



CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

THE GOD *of All Comfort*
Who Comforts Us

Introduction To The Second Epistle To The Church At Corinth

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A satellite map of Greece, showing the country's coastline and inland terrain. A yellow star marks the location of Corinth on the Isthmus of Corinth. The word 'Corinth' is written in large yellow letters in the top left, 'GREECE' in white in the top right, and 'Achaia' in white in the bottom left.

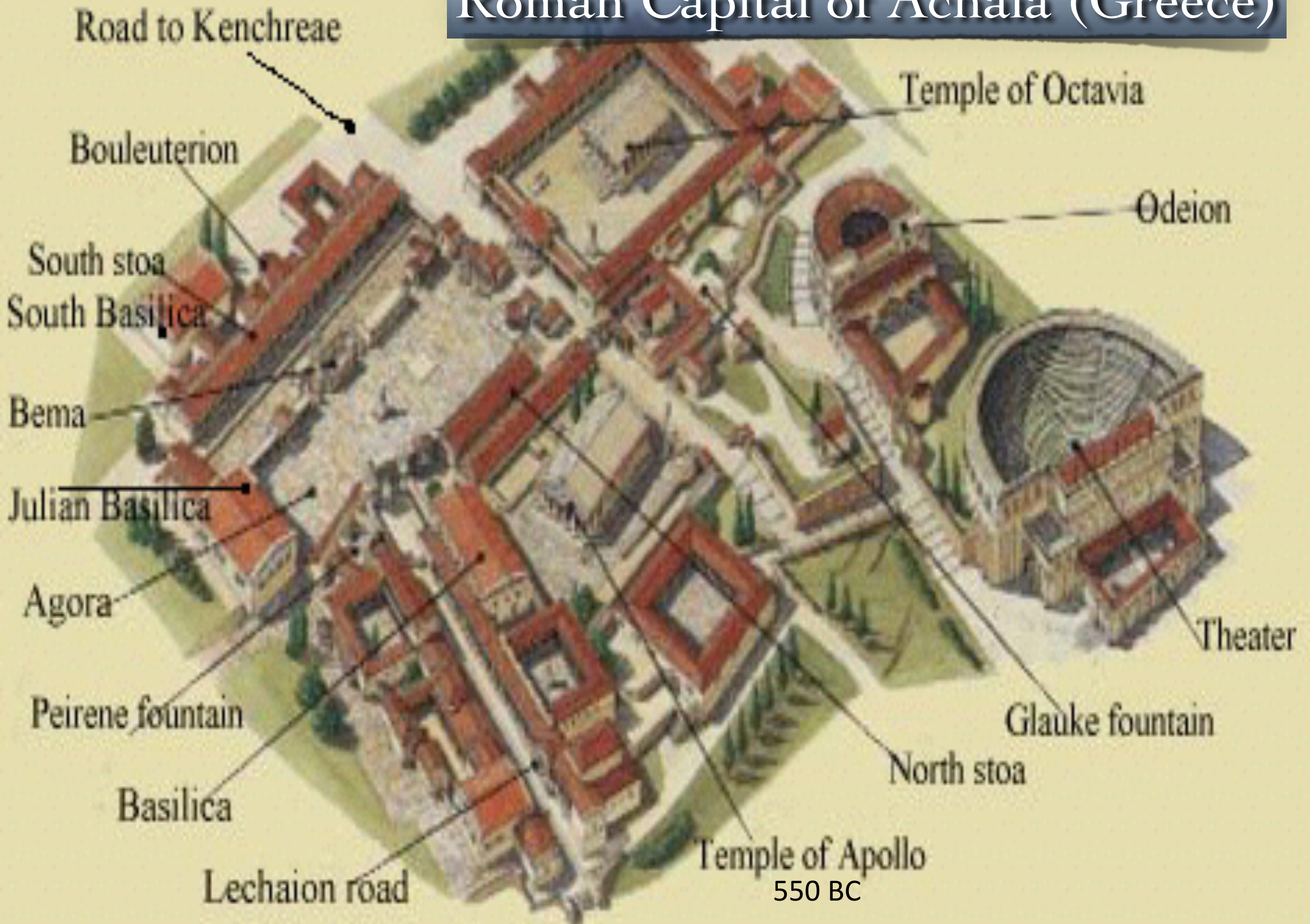
Corinth

GREECE

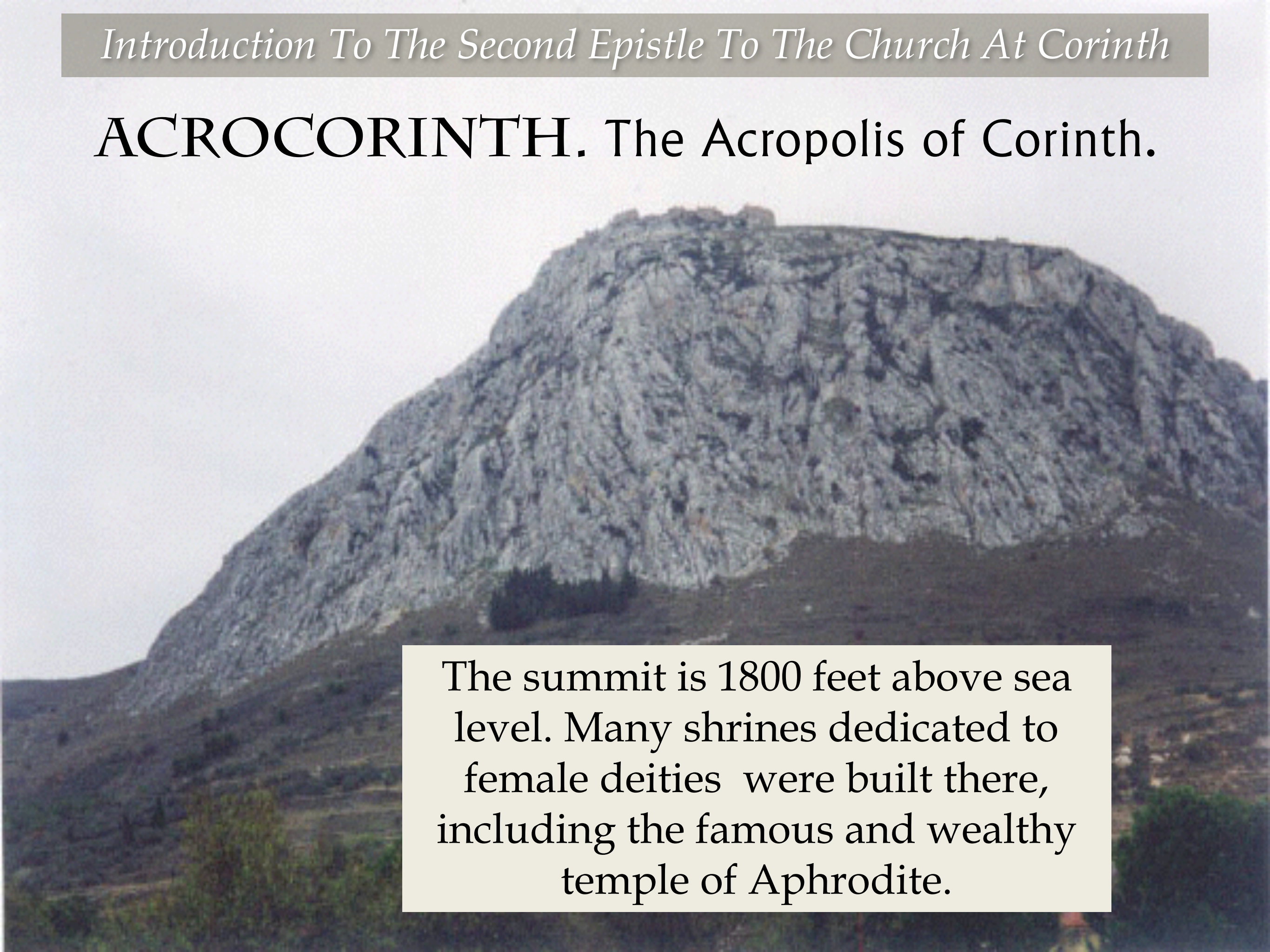
Achaia

- ✦ Corinth is located on an isthmus, the typical seaport town of its day.
- ✦ Homosexuality, prostitution and idolatry all rampant — *(likely over 1,000 prostitutes there)*
- ✦ The term "*Corinthian*," came to represent moral laxity.

Roman Capital of Achaia (Greece)



ACROCORINTH. The Acropolis of Corinth.



The summit is 1800 feet above sea level. Many shrines dedicated to female deities were built there, including the famous and wealthy temple of Aphrodite.



- ◆ Beginning of the church recorded in Acts 18 on Paul's Second Missionary Tour, A.D. 49-52
- ◆ First converts: Crispus and his household specifically mentioned, (*Acts 18:8*), but likely others were Christians first (*Aquila & Priscilla, Justus, (Acts 18:1-7)*).

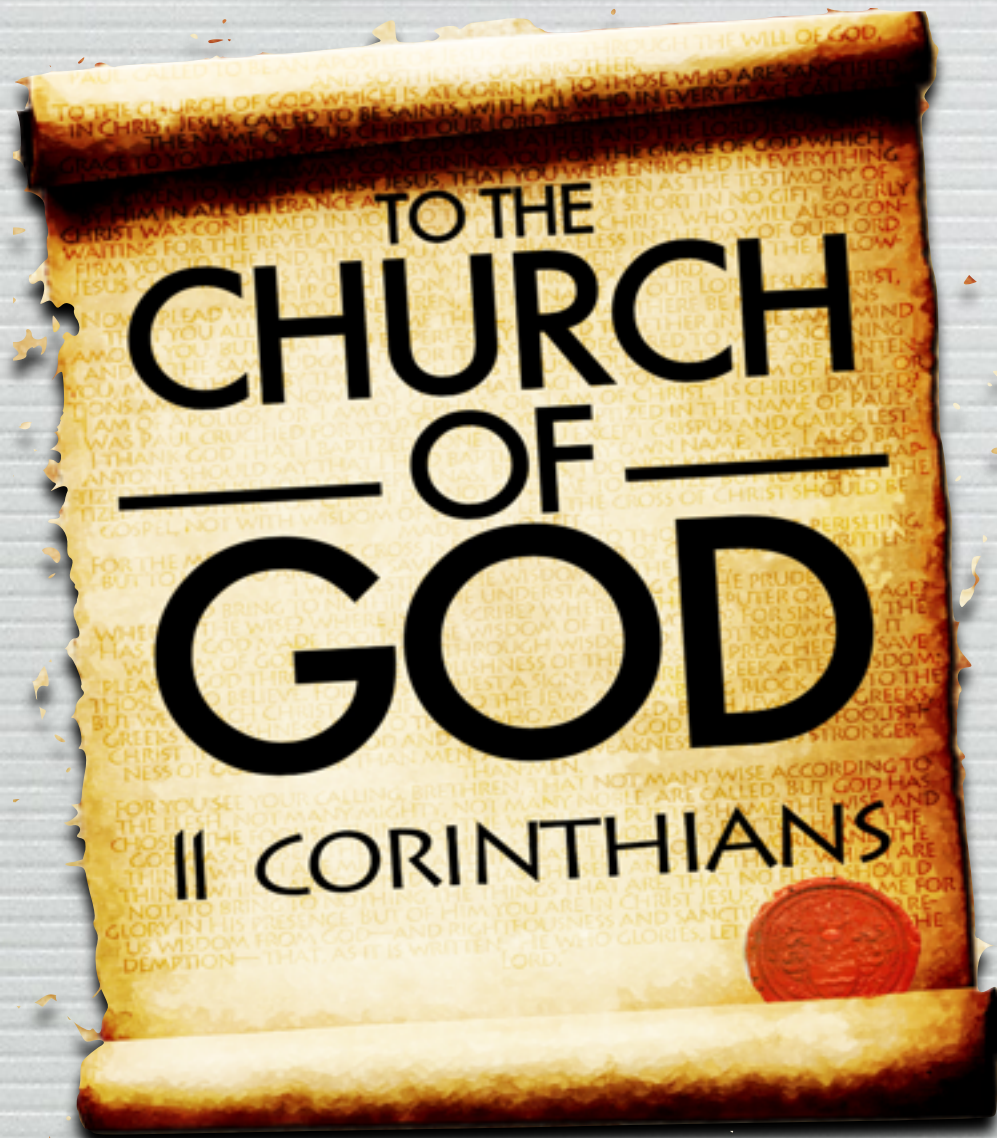
PAUL'S FIRST STAY (ACTS 18)

- ✦ Paul spent 18 months in the city before the Jews of the city charged him with breaking the law and brought him before Gallio at the city's place of judgment (bema).
- ✦ The mention of Gallio provides an anchor for NT chronology as we know from Roman sources that Gallio was proconsul of Achaia from June 51 to May 52.
- ✦ The proconsul dismissed the charges against Paul as a dispute of Jewish law and not of a criminal nature.

PAUL'S SUBSEQUENT MINISTRY IN CORINTH

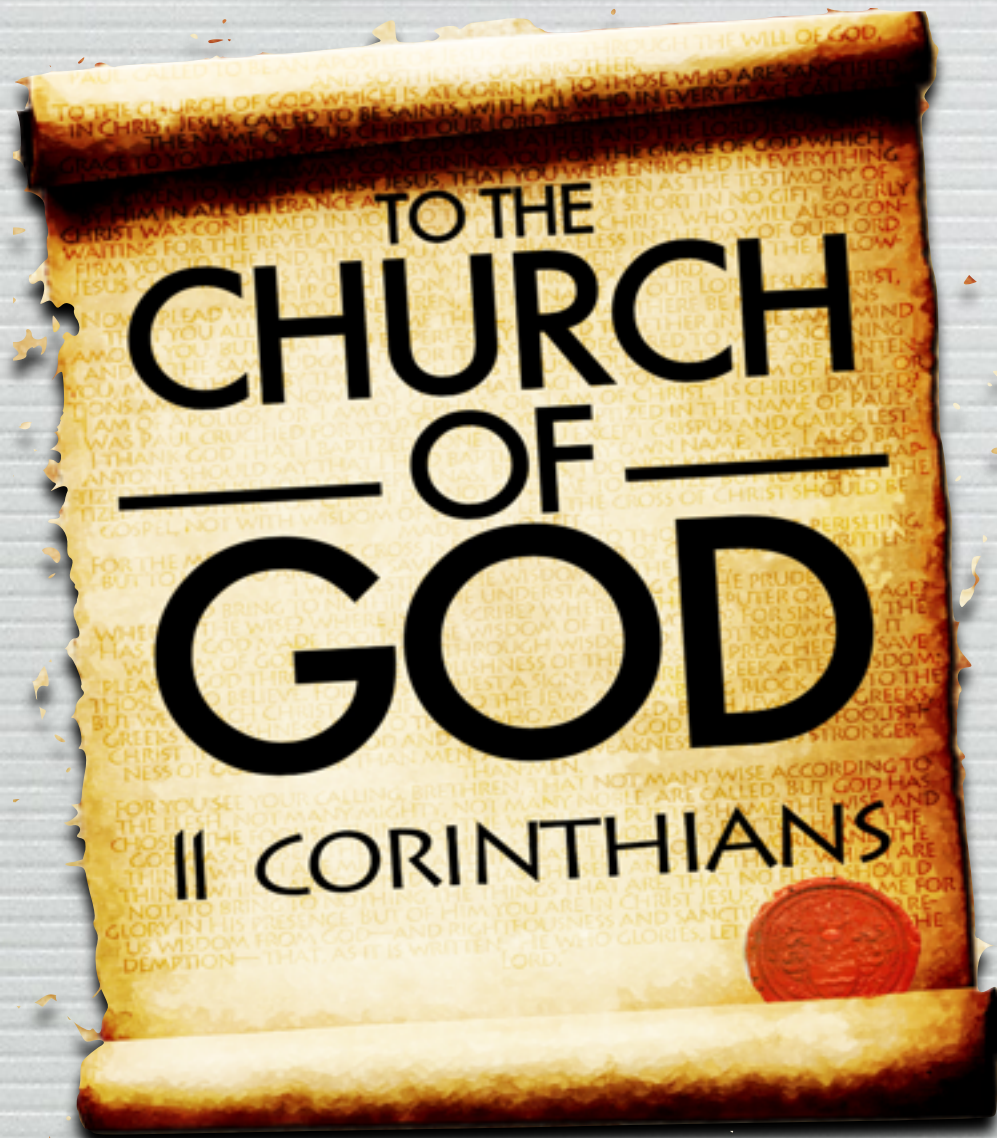
- ✦ Paul addressed at least three letters to this church.
 - a. Ante-Corinthians (I Corinthians 5:9)
 - b. 1 Corinthians (1:1) – (54 or 55 AD)
 - c. 2 Corinthians (1:1) – (56 or 57 AD)
- ✦ Paul visited Corinth at least twice after his initial visit.
 - a. Paul visited on the last leg of the 3rd trip (Acts 20:1–3).
 - b. Yet, Paul calls this trip “the 3rd time” (II Cor 12:14; 13:1).

PURPOSE OF EPISTLE



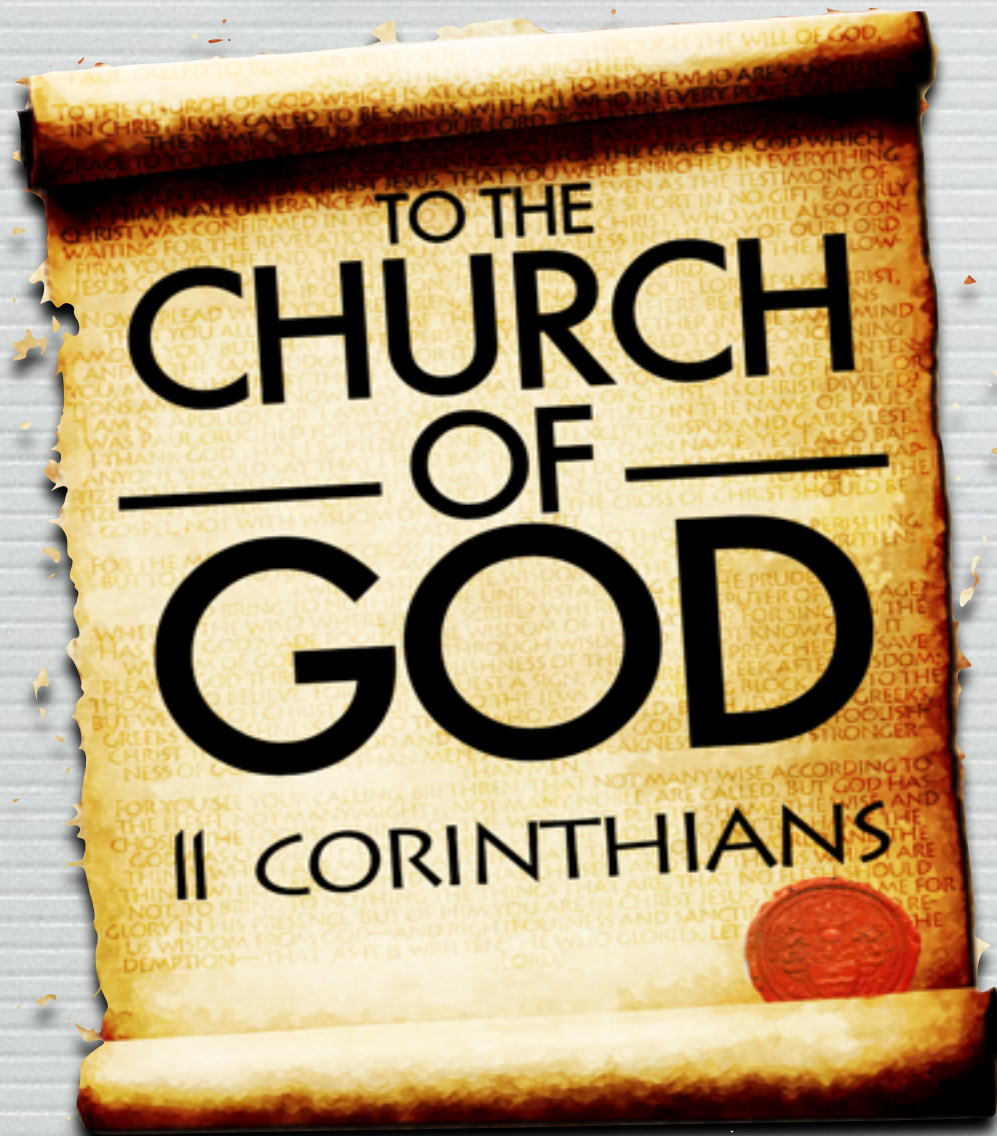
- ◆ To encourage them in trials
- ◆ To express joy over the success of his corrective efforts in 1 Corinthians.
- ◆ To remind the Corinthians of the collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem.
- ◆ To defend his apostleship.

PURPOSE OF EPISTLE



- ◆ New problems that had developed: Jewish Christians causing turmoil.
- ◆ They claimed to be apostles & had letters of recommendation – 2 Cor 3:1; 11:5,13.
- ◆ They had pretended great piety & evidently won a sympathetic following – 2 Cor. 11:20-23
- ◆ They sought to undermine Paul's authority. 2 Cor. 10:1-12

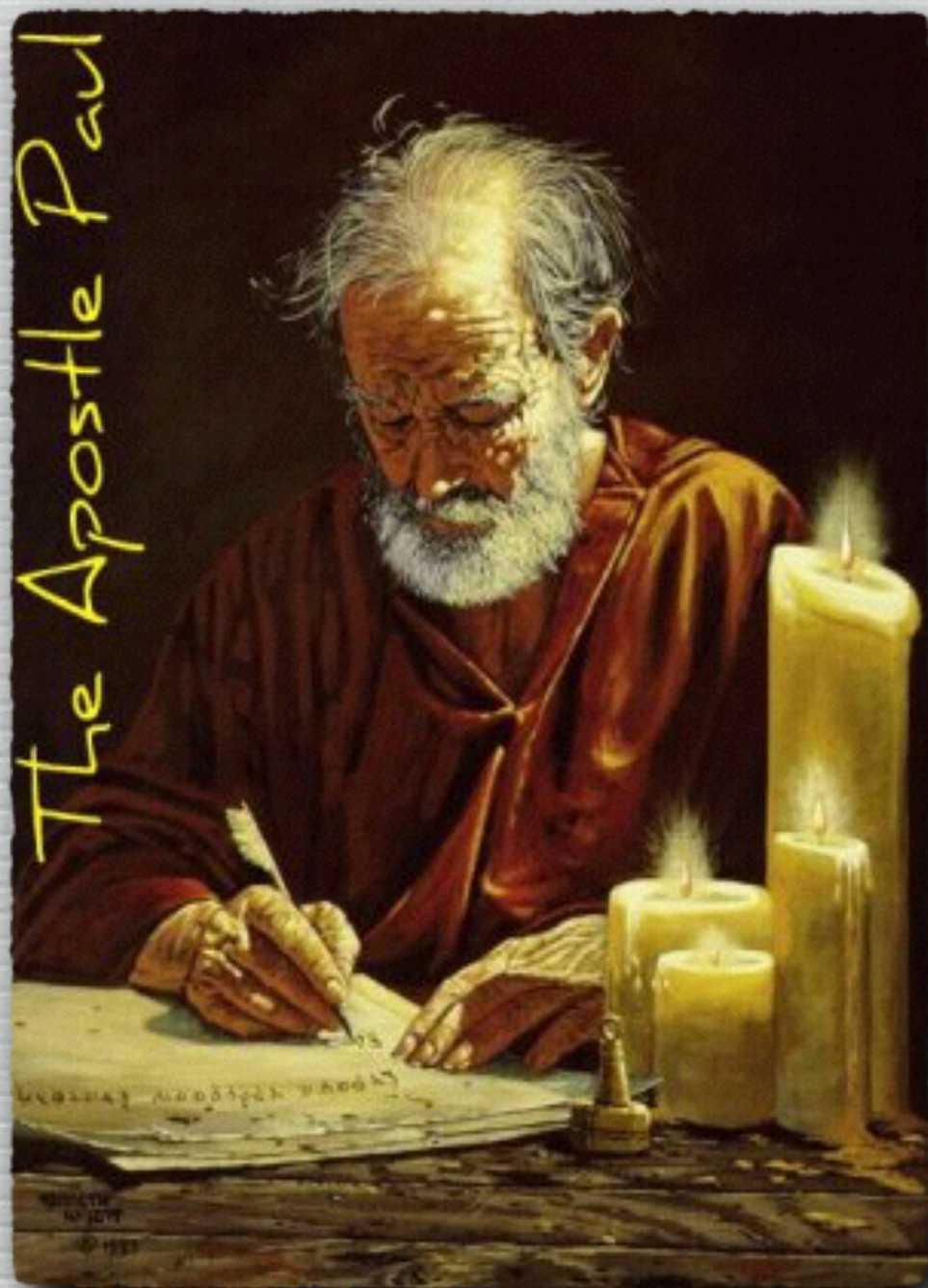
PURPOSE OF EPISTLE



- ◆ In Chapters 1-7, Paul defended his ministry; Chapters 10-13 defended his authority and apostolic office.
- ◆ In Chapters 8 and 9, he stirred up the brethren to carry out their intention to send a contribution to the poor saints in Jerusalem.

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- One recurring thought throughout the epistle is Paul's suffering for the gospel — (cf. 1:8-10; 6:4-10; 11:23-27; 12:10)
- We need to turn to God, who comforted Paul in His various trials, that we too may be comforted — Ro. 8:17, 18; 2 Th. 1:4-7; 2 Ti. 3:12; Ja. 1:2-4, 12.

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11 (NKJV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11 (NKJV)

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11 (NKJV)

⁷ And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation. ⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,

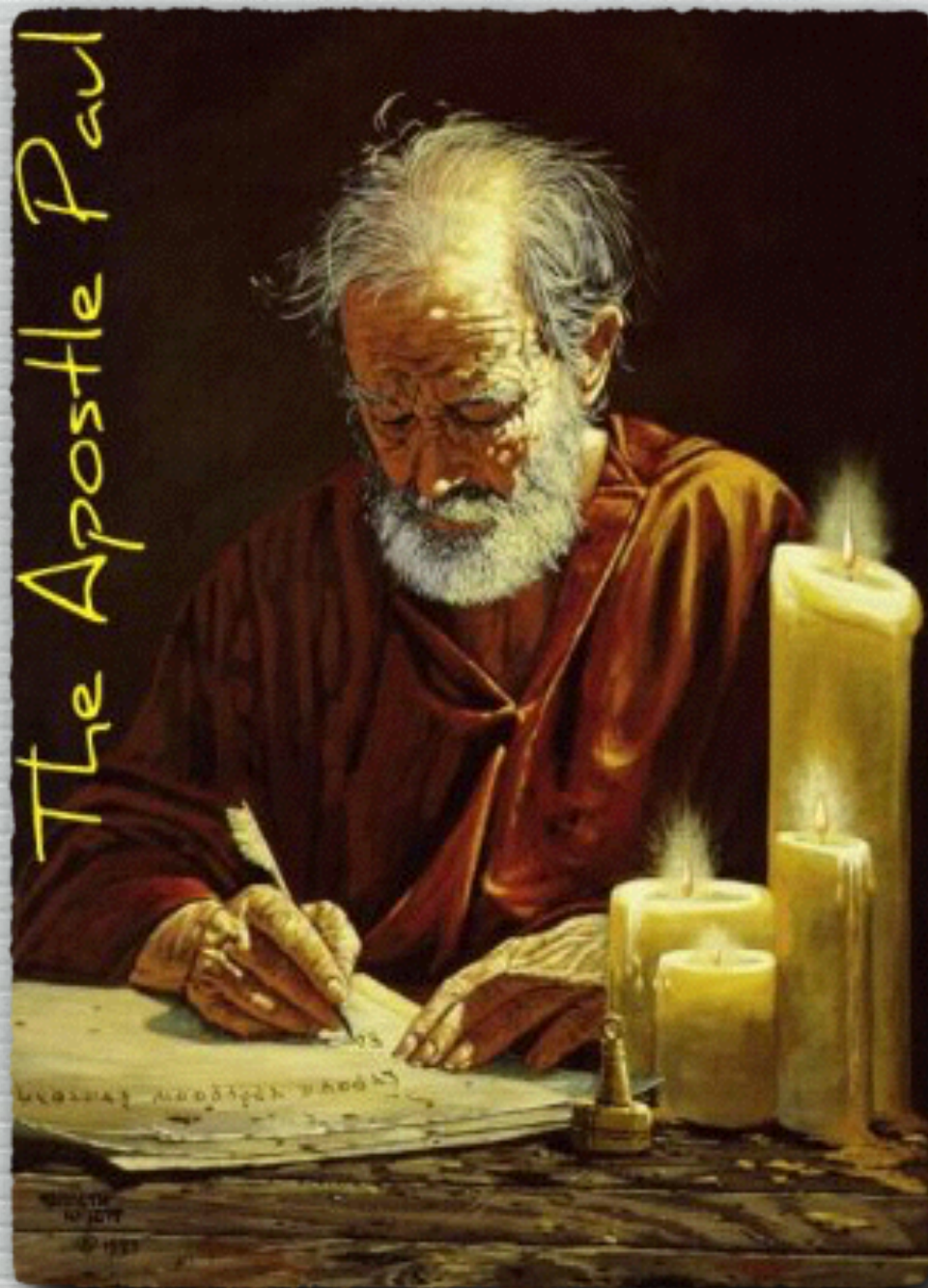
THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11 (NKJV)

¹¹ you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

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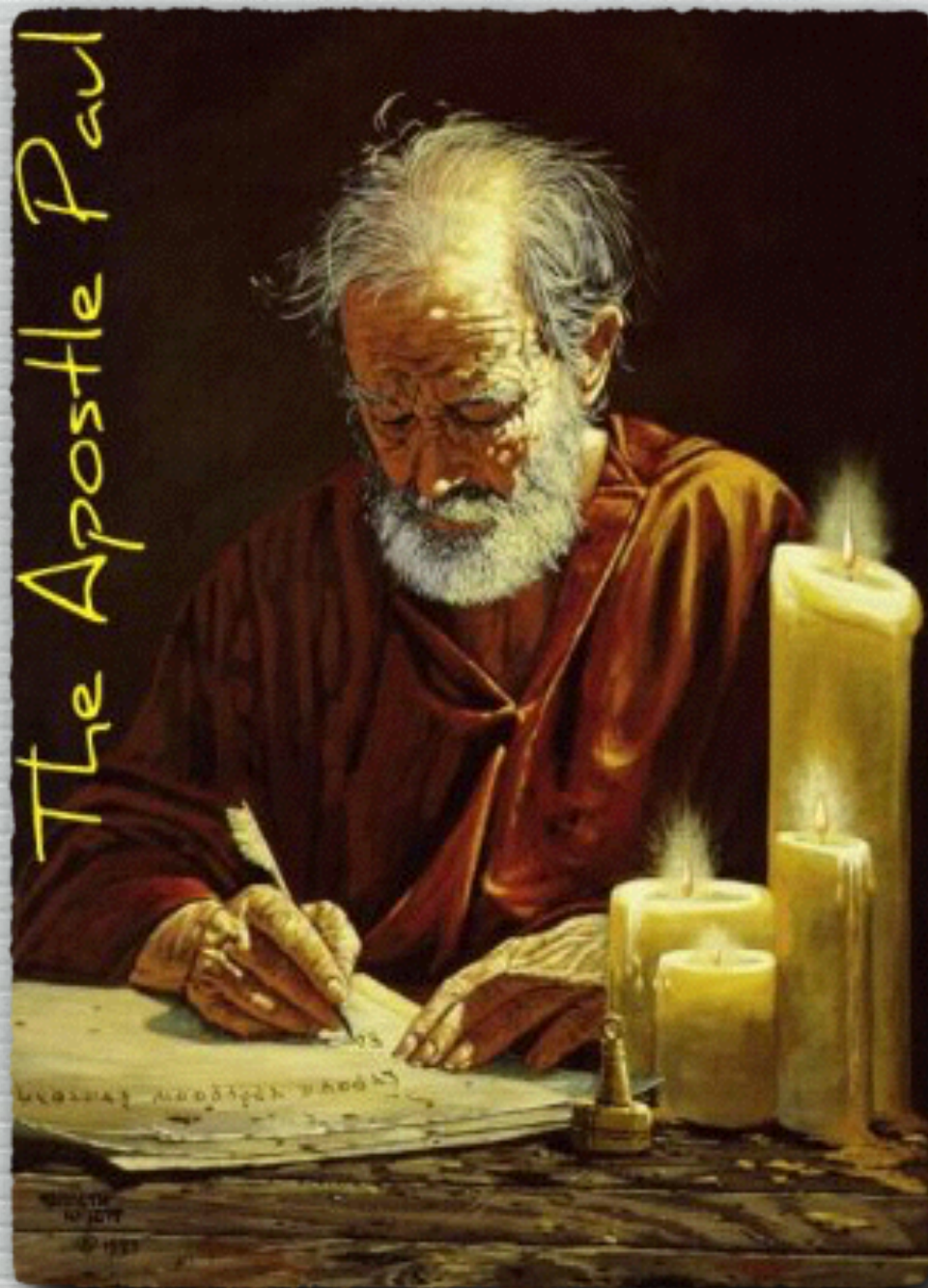
COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- All face trials, hardships & sufferings - most seek comfort in all the wrong places -
 - Many turn to alcohol & drugs —
 - Some turn to bitterness & vengeance.
 - Some turn to money & possessions — Eccl. 7:12
 - Some turn to companions, friends — Prov 1:10-28 / Heb 10:24,25; 2 Cor 1:3; 1 Thes 4:18 ...

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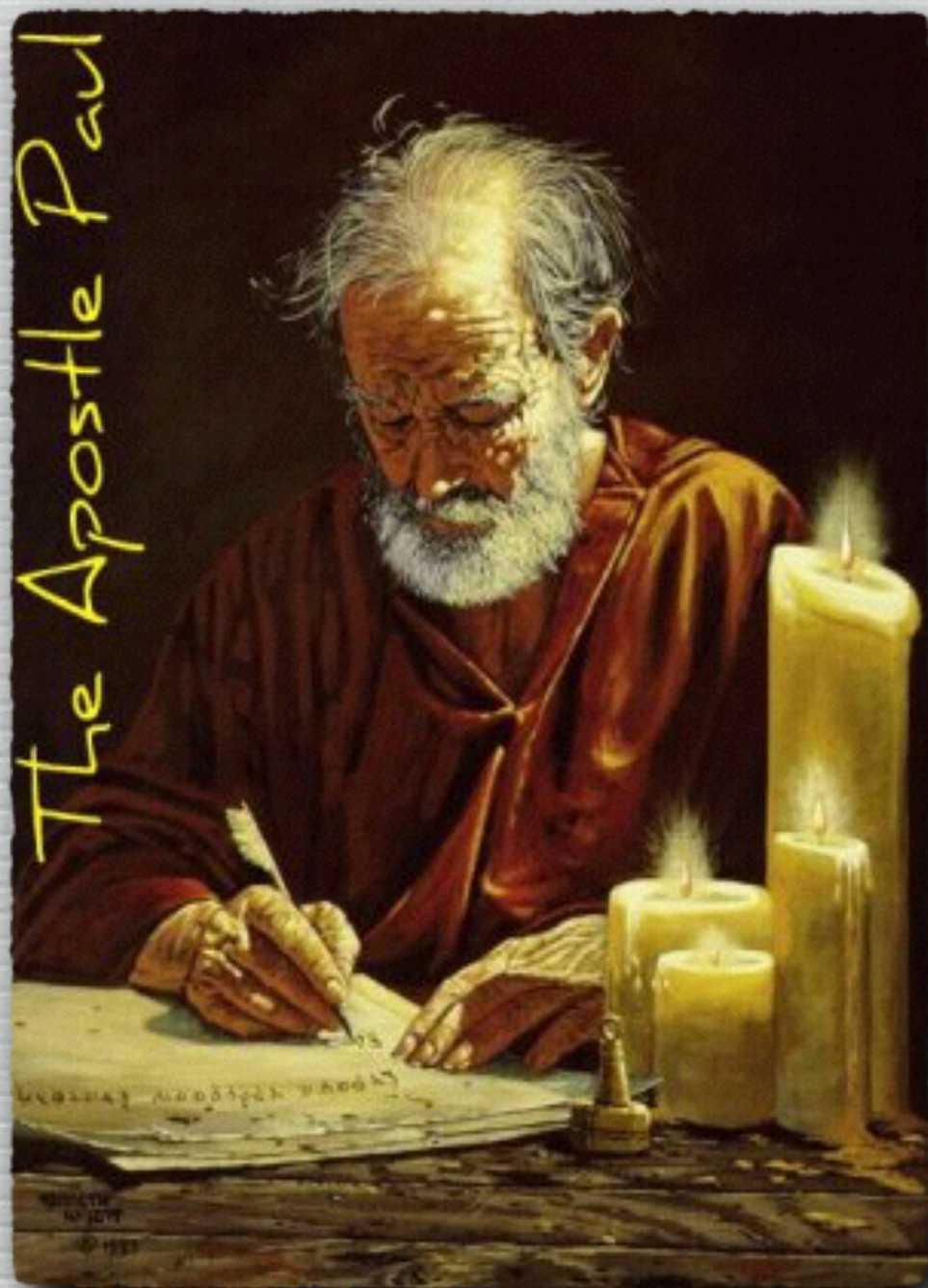
COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- God is the ONLY true source of mercy & comfort (1:3; Ps. 86:17; 103:13)
- The term comfort means more than “soothing sympathy” – it bestows courage, enabling us to cope with our pain & sufferings, that we may persevere. (Heb 12:12)

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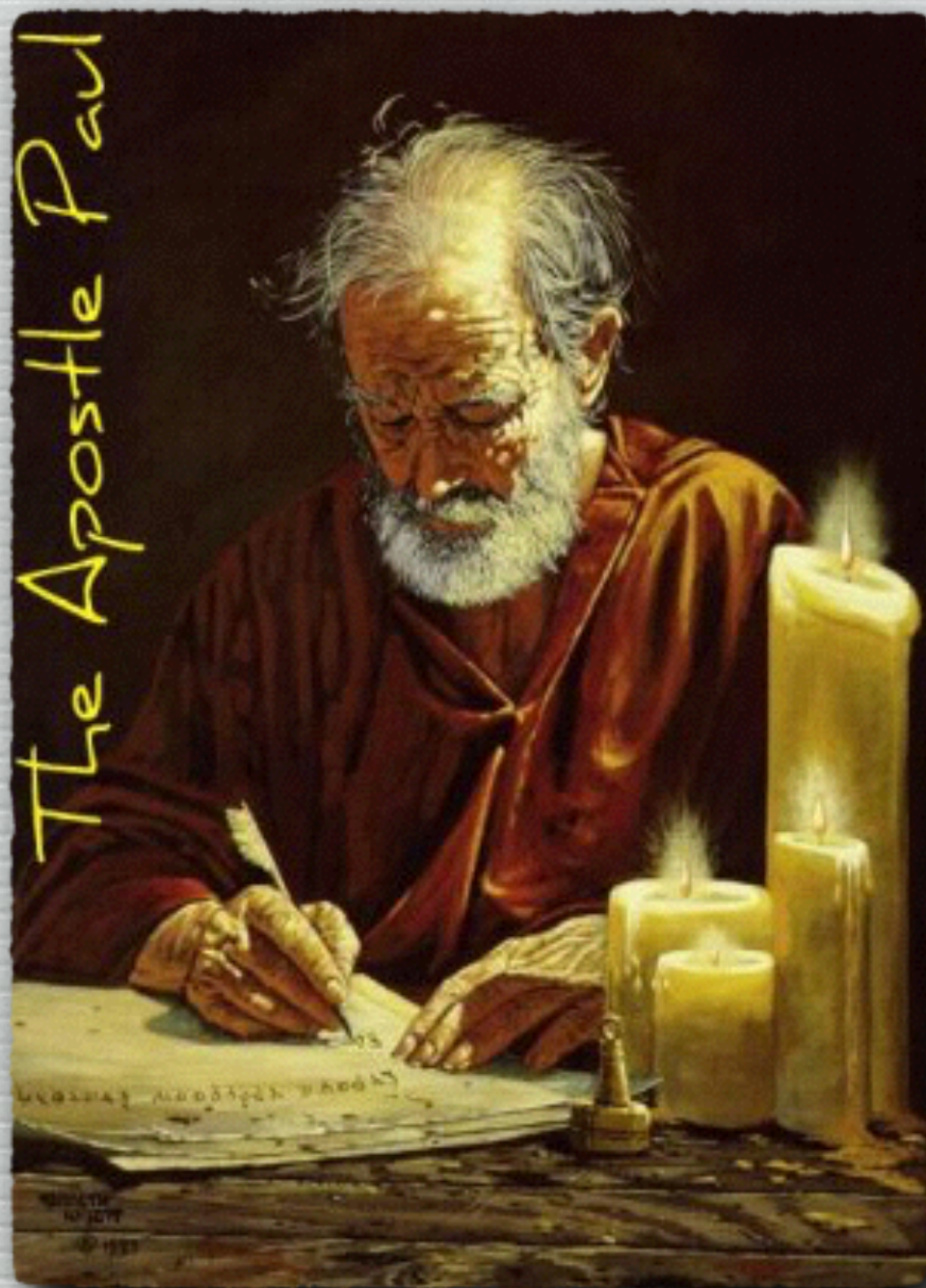
COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- God comforts us in all our tribulation — (1:4; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Thes 2:16,17; Heb 13:5)
- When we receive God's comfort, we are better able to comfort others - (*the comfort of God is channeled through people* (cf. Acts 9:10–19; 2 Cor. 7:6))

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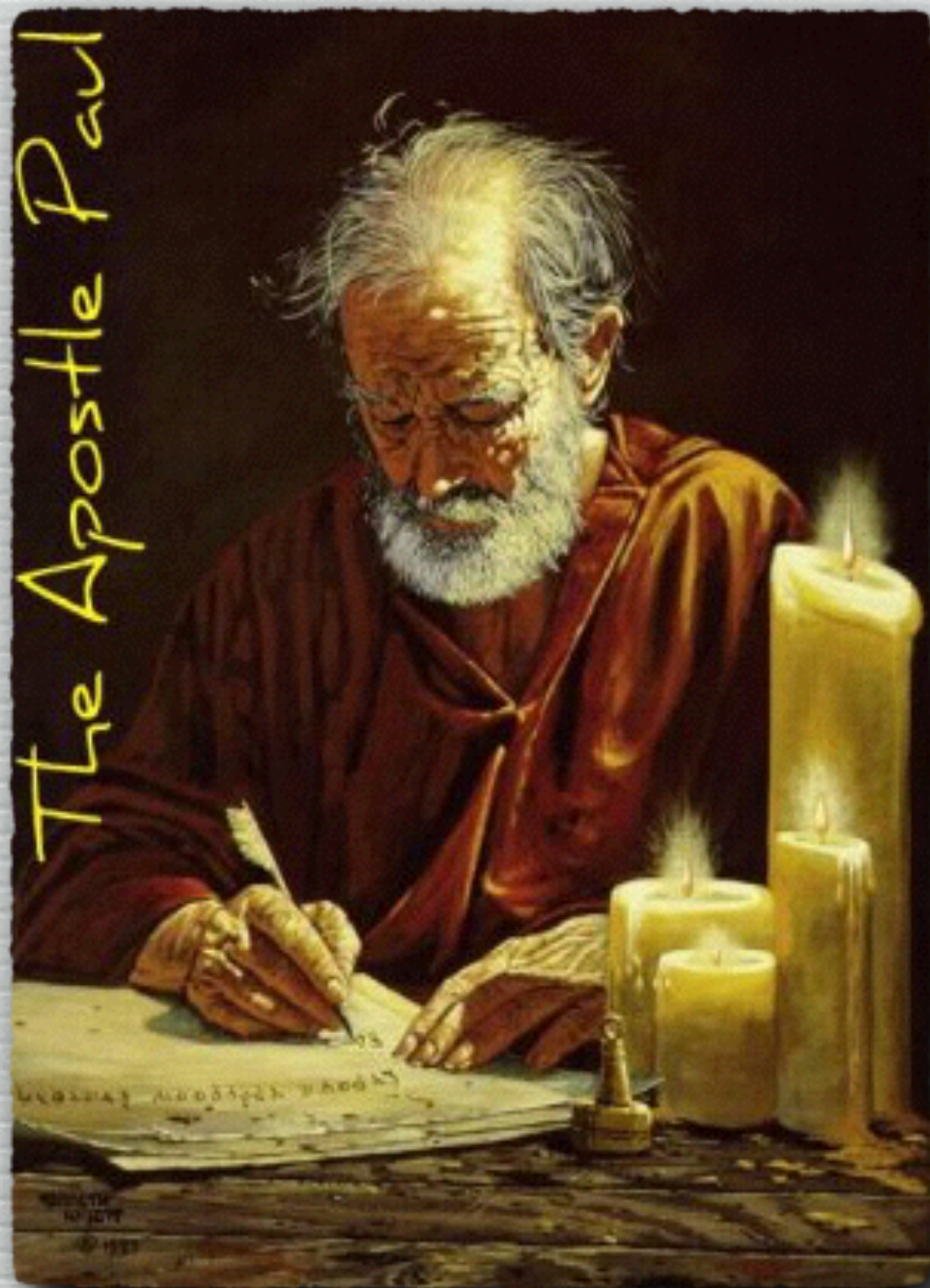
COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- Our comfort is found in Christ — (1:5,6; Eph 1:3)
- His sacrifice, through which we can be reconciled to God — (2 Cor 5:18-21; Eph 2:16)
- Avenues through which comfort is dispensed...
 - The Word of God - cf. Ro 15:4; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:19
 - Prayer - cf. Php 4:6-7

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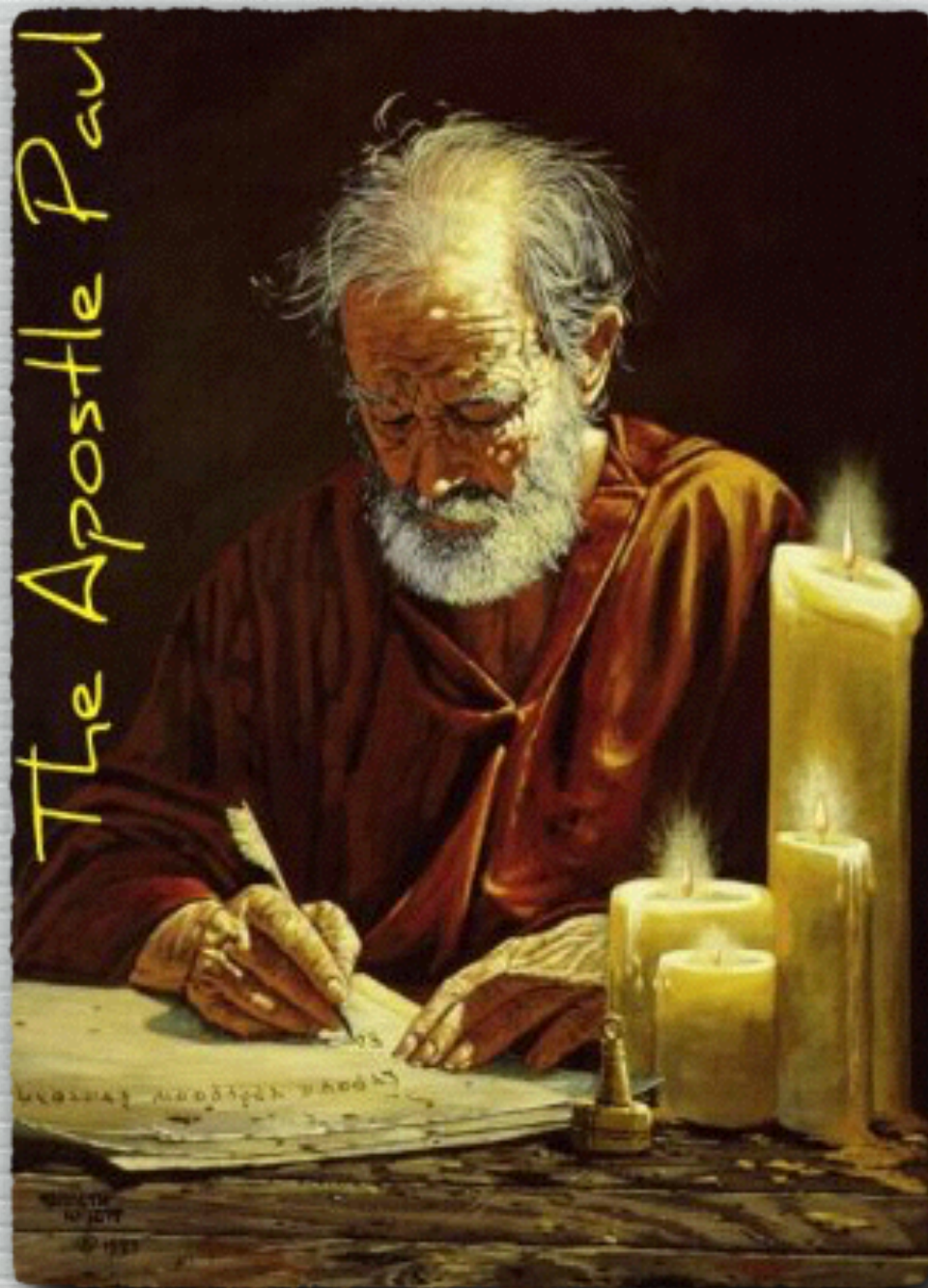
COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- The trouble Paul had in Ephesus and many other places — (1:7-10; Acts 19; 2 Cor 4:7-5:8).
- Paul is thankful for the Corinthians prayers for him (see also Rom 15:30-31; Phil 1:9; Col 4:12).

THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

COMFORT IN SUFFERINGS



- Are we in need of God's comfort?
- The harshness of the world?
- Guilt & regret for sin?
- Suffering for the sake of the Gospel?
- Submit to God - trust Him!



THE GOD *of All Comfort* Who Comforts Us

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Prepared using Keynote 2014 – More PPT & Audio Sermons:

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PSALM 86:11-17 (NKJV)

¹¹ Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. ¹² I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. ¹³

For great is Your mercy toward me,
And You have delivered my soul from
the depths of Sheol.

PSALM 86:11-17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them. ¹⁵ But You,

O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

PSALM 86:11-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant. ¹⁷ Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.