

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,


To all the saints in Christ Jesus,



Paul's Letter to the

Philippians

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”
(Philippians 4:1-7)



PHILIPPIANS — *Joy No Matter What*

*ALL 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)

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

How would you describe Paul's frame of mind?

- **Aware** of his current state & his need ... 12a
- **Determined** to faithfully serve Christ ... 12b
- **Focussed** on the task of progression ... 13
- **Diligent**, continuous effort to gain the prize ... 14
- **His plea** for them, (us) to be likeminded ... 15,16

(Philippians 3:12-16)

“Are We Enemies OR Proponents of The Cross?”

The Two WAYS Have Two Very Different Destinies!

- Follow the approved pattern ... 3:17
- Reject the false teachers - Refuse to follow their destructive ways ... 3:18,19
- Are we living for HEAVEN? - Eagerly waiting for our Lord's return? ... 3:20,21

(Philippians 3:17-4:1)

Philippians 4:1–7 (NKJV)

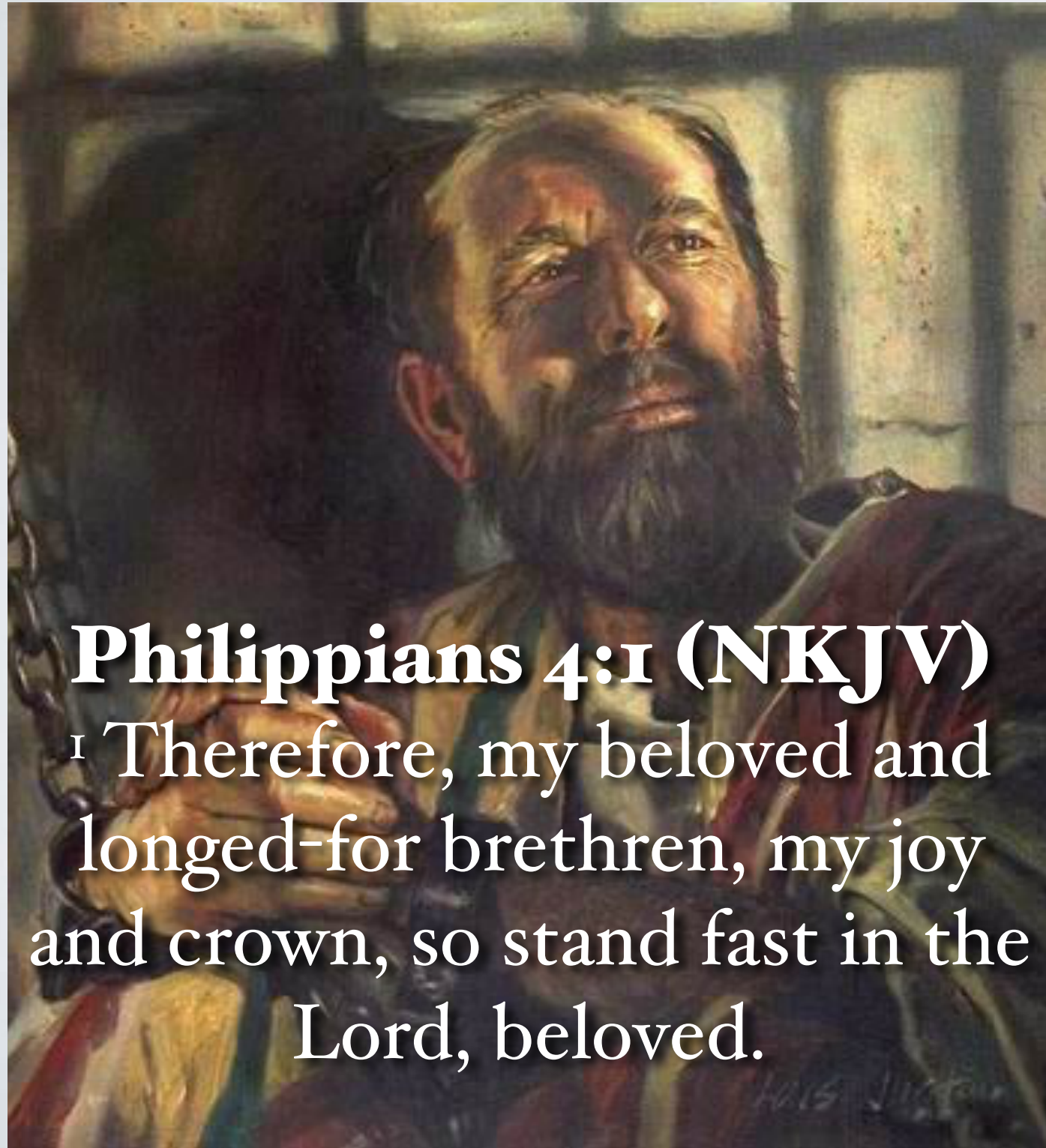
¹ Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. ² I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

Philippians 4:1–7 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

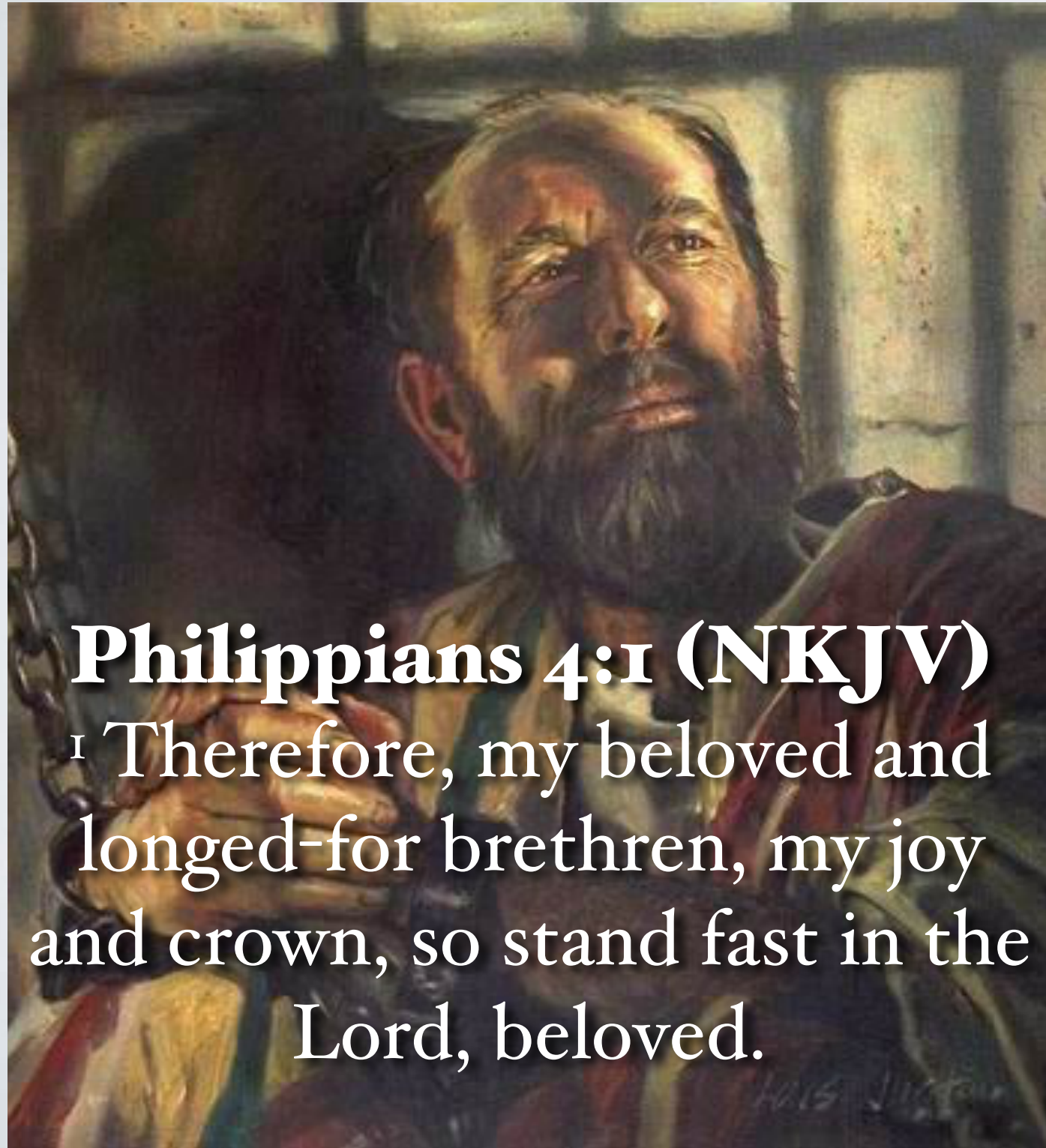
STAND FAST IN THE LORD BELOVED - 1



- **Therefore:** Seeing our citizenship is in heaven and we are eagerly looking for our Savior - **LISTEN ... (1)**
- **My beloved & longed for brethren:** — they were family & dearly loved! — 3:1; cf. 1:7,8
- **My joy:** - Their faithfulness and support brought Paul great joy — (Phil. 1:3-7, 29, 30; 2:12, 17; 4:10, 14-20).

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

STAND FAST IN THE LORD BELOVED - 1



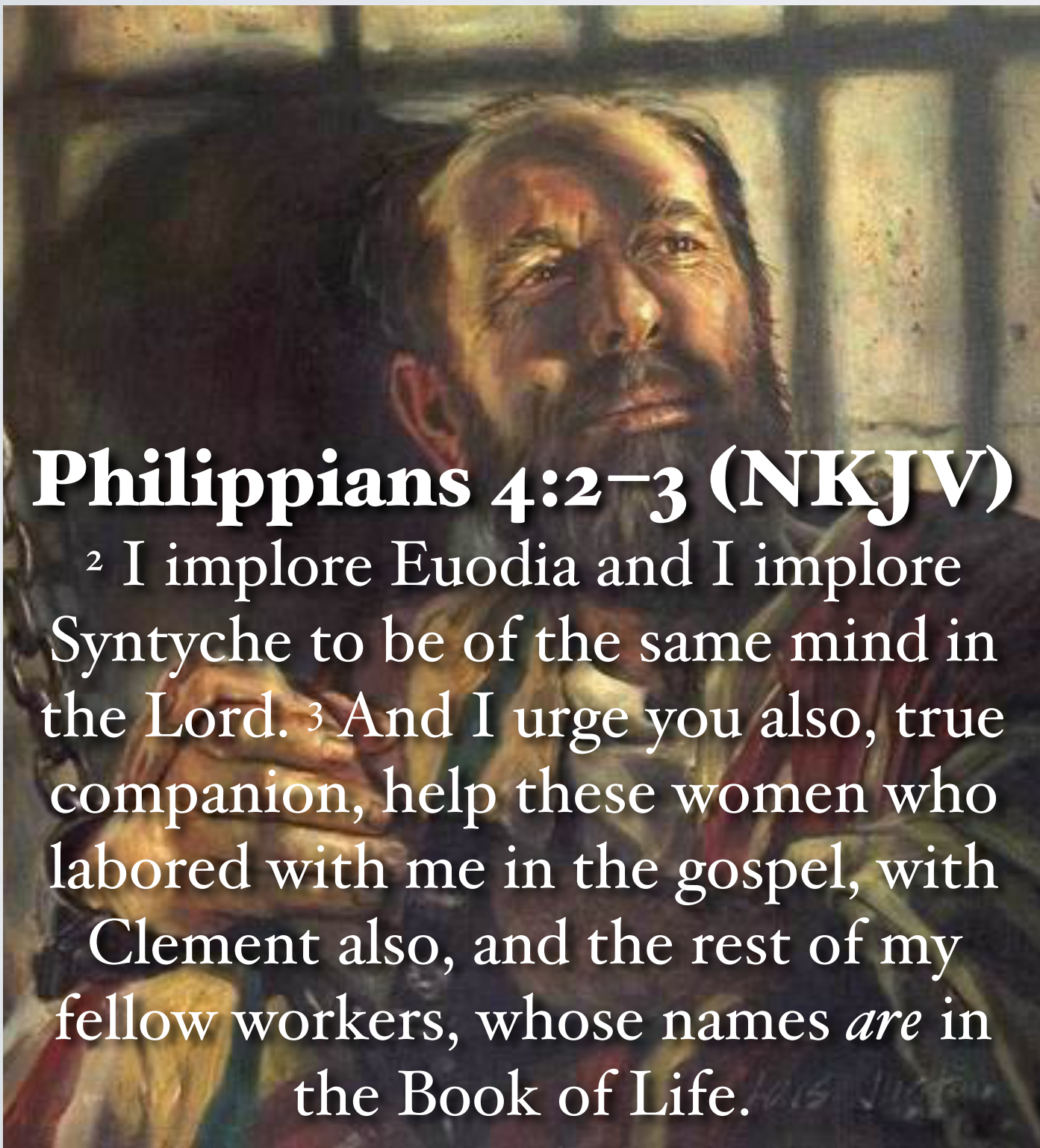
Philippians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

- **And crown:** (stephanos) the victors crown / reward for the faithful, (1 Cor. 9:26; Jam 1:12; Rev 2:10) they would be his reward - (2:16; cf. 1 Cor. 3:5-15)
- **So STAND FAST:** — do not be moved away from the hope we have **IN CHRIST!** — 1:27; cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:13; Gal. 5:1; Eph. 6:10-18; 1 The 3:8; 2 The 2:15; Heb 3:14; 10:23; etc.

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

EXHORTATION TO **UNITY** OF MIND - 2,3



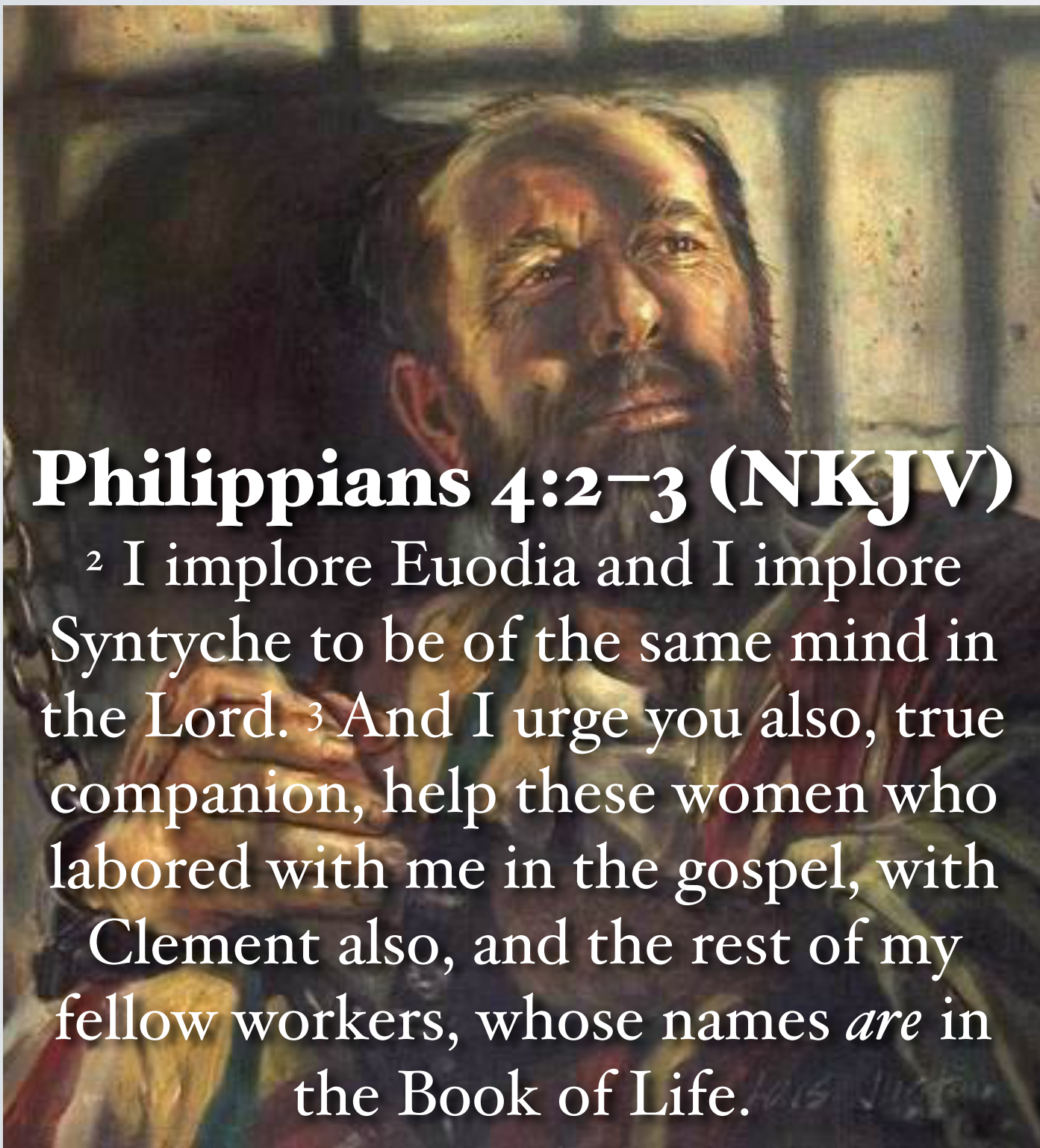
Philippians 4:2–3 (NKJV)

² I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

- **I implore:** to call near, to plead with - two women, Euodia and Syntyche, who had previously been of great help to Paul & the church had some form of disagreement ()
- **Be of the same mind:** — To think the same / in the Lord, i.e., the Lord is to govern their thinking & attitude — 1:27; 2:2; c.f., 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 2 Cor. 10:5; Eph. 4:1-8; 1 Pet 3:8-11;

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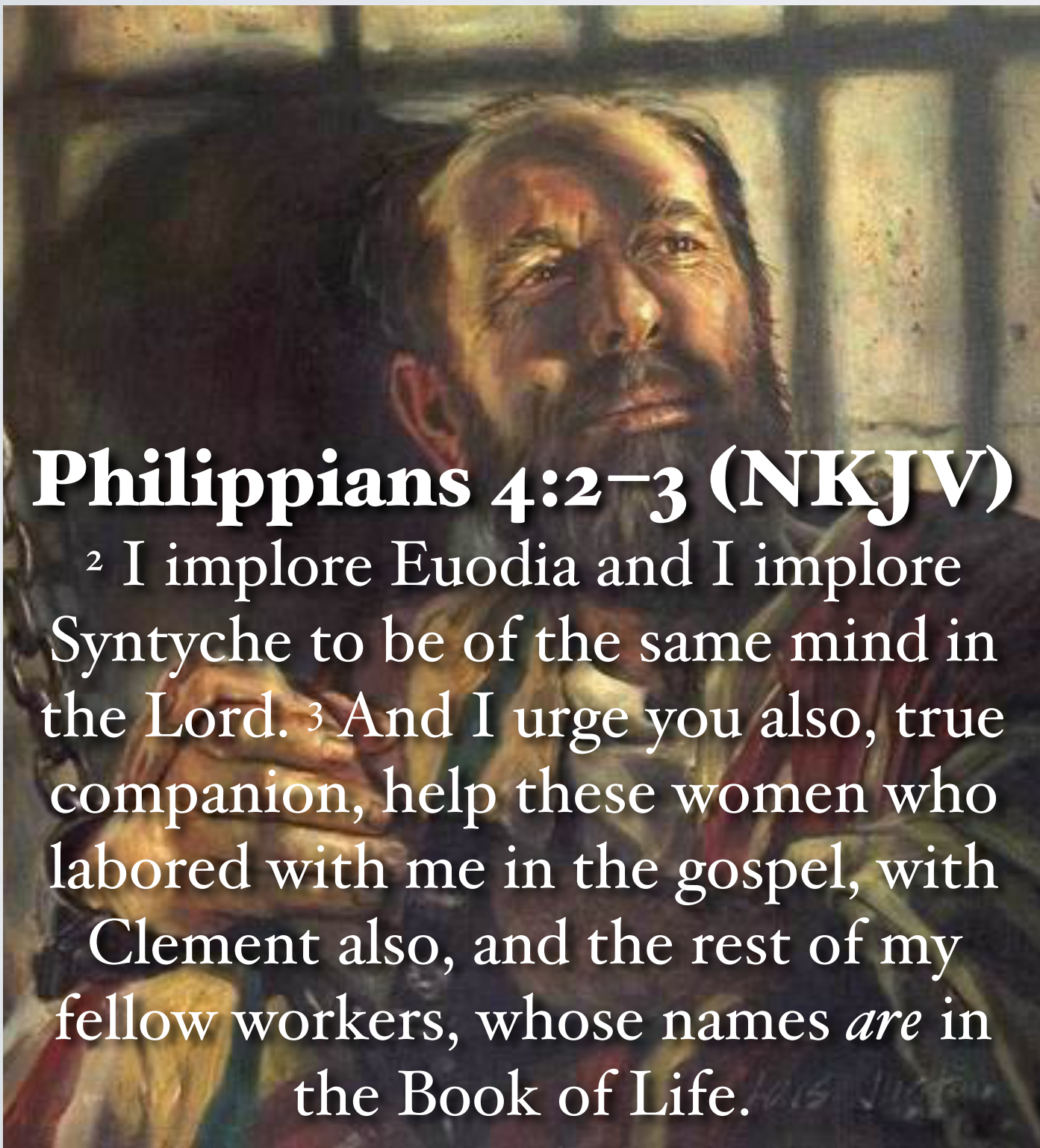
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- **I urge you also:** (3) Paul enlists the aid of another member of the church at Philippi - (*maybe Syzygus*)
- **Who labored with me in the gospel:** — worked w/ Paul, & also Clement, (unknown) and also the rest ... (women were NOT to teach over men, (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim 2:12), but very important in the early church! - (Acts 18:24-26; Rom 1:9; 16; 1 Thes 3:2)

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EXHORTATION TO **UNITY** OF MIND - 2,3



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- **Whose names are in the Book of Life:** (3) the phrase “the book of life” appears 7 times in the NT — here, & six times in Revelation: 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27. Other similar, and associated phrases appear in both the OT & NT - Luke 10:20; Ex. 32:32,33; Dan. 12:1; Mal. 3:16; etc. ...
- **Names of righteous** - Ps. 69:28; Rev 3:5; 20:15; 21:27

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REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS - 4



- **CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL** — Php 1:4, 18; 2:2, 17; 4:10
- **Not just for apostles, but for all Christians:** (4) Jm 1:2-3; Ro 5:3-4; cf. Jm 1:2-3; 1Pe 4:12-13
- **This Abiding JOY is found ONLY in the Lord —**
 - Our confidence in the Lord — peace w/ God
 - Our salvation from sin
 - Our hope — Rom 5:2

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

BE **PATIENT** WITH ALL - 5



- Let your **GENTLENESS** —
ἐπιεικῆς, ἔς: The word
epi-ei-kei-a is one of
the most difficult words
in Greek to translate —
(Lou-Nida) “pertaining
to being gracious and
forbearing—‘gentle,
gracious, forbearing.’”
- Compare the nature of
“wisdom from above” -
James 3:13,17,18

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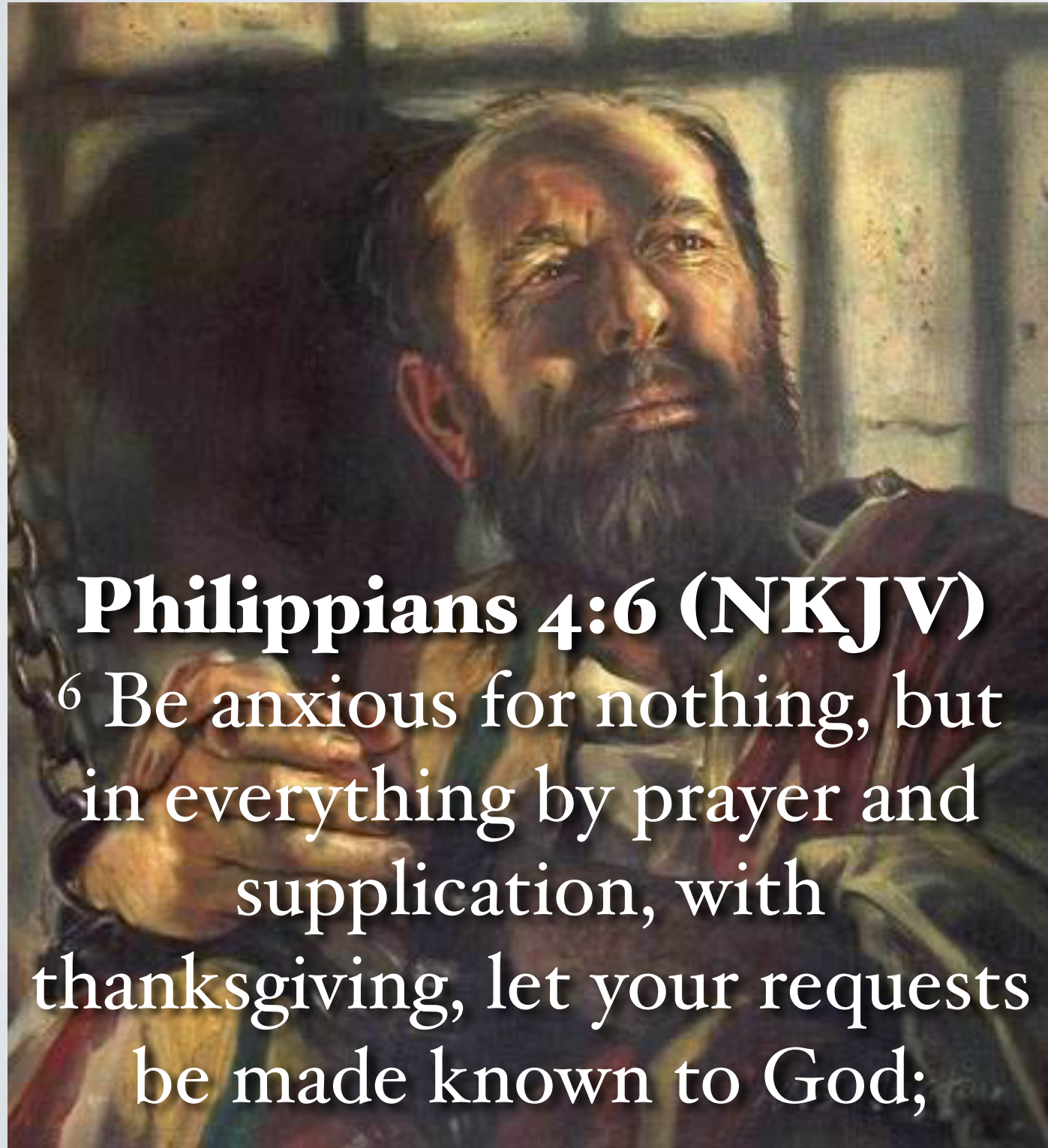
James 3:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Philippians 4:5 (NKJV)
⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men.
The Lord *is* at hand.

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

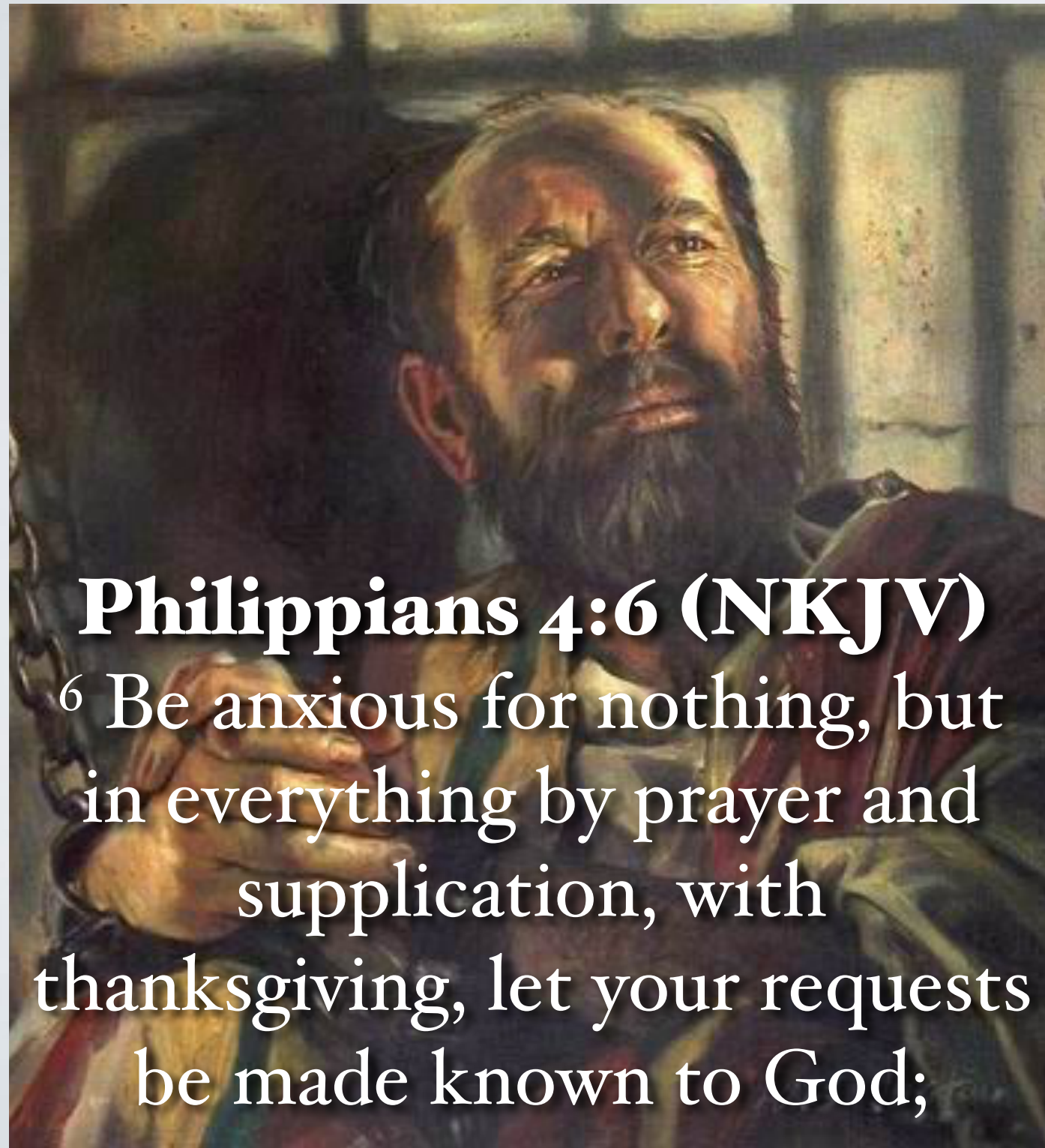
BE **ANXIOUS** FOR NOTHING - 6



- **Don't worry, be happy** —μεριμνάω: (derivative of μέριμνα 'worry,' 25.224) to have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune — (Lou-Nida)
- Compare the teaching of Jesus on worry - Matthew 6:25-34
- Caused by distractions / lack of faith in God and His promises ...

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

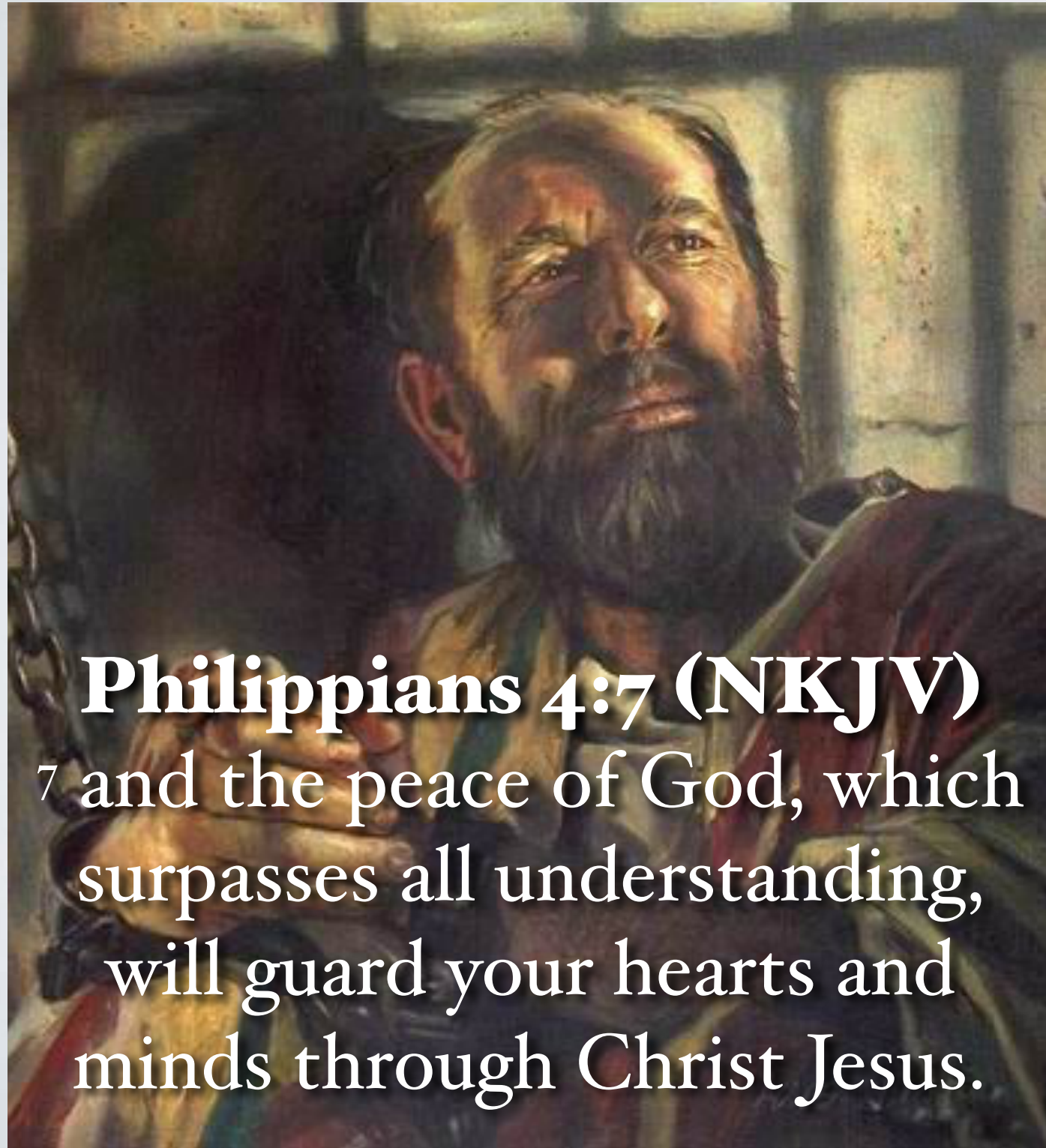
BE **ANXIOUS** FOR NOTHING - 6



- In contrast to **WORRY**
 - In everything **Pray** — *Don't worry about ANYTHING, but pray about EVERYTHING!*
 - And **supplication** - urgent plea, asking for needs to be met - Mt 7:7-11 - **dependance**.
 - **W/ Thanksgiving** - the attitude of gratitude is VERY powerful! - We always have something to be thankful for!!

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

THE **PEACE** OF GOD WILL GUARD US - 7



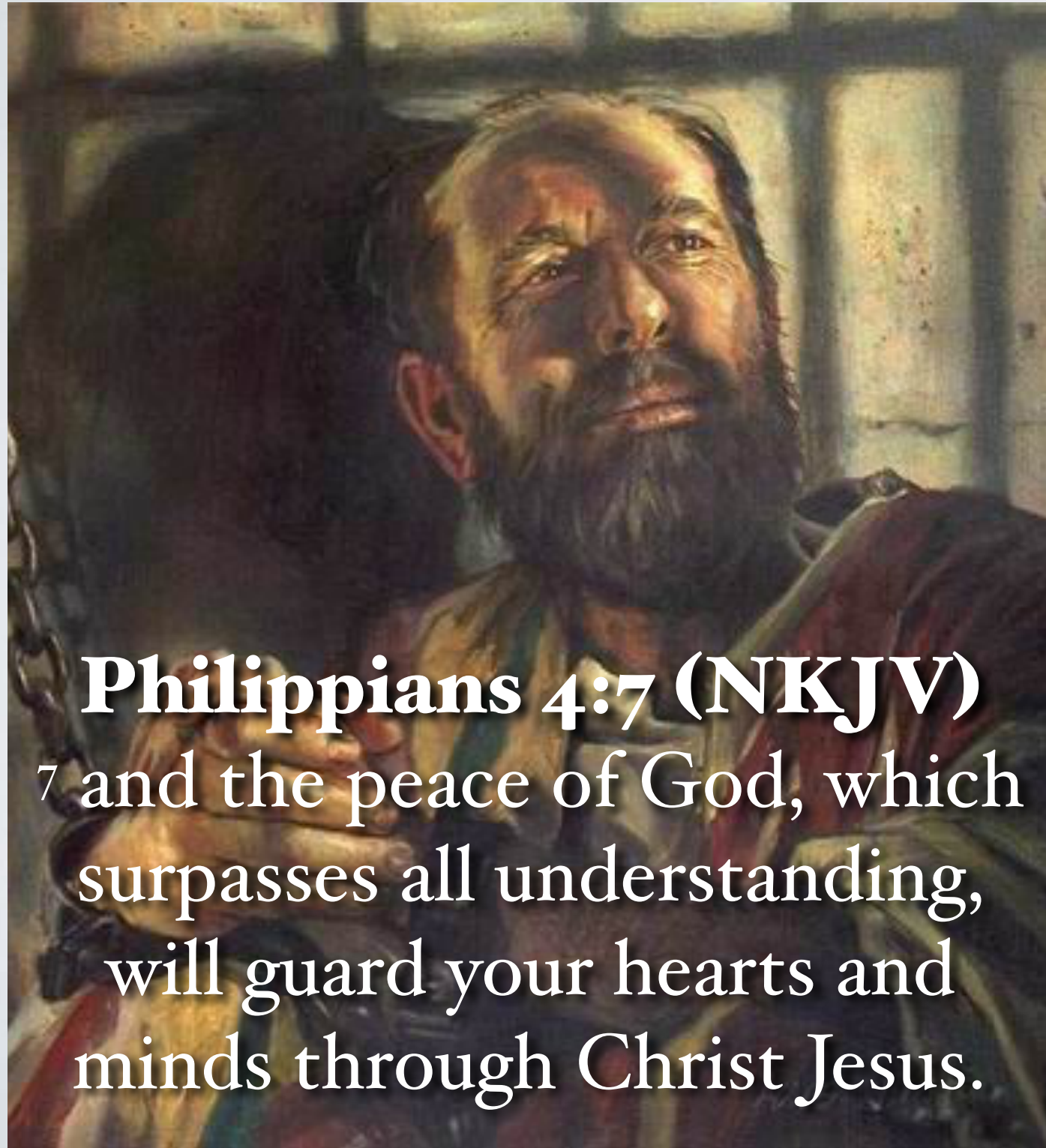
SUCH "TRUST" &
"DEPENDENCE"
UPON GOD WILL
RESULT IN A
FORTRESS
GUARDING OUR
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Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ and the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and
minds through Christ Jesus.

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

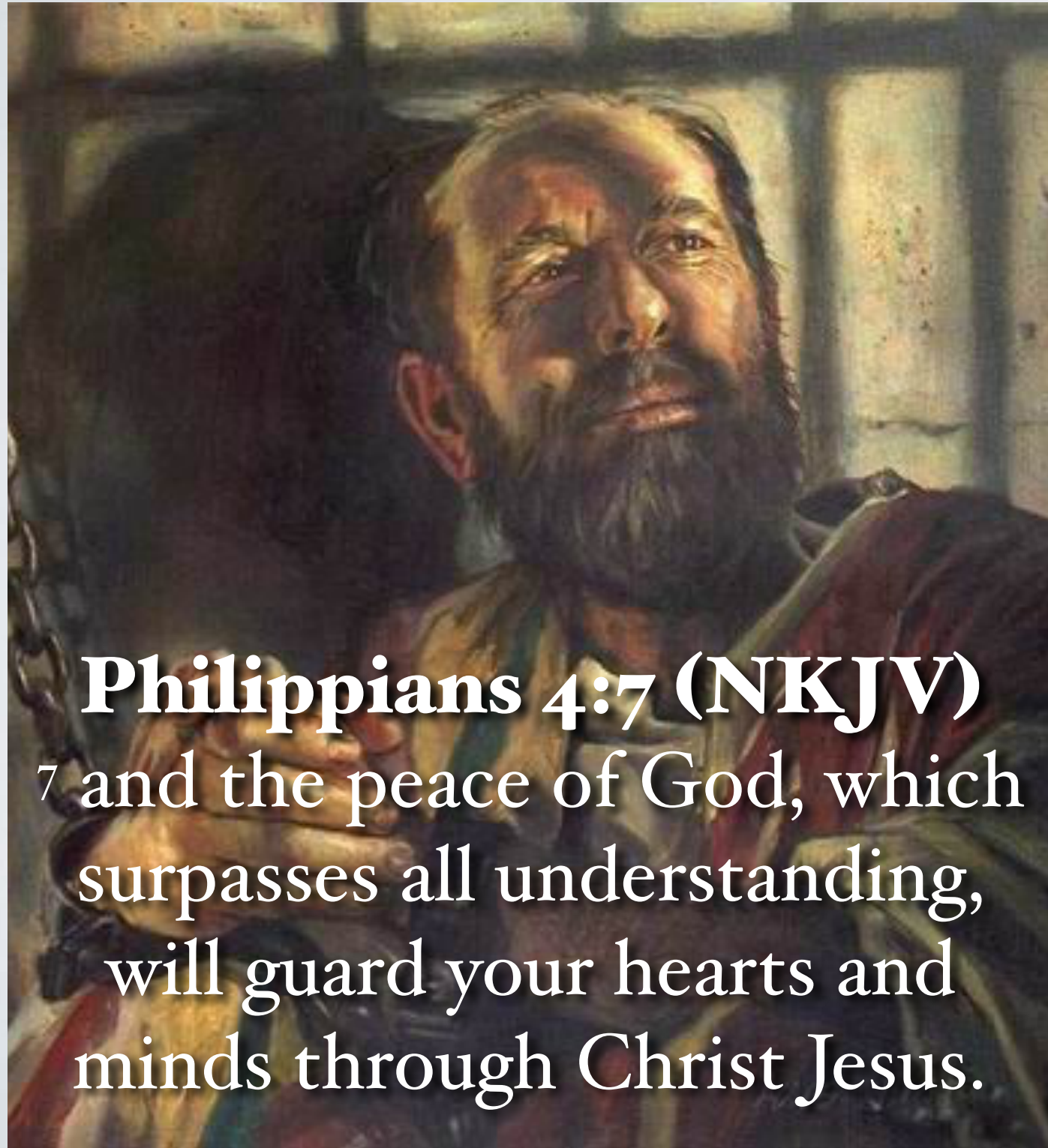
THE **PEACE** OF GOD WILL GUARD US - 7




- God may not always remove our problems, but He promises a "peace which surpasses all understanding"!
- A peace the world cannot provide! - cf. Jn 14:27; 16:33
- A peace that "guards" (to guard, garrison like a fortress) our "hearts" (feelings) and "minds" (thinking)

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

THE **PEACE** OF GOD WILL GUARD US - 7



- This does not mean the absence of trials on the outside, but it does mean...
- A quiet confidence within regardless of circumstances, people, or things that would otherwise steal our joy!



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Have TRUE JOY & PEACE:*

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“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”

ON THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN, ARE WE



- Standing Fast In The LORD - 1
- Striving for UNITY - 2,3
- Rejoicing Always - 4
- Gentle / meek - 5
- Worrying / Anxious - 6
- LETTING God's peace GUARD & RULE our Hearts & Minds - 7

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ”²²

WILL HEAVEN BE YOUR HOME?



➤ *It starts with doing what you know to be true - then growing in knowledge & service?*

- 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)

“The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ” (Philippians 4:1-7)

Charts by Don McClain

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COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.