

(2 Corinthians 5:12-21)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-21 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-21 (NKJV)

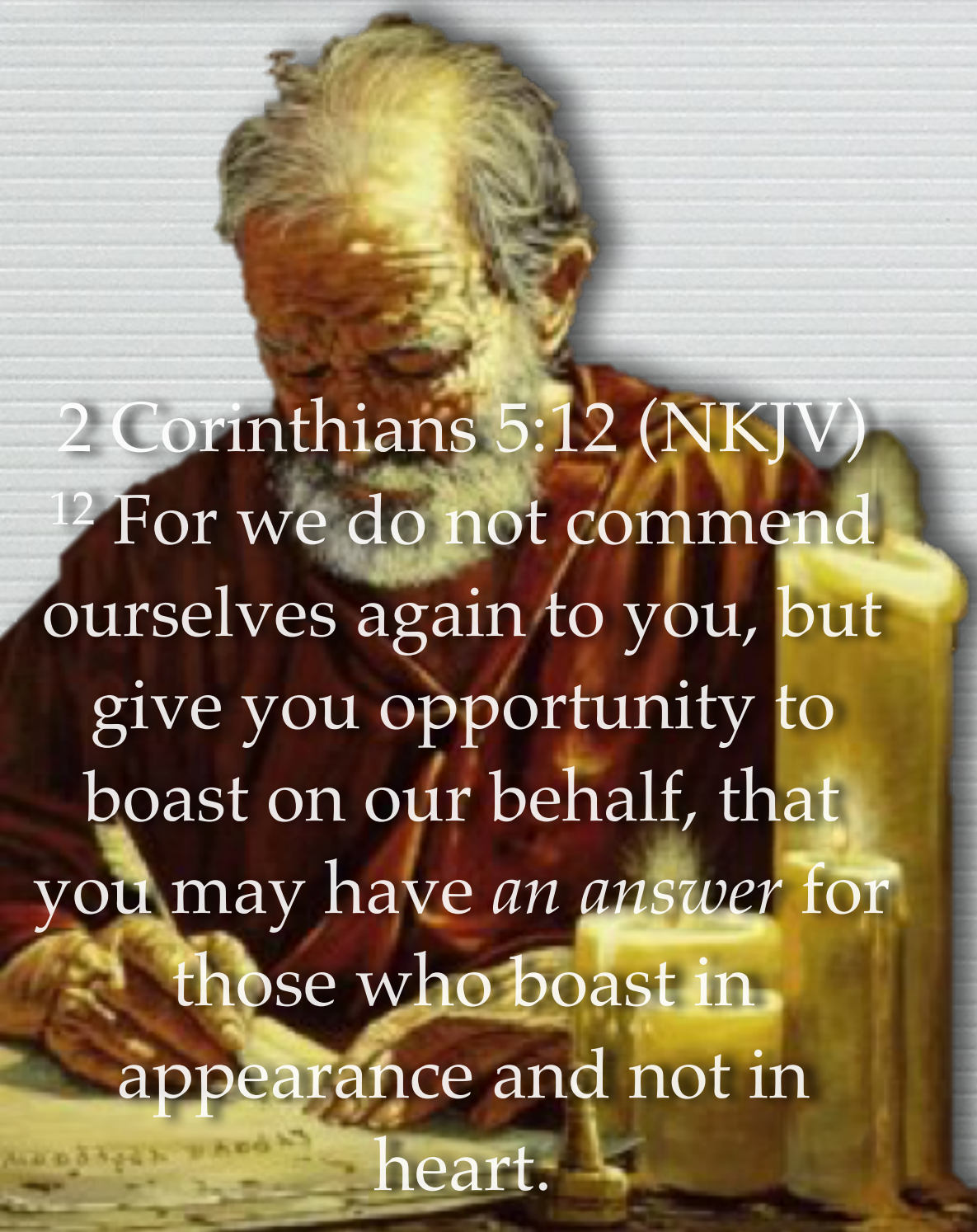
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2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

Ministry Compelled By Sincerity - (5:12-15)



2 Corinthians 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

- ♦ **"We do not commend ourselves again ..."**
- ♦ *Paul need NOT commend himself - (cf. 3:1; 6:4; 10:2,8,12, 18; 12:11)*
- ♦ *They should be supporting & defending Paul - (Prov 27:2)*
- ♦ *They should be both motivated & equipped to respond to the pretenders on Paul's behalf - (cf. 11:18,22; 10:12)*

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

Ministry Compelled By Sincerity - (5:12-15)



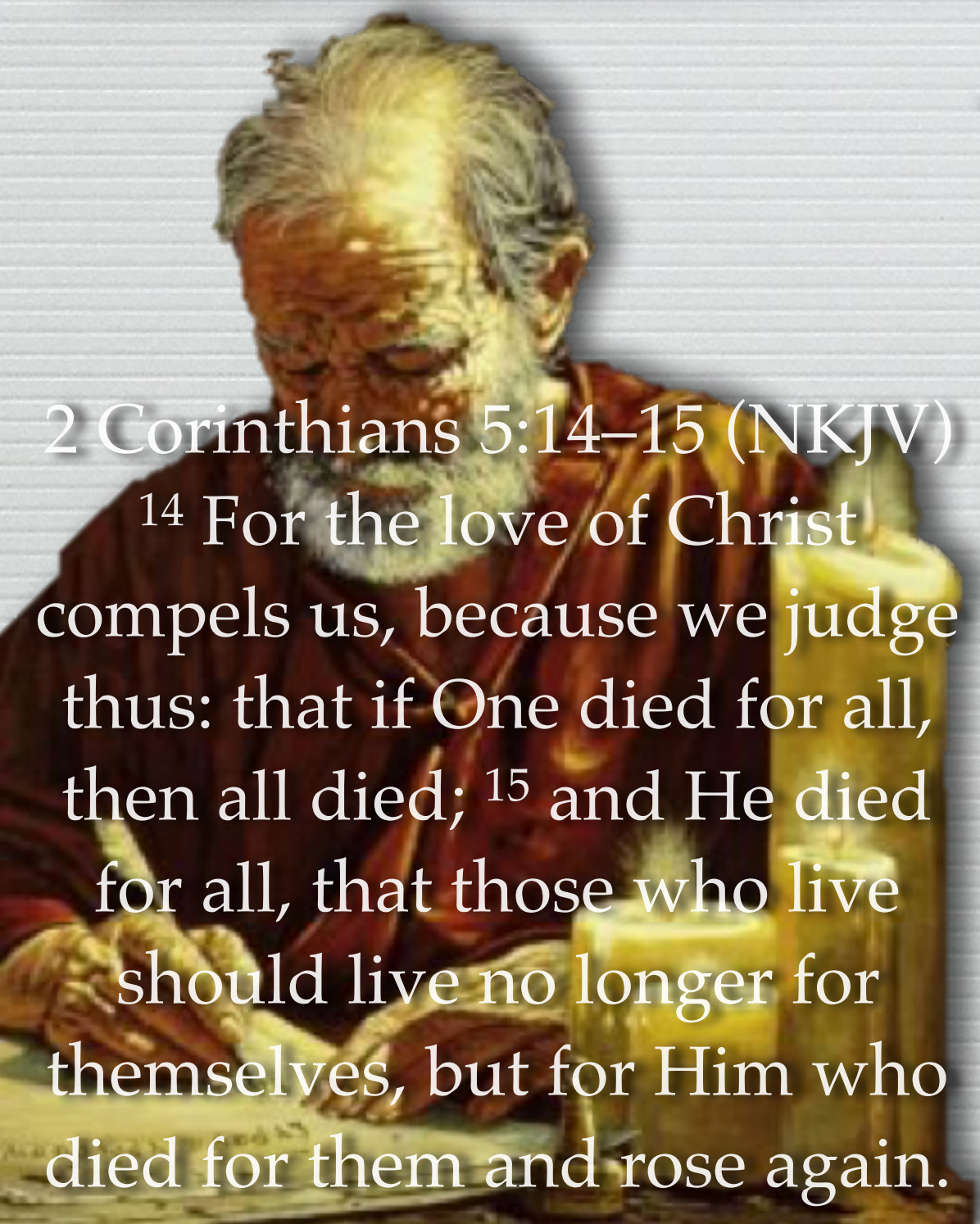
2 Corinthians 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

- ♦ **"We do not commend ourselves again ..."**
- ♦ *If people think we a crazy, we are who and what we are for God - (cf. Acts 26:24; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 4:10-13; 1 Thes. 2:3-11)*
- ♦ *Paul's efforts among them was for their benefit – even though he often found himself persecuted - he did so gladly for the church - (Ac. 26:25; Col. 1:24; 2 Ti. 2:10)*

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

Ministry Compelled By Sincerity - (5:12-15)



2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

◆ **Compelled by the love of Christ ... 14**

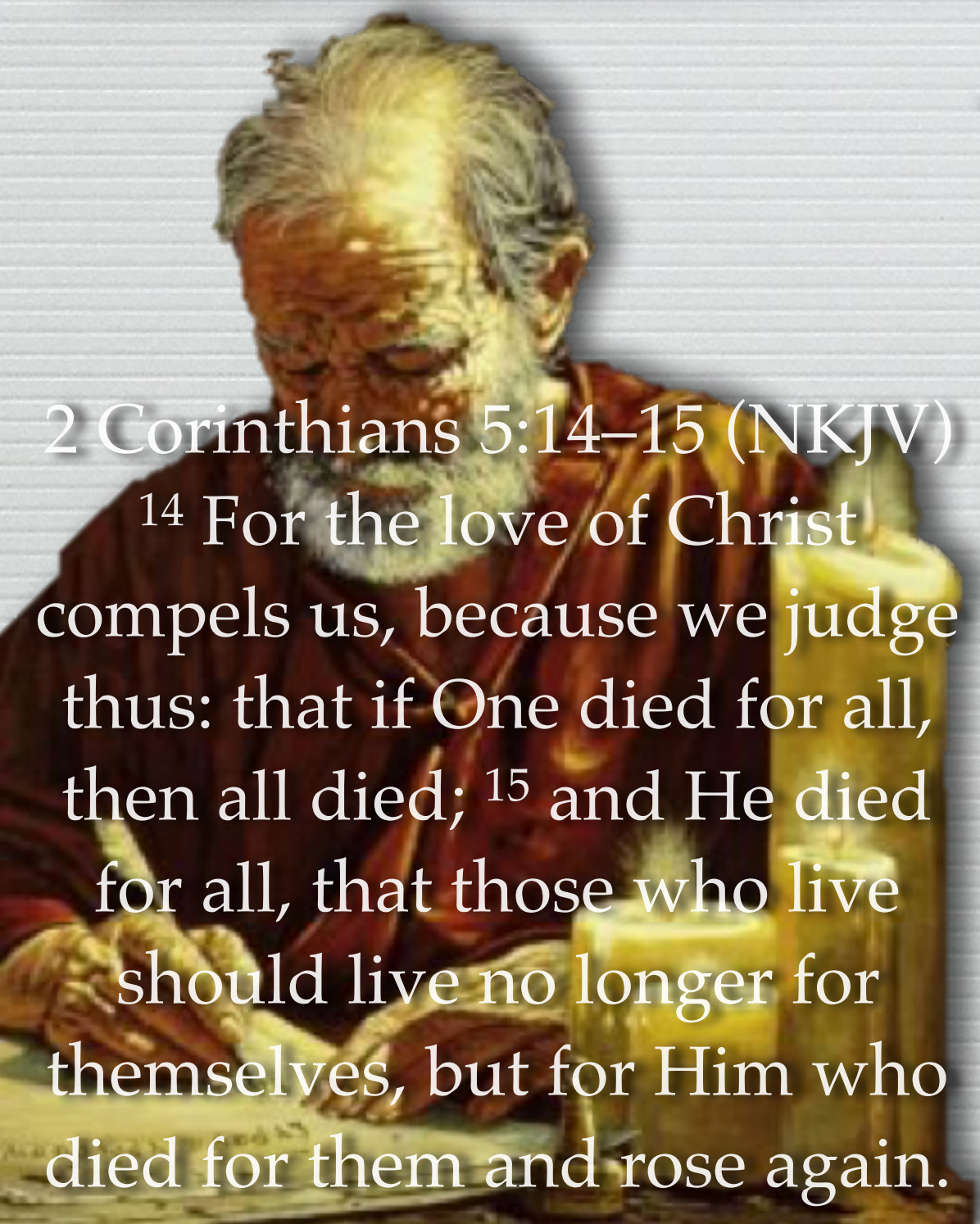
◆ *Why would Paul risk his life for the church? (v. 13) Because of Christ's love for us - (cf. Mark 3:21; Phil. 2:6–8; 1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2).*

◆ *Christ's love compelled PAUL to LIVE & DIE for Christ - (Rom. 6:3–4; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 3:16).*

◆ *It should also compel us - Rom 6*

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Ministry Compelled By Sincerity - (5:12-15)



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♦ **Compelled by the love of Christ ... 14**

♦ *The death of Christ makes salvation possible for all - (John 3:16. 1 Jn 2:2; Rom 5:12-21)*

♦ *Those who "believe in Him" have been made alive to God in Jesus - our life must be devoted to His service - (Rom 6:3-23; Gal 2:19,20; 3:26,27; Phil 1:20,21; Tit 2:14; Heb 13:20,21)*

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

The Goal of His Ministry - (5:16-19)



2 Corinthians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

- ♦ **"The flesh"** has reference to false standards -
- ♦ Prior to his conversion, his knowledge of Christ had been formed in accordance with external and mistaken standards - (Acts 22:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:9)
- ♦ **"We know Him thus no longer."**
- ♦ Paul no longer judged Christ after the false and artificial standards of the Pharisaical class to which he had belonged. (cf. Phil 3:2-11)

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

The Goal of His Ministry - (5:16-19)



2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- ♦ **"A new creation"-**
 - ♦ The standing of one IN CHRIST - (Jn 3:3-5; Rom 6:3-19; Gal 2:20; 3:26-28; 6:14,15; Eph 1:3-2:10)
- ♦ **"Old things have passed away, all things have become new"**
 - ♦ Sins forgiven - given new life - (Acts 18:8; 2 Cor. 5:16; cf. Rom. 6:6-14; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9).
 - ♦ The new life of devotion to Christ - (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 6:4; Eph. 4:23-5:2).

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

The Goal of His Ministry - (5:16-19)

2 Corinthians 5:18,19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

◆ "Reconciled to God" -

◆ This is from God (cf. 4:6; 1 John 4:10; Ep 2:2-10; Tit 3:3-5).

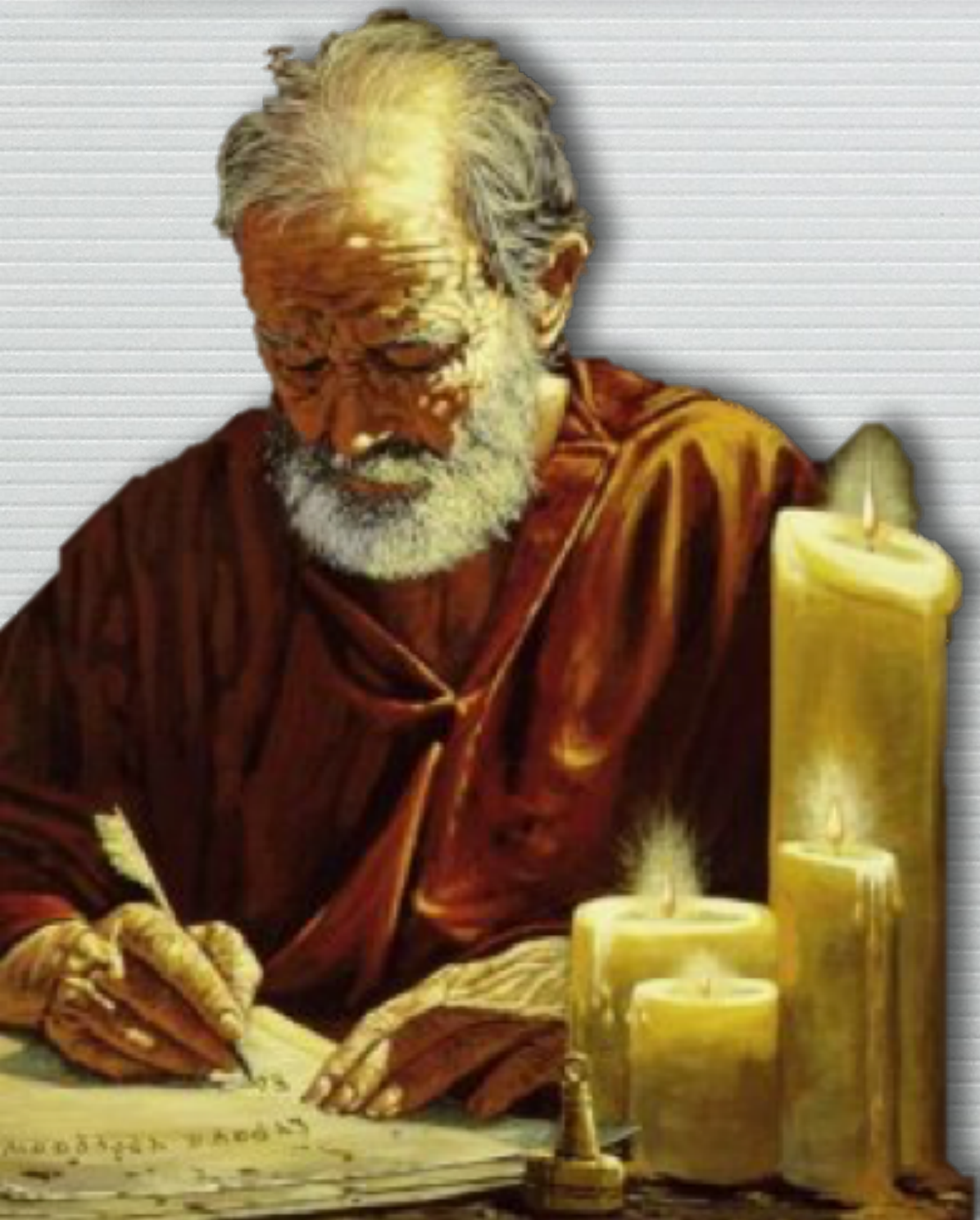
◆ "At peace with God"

◆ Our sins made us enemies of God - (Is 59:1,2; Eph 2:11,12; Col. 1:21; 2:13)

◆ But in Christ, we are reconciled to God in the body, (church), of Christ - Having our sins forgiven - (Rom 5:8-11; Eph 1:3-14; 2:14-22; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:38).

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

The Plea of His Ministry - (5:20–21)



2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

The Plea of His Ministry - (5:20-21)



2 Corinthians 5:20,21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- ◆ **"BE Reconciled to God"-**
 - ◆ We can choose - (Rom 6:16,17)
- ◆ **"He was Made *To be* sin for us"**
 - ◆ Treated as a sinner - (Gal 3:13)
 - ◆ Likeness of sinful flesh, but not a sinner - (Rom 8:3; Heb 2:9-15; 1 Pet 2:21,22)
 - ◆ God's sacrifice for our sins - (Isaiah 53:3-6,10; Rom 4:25; 1 Pet 3:18; 1 Jn 1:1,2)
 - ◆ We are justified "in Christ" - (Rom 1:16,17; 3:25,26)

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

**Ministry Compelled By
Sincerity - (5:12-15)**

**The Goal of His
Ministry - (5:16-19)**

**The Plea of His
Ministry - (5:20-21)**



2 Corinthians 5:11 (NKJV)
¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the
terror of the Lord, we
persuade men; ... ²⁰ ... we
are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were
pleading through us: we
implore *you* on Christ's
behalf, be reconciled to
God.

(2 Corinthians 5:1-11)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"

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1 PETER 1:3–9 (NKJV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.