

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus,

Paul's Letter to the

Philippians



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“Learning How To Be Content” —
(Philippians 4:8-23)



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)

Philippians 4:10–23 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:10–23 (NKJV)

¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.

Philippians 4:10–23 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸

Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:10–23 (NKJV)

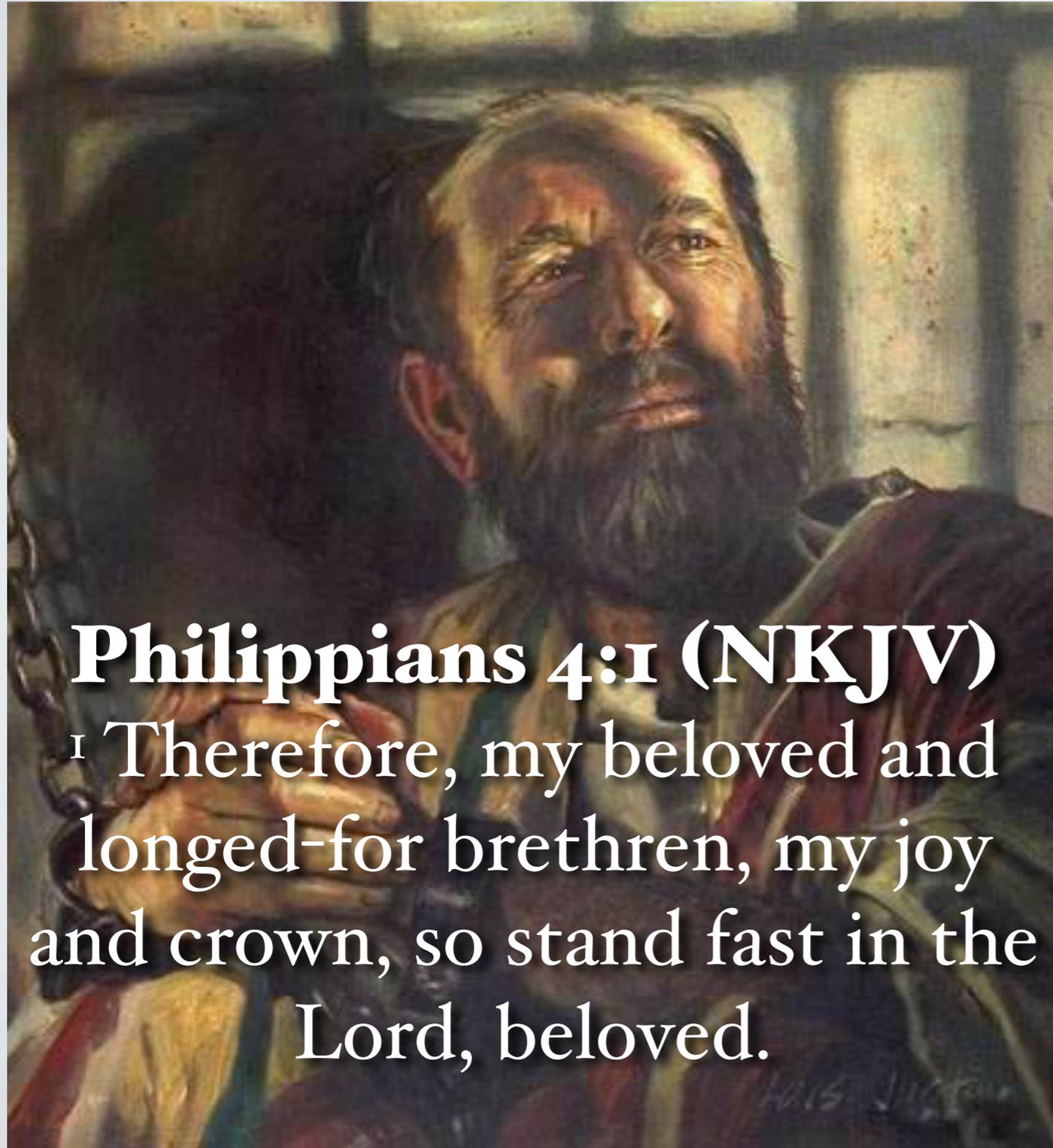
²⁰ Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. ²¹

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.

The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

“Learning How To Be Content”

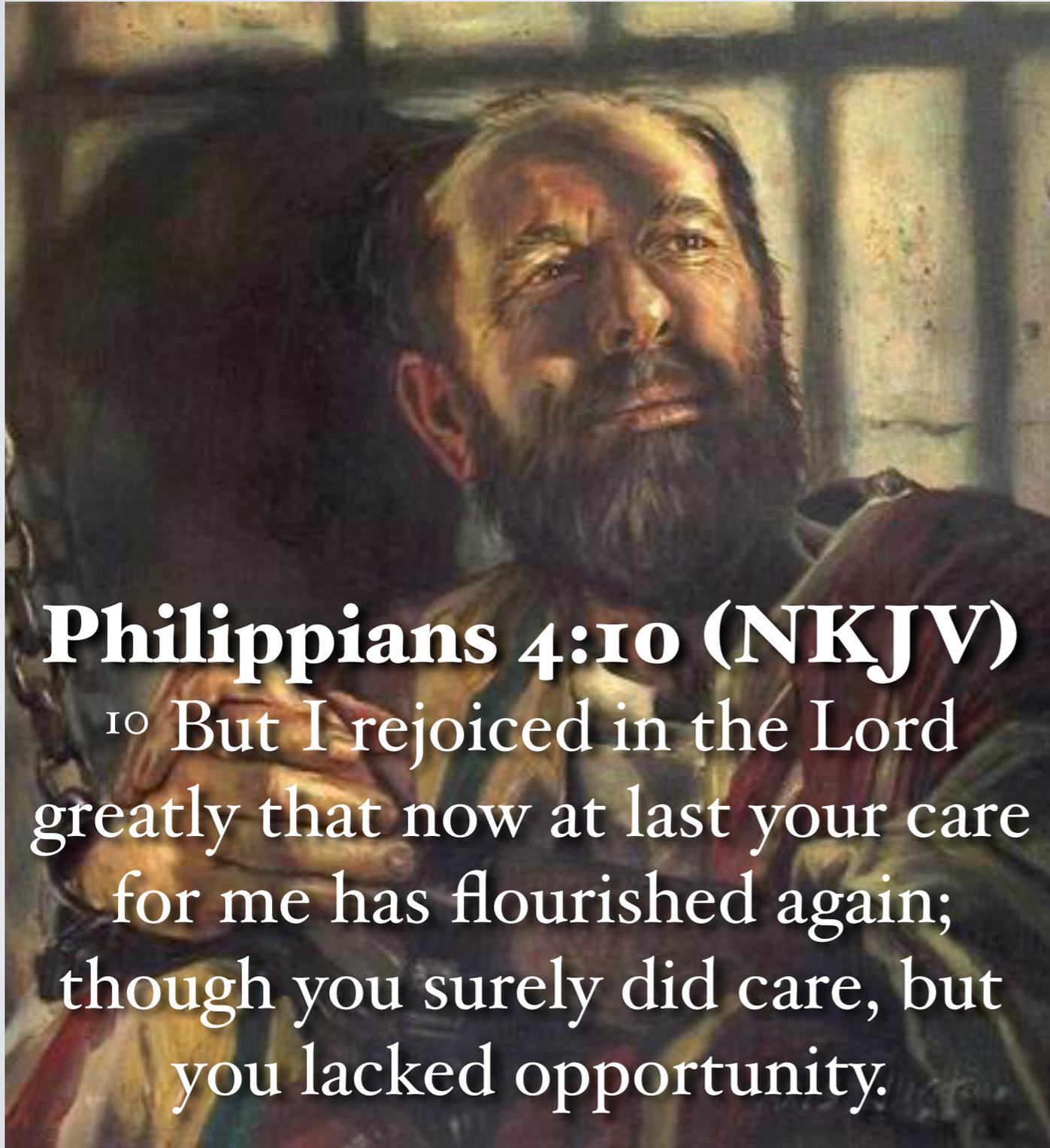
STAND FAST IN THE LORD BELOVED



- **SEEK unity - 2,3**
- **Rejoice In The Lord Always - 4**
- **BE Patient With All - 5**
- **BE Anxious for nothing - 6**
- **The PEACE of God Will Guard US - 7**
- **Meditate On These Things - 8,9**

“Learning How To Be Content”

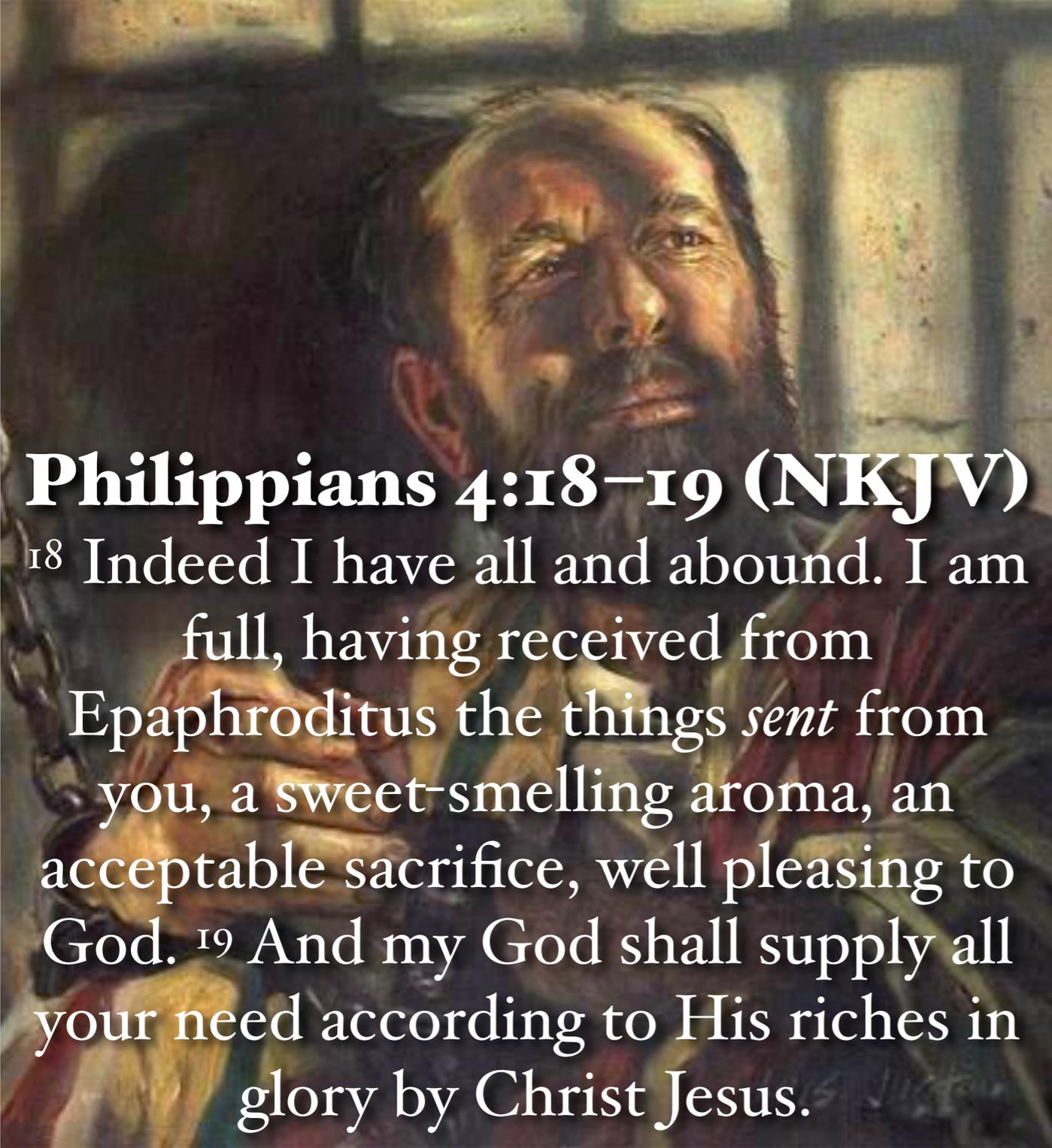
THE PHILIPPIANS' GENEROSITY



- Their support for Paul was “on-going” - see vss. 14-18
- When Paul first departed from Macedonia, they shared with him - 15; 2 Cor. 11:8,9
- While still in Thessalonica, they sent aid on several occasions - 16; Act 16;17
- Now, while in Rome, they sent a gift by the hands of Epaphroditus - vs 18; 2:30

“Learning How To Be Content”

THE PHILIPPIANS' GENEROSITY



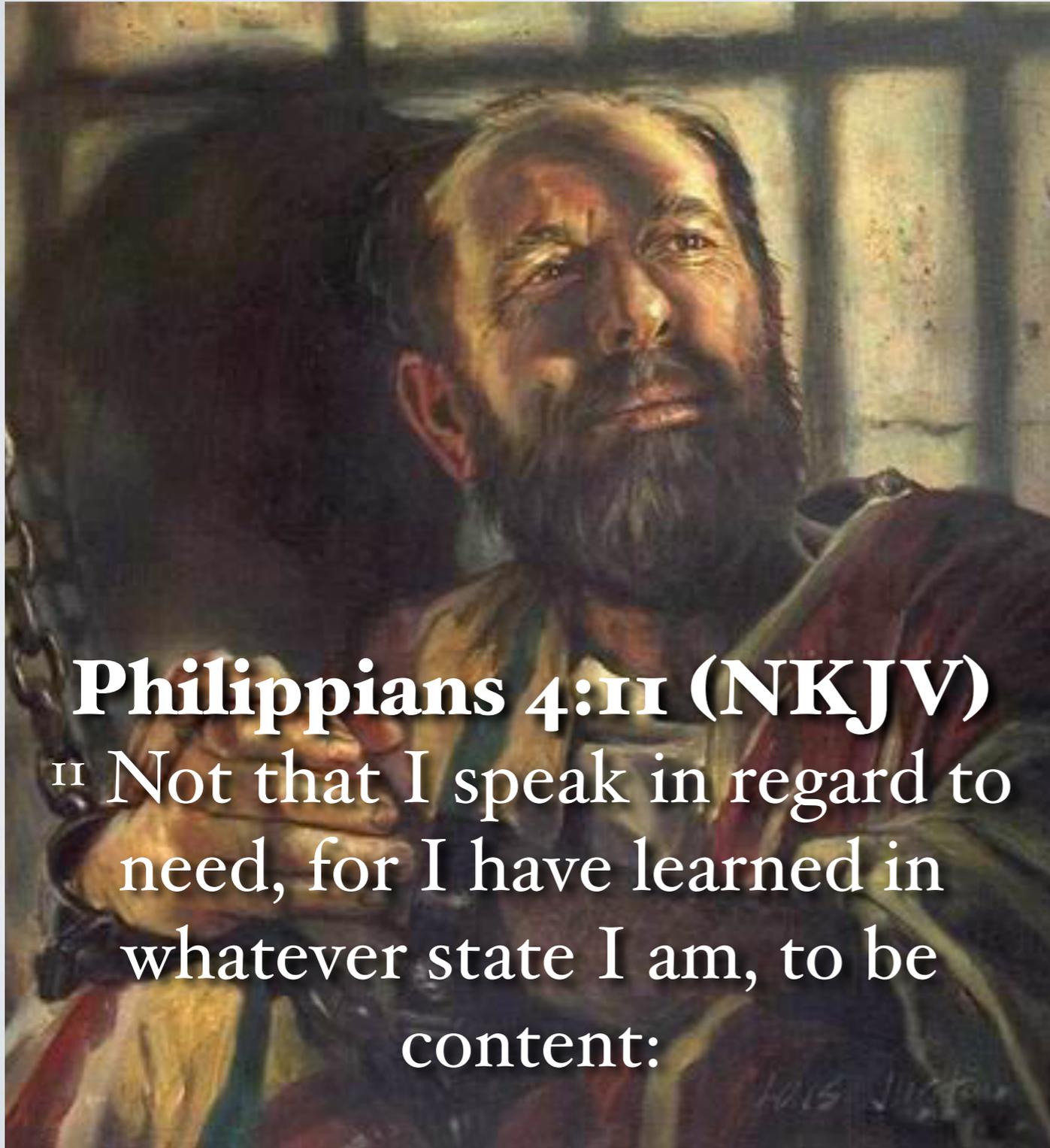
Philippians 4:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- Paul was more appreciative for the fruit than the actual gift — ¹⁷ “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”
- The support given for the furtherance of the truth is a “sacrifice, well pleasing to the Lord” — 18
- It is more blessed to give than receive — 19; cf Acts 20: 35; 2 Cor. 9:8

“Learning How To Be Content”

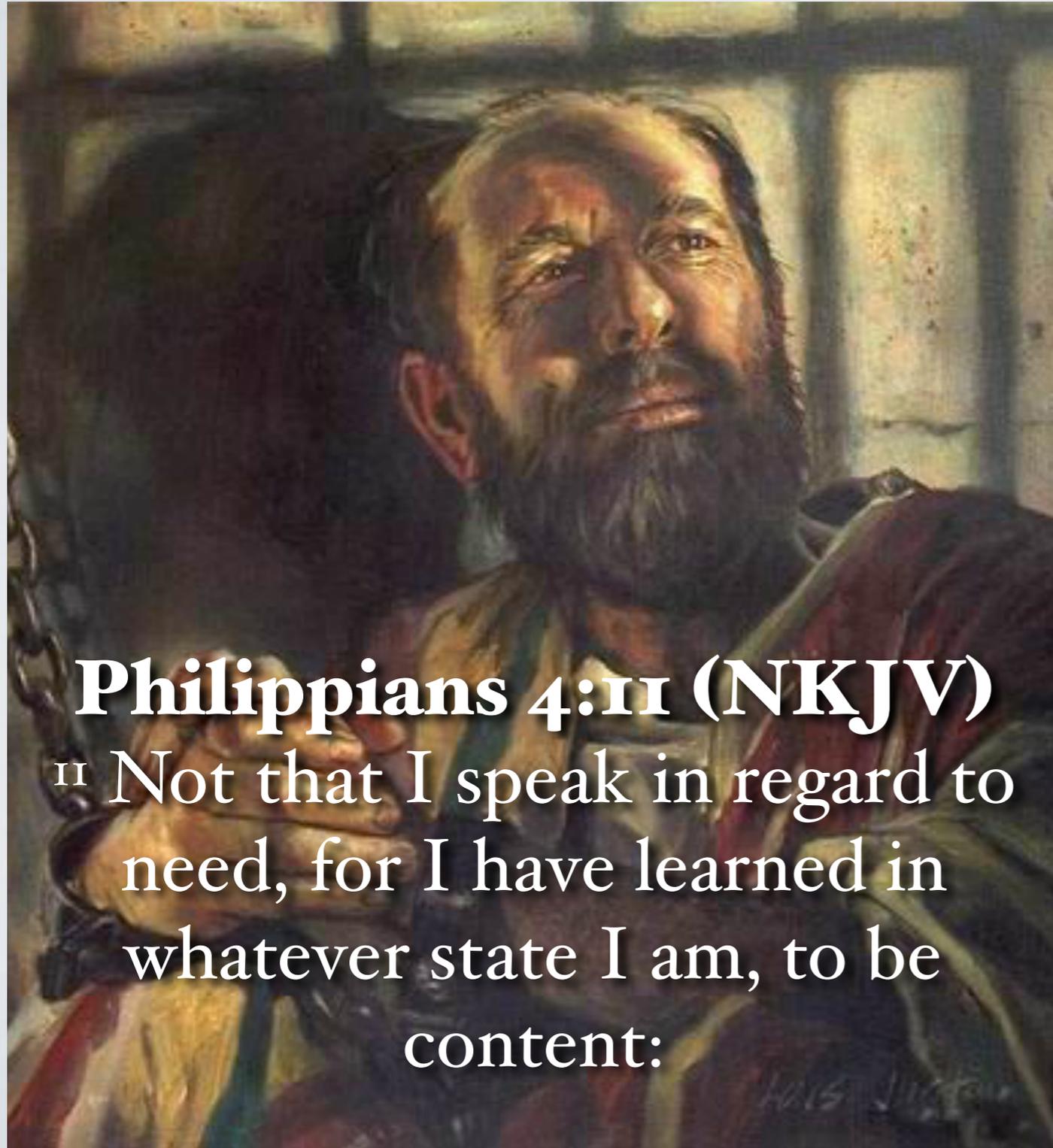
PAUL HAD LEARNED CONTENTMENT



- **CONTENT:** αὐτάρκης, ες: (autarkēs) pertaining to being happy or content with what one has — ‘content with what one has, content with the circumstances in which one exists. (Lou-Nida)
- A calm acceptance of life’s pressures which flow from faith in Christ — 2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Tim 6:6,8; Heb. 13:5; Mat 6:25-33

“Learning How To Be Content”

PAUL HAD LEARNED CONTENTMENT



Philippians 4:11 (NKJV)

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

1 Timothy 6:6–8 (NKJV)

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

“Learning How To Be Content”

PAUL HAD LEARNED CONTENTMENT



Philippians 4:11 (NKJV)

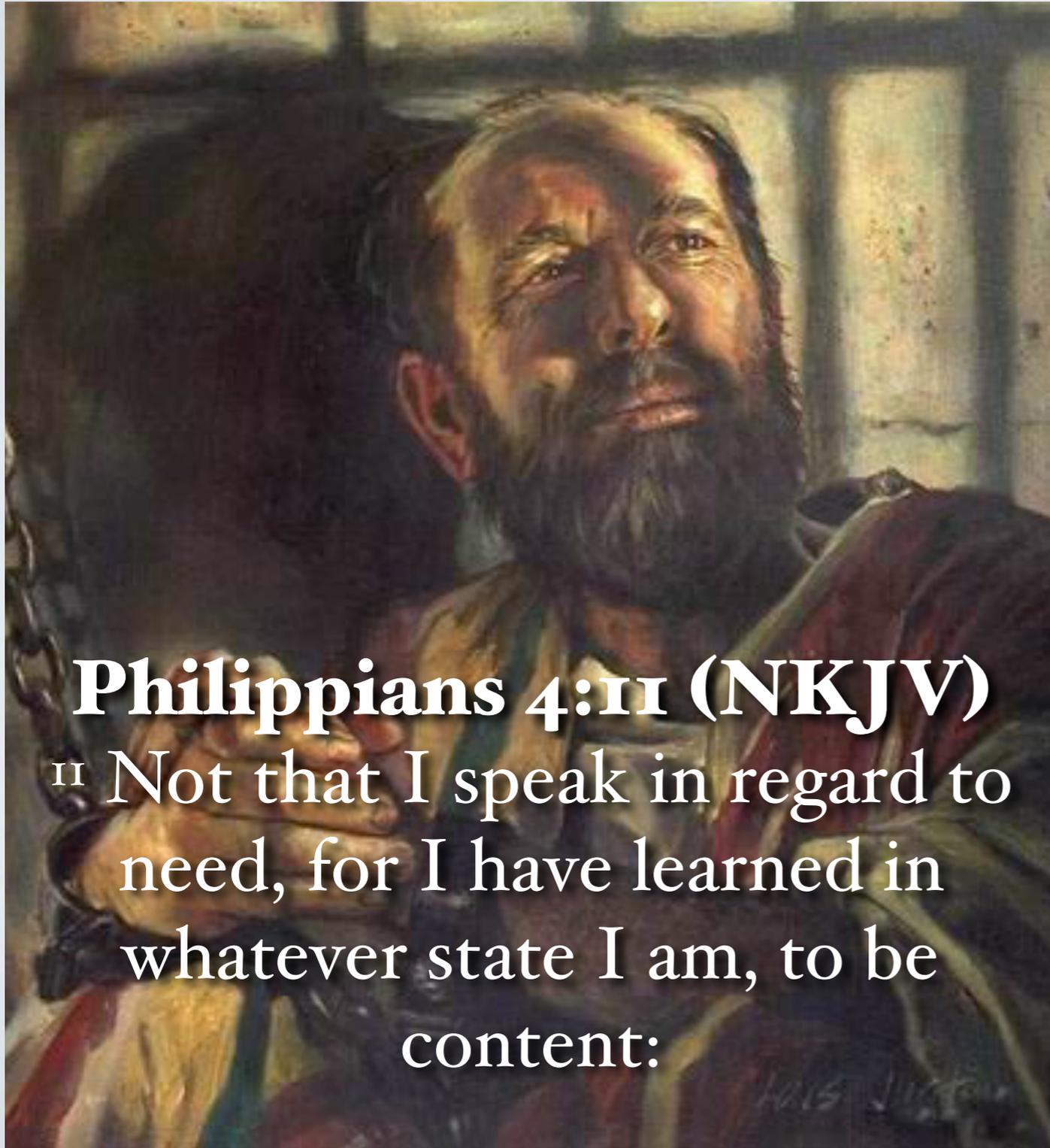
11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*” 6 So we may boldly say: “*The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*”

“Learning How To Be Content”

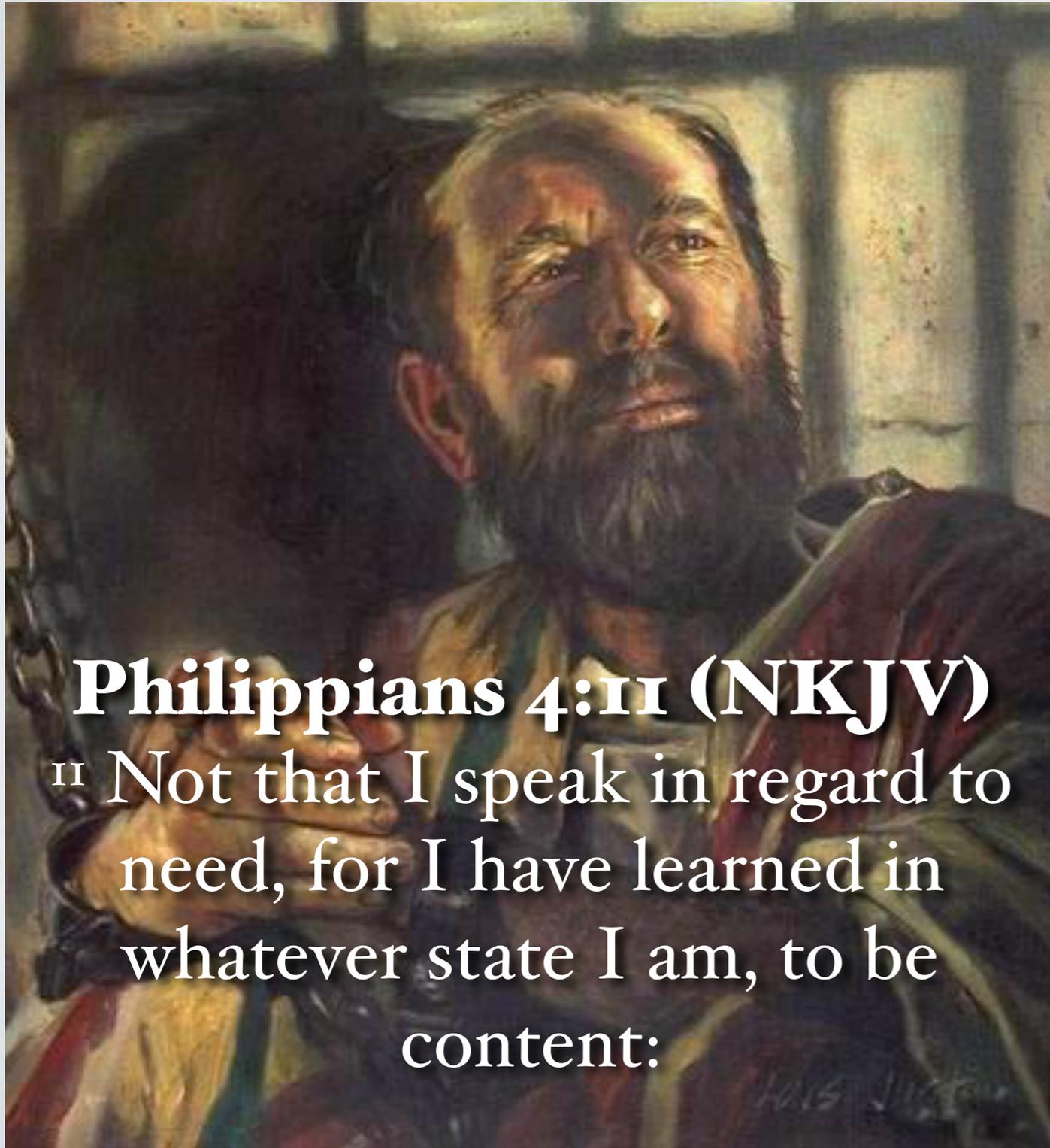
PAUL HAD LEARNED CONTENTMENT



- Paul's experiences had taught him how to be “sufficient” regardless of his circumstances — 2 Cor. 4:11; 11:27
- “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.” —
- “Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry,” —
- “Both to abound and to suffer need.” —

“Learning How To Be Content”

PAUL HAD LEARNED CONTENTMENT



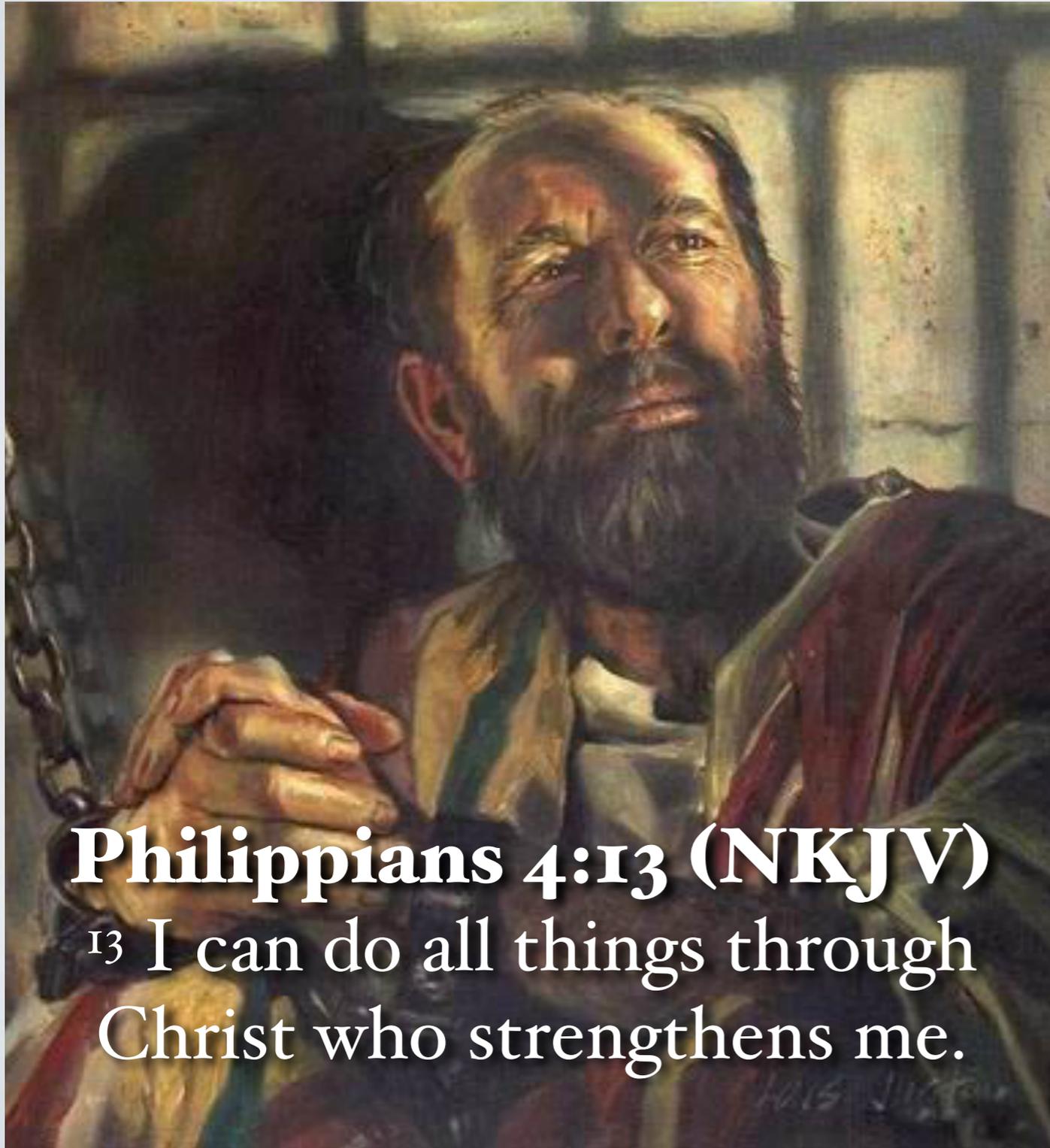
Philippians 4:11 (NKJV)

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

- Paul's experiences had taught him how to be “sufficient” regardless of his circumstances — 2 Cor. 4:11; 11:27
- Viewed his imprisonment as opportunity — 1:12-14
- He trusted God to supply all of his needs — 4:19; 2 Cor. 4:7-18
- He trusted God when facing death — 2 Tim 4:6-8, 18

“Learning How To Be Content”

PAUL'S SUFFICIENCY WAS IN CHRIST



Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- The Lord enables one to do all things necessary in serving Him - Php 4:13;
 - ▶ Overcome temptation — 1 Cor. 10:13; Eph 6:10-18
 - ▶ Opportunities for service — Mat 13:12; 25:29; John 15:2
 - ▶ Causing us to grow and bear fruit — John 15:5; Rev 3:8; Eph. 20,21; Col. 1:29

“Learning How To Be Content”

PAUL'S SUFFICIENCY WAS IN CHRIST



Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Philippians 4:19–20
(NKJV)**

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

“Learning How To Be Content”

WILL HEAVEN BE YOUR HOME?



- Right & godly living is predicated on right & godly thinking — Rom. 12:1,2; Col. 3:1-3
- "Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have."
- Let us dwell on what we have in Christ — Ep 1:3-14

“Learning How To Be Content”

18

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)

“Learning How To Be Content” — (Philippians 4:8-23)

Charts by Don McClain

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1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16 (NKJV)

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.