

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

“The Bishop’s Qualifications”
(1 Timothy 3:1-7)

“The Bishop’s Qualifications”



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
 - ▶ Jesus Christ OUR Hope (1:1,2)
 - ▶ The value & necessary commitment to the doctrine of Christ (1:3-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
 - ▶ If Paul can be saved ANYONE can be saved!
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior of men & women in the church (2:8-15)

“The Bishop’s Qualifications”



- Chapter 3 deals primarily with the qualifications of elders, (3:1-7) and deacons, (3:8-14).
- Our study will focus on the qualifications of bishops (elders, pastors) (cf. Titus 1:5-9)
- These are both absolute & relative.
 - ▶ **Absolute** - One either has them or he does not (husband, father ...)
 - ▶ **Relative** - possessed in varying degrees, (hospitable, teacher, etc.)
 - ▶ All qualifications **MUST** be possessed to the degree of proficiency or in an appreciable measure.

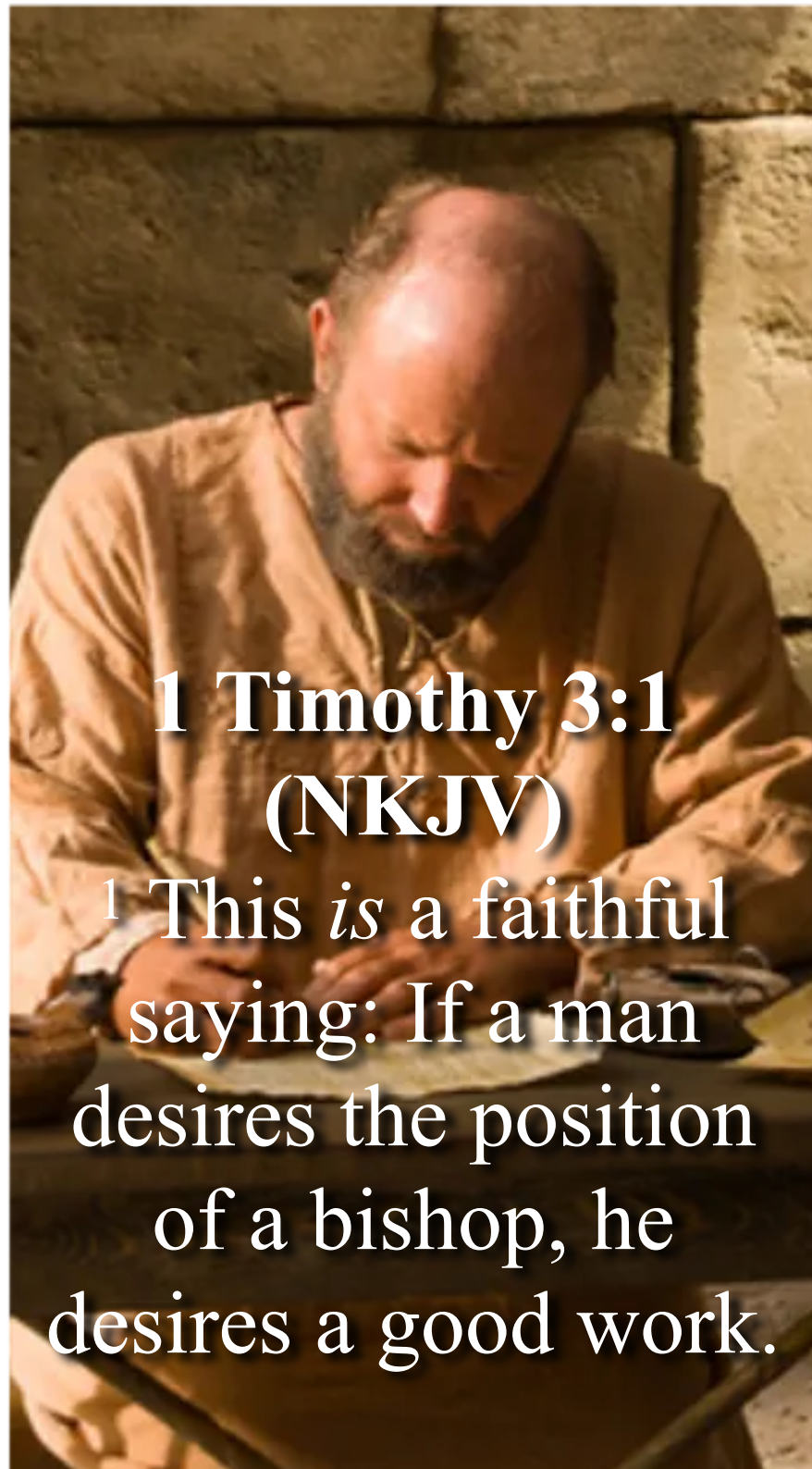
1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

“The Bishop’s Qualifications”



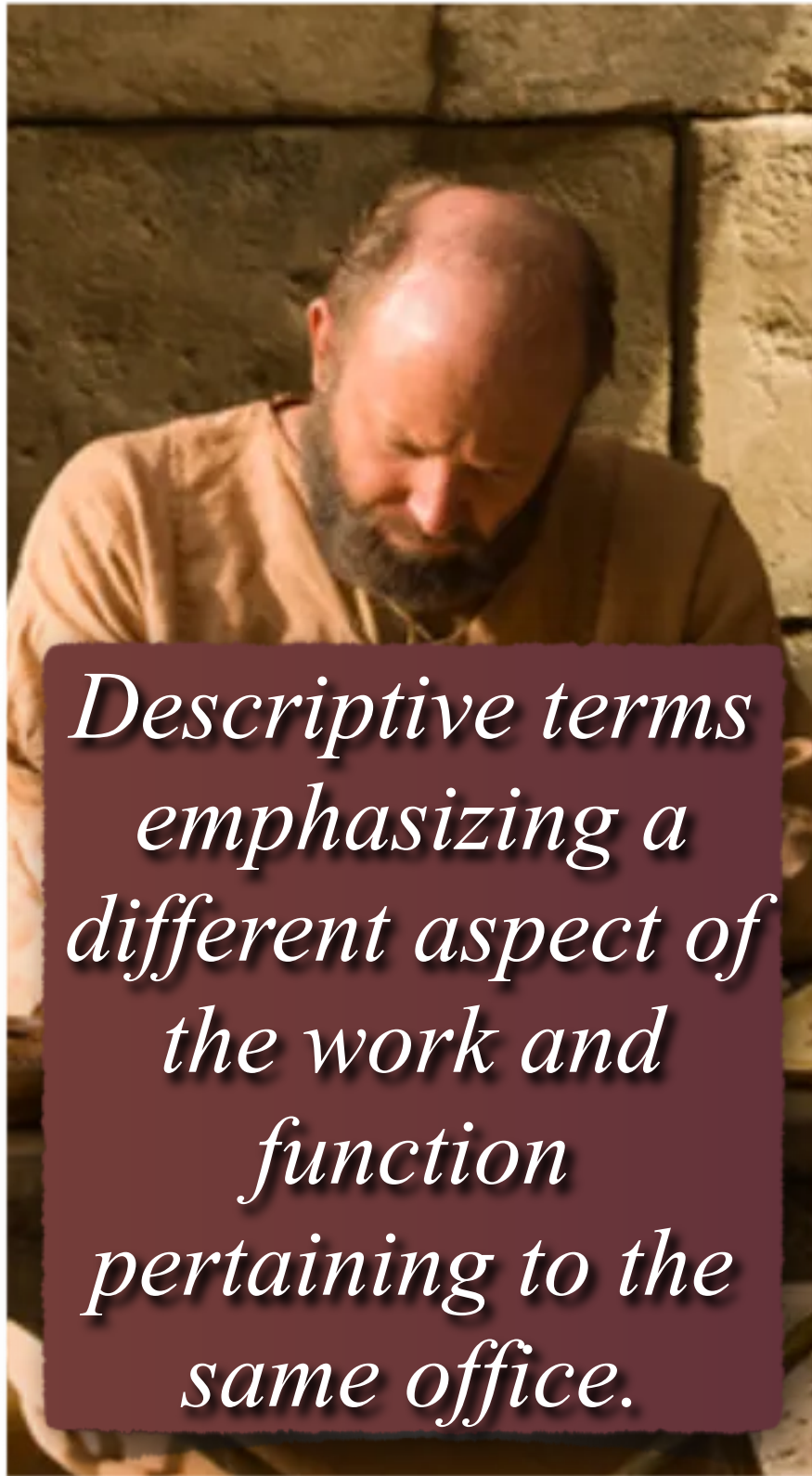
1 Timothy 3:1
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What Is A Bishop?

- The terms bishop, elder, & pastor are descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.
- ▶ “**Bishops**” (episkopeo)
- ▶ “**Elders**” (presbuteros)
- ▶ “**Pastors**” (poimaino)

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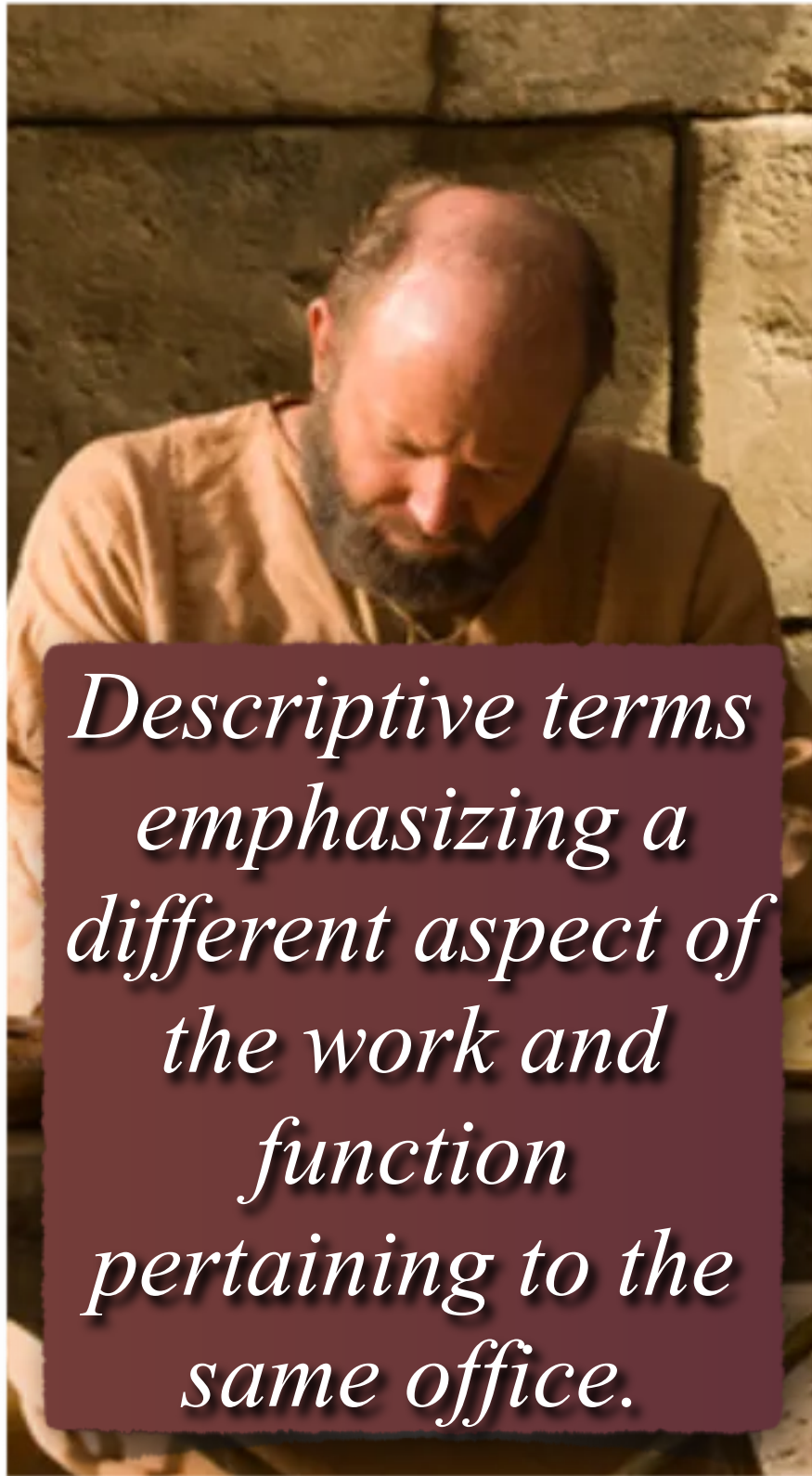
What Is A Bishop?

1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV)

¹The elders (*presbuteros*), who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ²Shepherd (*poimen*), the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, (*episkopos*),

Descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.

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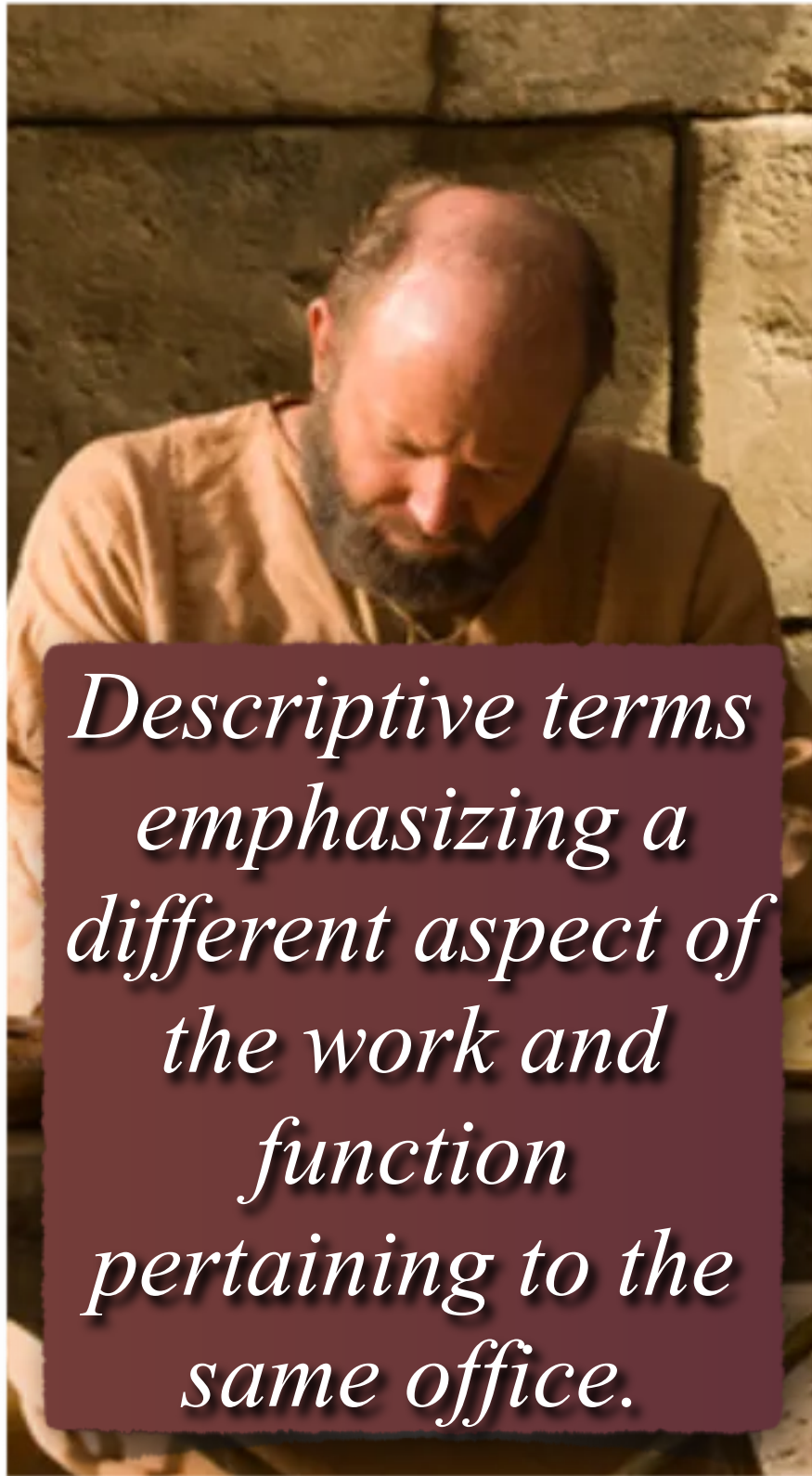


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What Is A Bishop?

- **Bishop** [episkopos (n); episkopeo (v)] – Denotes the overseeing function – not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; Heb 13:7,17)
- **Pastor, shepherd** [poimen (n); poimaino (v)] Emphasizes the care, watching & feeding of the flock of God over which they have been appointed. (Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2)
- **Elder** - [presbuteros (n)] denotes age & seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences (Ac 14:23; 20:17; 1 Pt 5:1)

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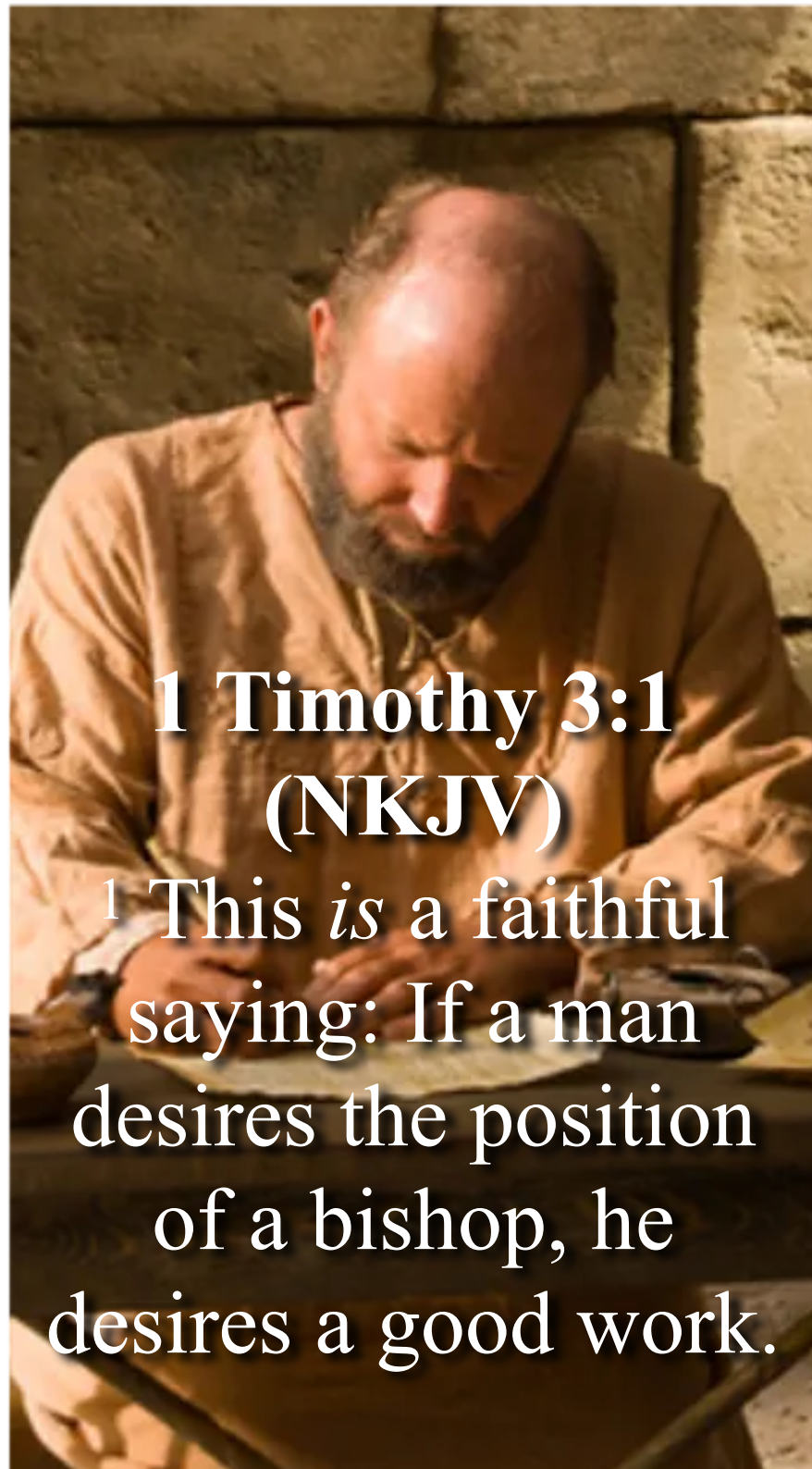


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What Is A Bishop?

- The NT reveals a pattern of a plurality of such men in each local church (Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:2).
- The elders had authority (rule, oversight, responsibility) only in the local church that appointed them and did not extend beyond the “flock among them!” (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-3)
- The absence of elders was considered by Paul as that which was “lacking.” (Titus 1:5)

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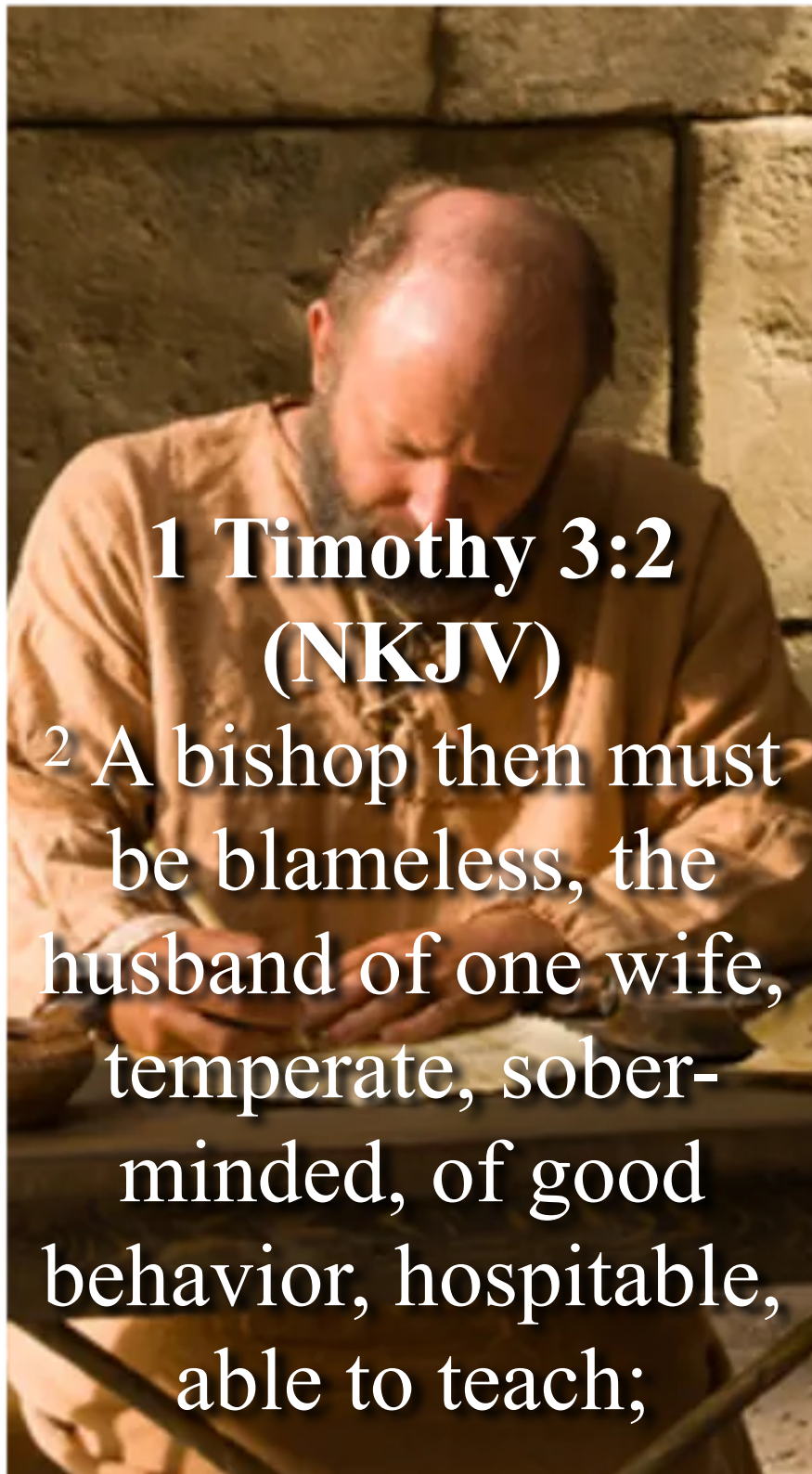
**1 Timothy 3:1
(NKJV)**

¹ This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

A Devoted Man

- “If a man desires the position of a bishop”
 - ▶ This is not the desire to possess authority according to self will, but to serve God and brethren as a conscientious steward (Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2, 3).
 - ▶ The objective of his work is the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

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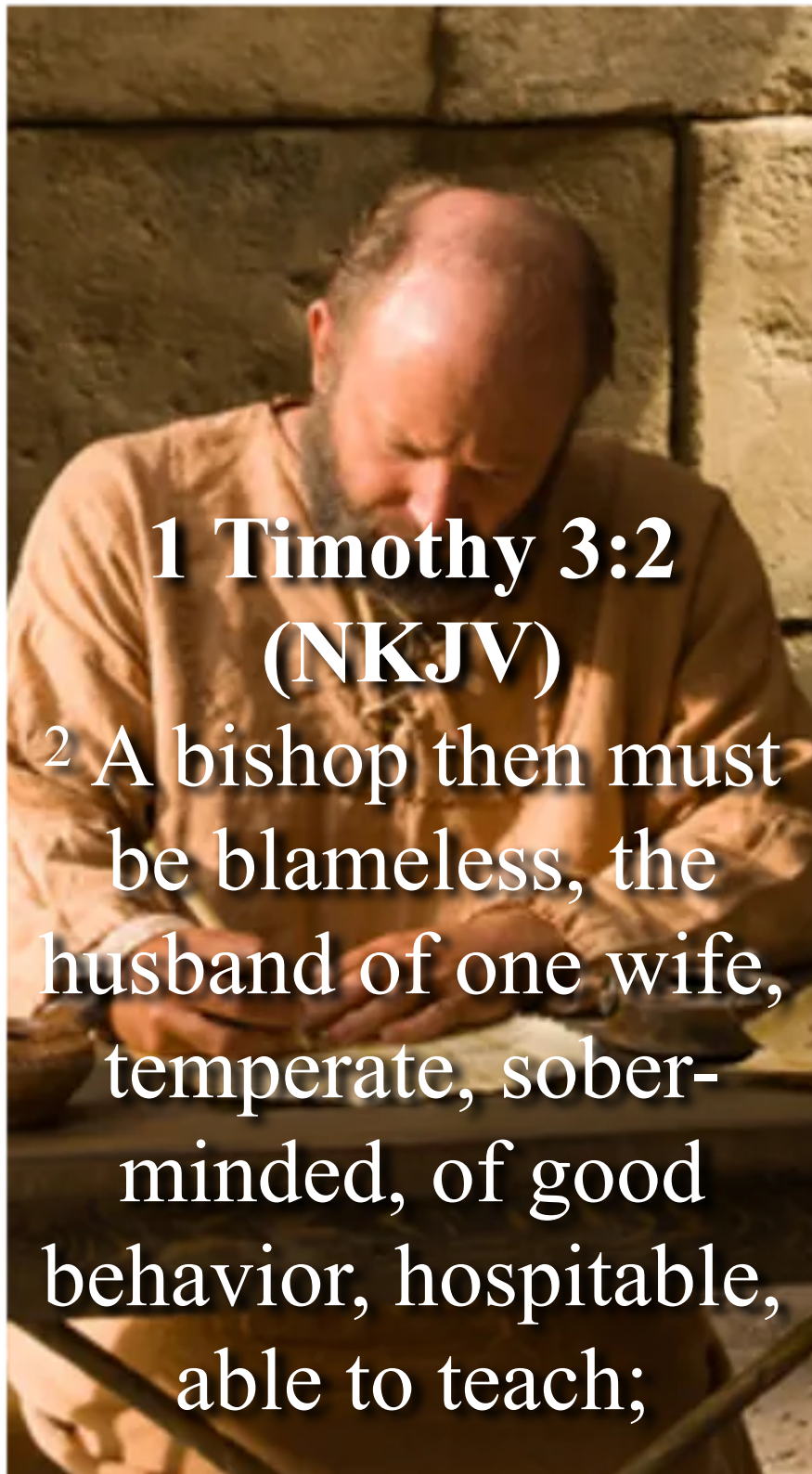
**1 Timothy 3:2
(NKJV)**

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

A Godly Man

- “Blameless” (1 Tim 3:2)
- “Of Good Behavior” (1 Tim 3:2)
- “Just” (Tit 1:8)
- “Holy, NKJV / Devout ASV” (Tit 1:8)

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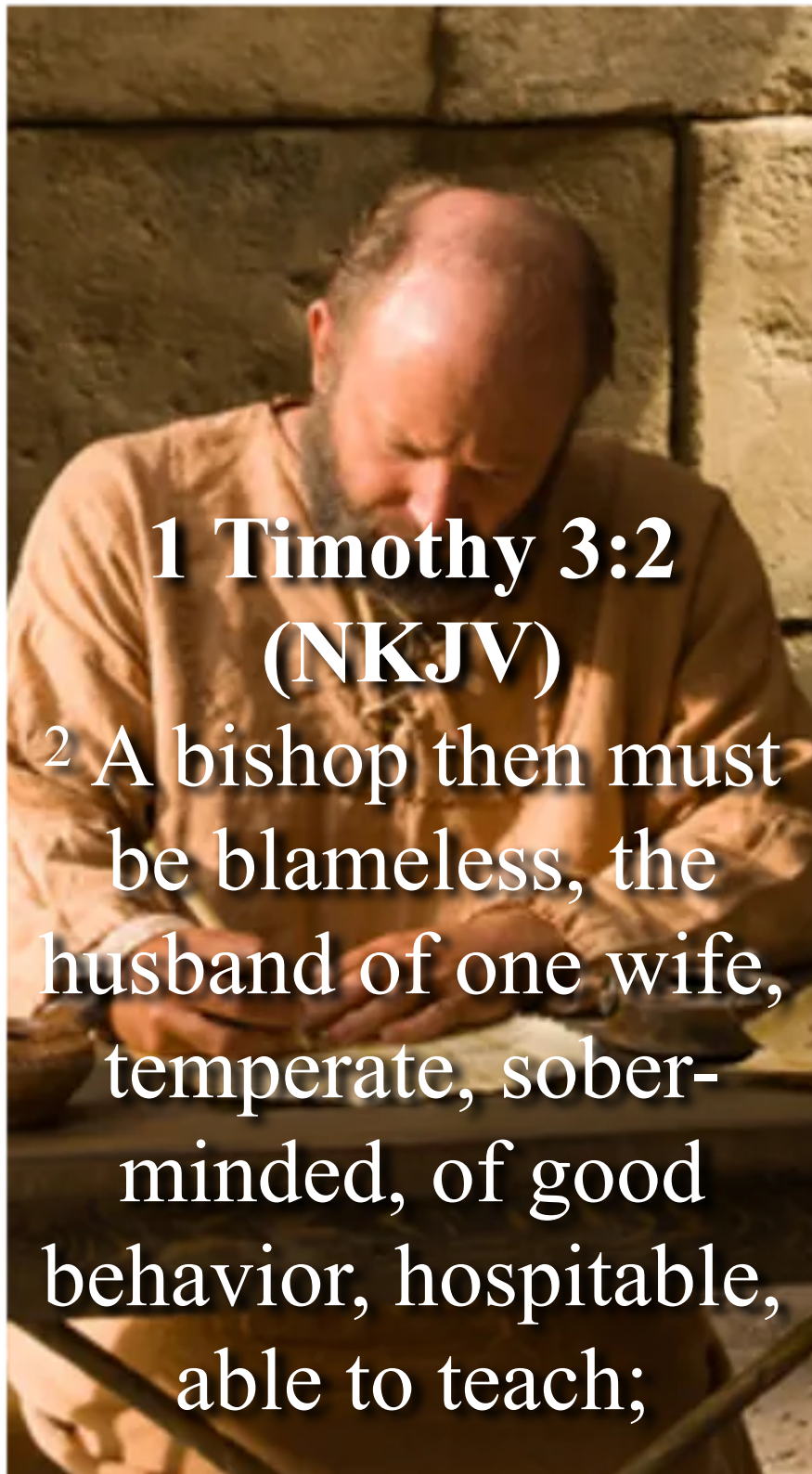
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A Godly Man

- Elders are to be examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3).
- They should be men worthy of imitation (Heb. 13:7).
- Their example in the community will reflect even more powerfully on the entire congregation.
- They need to be known in the community as men of integrity.

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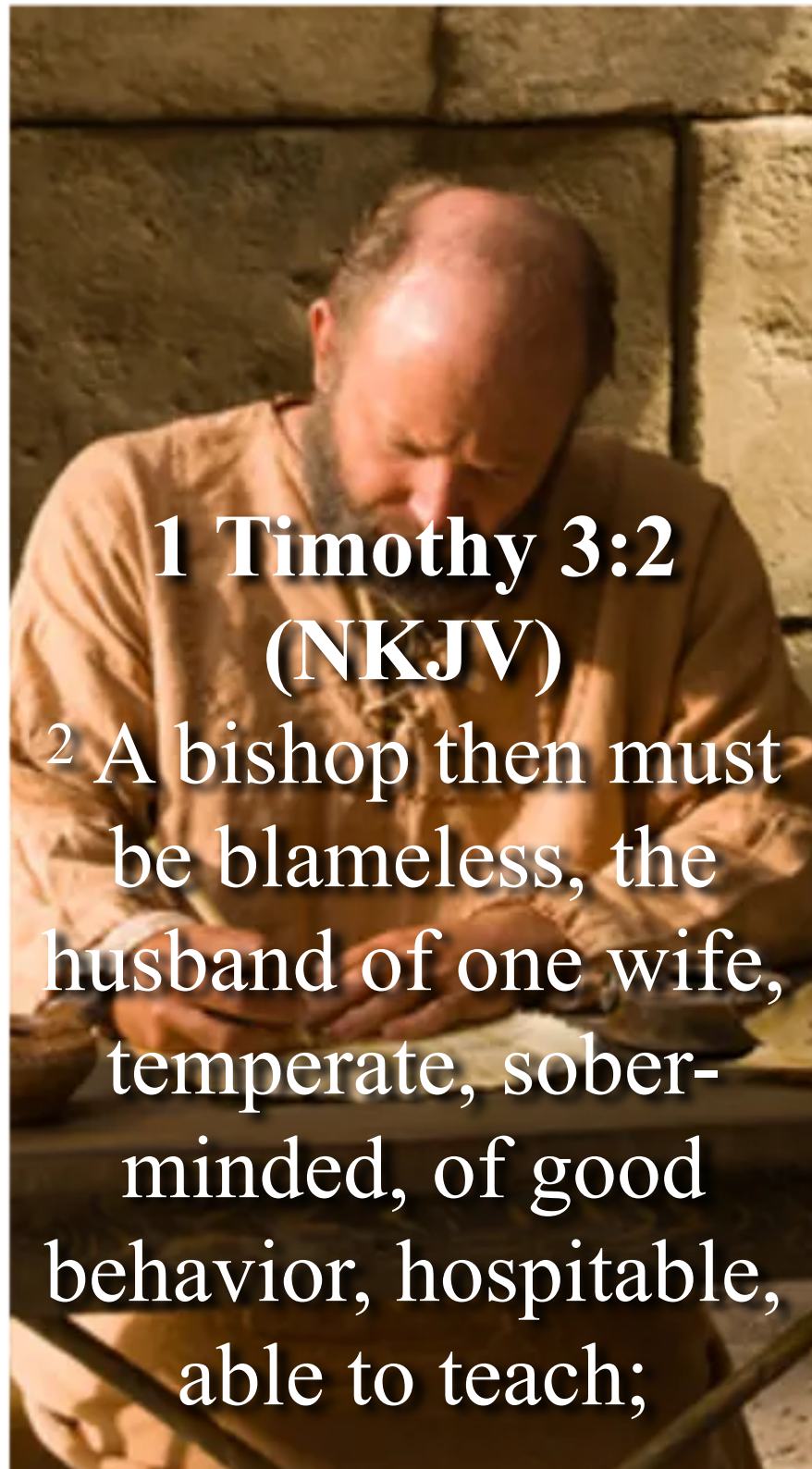
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A Family Man

- “The husband of one wife” (1 Tim 3:2).
 - ▶ One must be married (True, . . .)
 - ▶ A man cannot be an adulterer or polygamist (True, . . .)
 - ▶ Literally, in the Greek the phrase may be rendered as a “one woman man.” - An overseer must have demonstrated faithfulness in his marriage.
 - ▶ Not merely that he is a husband, but that he is a devoted husband.

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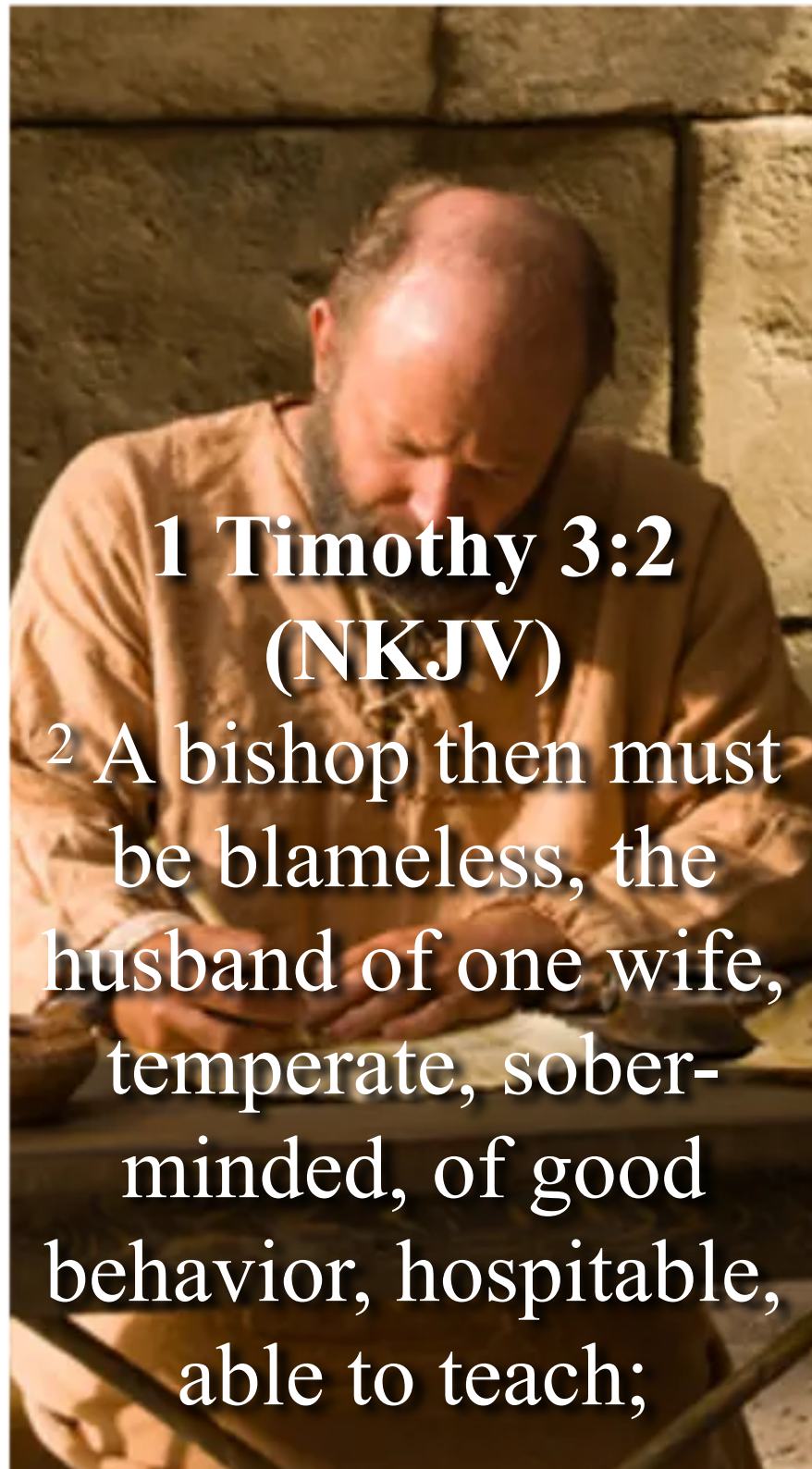
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A Qualified Man

- “One who rules his own house well” (1 Tim 3:4).
 - ▶ He must have submissive and obedient children (1 Tim. 3:3, 4; Titus 1:6).
 - ▶ Child/Children argument - [The Greek word “teknon” is comprehensive / plural, but inclusive of the singular; cf Gen. 21:7; Deut. 25:5; Mat. 22:24; Luke 20:28-33; 1 Tim. 5:4,9,10).

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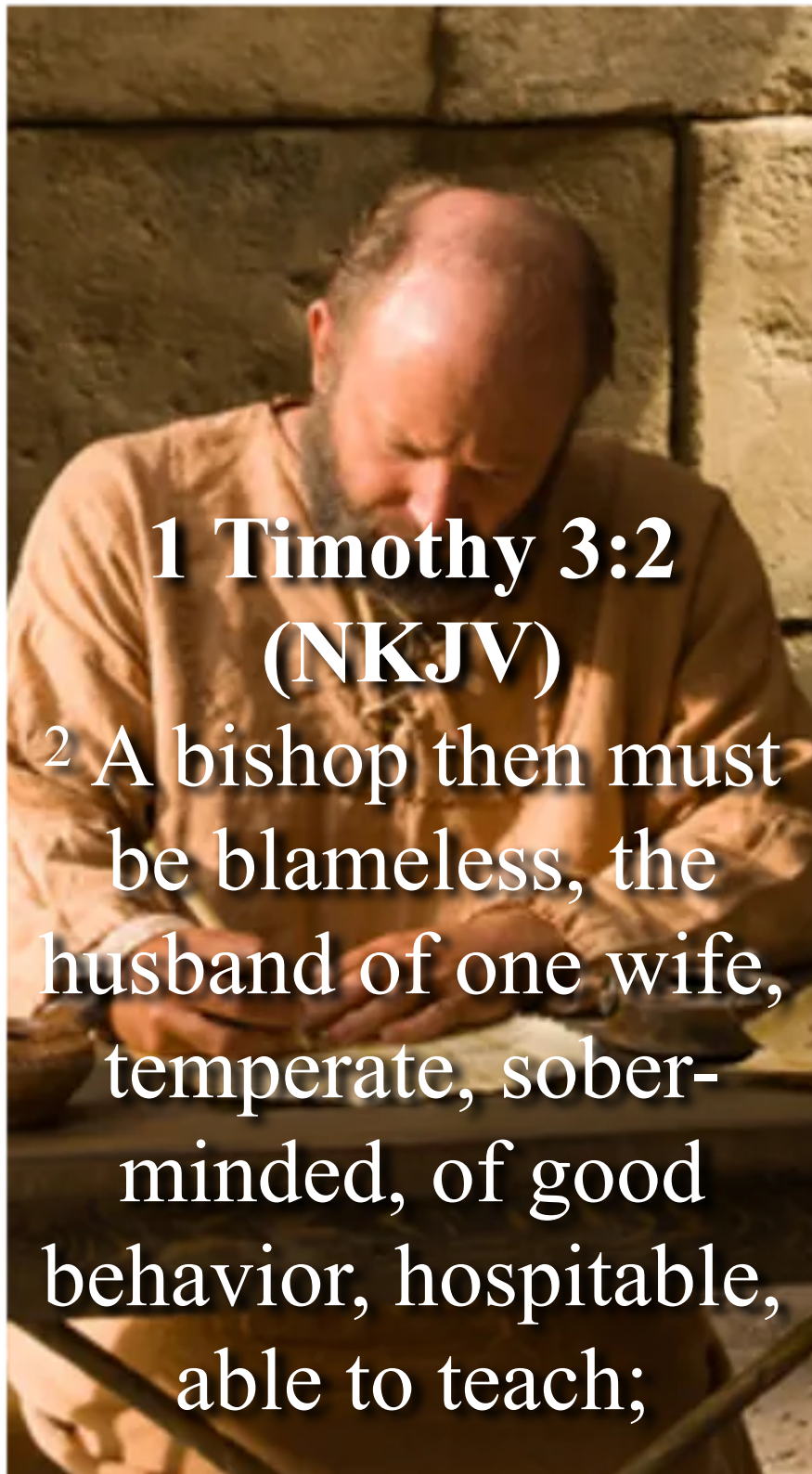
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A Qualified Man

- “One who rules his own house well” (1 Tim 3:4).
 - ▶ Often lost in all of the discussions over “plurality of children” and “faithful children” is the basic qualification –
 - ▶ A man **MUST** have demonstrated the ability to keep his children “under control with all dignity.”
 - ▶ The Family teaches and gives evidence of one’s leadership abilities.

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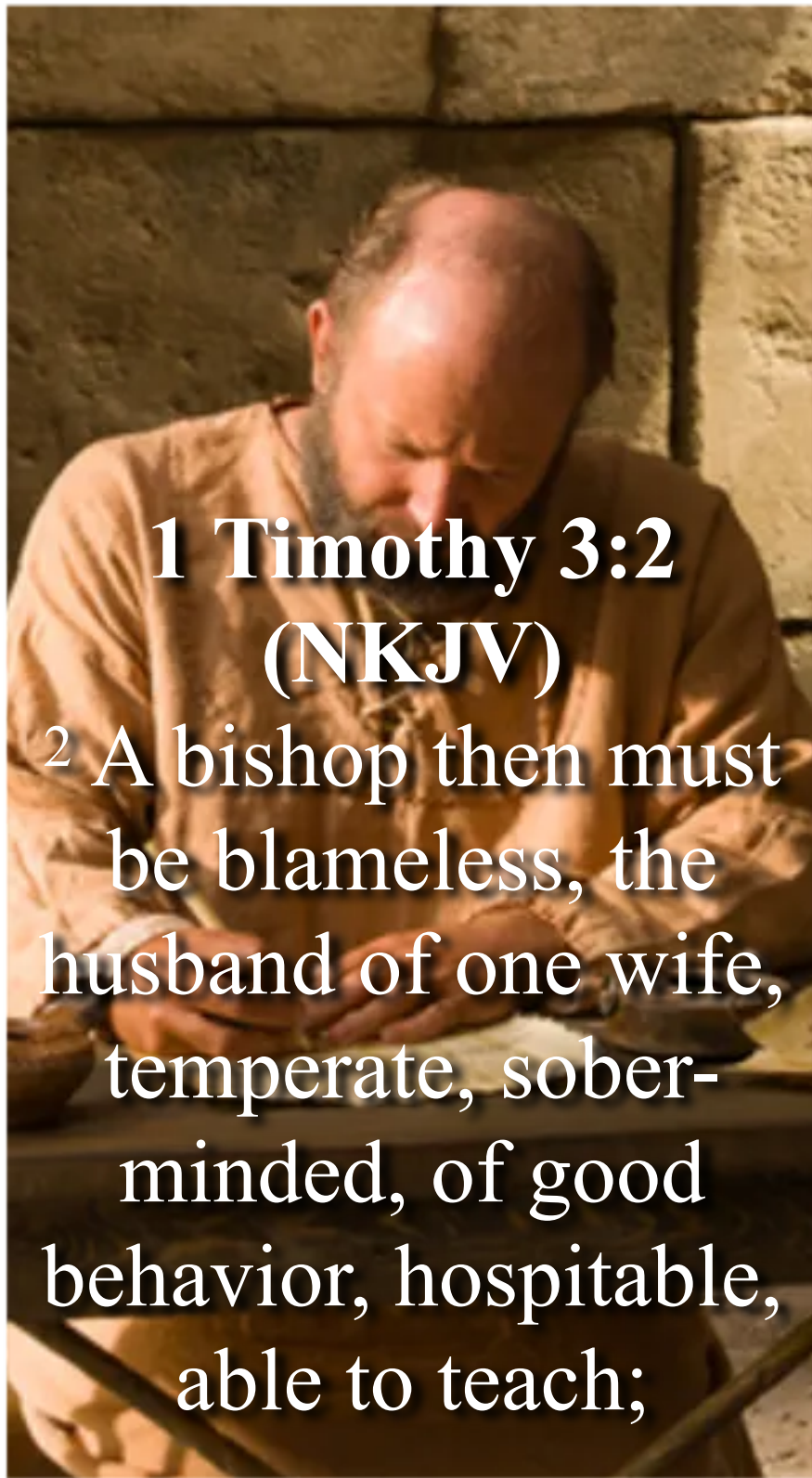
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A Qualified Man

- “One who rules his own house well” (1 Tim 3:4).
 - ▶ The reason for the qualification is explicitly stated (1 Timothy 3:5)
 - ▶ Has he demonstrated the ability to be a servant / leader, to be tender, but also to administer discipline and correction?
 - ▶ Does he have the relational skills to work with people / provide wise counsel & guidance / provide discipline.

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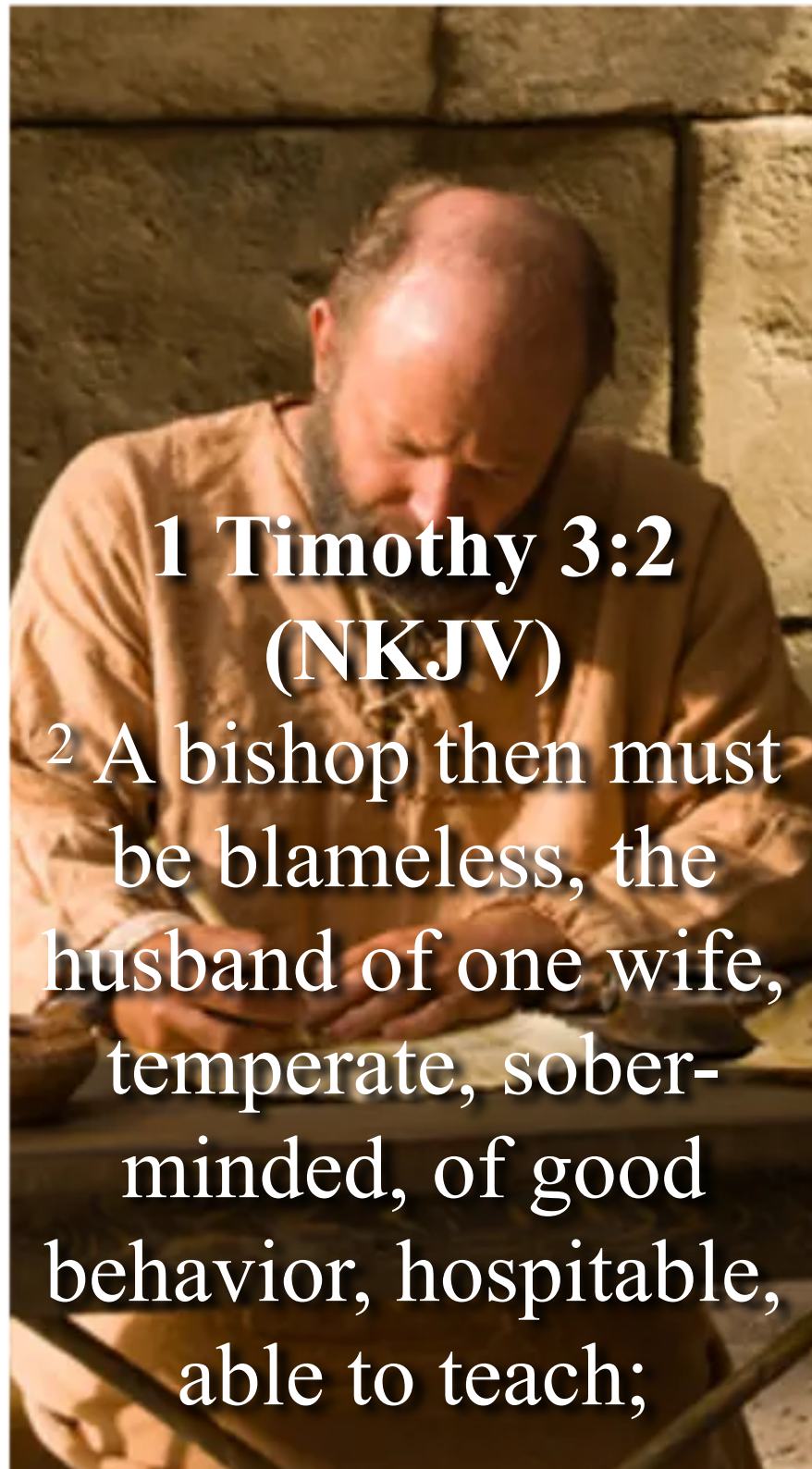
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A Peaceful Man

- He is to be a man of self control, not quick tempered (Titus 1:7-8)
- He is not contentious (1 Timothy 3:3).
- He is not self-willed (Titus 1:7).

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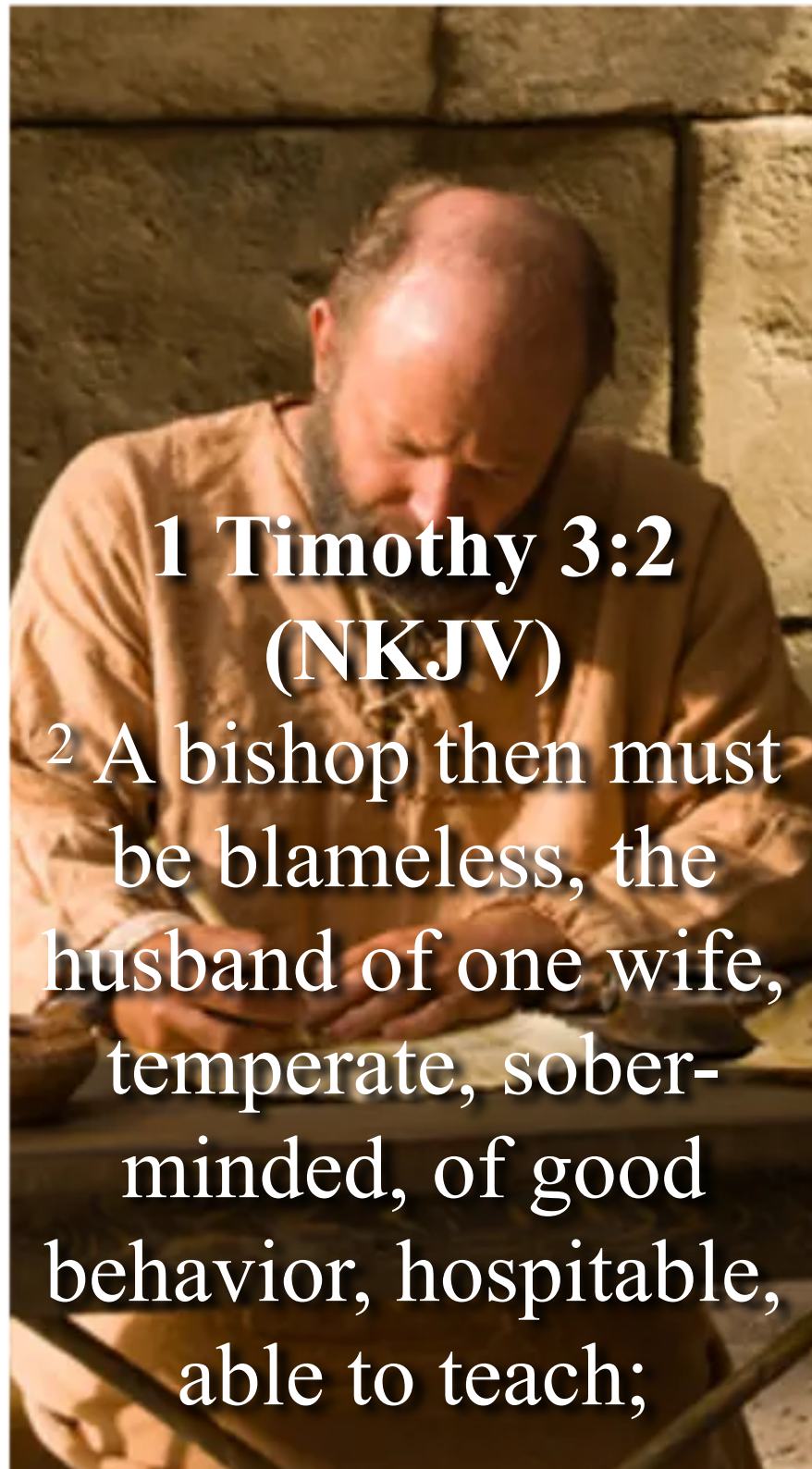
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A Peaceful Man

- Elders find themselves counseling brethren in highly emotional and volatile situations.
- They often have to mediate situations where numerous parties are involved in sin.
- They must confront brethren in sin and stop the efforts of false teachers.
- They must bear up under false accusations by some who will criticize without knowing all the facts about a situation.

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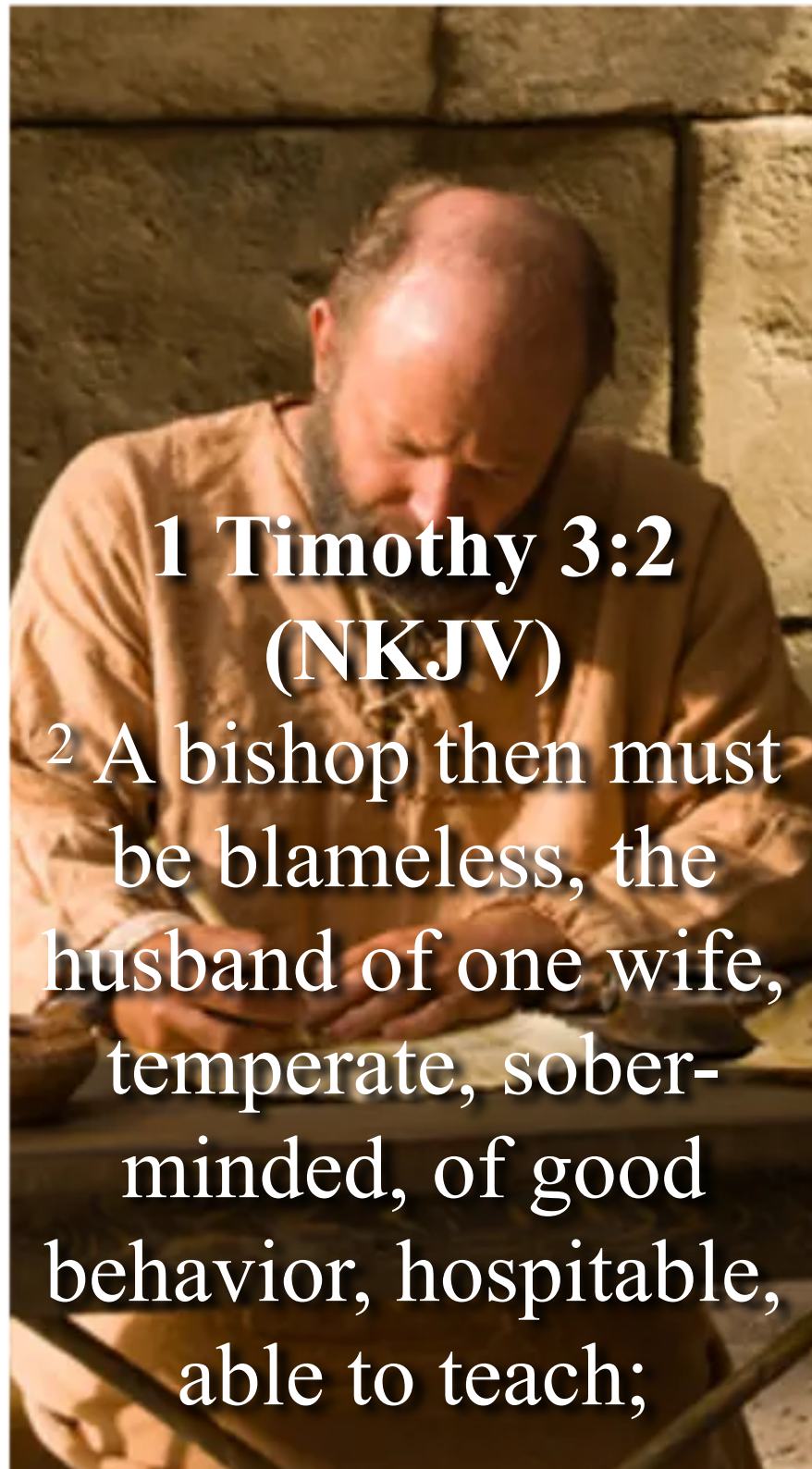
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A Capable Man

- “Able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2)
 - ▶ The Greek term here is *didaktikon* which means “skilled in teaching” (Vine).
- Not a novice, but mature Christian (1 Tim 3:6), Able to lead by example and take oversight with humility (1 Pet. 5:2, 3).
- Equipped to Protect (Titus 1:9-11; cf. Acts 20:28-29; 1 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:9-11).

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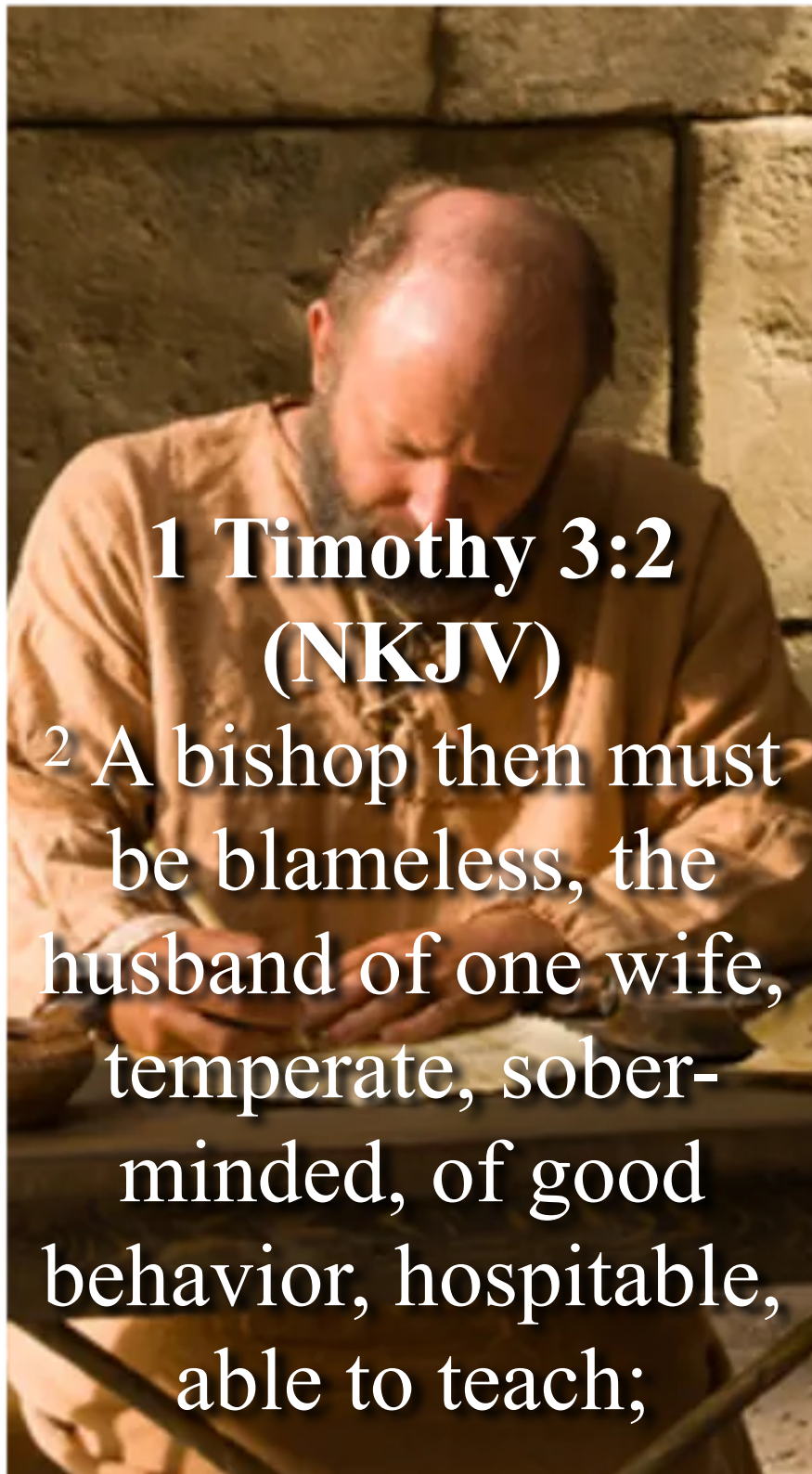
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A Sensible Man

- Elders are to be temperate and sober minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2).
 - ▶ Eyes open to the way things are.
 - ▶ He must be careful, wise and use good judgment - able to see the big picture.
 - ▶ He is not to be led by emotion, but sound reason.
 - ▶ He is committed to truth even under pressure.

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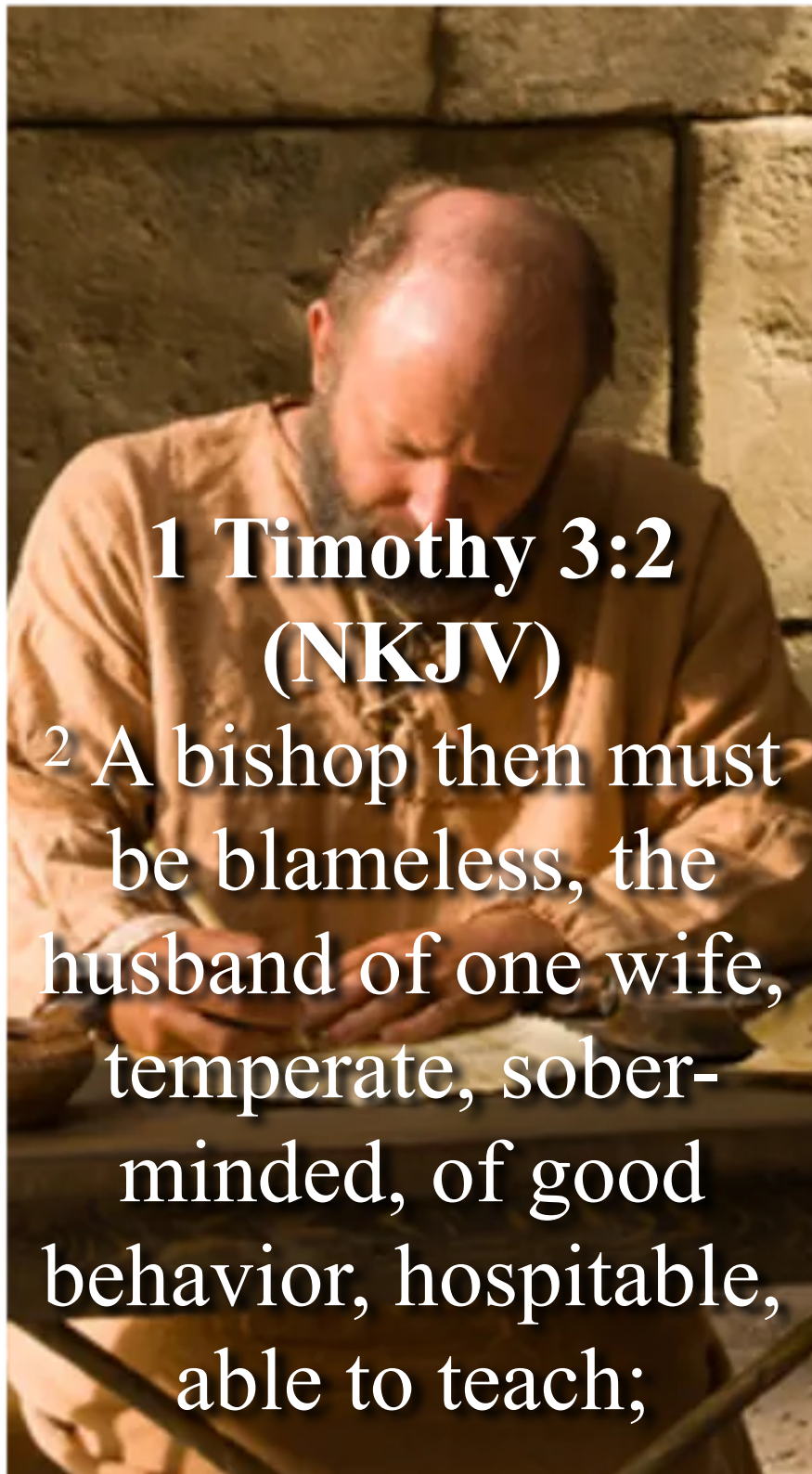
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A Caring Man

- Elders are to “take care of the church of God” - (1 Tim. 3:5).
 - ▶ Encourage & support weak members - (Gal. 6:1; James 5:13-16)
 - ▶ Approachable - (1 Tim 3:3)
 - ▶ He needs to know the flock - (Jn 10:3,14)
- Elders are to be “hospitable” - (1 Tim. 3:2).
 - ▶ Providing for the needs of others - (Heb. 13:1-3)

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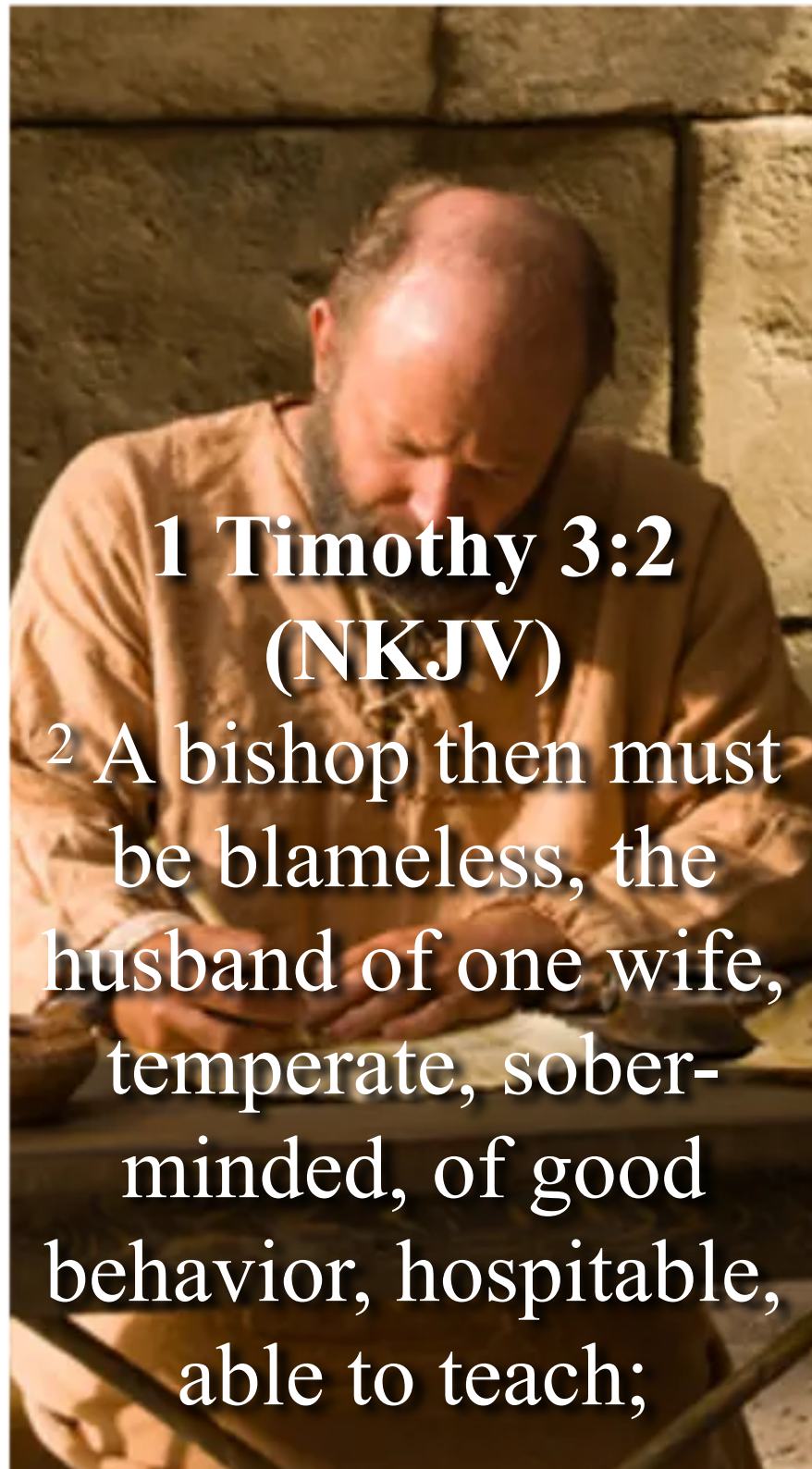
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A Bishop Must Be

- A Godly Man
- A Family Man
- A Qualified Leader
- A Peaceful Man
- A Capable Man
- A Sensible Man
- A Caring Man

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- The church of today & tomorrow NEEDS godly leadership!
- ▶ Godly leadership is extremely important in a local church!
- ▶ Every father & mother should strive to raise their sons and daughters in a way that will equip them to be faithful servants of God -
- ▶ Every young man should strive to grow and mature in the faith - make wise decisions - that will prepare him so that one day he will be able to serve & help shepherd the Lord’s flock.

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Titus 1:5–9 (NKJV)

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should ^eset in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, ^fhaving faithful children not accused of ²dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a ³bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, ^gnot given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.