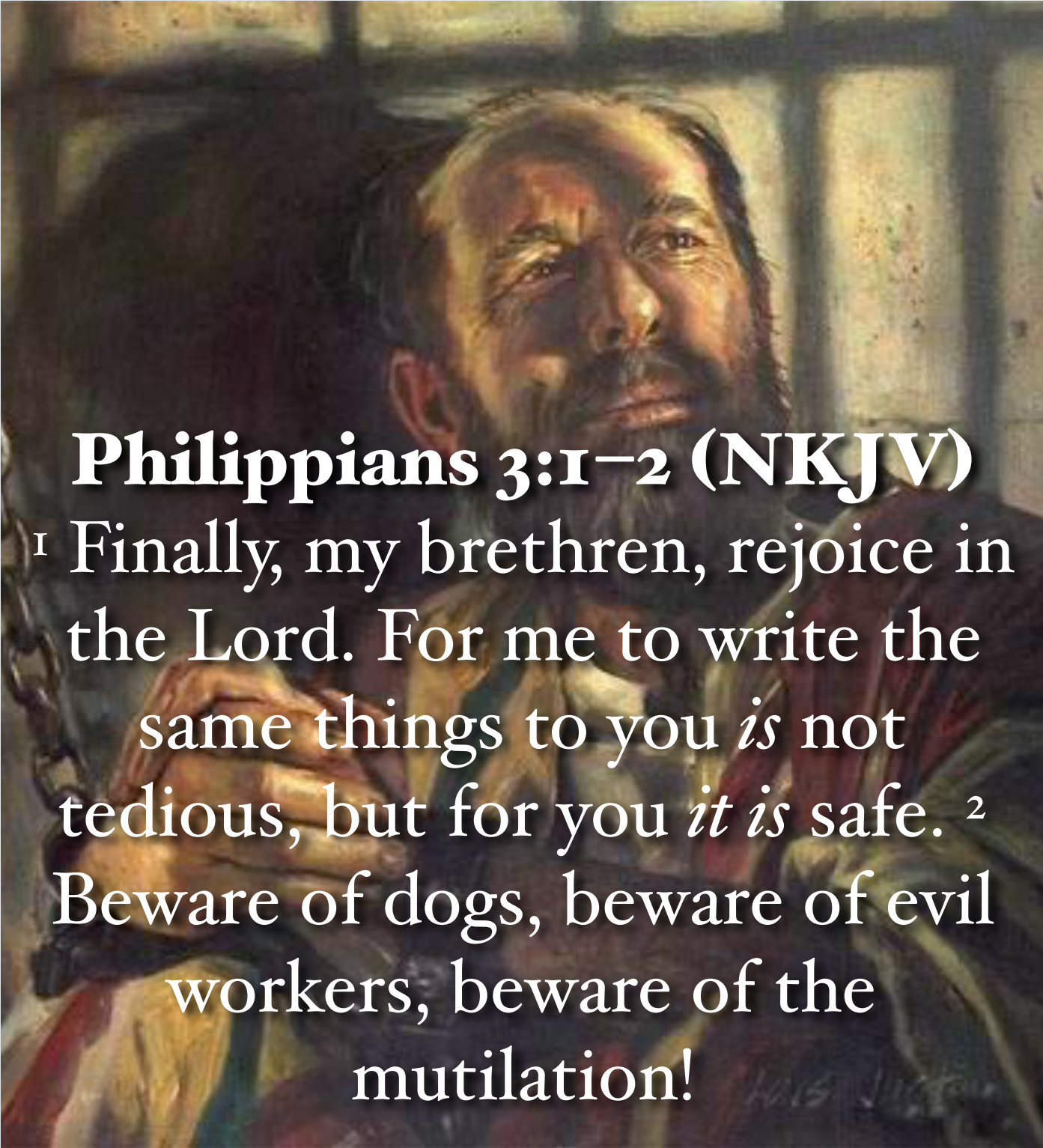
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- They taught that in order to be saved one had to be physically circumcision and keep the Law of - Ac 15:1-2
- Note the threefold reiteration, Beware... beware... beware!
- **DOGS** - *not your pet* - unclean and filthy (Prov. 26:11; cf. II Peter 2:22; Matt. 7:6; Rev. 22:15).



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- **EVIL WORKERS** - These men are wicked laborers, malicious toilers. Cf. "deceitful workers" (II Cor. 11:13) and "workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:27).
- **MUTILATION** - calls them "katatome" (to cut off) Cf. Paul's denunciation of Judaizers in Gal. (1:6-9; 3:1; 5:1-12, note esp vs. 12; 6:12-15)



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## THE TRUE CIRCUMCISION - 3



### **Philippians 3:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision,  
who worship God in the Spirit,  
rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have  
no confidence in the flesh,

- We Christians are the truly circumcized ones. (Rom 2:25-29; 9:24; Gal 6:15,16; Col. 2:11-13)
- The notion that God today recognizes two favored “groups” the “church” & the “Jews” is thoroughly unscriptural. — Acts 15:11; Rom 11:26
- The Lord has but one flock with one shepherd — John 10:16; Eph 5:25



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

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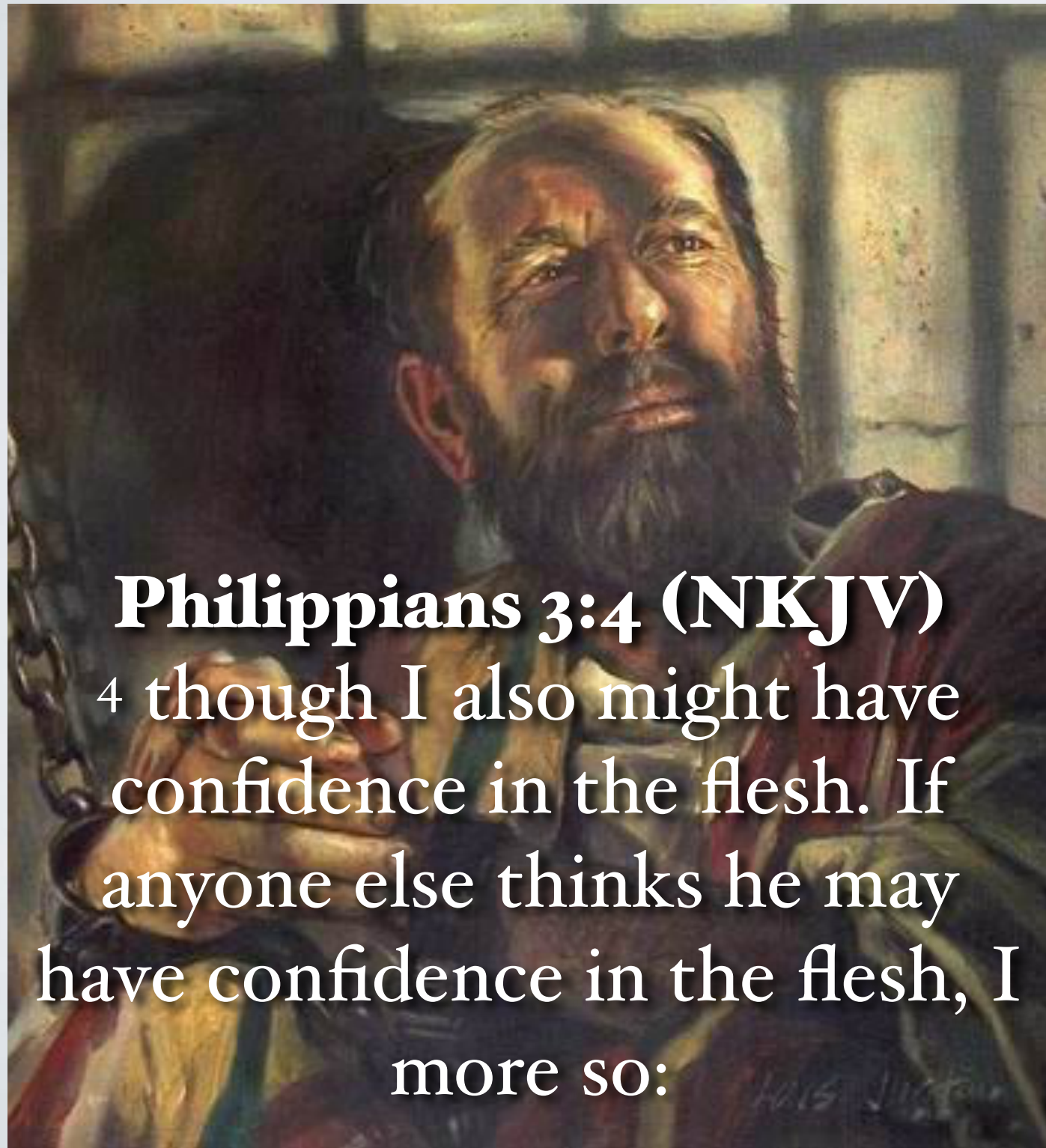
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- **Worship God in the Spirit** — John 4:19-24; Her 12:28,29
- **Rejoice in Christ Jesus** — rejoice (*kauchōmenoi*) as used here means “boast” or “exult” with confidence in (cf. 1:26; 2:16; 2 Co. 10:17; Gal. 6:14).
- **Have no confidence in the flesh** — confidence not in the Law, but in Christ - salvation gained in Him - Col. 2:11-13



“That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

PAUL'S PAST “STANDING” IN THE FLESH (4-6)



**Philippians 3:4 (NKJV)**

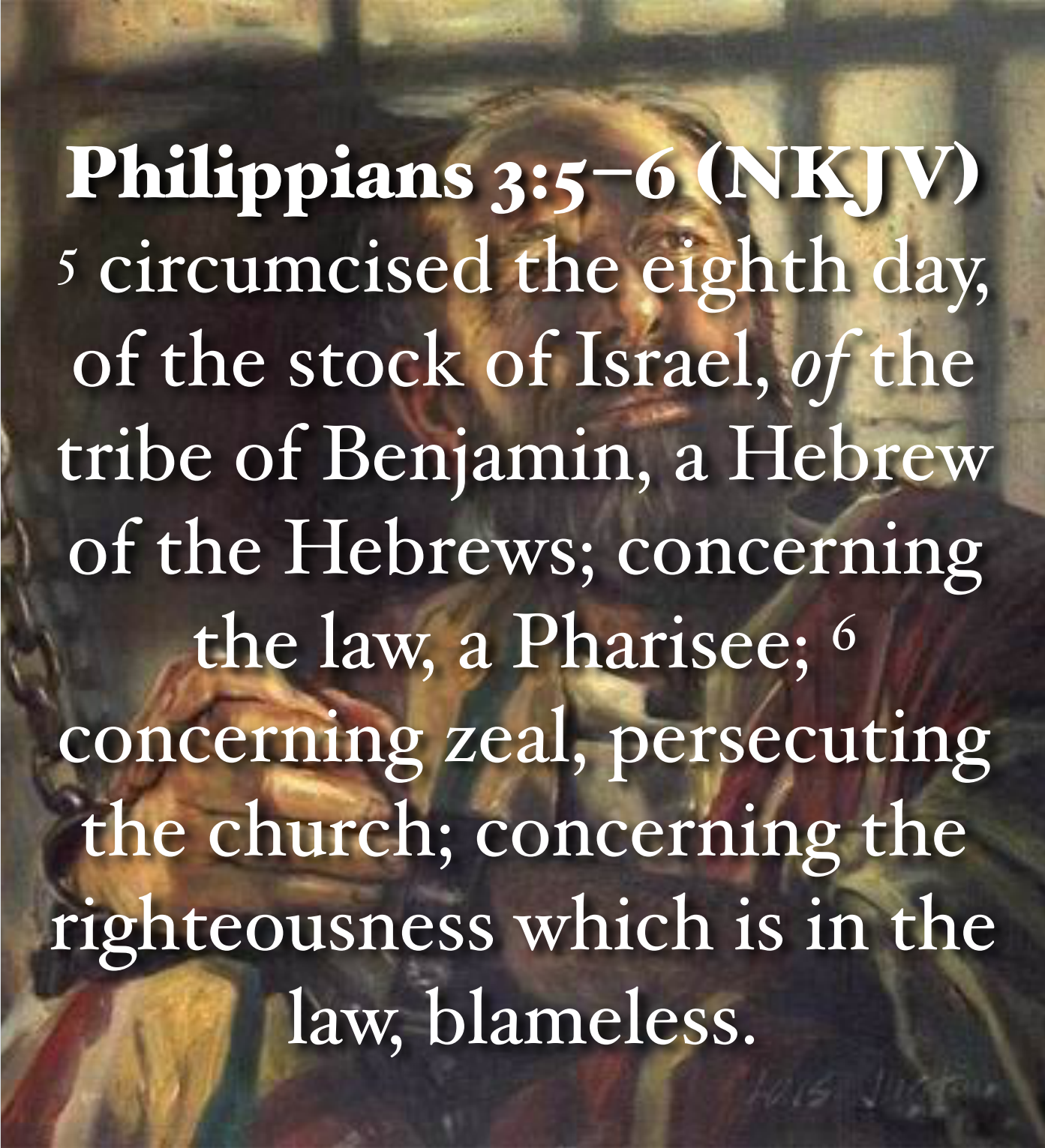
<sup>4</sup> though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

If ANYONE could have “gloried in the flesh” it would have been Paul:



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL'S PAST “STANDING” IN THE FLESH (4-6)



### **Philippians 3:5-6 (NKJV)**

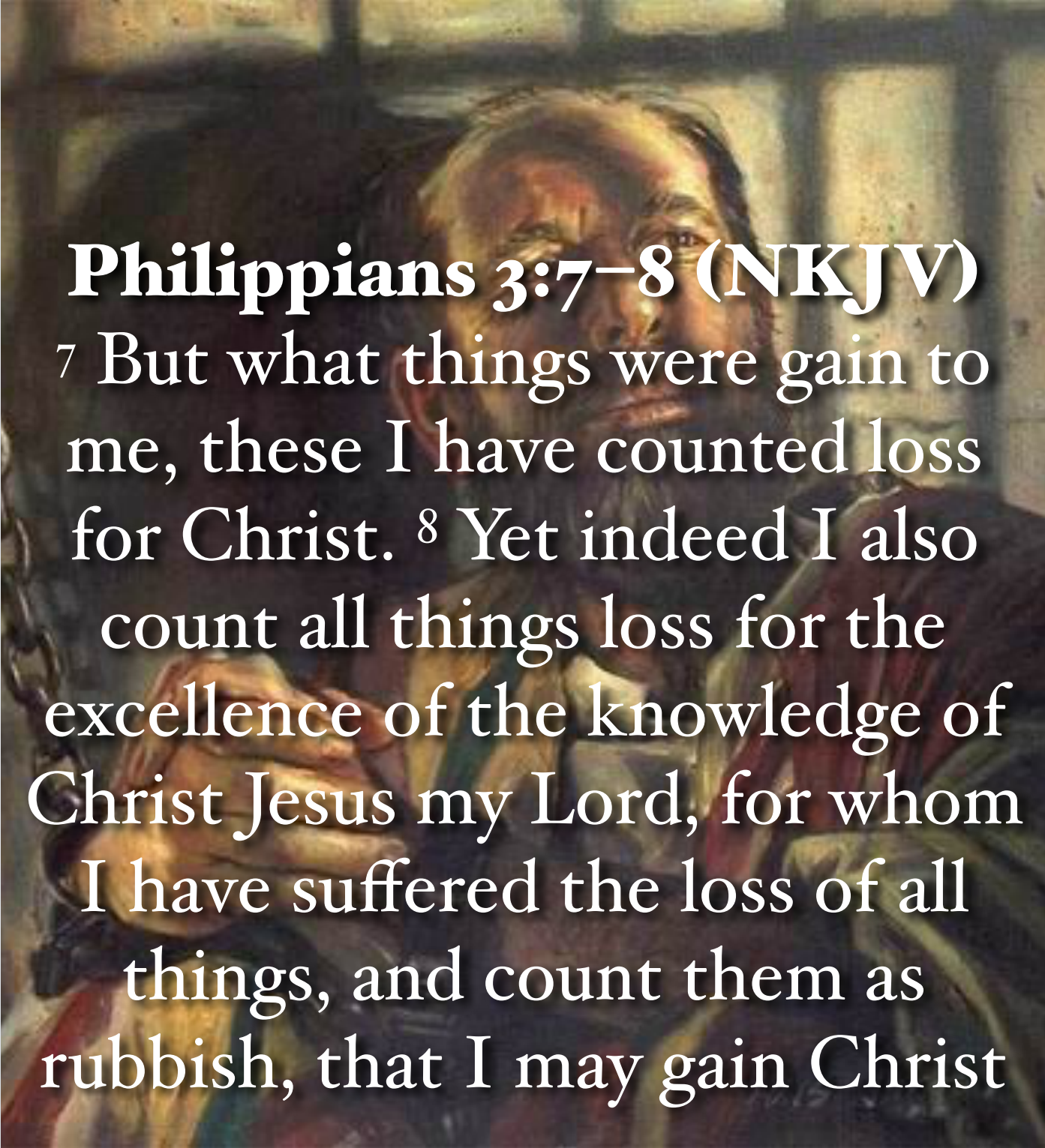
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- **Ritual purity** - (circumcised 8th day) - Gen 17:12; Lk. 2:21;
- **Racial purity** - (*stock of Israel, tribe of Benjamin*) - Rom 11:1
- **Cultural purity** - (Hebrew of Hebrews, purist, resisted Hellenization) - Acts 6:1
- **Religiously zealous** - (Pharisee, separatists, traditionalists, strictest sect; persecuted the church, cf. John 16:2,3; Acts 8:3; 22:3,4; 26:5,9,10; Gal 1:13,14; Rom 10:1-3)



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



### **Philippians 3:7-8 (NKJV)**

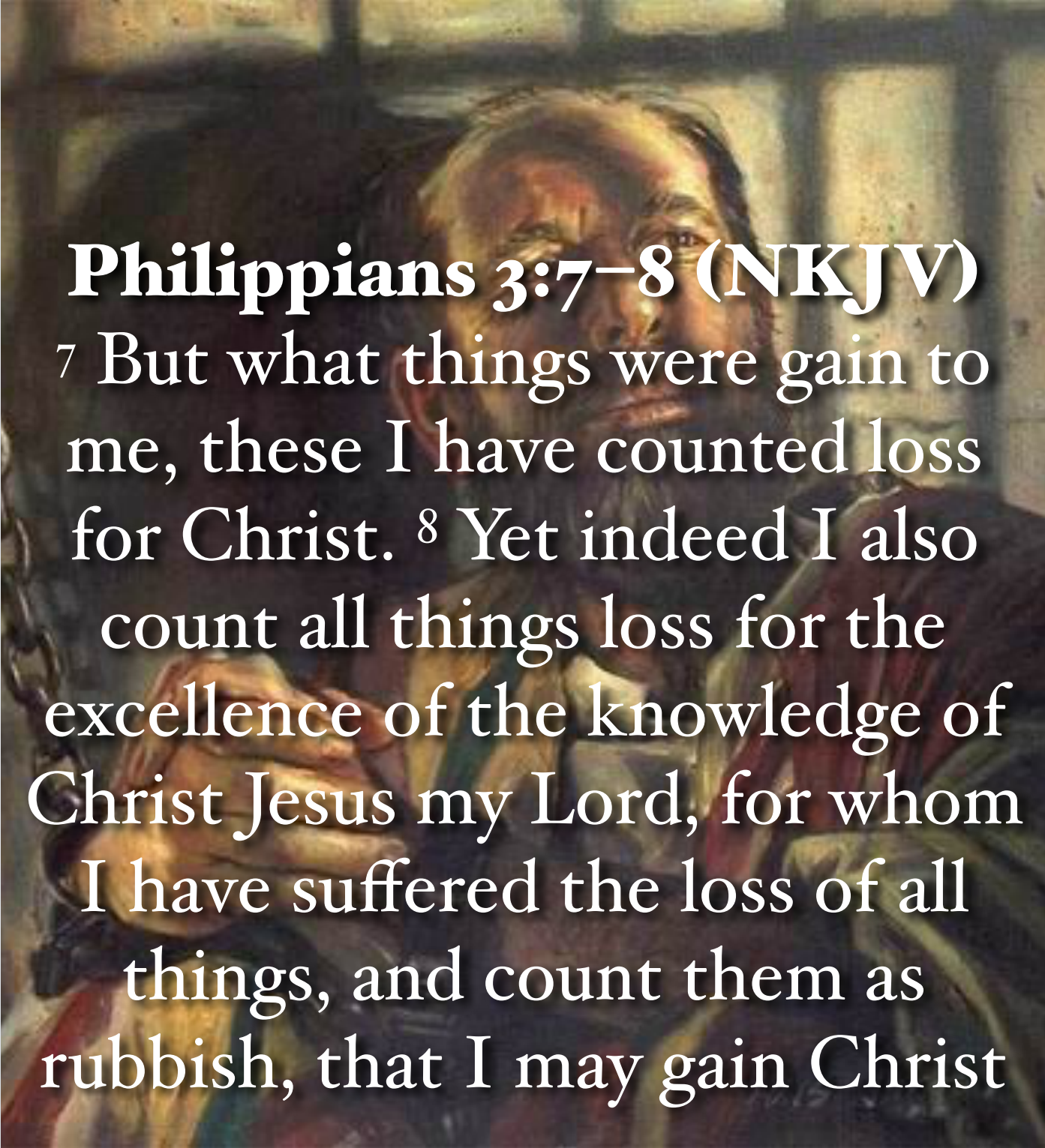
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- No flesh will be justified in God's sight by the works of the Law - (Rom 3:20a; cf. Gal 5:4).
- Redemption is found only through faith in Christ (cf Rom 3:24; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Gal. 3:24-28)
- Paul viewed his prior spiritual achievements: as “loss.” rather than “profit,” - (cf Acts 9:1-22; 22:1-21; 26:12-23)



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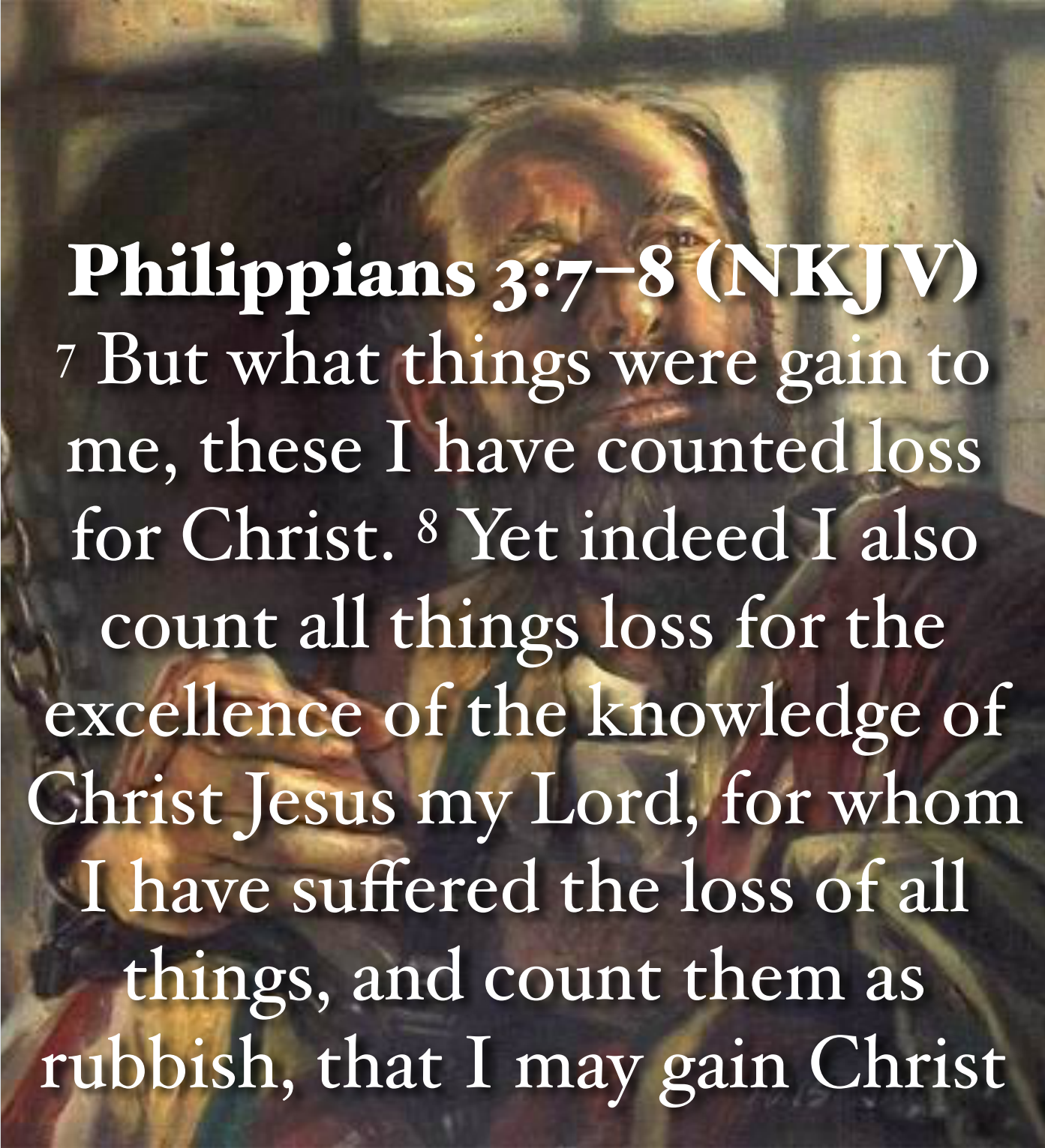
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- **Indeed I also Count** - i.e. to lead before the mind, consider, esteem -
- Paul could not maintain confidence in the flesh and have this **surpassing knowledge in Christ** at the same time.
- Paul considered **the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus** far superior to all he had and could have in Judaism.



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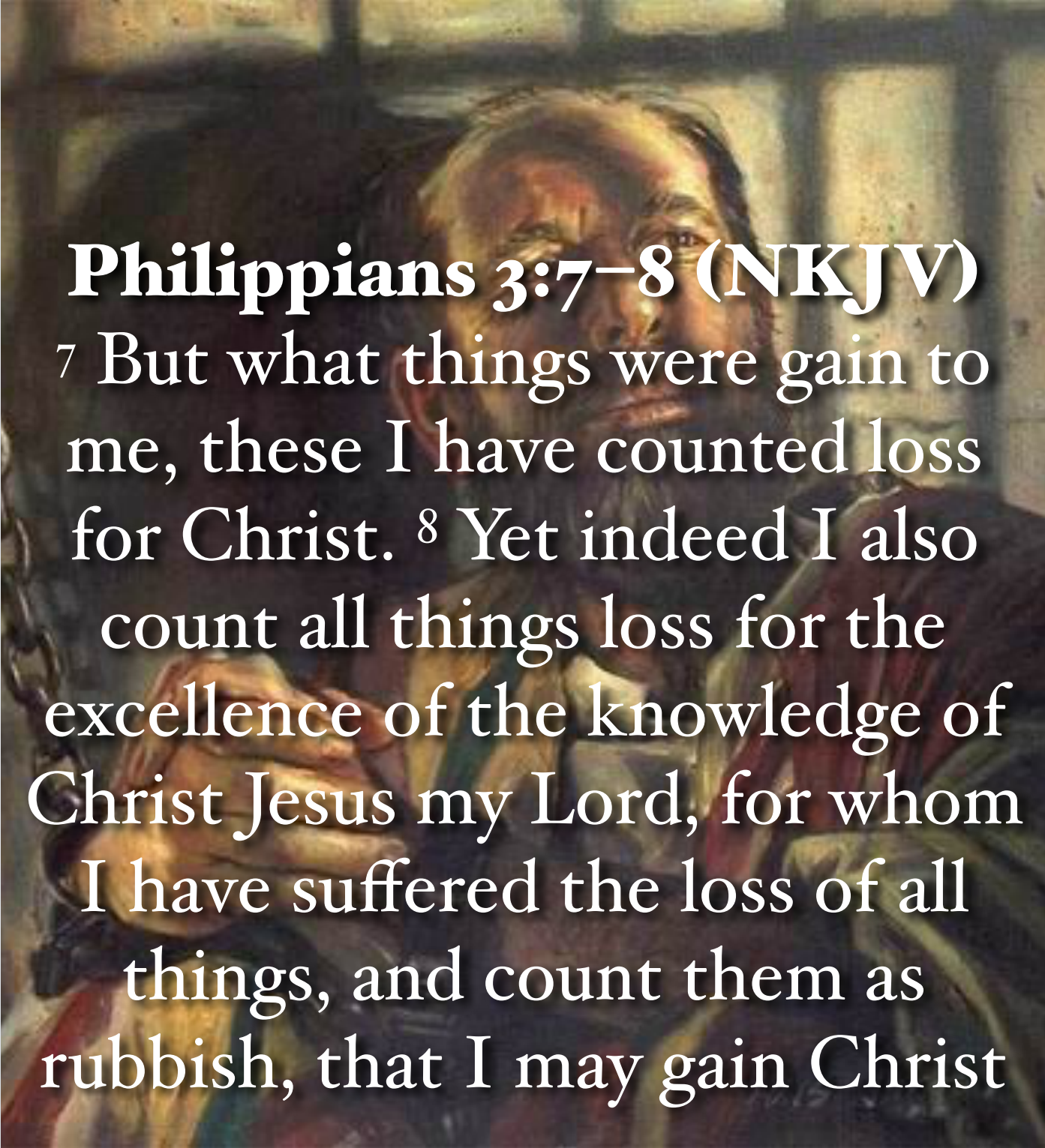
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**Paul emphasizes that this knowledge of Christ is “the only knowledge worth having, a knowledge so transcendent in value that it compensates for the loss of everything else.” [F.F. Bruce]**



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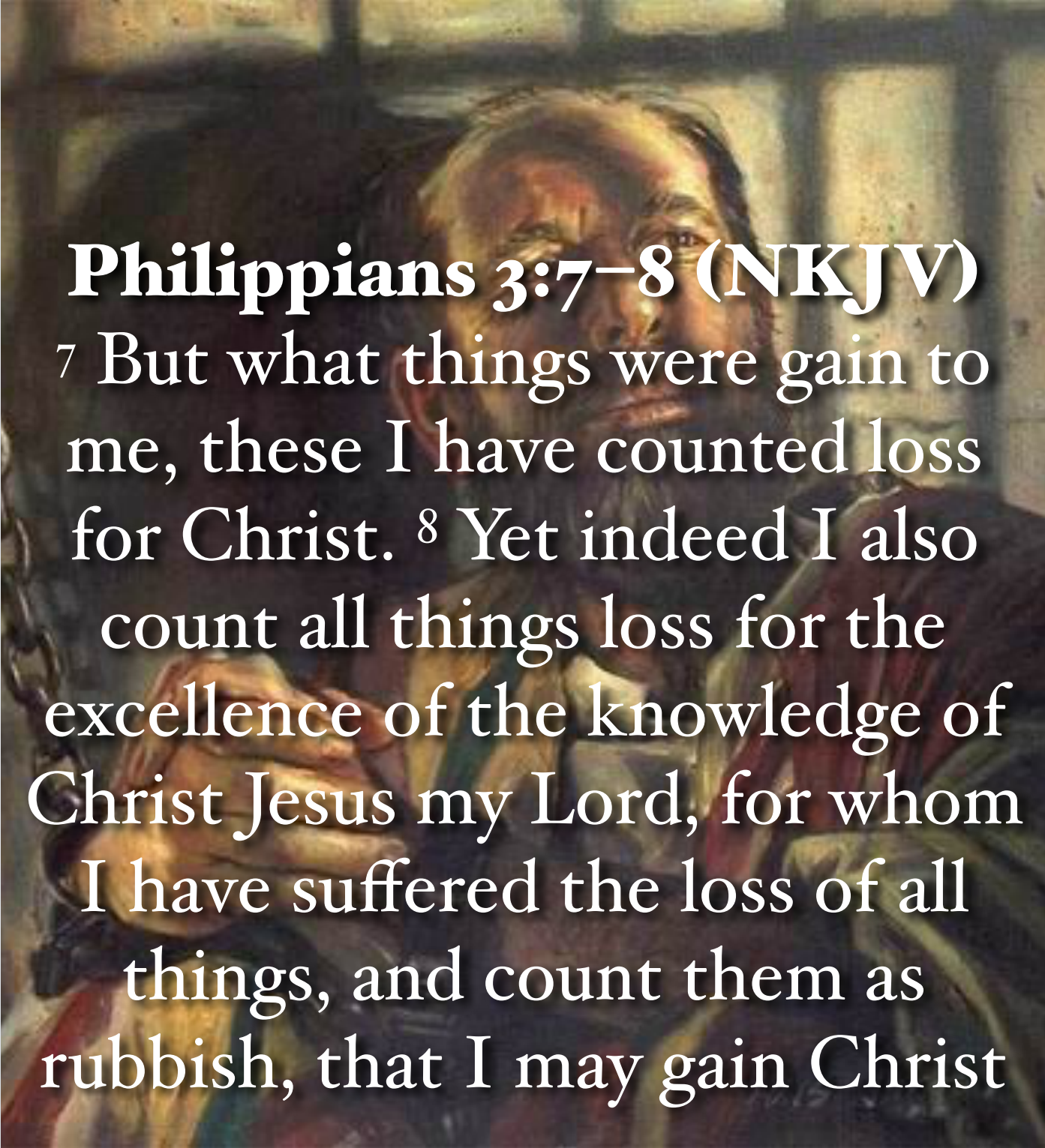
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- His position -
- His good standing -
- His friends turned their backs on him.
- He went from being one of the most loved men among the Jews to being one of the most hated.
- He abandoned a safe existence, and ultimately he would lose his life.



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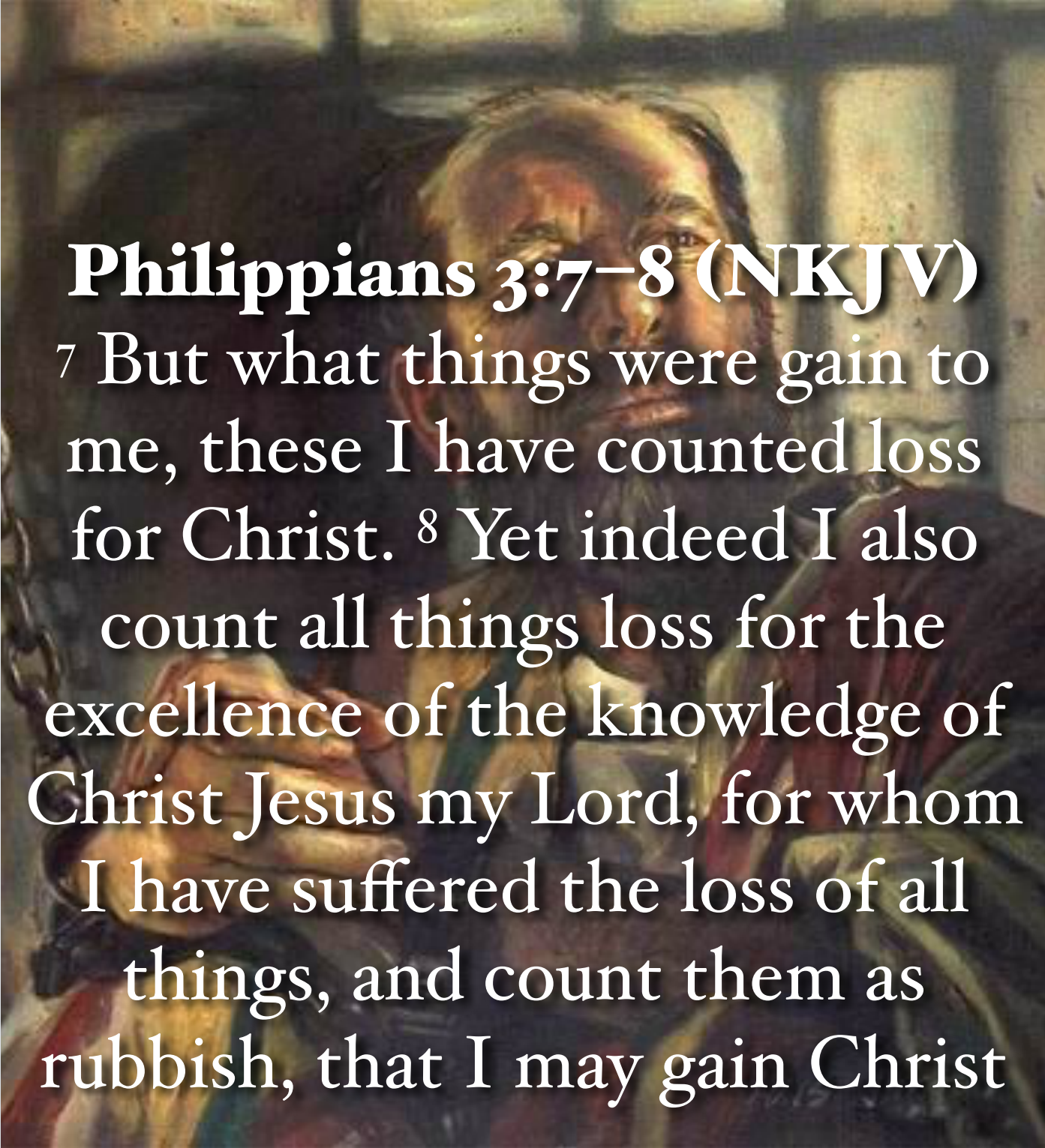
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- **“And count them as rubbish”** -- Greek, "refuse (such as excrements, dregs, dross) cast to the dogs," as the derivation expresses. A "loss" is of something having value; but "refuse" is thrown away as not worthy of being any more touched or looked at. - [Jamieson, Fausset & Brown Bible Commentary]



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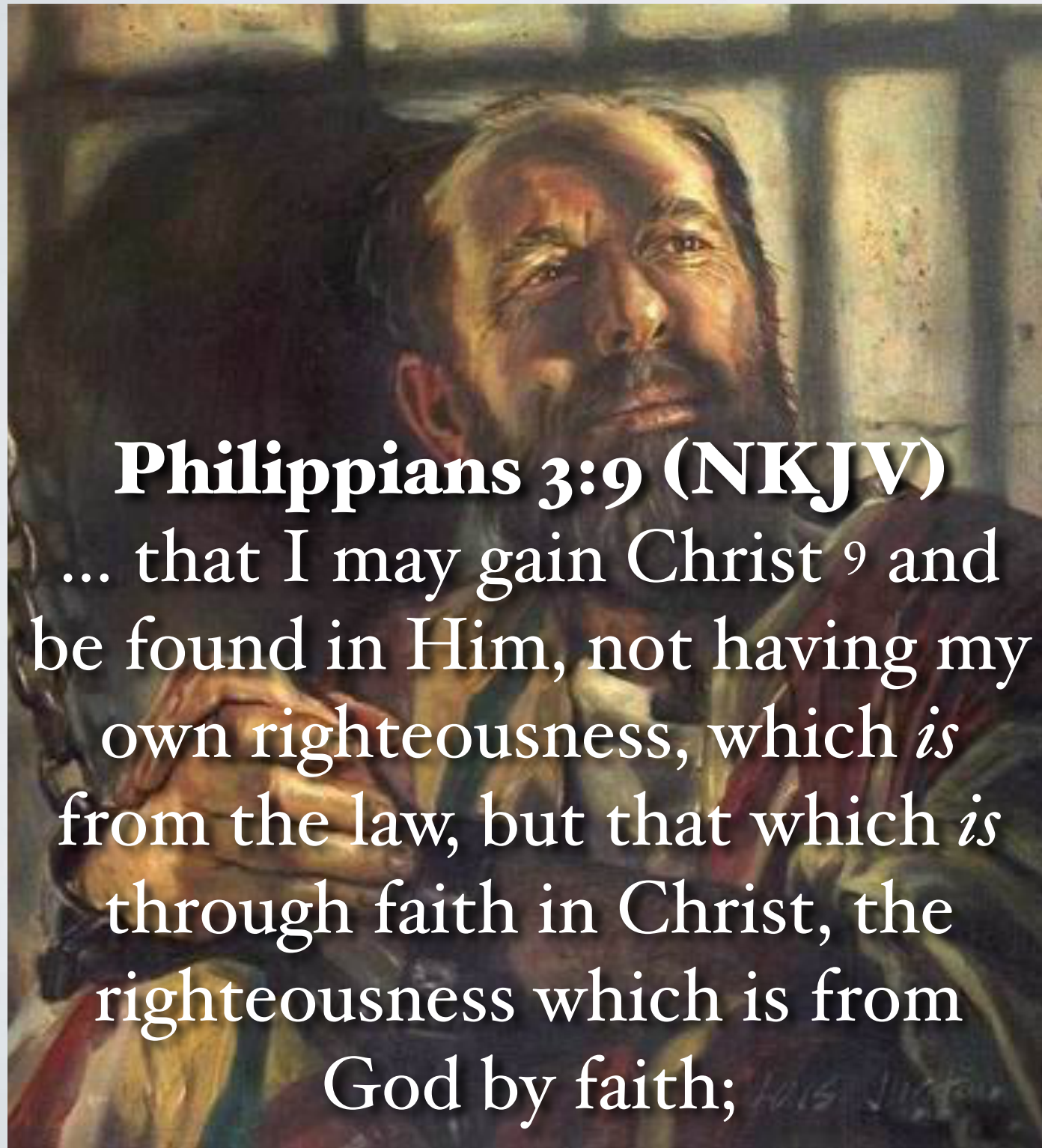
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- Paul's former religious achievements viewed as worthless & filthy - **as all things contrary to the teaching of Christ should be viewed.**
- One may be a faithful & devout Muslim, Jew, Catholic, Protestant , etc., but all such should be counted as loss for the excellence of knowing Christ, and considered as garbage to gain Christ!



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



- **To gain** Christ [*to win Christ / receive blessing*] (3:8)
- **To be found in** Christ - [*The sphere of every spiritual blessing*] (3:9; Gal 3:26,27; John 15:1-10; Eph 1:3ff)
- **To be righteous through faith in Christ** - [*right standing before God cannot be merited, but received*] (3:9; Rom 3:21-4:8; 6:16-19; Acts 2:38; 22:16)



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



- **To know Christ** - [not merely to know about Him, but to know Him] (3:10)
- **To know the power of His resurrection** - [empowerment] (3:10; Rom 6:4; Col. 3:1,2; Eph 1:18-20)
- **To know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings - being conformed to His death** - [living for Christ / dying to self] (3:10; 1:29; Luke 9:23; Rom 6; 2 Cor. 4:10,11; Gal 2:20,21; Col. 3:3)



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



- Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means -

### **Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



- Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means -

### **Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## PAUL LOST IT ALL TO GAIN CHRIST (7-11)



- Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means -

### **Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV)**

- But I press on ... - 12
- Forgetting those things which are behind ... 13
- Reaching forward ... - 13
- I press toward the goal for the prize ... - 14



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US?



- It is obvious what was important to Paul: Jesus - all He is & has.
- With regard to profit and loss, we, as the apostle Paul, should view everything as loss except the Lord.
- Our only gain (profit) is in knowing the Lord, being in the Lord, living for the Lord & living with the Lord!



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US?



- If, after searching your heart, you find anything standing between you and the Lord, as Paul did, “count it but rubbish” so you might gain Christ.
- Surrender your life to Him today!



# “That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11)

## WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US?



- What is worth more to you than Christ and eternal life which is found in Him?
- What will you give in exchange for your soul?



“That I May Gain Christ” — (Phili 3:1-11) <sup>30</sup>

## WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US?



➤ *Are you truly giving all that you may gain Christ and the true joy found in Him?*

- First must obey the gospel — Heb 5:8,9; Mk 16:16
- Growing in faith, diligently serving the Lord — 2 Pet 1:5-10
- Eternal joy awaits — (Rom 8:18; 1 Cor 15:58)







# PHILIPPIANS — JOY NO MATTER WHAT

“That I May Gain Christ”

**Charts by Don McClain**

Preached March 18, 2018

West 65th Street church of Christ / P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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# Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.



# Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, <sup>48</sup> which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.



# Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”