



“A CHRISTIAN'S
RESPONSE TO
ABUSIVE
AUTHORITY”

(1 Peter 2:18-25)

“A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO ABUSIVE AUTHORITY”

- ▶ **THE SECOND OF AT LEAST FOUR LESSONS ...**
- ▶ **A CONTROVERSIAL AND DIFFICULT SUBJECT ...**
- ▶ **THE NEED TO AVOID EXTREMES IN APPLICATION ...**

SUBMIT TO GOD'S ORDAINED AUTHORITIES



ABSTAIN FROM
FLESHLY LUST WHICH
WAR AGAINST THE
SOUL! (2:12)

- To succeed in our spiritual "pilgrimage" and reach our heavenly destination, we must SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL!
- As pilgrims we are governed by the King of heaven and earth – But, as we sojourn here on earth we must submit to the powers instituted by God -

SUBMIT TO GOD'S ORDAINED AUTHORITIES

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF HOLY LIVING (2:13-5:5)

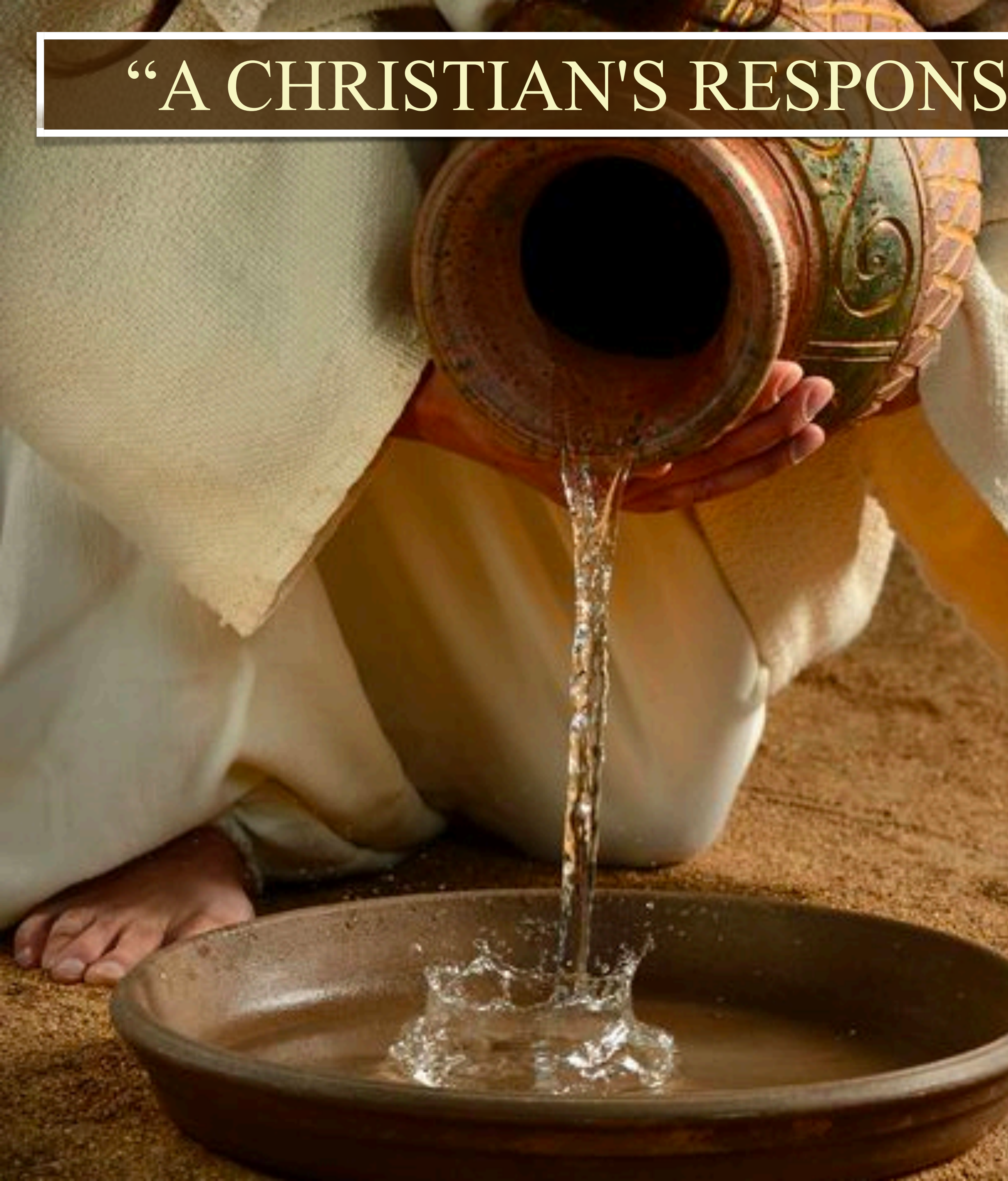


- Civil (2:13-17)
- Social / Economic (2:18-25)
- Marital (3:1-7)
- Cultural (3:8-4:6;12-19)
- Familial (4:7-11)
- Congregational (5:1-5)

“A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO ABUSIVE AUTHORITY”

(1 Peter 2:18-25)

**Principles
Governing The
Christian's
Behavior in
Suffering**



1 Peter 2:18–25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹

For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰

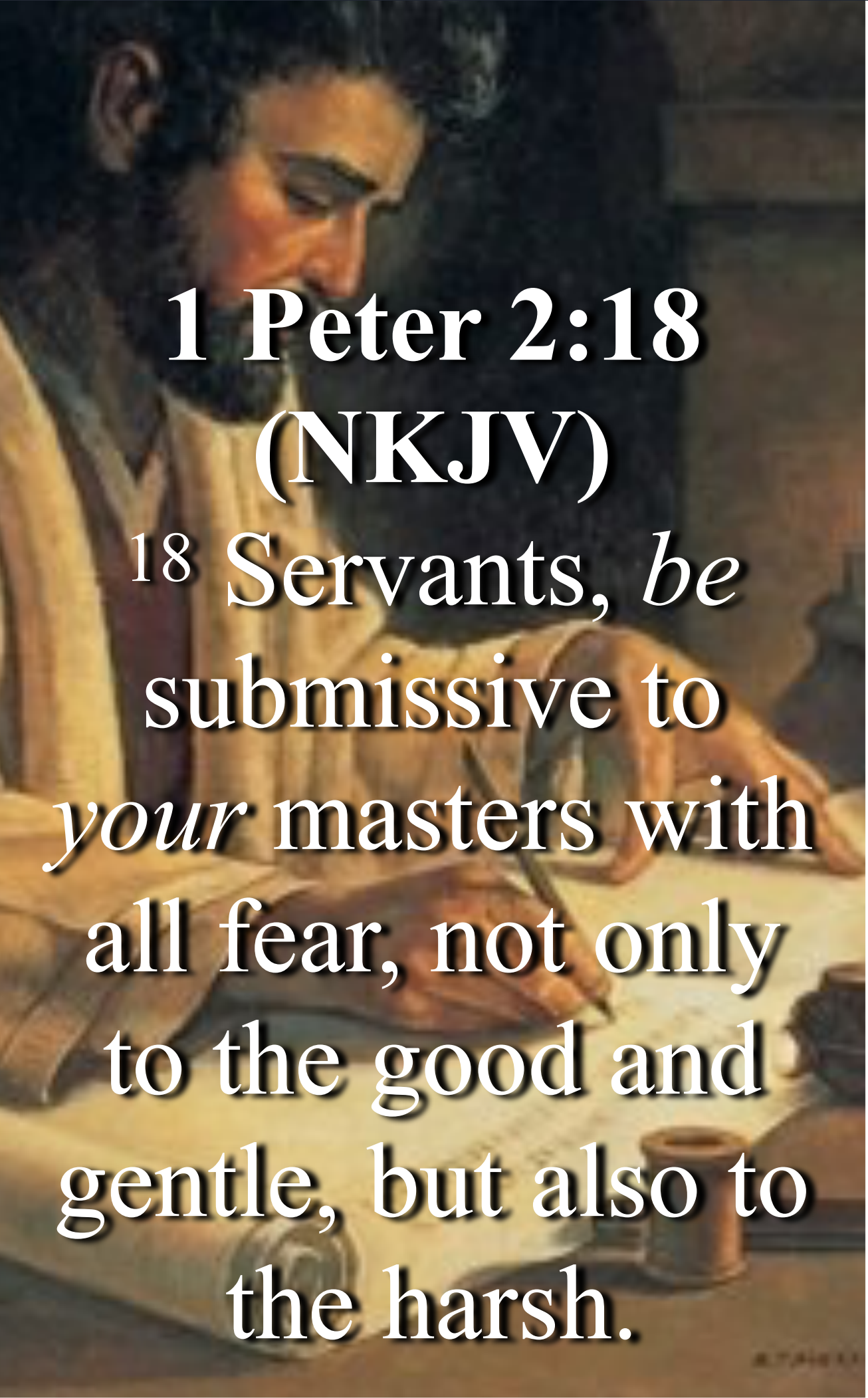
For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1 Peter 2:18–25 (NKJV)

²² “*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters (2:18-20)



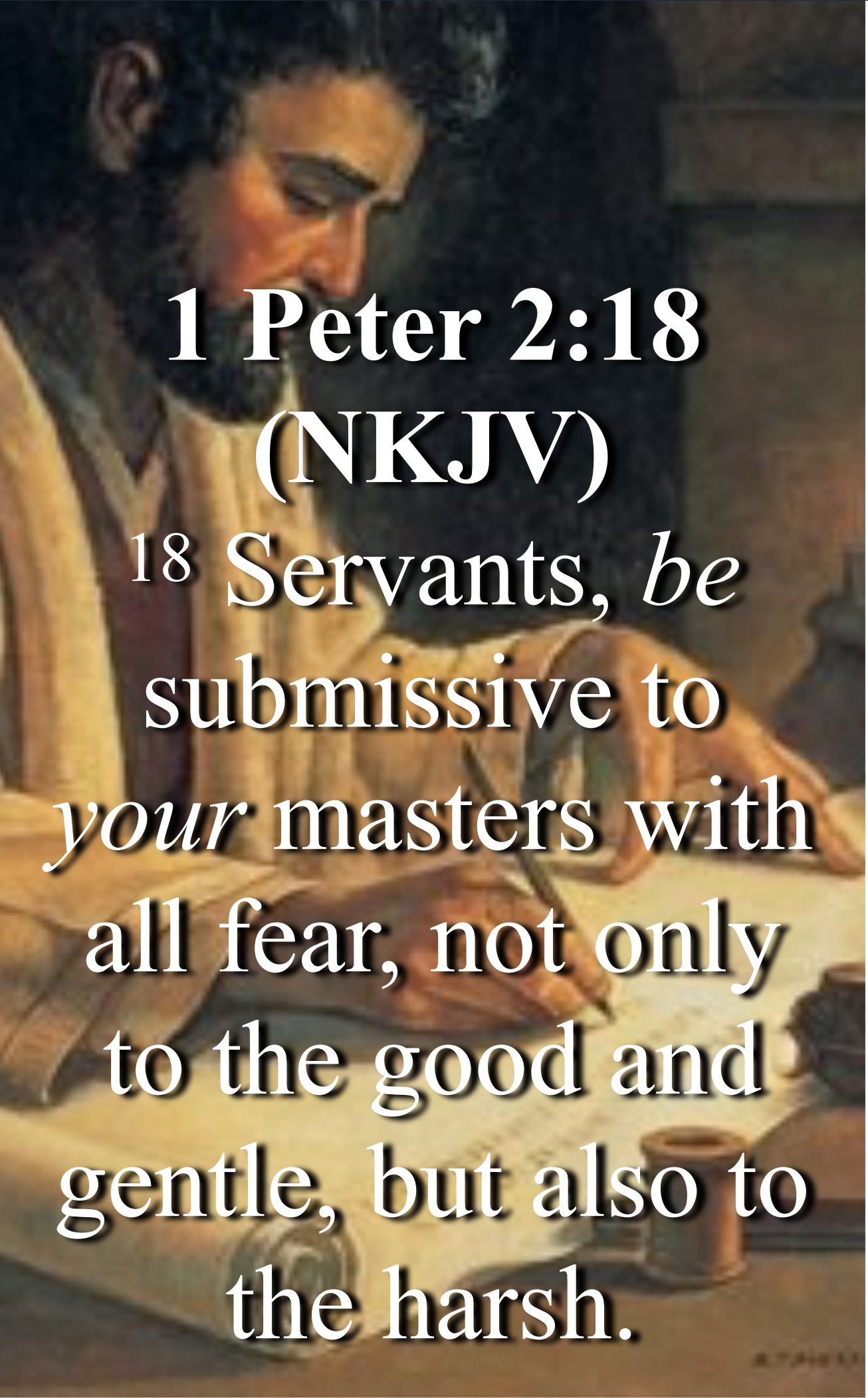
1 Peter 2:18
(NKJV)

18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

- **“SERVANTS”** (2:18) Greek *oikia* (οἰκία, 3614) - household or domestic servants (cf. Luke 16:13; Rom. 14:4) (not *douloi*, the common term for slaves cf. v. 16).
- The Epistles frequent mention of ‘servants’ suggests that many First Century Christians belonged to this class (1 Cor. 7:21-23; Eph. 6:5-8; Col.3:22; 1 Tim. 6:1-2).
- Basically, contracted employees

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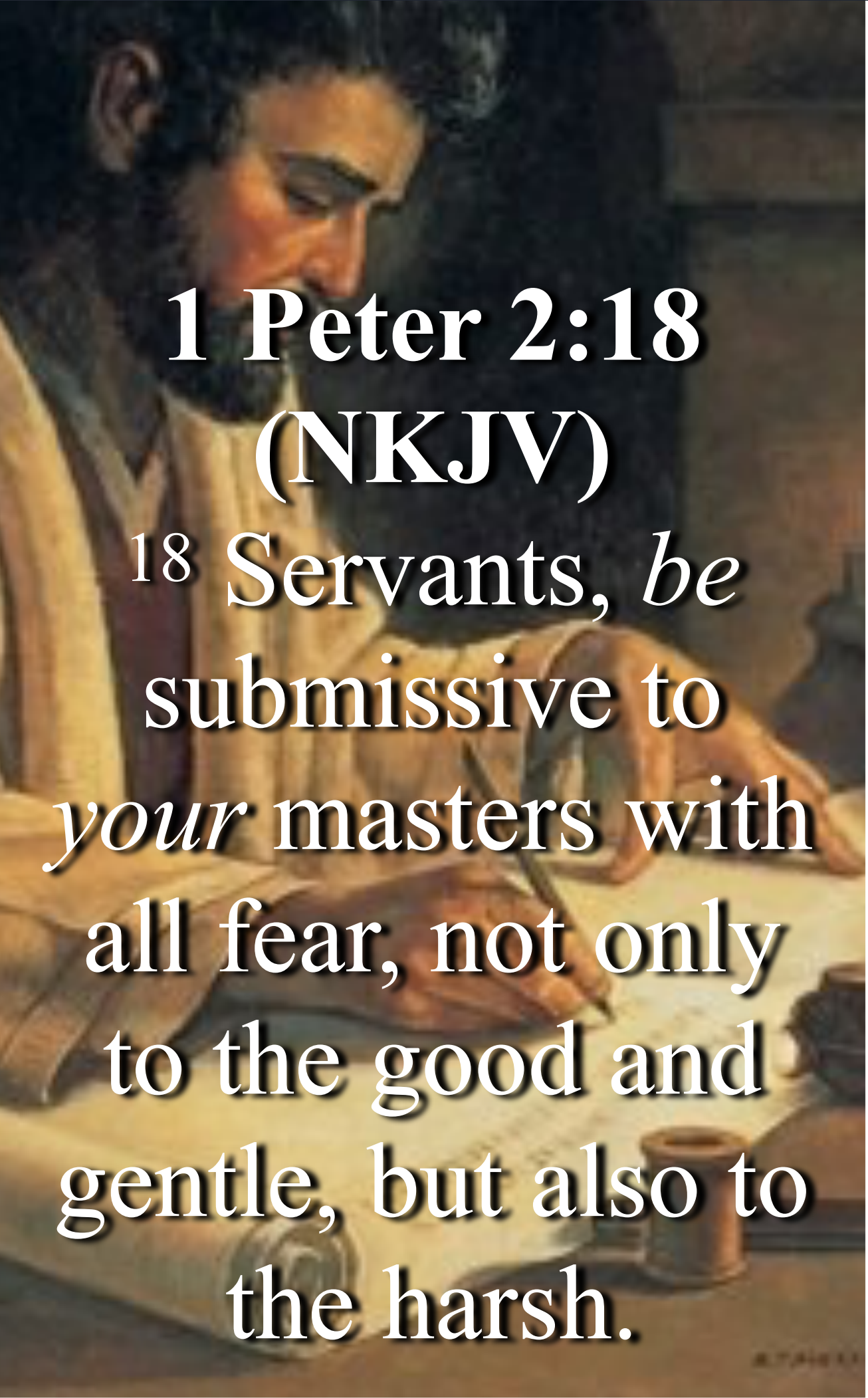
1 Peter 2:18
(NKJV)

18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

- 13 Therefore **submit** yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake
- 18 Servants, *be* **submissive** to *your* masters with all fear
- 3:1 ¹Wives, likewise, *be* **submissive** to your own husbands
- 5:5 ⁵ Likewise you younger people, **submit** yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you *be* **submissive** to one another, and be clothed with humility,

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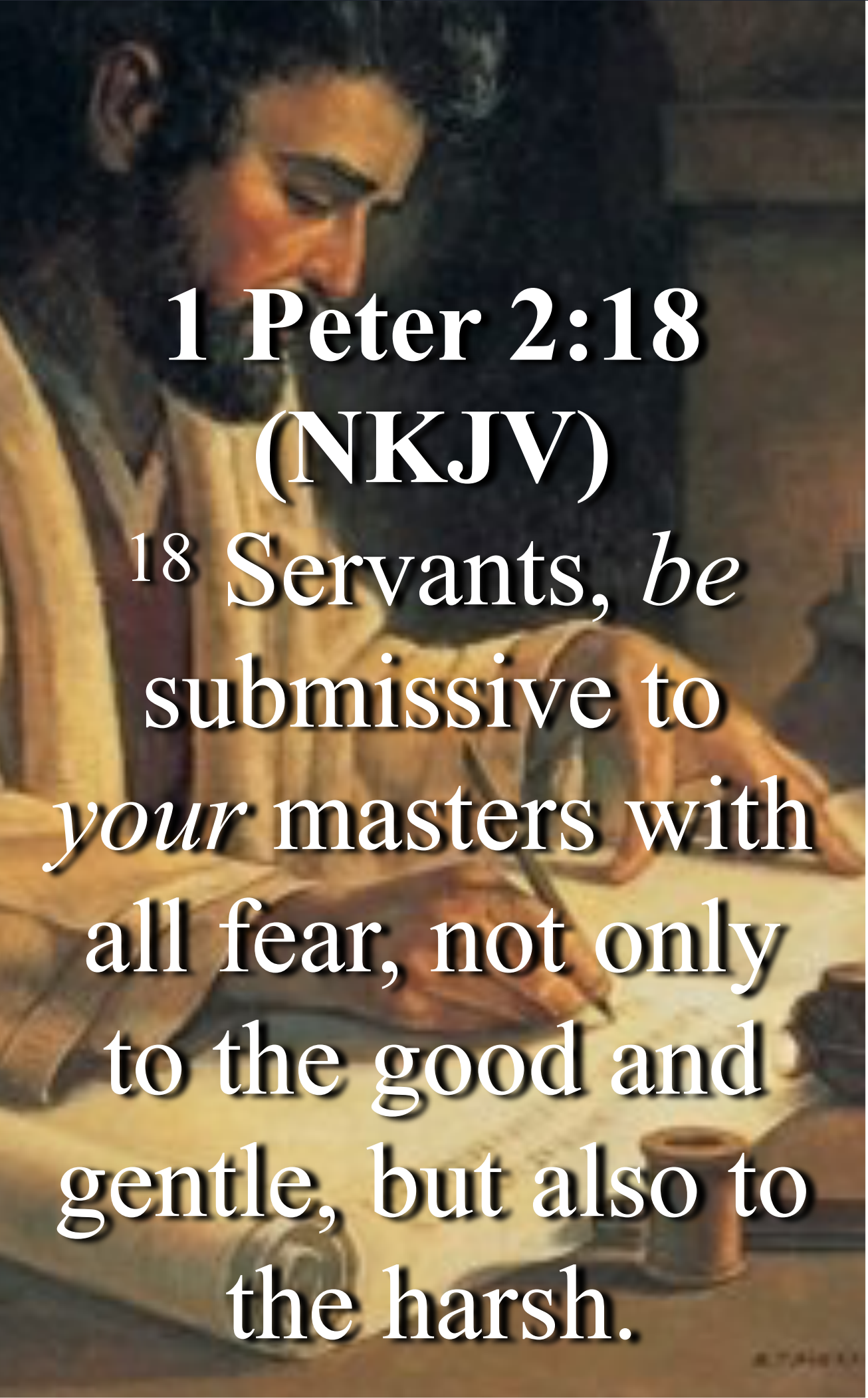
1 Peter 2:18
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¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

- *hupotasso* (ὑποτάσσω, 5293), — in the middle or passive voice, to subject oneself, to obey, be subject to ... Vines
- *hupotasso* (ὑποτάσσω, 5293) to submit to the orders or directives of someone — ‘to obey, to submit to, obedience, submission.’ ... Lou Nida
- To place one's self under / of one's own willing acceptance.

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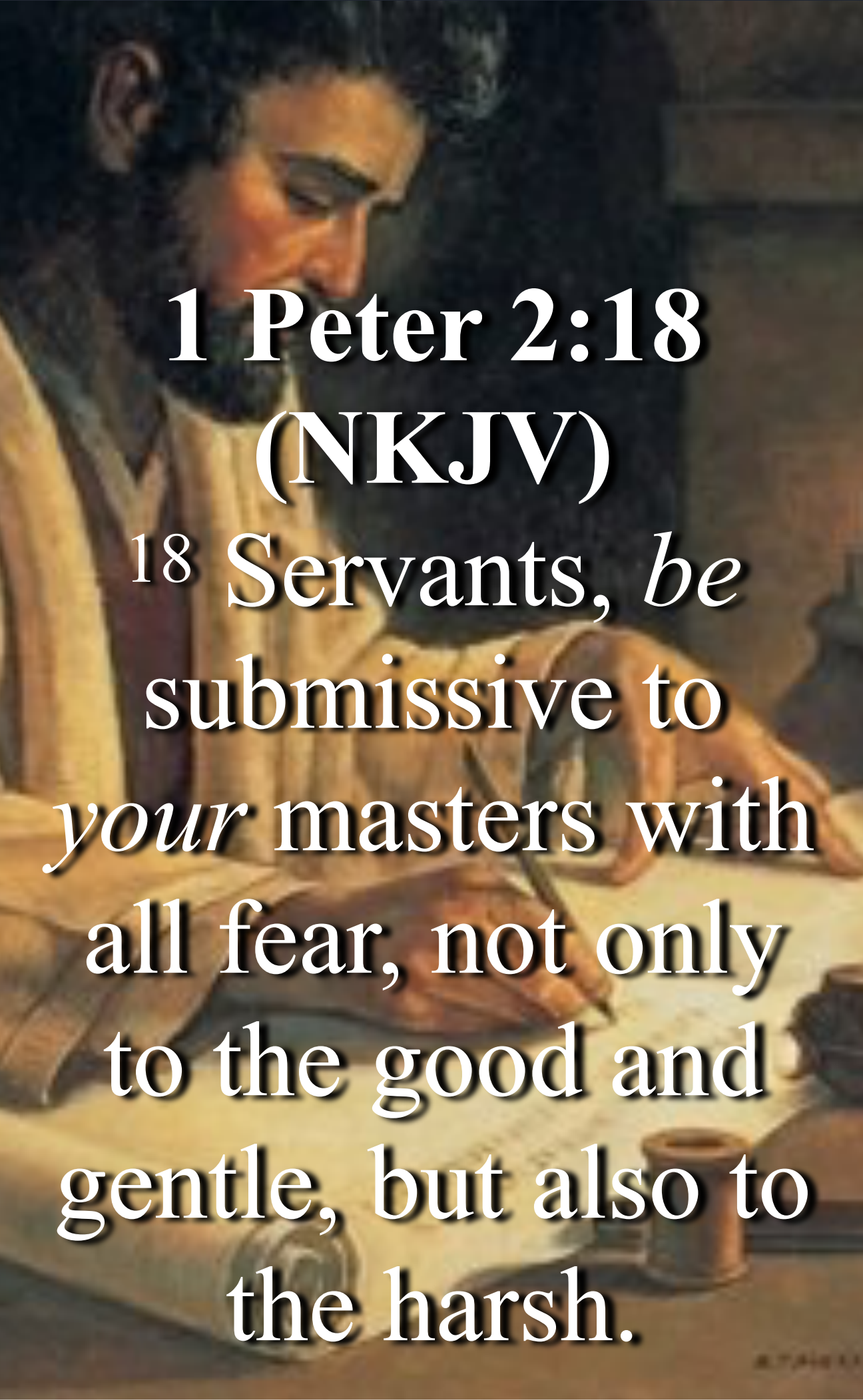
1 Peter 2:18
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¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

- “**Masters**” - despotes (δεσπότης, 1203), “a master, lord, one who possesses supreme authority,” (Vines)
- 57.13 δεσπότηςb, ου m: “one who owns and/or controls the activities of slaves, servants, or subjects, with the implication of absolute, and in some instances, arbitrary jurisdiction” (Lou Nida)
- Basically, the boss who owns the contract to which one is bound.

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With All Fear


- Regardless of the economic system we are in, we must always remember the Master we are serving is Christ (Eph. 6:5-6).

“Submission” Not Conditioned On

- One's knowledge, ability or experience.
- The goodness or badness of the one with authority.

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1 Peter 2:18
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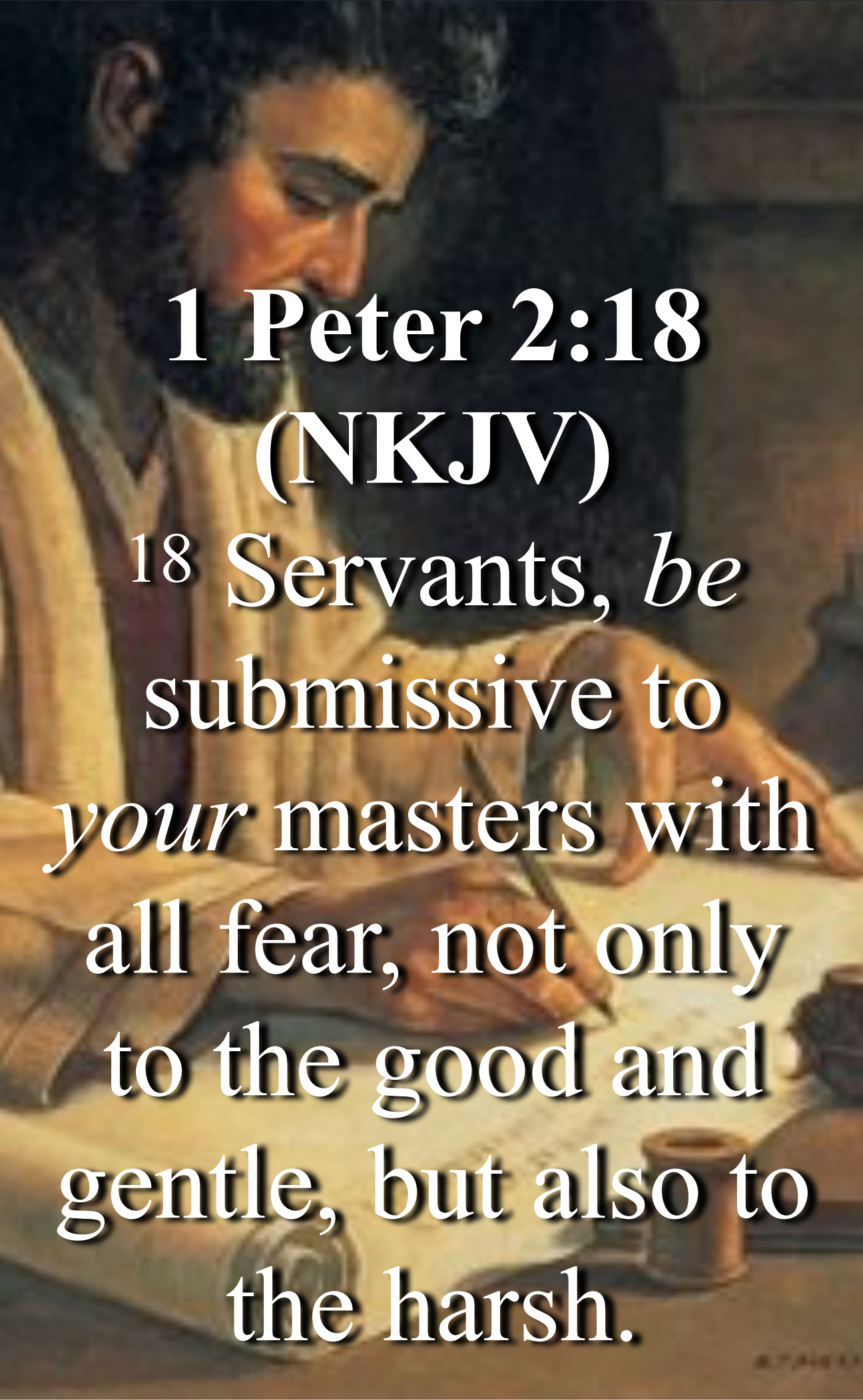
¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

Ephesians 6:5–8 (NKJV)

⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

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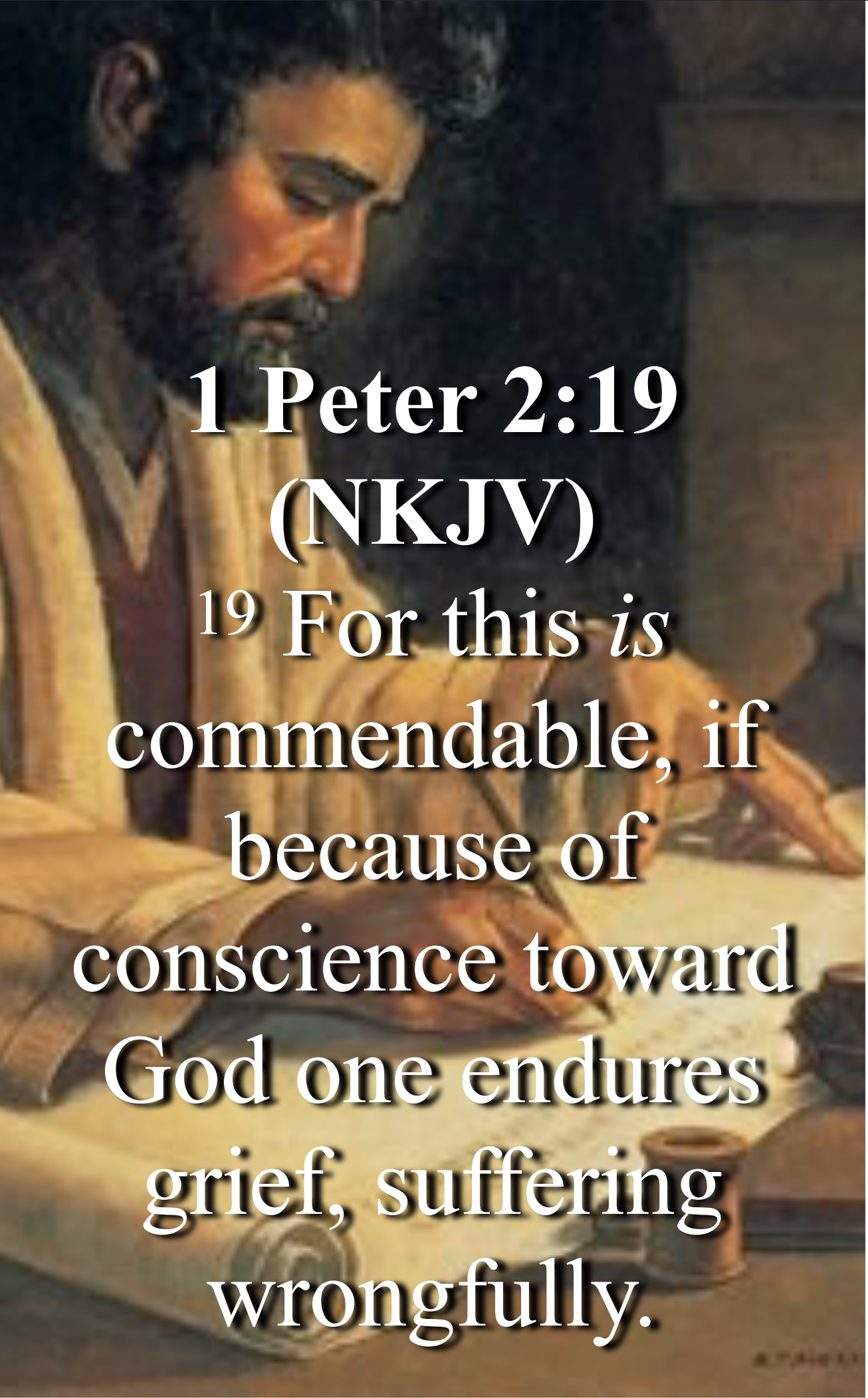
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18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

- ❖ Our obligation to fulfill our duties do not depend on the character of the person in charge.
- ❖ Suffering injustice doesn't give the Christian the right to act in an unjust manner, (disrespectful, stealing, violence, etc). The servant who would do such makes himself no better than his godless boss.
- ❖ Our reverence for God is to be the reason we submit, not to please men or avoid punishment from men.

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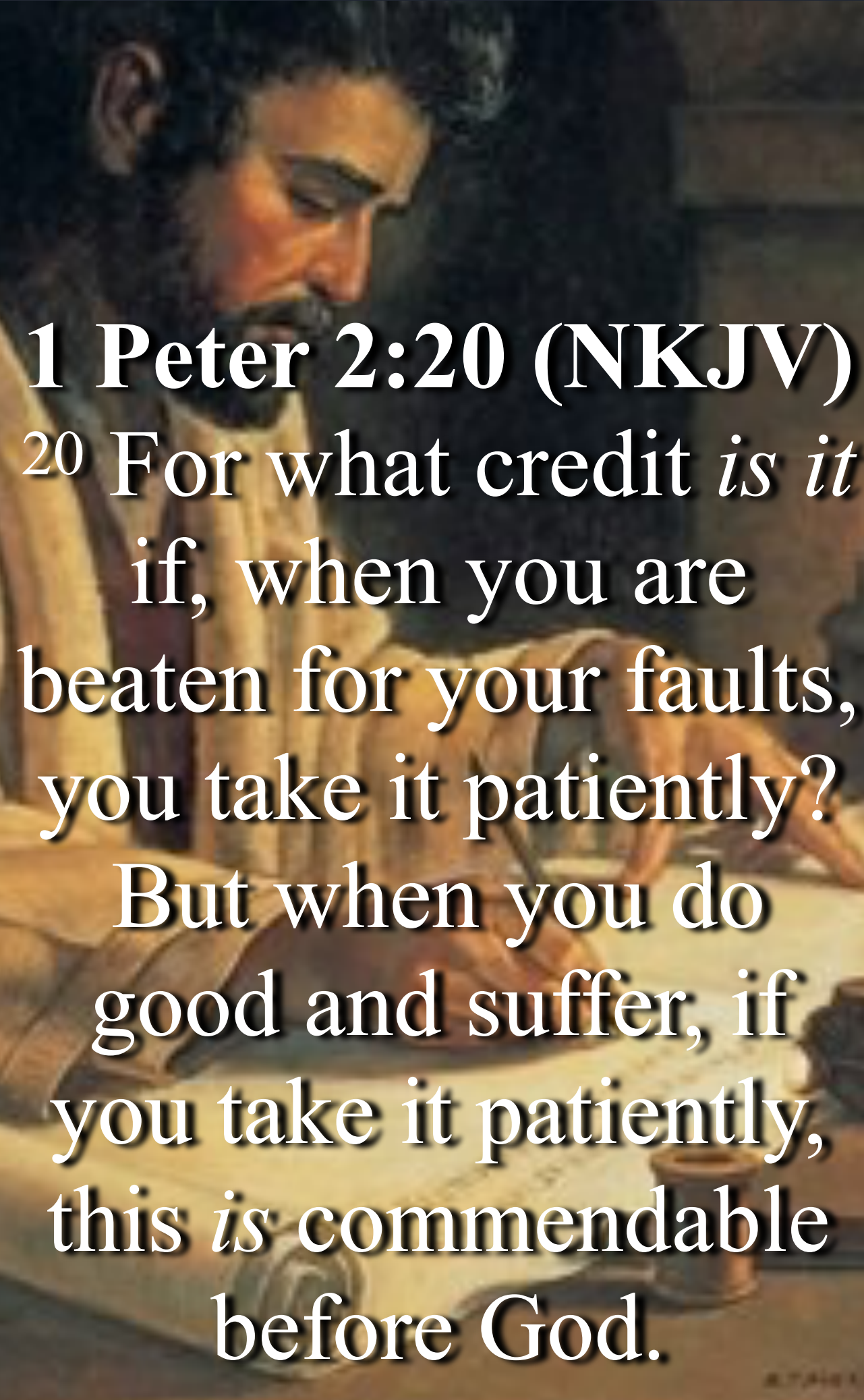
**1 Peter 2:19
(NKJV)**

¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

- ◆ Peter set forth a principle here that may be applied to any situation where unjust suffering occurs.
- ◆ The commendable (lit., “for this is grace”) motivation for patiently bearing up under unjust suffering is the believer’s conscious awareness of God’s presence (Col. 3:22-25).
- ◆ God will reward our faithfulness and endurance, and will also punish the wicked (Col. 3:25; 4:1; Eph 6:9)

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Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters (2:18-20)



1 Peter 2:20 (NKJV)

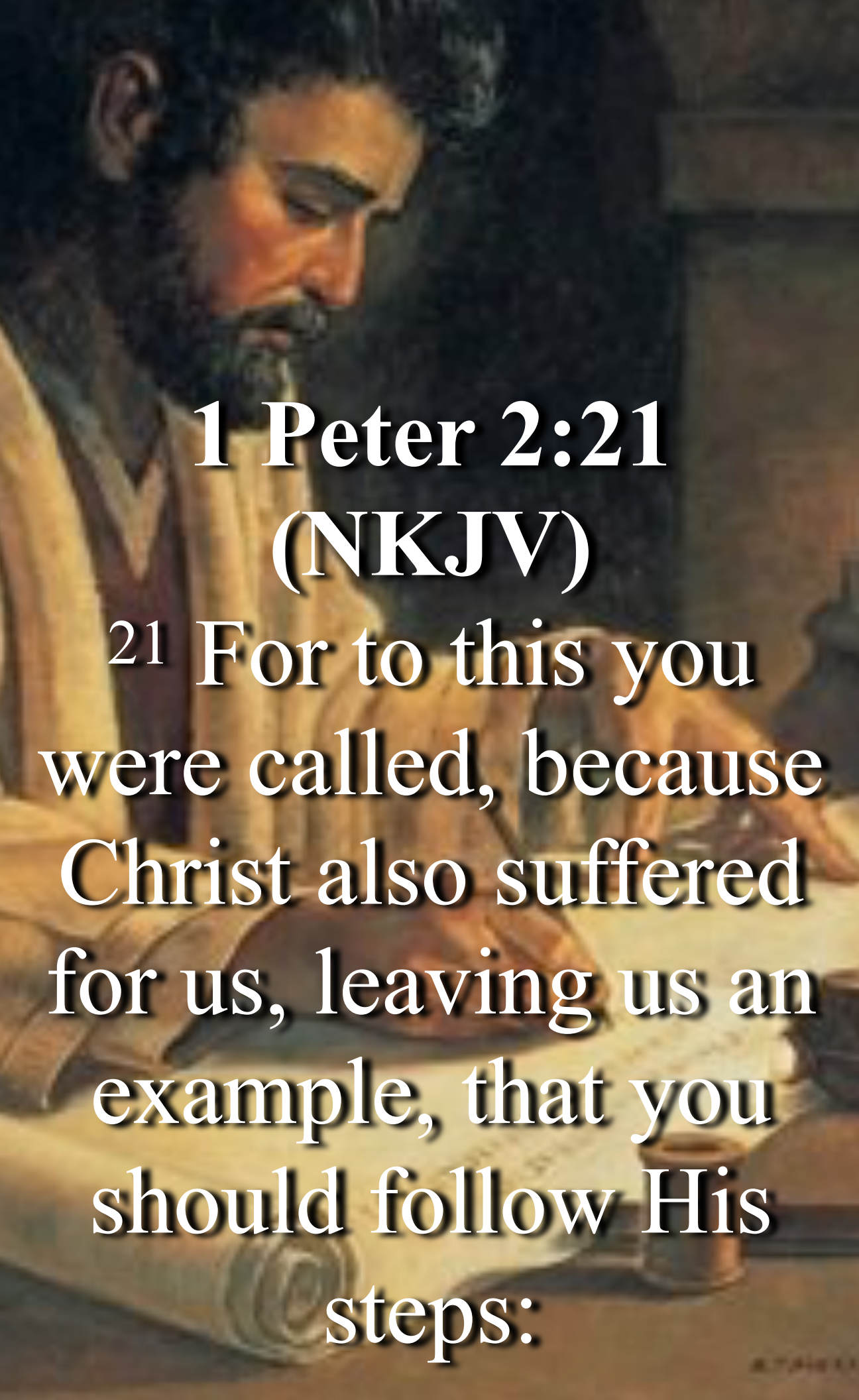
20 For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?

But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

- ❖ There is no merit in receiving punishment for one's faults.
- ❖ But when we suffer unjustly:
 - **"When you do good"** - present tense, keep doing what is right.
 - **"If you take it patiently"** - present tense, keep on enduring.
 - Hardship doesn't excuse us from "doing good."
- ❖ **Doing Good "finds favor with God" (NASB) cf. Rom 13:5; 1 Pet 3:14, 16f**

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Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, (2:21-24)



**1 Peter 2:21
(NKJV)**

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

- ❖ **“For to this you were called,”** — Trusting God, patiently enduring mistreatment, and doing good, even when it brings suffering, is the type of life to which Christians are called (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jn 15:18-20; 16:33).
- ❖ **“Because Christ also suffered for us”** — Our sins brought great suffering upon Jesus (3:18). How can we complain or feel sorry for ourselves when we suffer because of another’s sinful actions?
- ❖ **“leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” ...**

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Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, (2:21-24)

1 Peter 2:22–23
(NKJV)

22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

◆ **“Who committed no sin ...”** — Quotation from Isaiah 53:9. Jesus never sinned. Not even so much as even a suggestion or guess concerning whether He might have sinned (2 Cor. 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5; John 8:46; 14:30).

◆ **“when He was reviled, did not revile in return”** — At the very moment He was suffering abuse. Godly patience must be exercised right at the moment that suffering hits (Is. 53:7; Mark 14:60,61; Luke 22:64; 23:9; Heb. 12:3)

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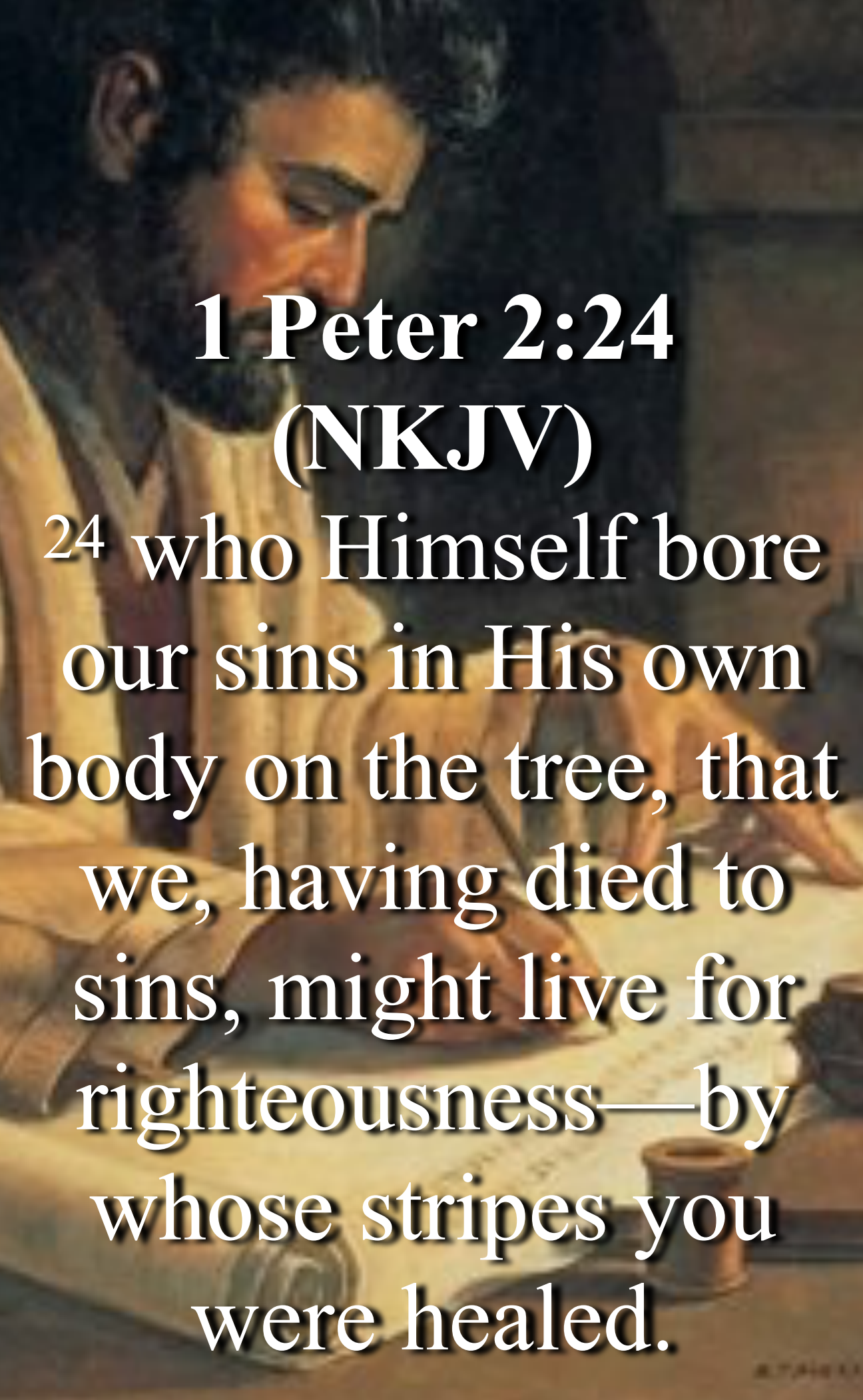
23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

❖ **“When He suffered, He did not threaten”** — The picture is of Jesus being continually harassed, spoken against, abused, and yet he never retaliated - even with His tongue! (Isaiah 53:7; James 1:26).

❖ **“But committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”** — Jesus, unlike us, had the power to destroy His enemies, but instead He deferred judgment to the Father - placing His trust in Him to do right (1 Pet. 4:5; Col. 3:25; 2 Thess. 1:5-9; James 5:7-8; Rom. 12:17-21)

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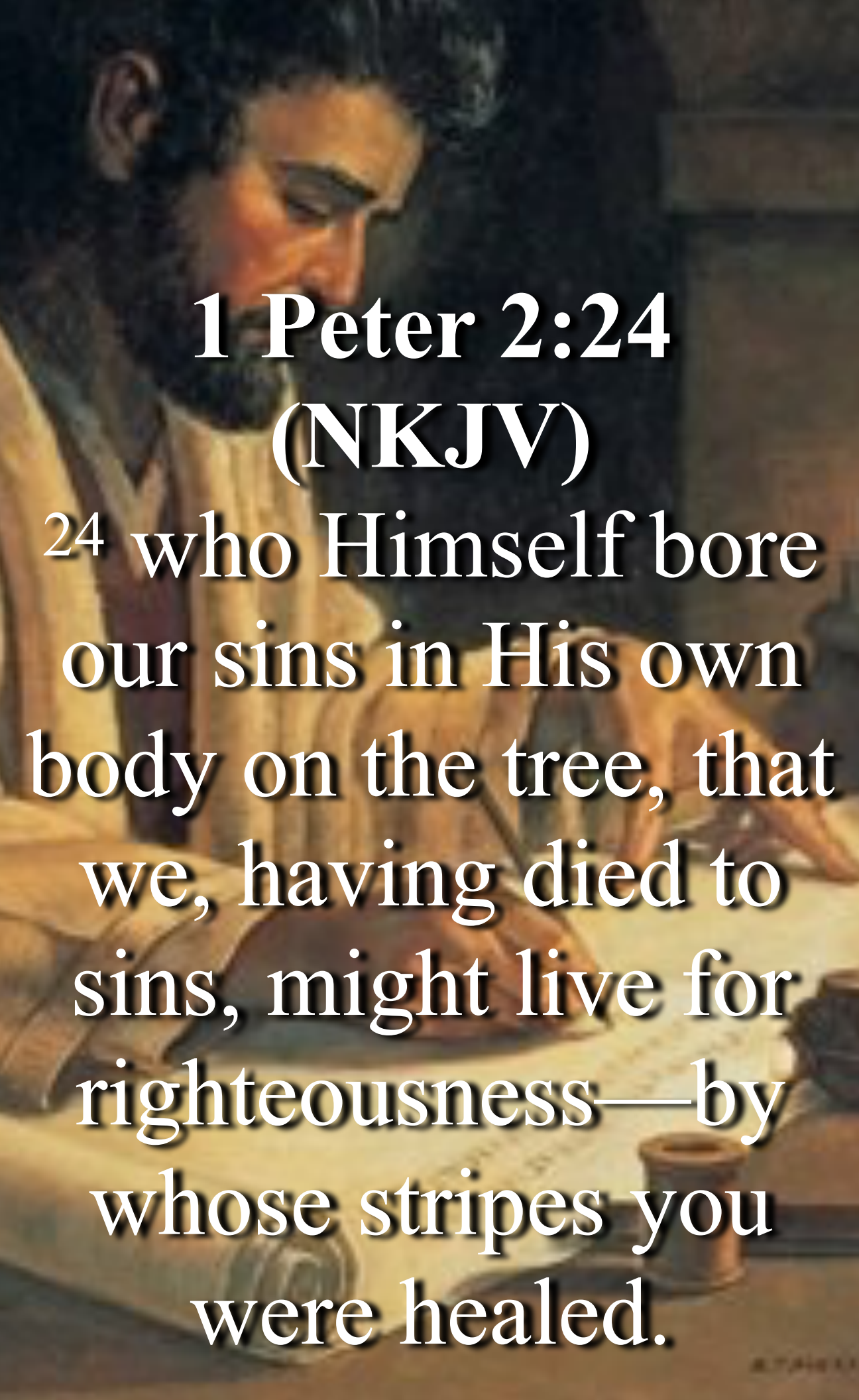
**1 Peter 2:24
(NKJV)**

²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

- ❖ **“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body”** — Jesus wasn't “just” a martyr. He wasn't dying for some vague cause, rather He died as a sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16; 1:29; Heb. 9:28; Isaiah 53:11-12; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- ❖ **“That we, having died to sins”** — Peter is speaking to Christians who had been forgiven (1:18,19,22,23),
- ❖ **“Might live for righteousness”** — Jesus's sacrifice should motivate us to cease the practice of sin (Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Col 3:1-5; Rom 6:1 ff)

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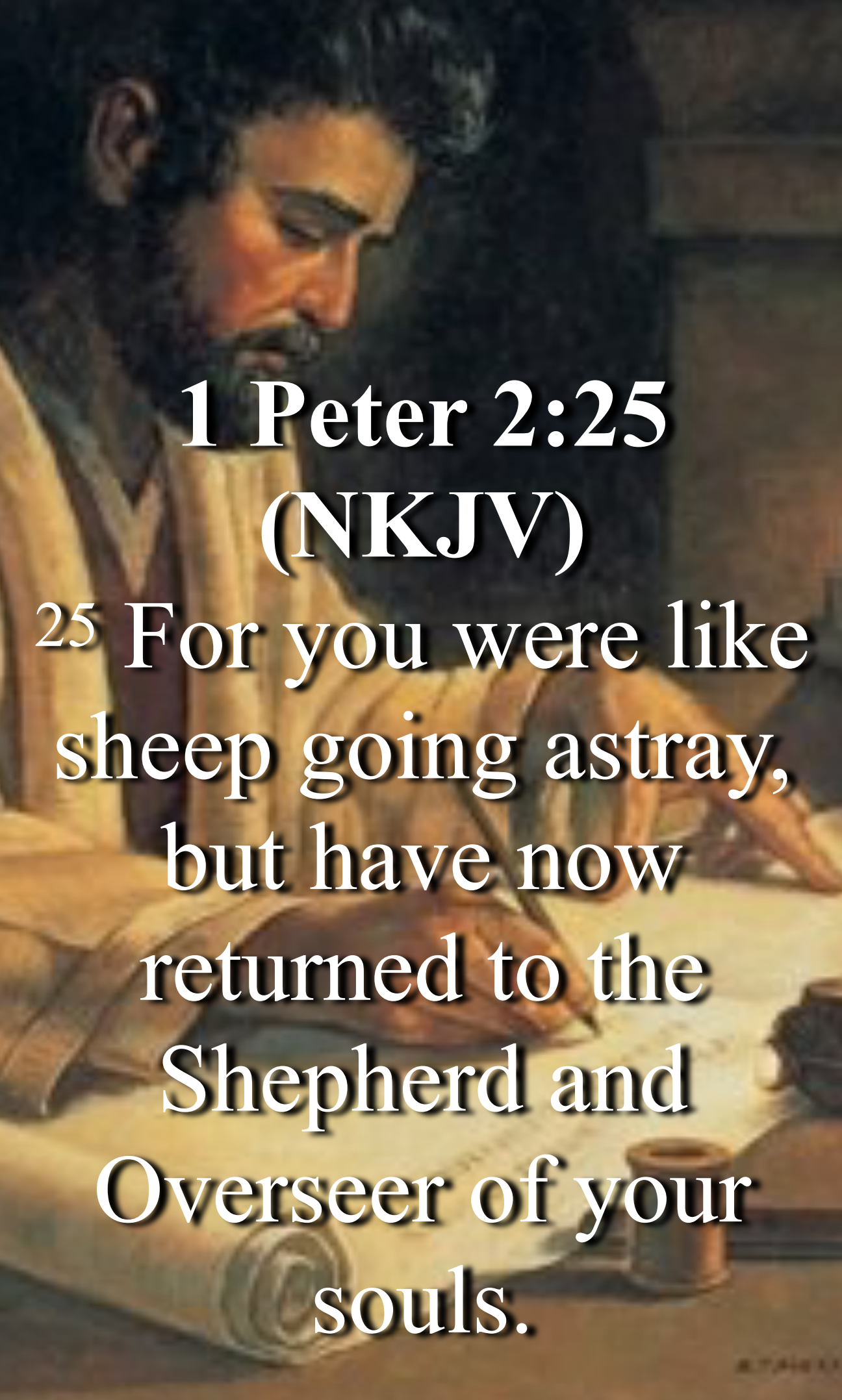
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²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

- ❖ **“by whose stripes you were healed”** — Healed spiritually and morally, i.e. forgiveness of sins (Isaiah 53:5).
- A statement, especially meaningful to servants with cruel masters - Some of them had probably felt the sting of the lash.
- Each blow of the whip that Jesus endured, the mocking, the insults, the injustice, the crucifixion - was all for the salvation of my soul (Mat. 26:28; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:19)

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THE SALVATION OF JESUS (2:25)



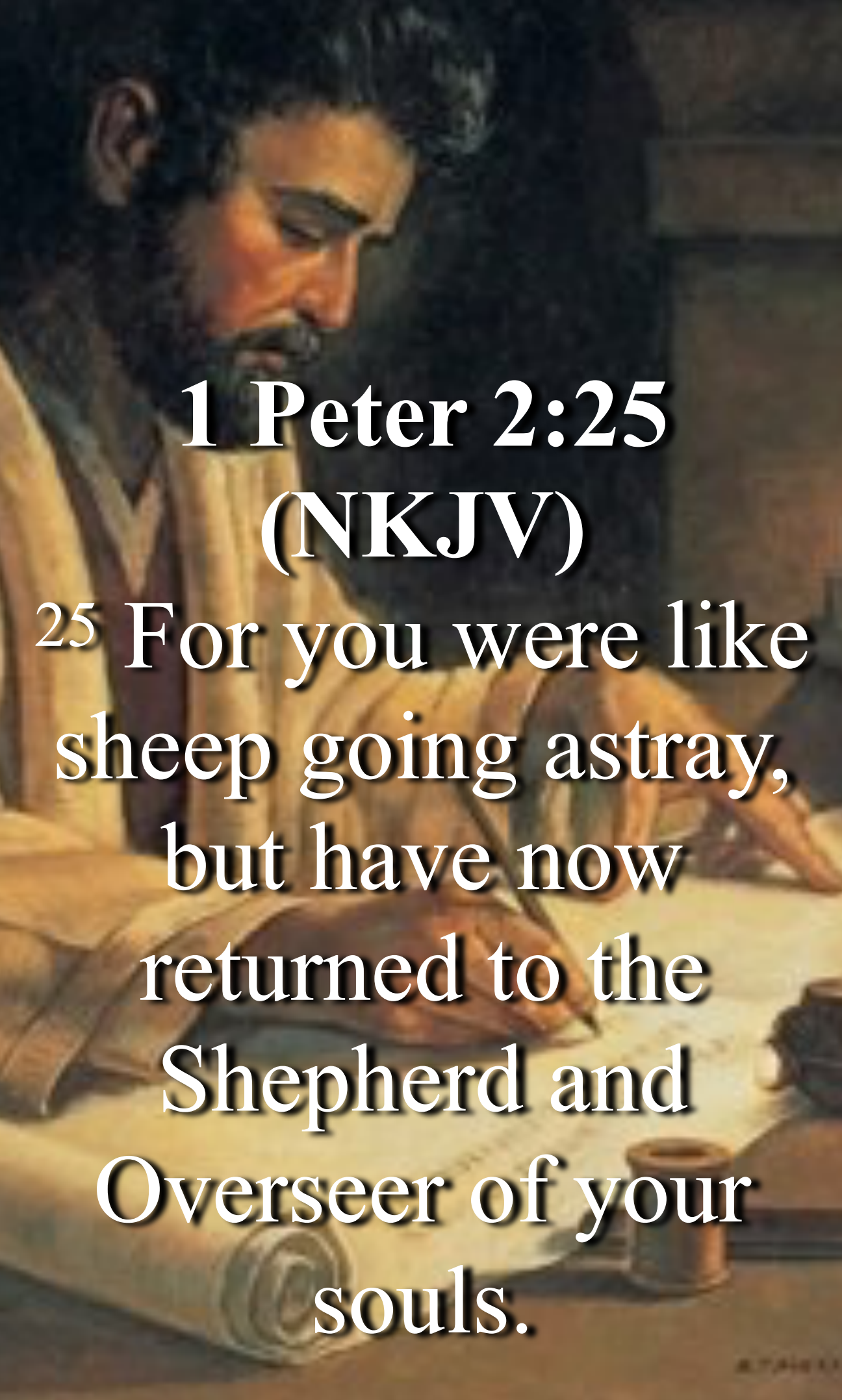
1 Peter 2:25
(NKJV)

²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- ❖ **“For you were like sheep going astray”** — “were continually straying” [NASB] - Those in sin are in darkness, not knowing where they are going, lost and in need of being saved (Mat. 9:36; Luke 15:4; Num 27:17; 1 Kings 22:17).
- ❖ **“But have now returned”** — aorist tense, indicating that they had ‘turned’ at a definite point in time, i.e. when they were redeemed, born again (1:18,22,23; 3:21).

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²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- ❖ **“To the Shepherd”** — Jesus is our Shepherd, and as His sheep, we hear His voice and follow Him — (Mat. 26:31; John 10:11,14,16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4; Psalm 23:1 ff).
- ❖ **“Overseer of your souls”** — same as “bishop,” as in 5:4 “and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”
- ❖ Jesus gave Himself for us that He might lead us to salvation (Heb 12:2)

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ABSTAIN FROM
FLESHLY LUST WHICH
WAR AGAINST THE
SOUL! (2:12)

- We Are "Sojourners And Pilgrims"...
- Our submission to God's will is NOT dependent on how others treat us ...
- We Are Being Observed By Others...
- Is MY Life Glorifying God?

