

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior of men & women in the church (2:8-15)
- Qualifications of elders (3:1-7)
- Qualifications of Deacons (3:8-13)
- Behavior in God's House (3:14-16)
- The Great Apostasy (4:1-6)
- The Preachers Work (4:6-16)
- Treatment of One Another (5:1-25)

1 Timothy 5:17–25 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “The laborer *is* worthy of his wages.” ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰

Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

1 Timothy 5:17–25 (NKJV)

²¹ I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. ²² Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. ²³ No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. ²⁴ Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding *them* to judgment, but those of some *men* follow later. ²⁵ Likewise, the good works of *some* are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



WE ARE TO BE A “FUNCTIONAL” FAMILY

“Up to this point in this letter, Paul has been giving instructions on matters that touched Timothy’s relationship with the whole congregation. Almost the whole of the remainder of the letter is concerned with specific directions to Timothy to assist him in dealing with various groups and individuals within the congregation” (Reese p. 217).

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



WE ARE TO BE A “FUNCTIONAL” ASSEMBLY

“The qualifications for overseers or elders were given in chapter 3. Now Paul sets forth to Timothy the way these elders were to be treated by the congregation. It was Timothy’s responsibility to see that these matters were carried out”
(Kent p. 181).

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)

A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a brown robe, sitting and writing on a scroll. The background is a stone wall.

1 Timothy 5:17–18 (NKJV)

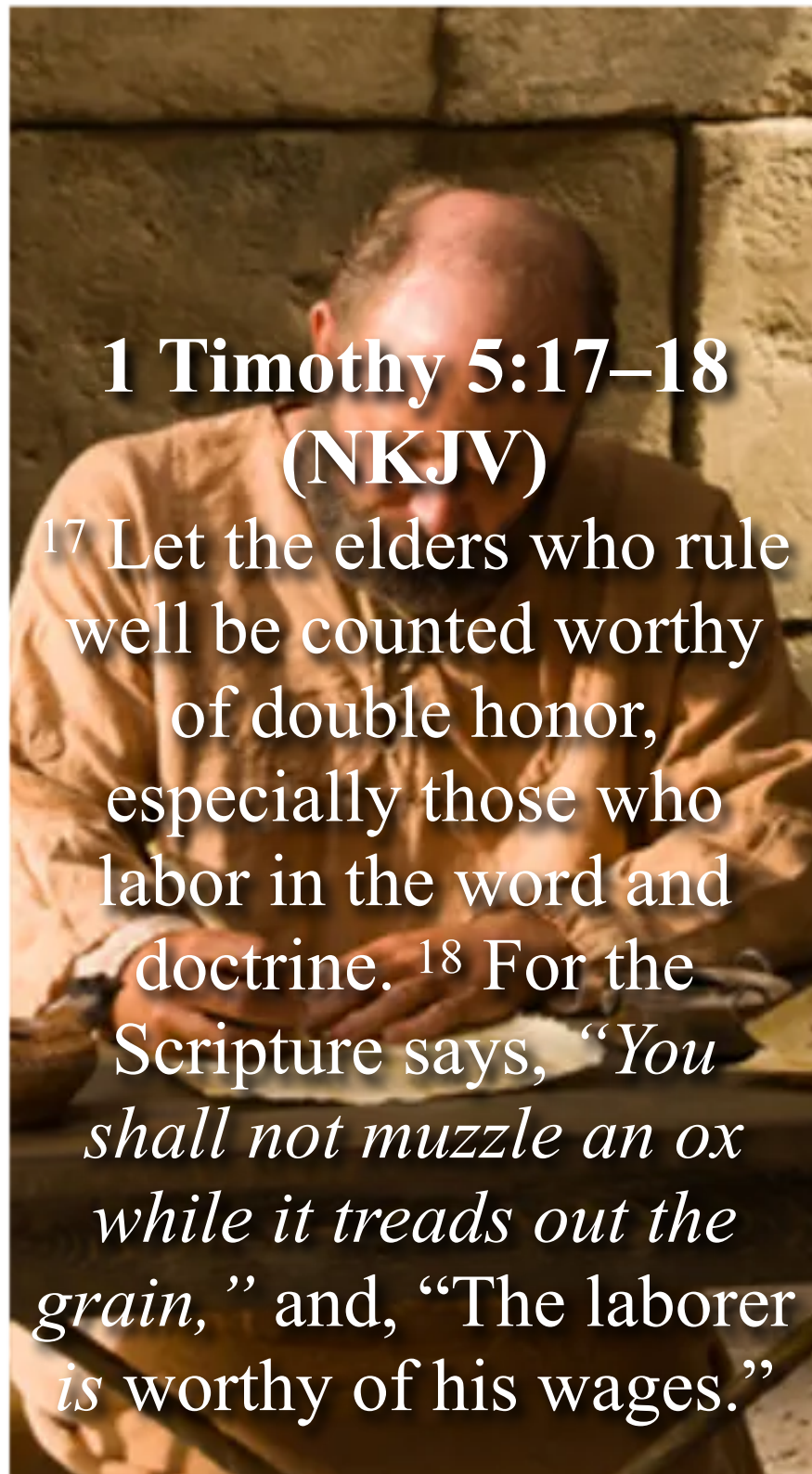
¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”

■ “THE ELDERS WHO RULE WELL”

- ▶ **The elders** : the term “elders” applies not to older men (5:1), but to those who serve as elders (3:1 ff).
- ▶ **Who rule** : “To be over, superintend, preside over” (Thayer p. 539). “Lit. to stand before, to lead, attend to (indicating care and diligence)” (Vine p. 307). “Be at the head of, rule, direct” (Arndt p. 707). The same stress on ruling is found in 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4,12 and Hebrews 13:17
- ▶ **Well** : “is done rightly” (Vine p. 207)

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)



■ “THE ELDERS WHO RULE WELL”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² ... recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,
- 1 Timothy 3:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);
- Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. ...

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)

A man with a beard, wearing a brown robe, is seated and writing in a scroll with a quill. The background is a textured, stone-like wall.

1 Timothy 5:17–18 (NKJV)

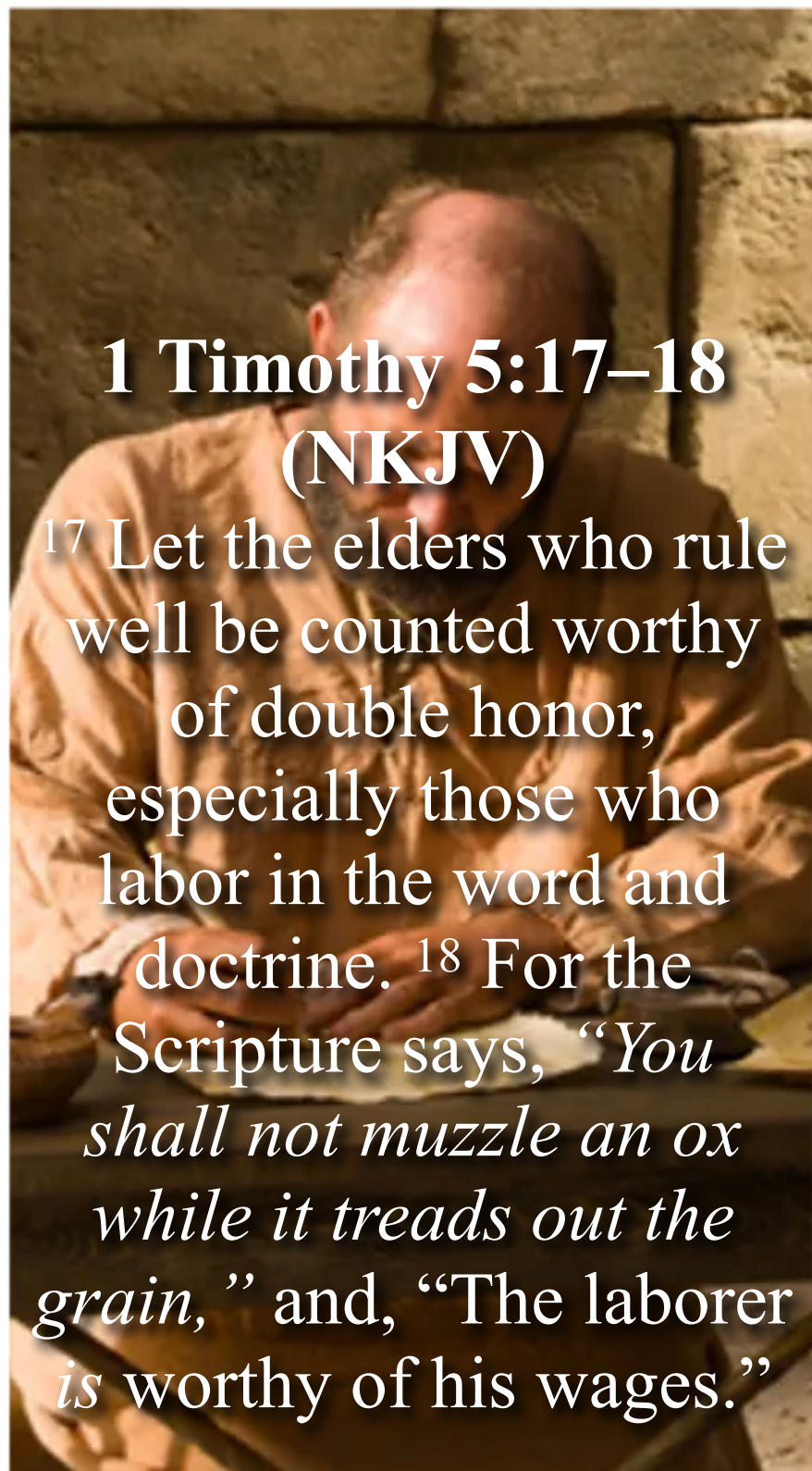
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■ “BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR”

- ▶ **“Counted worthy”** : “Deem deserving” (Thayer p. 53). The members should “respect,” and “esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake” (1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17).
- ▶ **“Double honor”** : “Honorarium, compensation” (Arndt p. 818). Elders should be respected for the work they do and also worthy of financial compensation along with that respect.

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)



1 Timothy 5:17–18 (NKJV)

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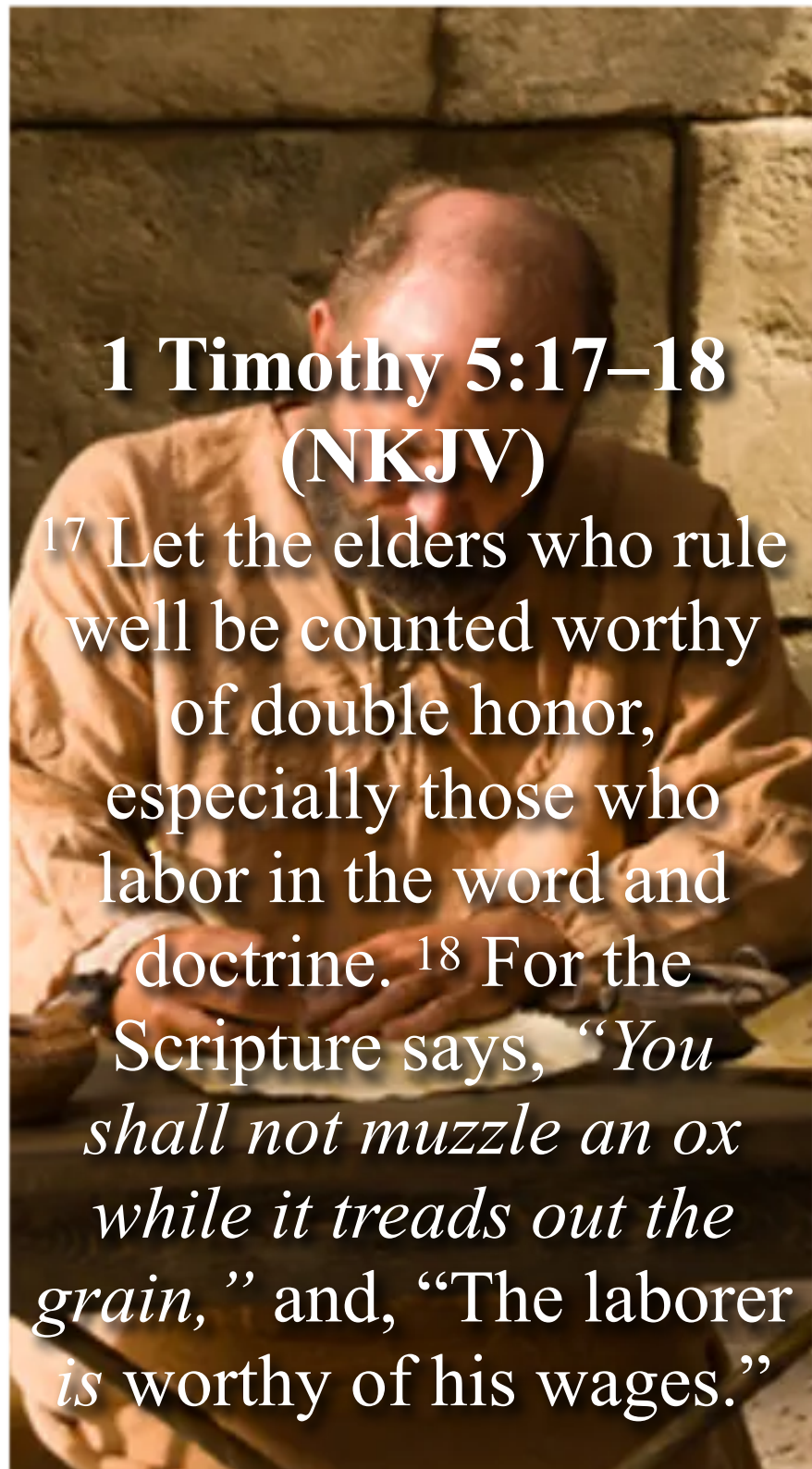
■ “BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR”

► “Especially those who labor in the word and doctrine” :

- **Especially** — chiefly, most of all, above all, particularly.
- **Those who labor** — To toil with wearisome effort (1 Thess. 5:12).
- **In the word and doctrine** — All elders are to be able to teach and oppose error, (Acts 20:28-31; Heb 13:7,17; Titus 1:9ff), but this text refers to those who preach.

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)

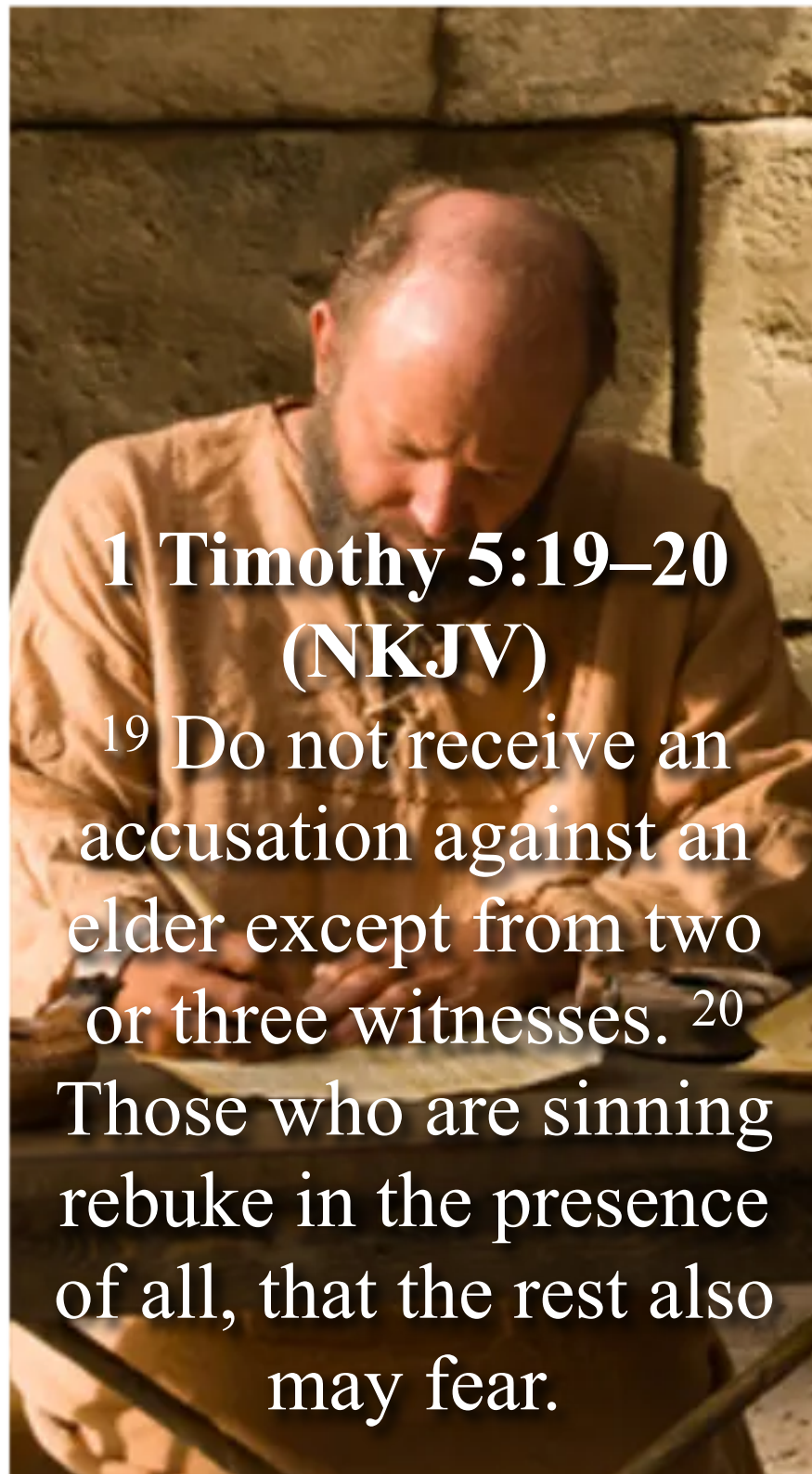


“BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR”

- ▶ **“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,”** : (Deut. 25:4) —Ancients used oxen pulling a threshing-sledge over grain to release the kernels from the stalk. They were not to be muzzled that they may eat of the grain (cf. 1 Cor 9:9-10)
- ▶ **“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”** : (Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7) — The inspired application / denotes the NT passages as scripture.

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



1 Timothy 5:19–20
(NKJV)

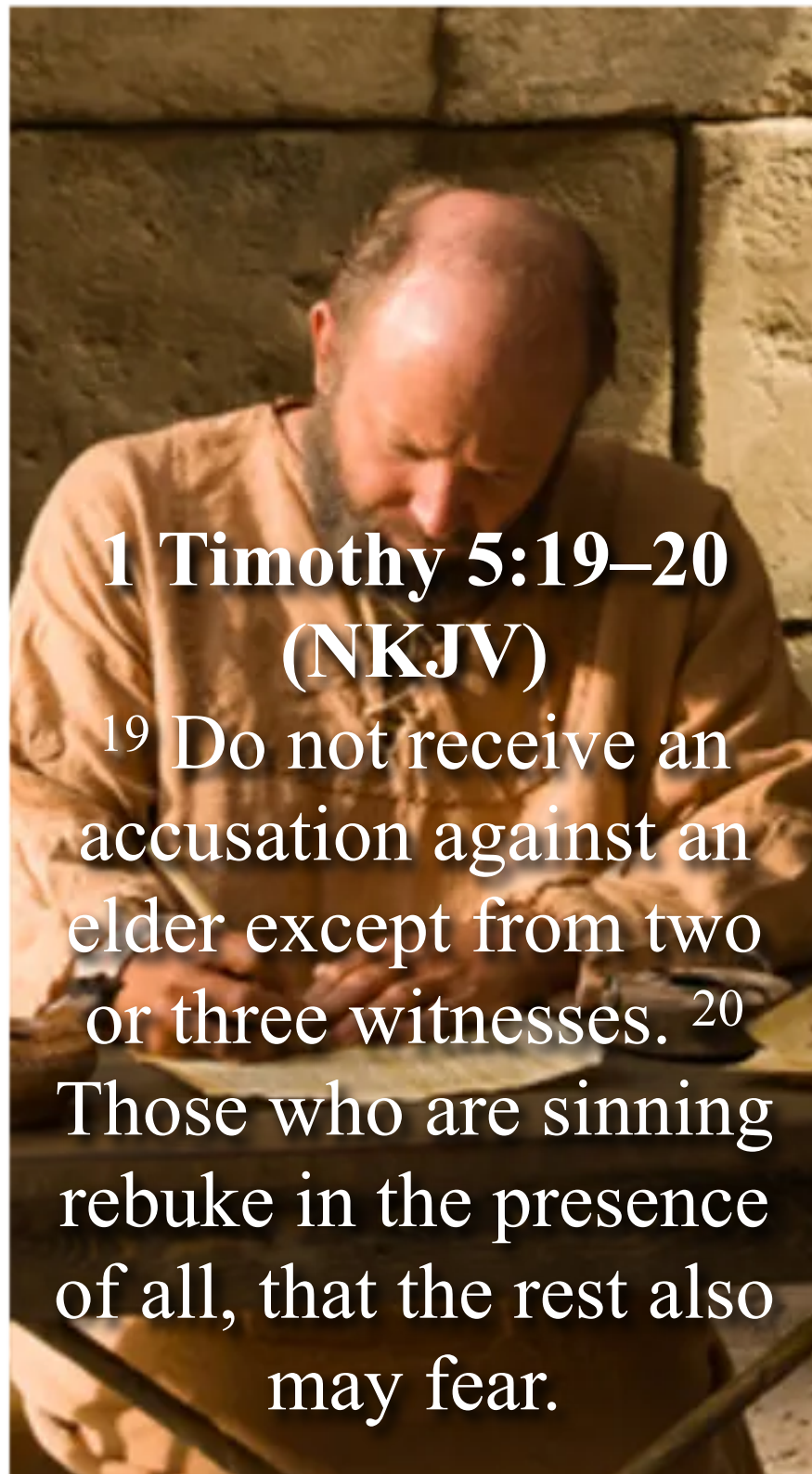
¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

■ “DO NOT RECEIVE AN ACCUSATION AGAINST AN ELDER EXCEPT”

- ▶ Do NOT listen to, i.e., do not accept with approval. a safeguard against malicious gossip against elders.
- ▶ **“except from two or three witnesses.”** : Note, the witnesses are not at the end of the process, but rather, must be at the very beginning. — We learn elsewhere this applies to all accusations (cf. Dt. 17:6; 19:15; Mt. 18:16; Jn 5:30-32; 8:17, 18; 2 Cor. 13:1; Heb. 10:28).

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)



1 Timothy 5:19–20
(NKJV)

¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

■ “THOSE WHO ARE SINNING”

- ▶ **“rebuke in the presence of all” :**
The previous verse was not designed to protect unfaithful elders — Those guilty of sin should be disciplined appropriately and publicly (Mt 18:17) - [*public sin should never be dealt with privately*].
- ▶ **“that the rest also may fear.” :**
Others need to be filled with fear—reverence for God’s order (cf. Acts 5:11). Discipline is administered to save the elder and also to save others (Heb. 12:5-11).

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(1 Timothy 5:17–25)



1 Timothy 5:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.
²² Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

■ Personal Instructions (5:21-23)

- ▶ **“I charge you”** : To command earnestly, to bear a solemn witness (2 Timothy 2:14; 4:1)
- ▶ **“before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels”** : Timothy serves in the presence of—the God of the universe, the Messiah at His right hand, and the angels (His chosen attendants and ministers)—as he goes about doing the work of an evangelist — We have the same audience! (Col. 3:23; Heb 4:13; Rev 2:2).

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

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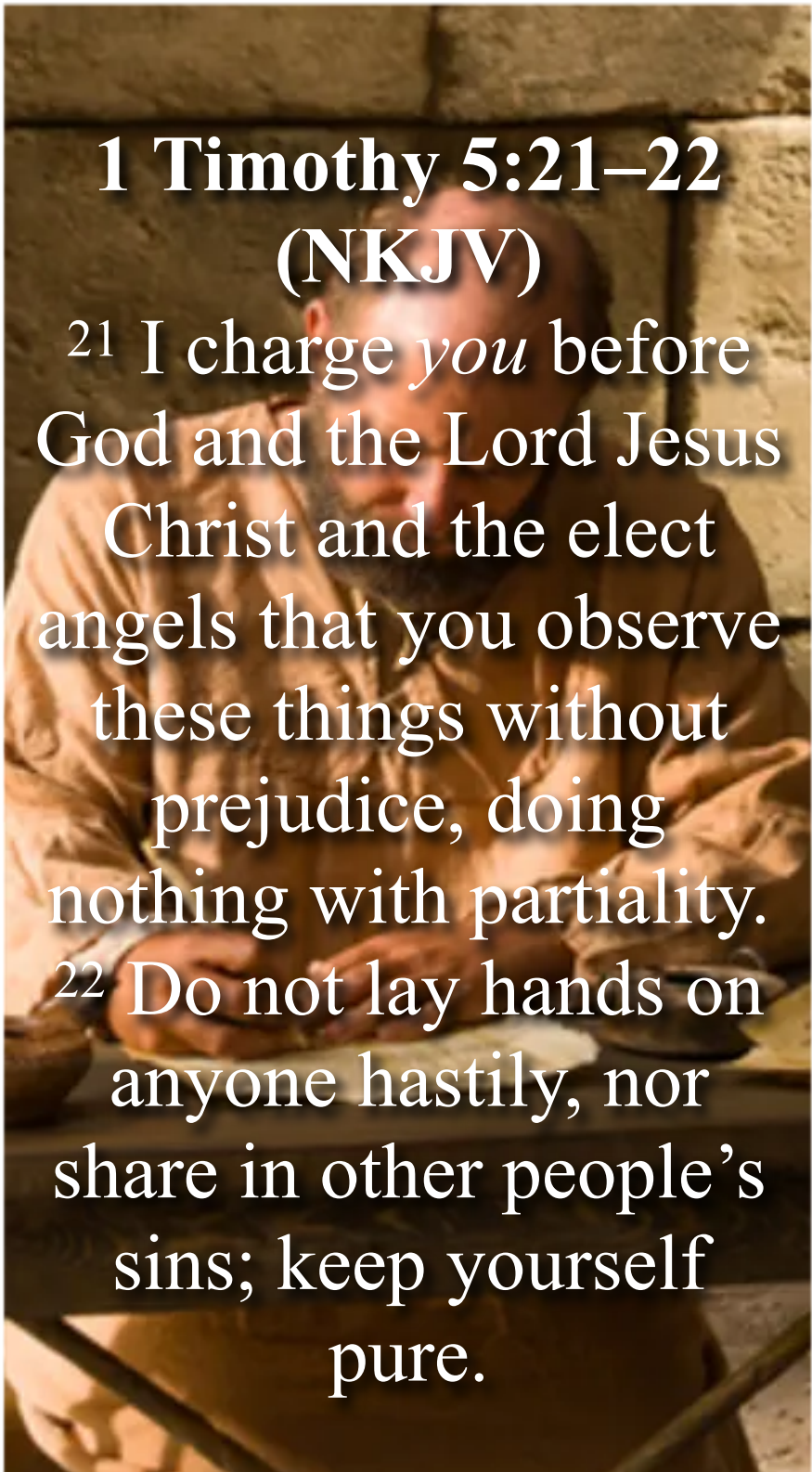
²² Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

■ Personal Instructions (5:21-23)

- ▶ “**observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.**” : without bias, prejudging, discrimination, or favoritism. Must fairly hear all sides / The balance of justice to be equal!
- ▶ “**Do not lay hands on anyone hastily**” : do not be rash in bringing charges, or do not be rash in appointing men. “Laying hands upon” usually refers to appointing someone to a work (Acts 6:6; 13:3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6).

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1 Timothy 5:21–22 (NKJV)

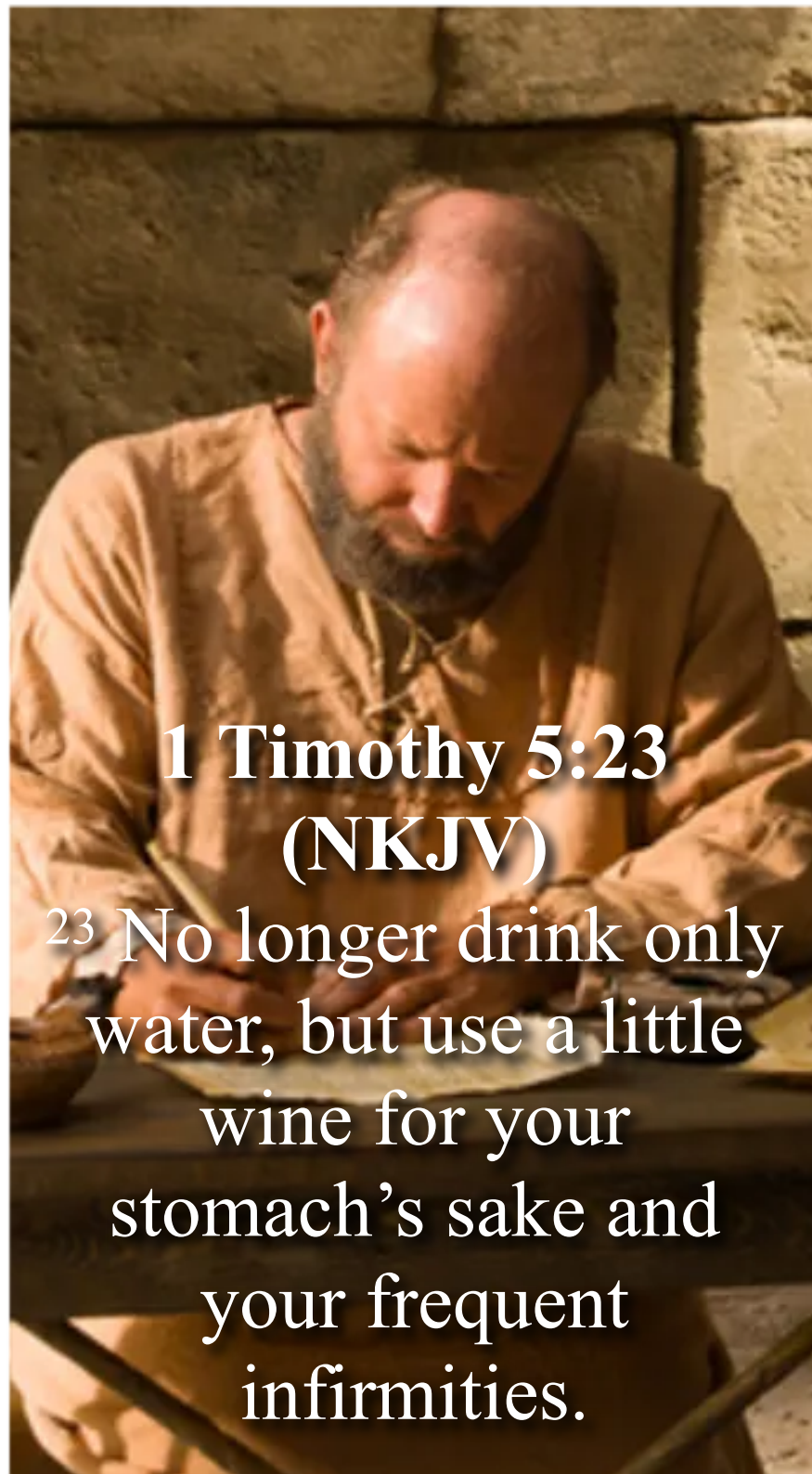
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■ Personal Instructions (5:21-23)

- ▶ “**nor share in other people's sins.**” : do not be swayed by the accusations or proposals of others to do wrong!
- ▶ “**keep yourself pure**” : Notice the stress on the term “yourself”. The preacher cannot always prevent others from sinning, but he certainly can keep himself pure.
- ▶ Timothy will answer to the Lord for how he deals with accusations, evidence presented to him & recommendations from others.

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(I Timothy 5:17–25)



**1 Timothy 5:23
(NKJV)**

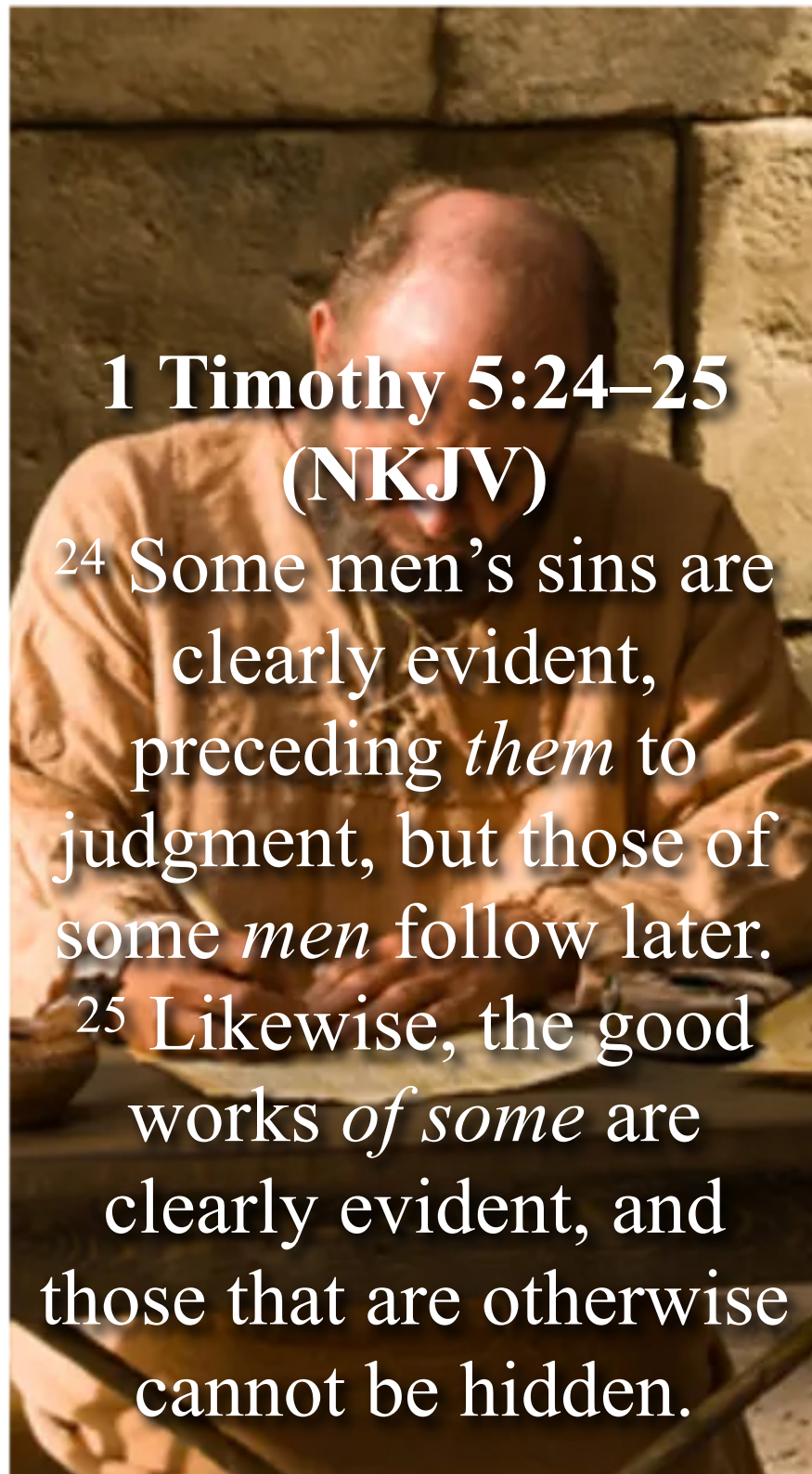
23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

Personal Instructions (5:21-23)

- ▶ **“No longer drink only water”** : Timothy, was currently drinking ONLY water — Timothy did not drink wine socially or as a beverage. This indicates Timothy's hesitancy to drink oinos.
- ▶ **“but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities”** : Paul gave Timothy permission to drink “A LITTLE” wine for medicinal purposes. [consult Farrar Fenton's The Bible and Wine or William Patton's Bible Wines - a solid case can be made this was not fermeented]

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



1 Timothy 5:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding *them* to judgment, but those of some *men* follow later.

²⁵ Likewise, the good works *of some* are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

■ Personal Instructions (5:21-23)

- ▶ “Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later” : the “sins” under consideration may be specifically the sins of elders (5:20), yet the principle in this verse would apply to all men. We may keep our sins secret for now - but all will be revealed in due time (Eccl. 12:14; Heb. 4:13).
- ▶ The same principle is seen regarding “good works.” (25)

“Treatment of Elders & Accusations”

(I Timothy 5:17–25)



FAILURE TO

RESPECT ONE ANOTHER,

EXHORT ONE ANOTHER,

HONOR AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

FULFILL ONE'S INDIVIDUAL
OBLIGATIONS

DEAL FAIRLY & JUSTLY

**IS a FAILURE TO
RESPECT AND
HONOR CHRIST!**

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(1 Timothy 5:17–25)

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Acts 20:26–31 (NKJV)

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.