

(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

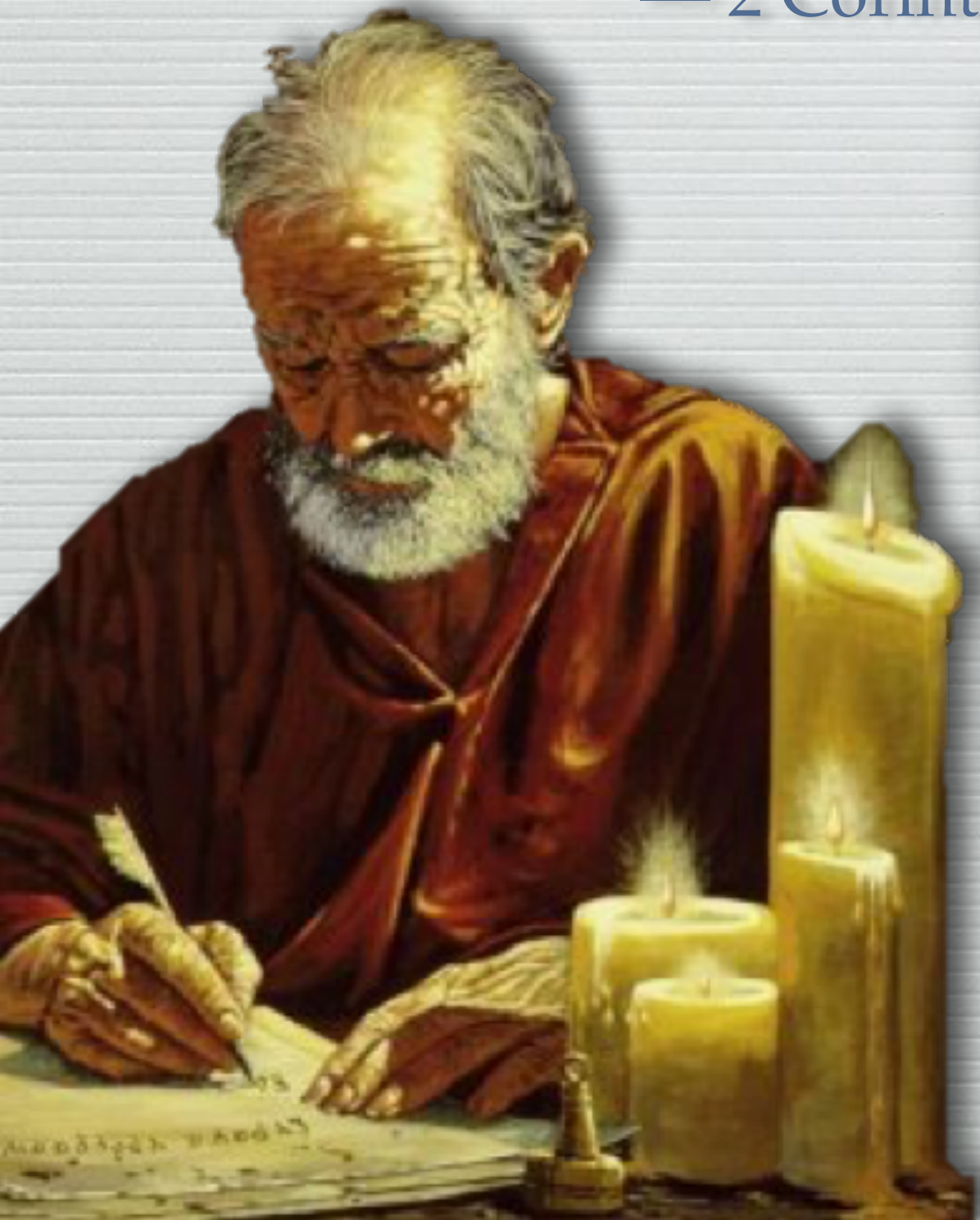
COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

2 Corinthians 6:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God:
in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

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 5:20 (NKJV)



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 6:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ We then, as workers together with

Him also plead with you not to
receive the grace of God in vain. ²

For He says: “In an acceptable time I
have heard you, And in the day of
salvation I have helped you.” Behold,
now is the accepted time; behold,
now is the day of salvation.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10 (NKJV)

³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

⁴ But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10 (NKJV)

⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by
longsuffering, by kindness, by
the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,
⁷ by the word of truth, by the
power of God, by the armor of
righteousness on the right hand
and on the left,

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10 (NKJV)

⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Plea To Receive His Ministry - (6:1-2)

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ We then, *as workers together with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: “*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- ♦ “*as workers together with Him* also plead with *you*”
- ♦ *The apostolic ministry is in conjunction with Christ & His work - (5:18-21; 1 Cor 3:9; Rom 1:16,17; 5:8,9)*
- ♦ *For the Corinthians to reject the gospel he preached, they would have received God’s grace in vain - (11:4; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Ga. 1:6-9; 2:2; 3:4; Phili 2:16; 1 This 3:5; He. 12:15, 25)*

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Plea To Receive His Ministry - (6:1-2)

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

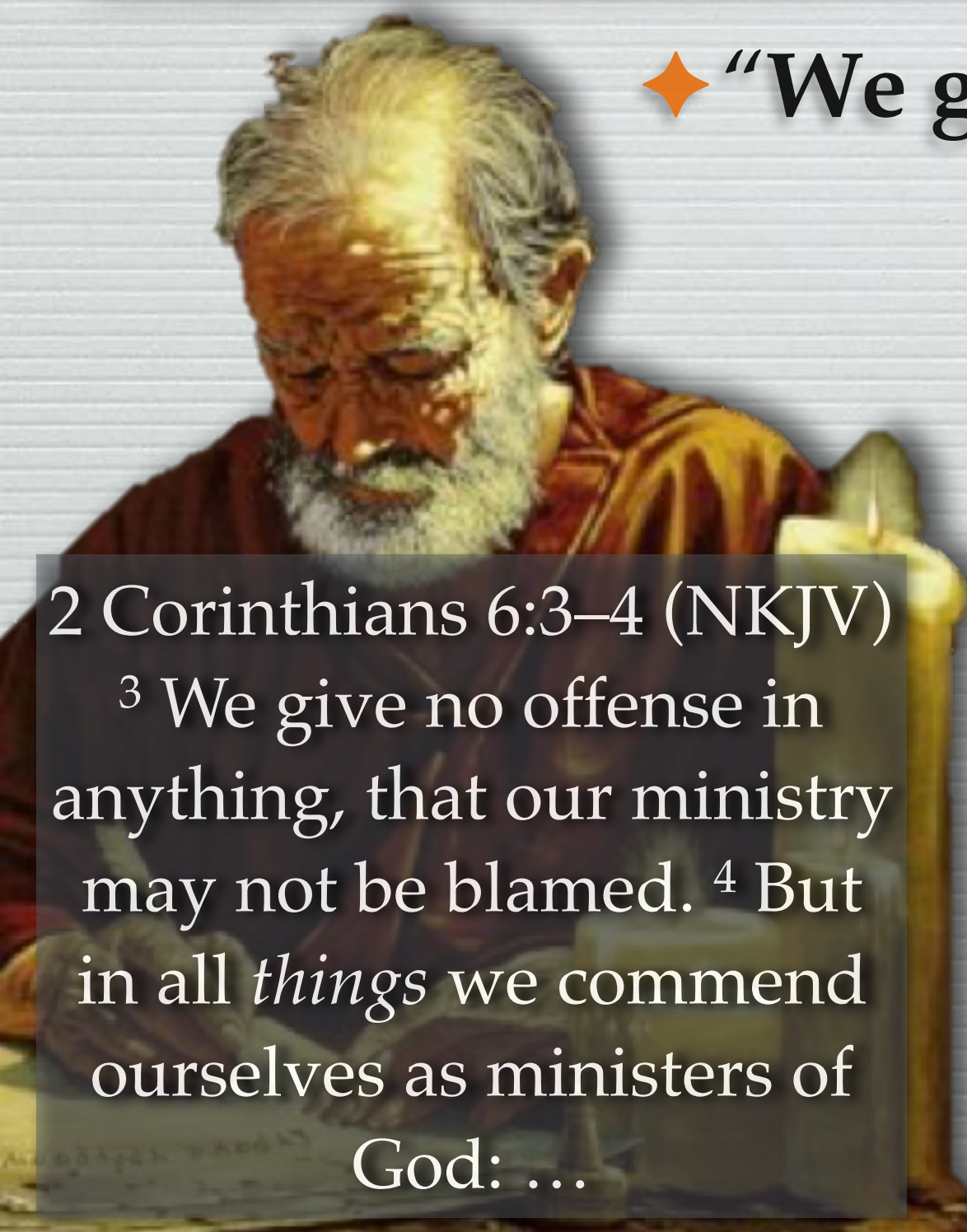
¹ We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: “*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- ✦ “**now is the day of salvation**”
- ✦ Paul’s quotation in vs. 2 is from Isaiah 49:8; (*cf* Lk 4:18-21)
- ✦ The quotation underscores that salvation for all is God’s initiative, (*I have heard, ... I have helped*), i.e., by grace, and not by works of the Law, (*cf.* 2 Cor. 3:12–16; Gal. 3:1–6).
- ✦ The gospel message presents today as “*the day of salvation*” and the “*acceptable time*” — (Is 61:2; Hebrews 3:7,8,13; 4:7)

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

✦ “We give no offense in anything”



2 Corinthians 6:3–4 (NKJV)

³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. ⁴ But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: ...

"There are people who will be glad of an excuse not to listen to the gospel or to take it seriously, and they will look for such an excuse in the conduct of its ministers.

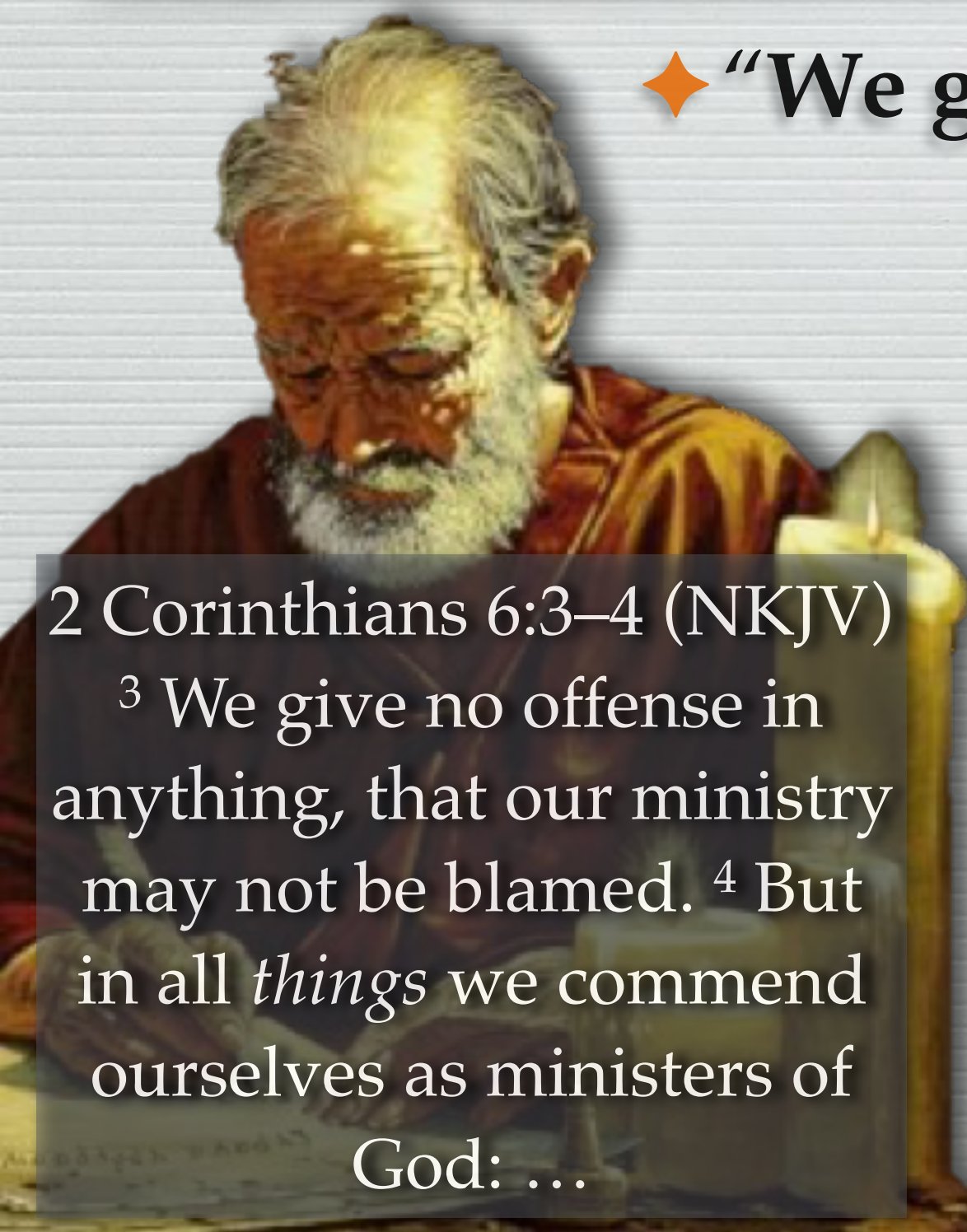
Norman Hillyer, The New Bible Commentary, Revised (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1970), p. 1081.

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

◆ “We give no offense in anything”

- ◆ Paul knew the message of the Cross would offend many (2:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).
- ◆ Paul knew that many considered him a fool (cf. 2 Cor. 11:16).
- ◆ But, Paul did not want to say or do anything that would hinder one's reception of the gospel and bring disrepute upon the gospel of Jesus Christ and those who preached it. (1 Cor. 8:9; 2 Cor. 6:3).



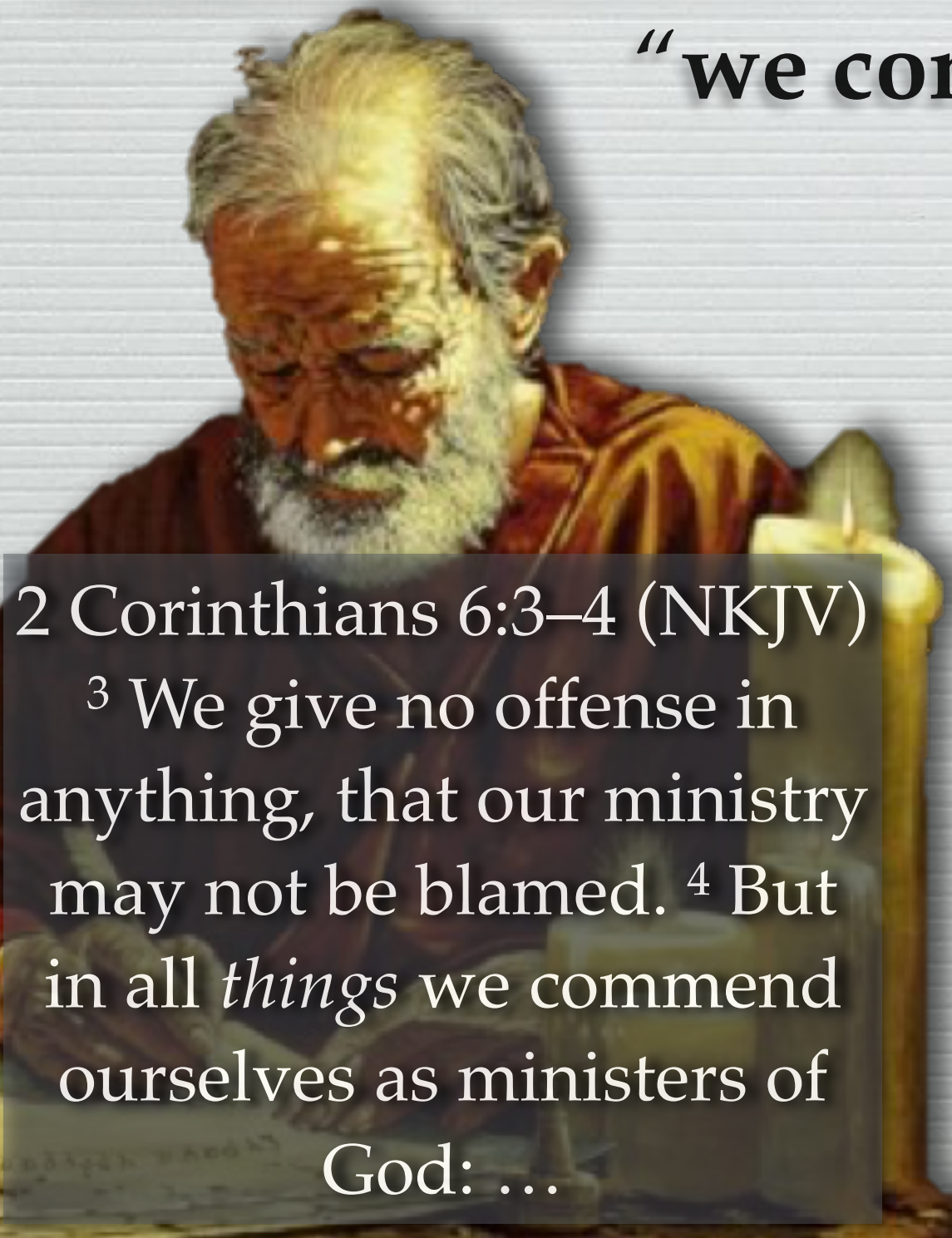
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COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

“we commend ourselves ...” — (4)



2 Corinthians 6:3–4 (NKJV)

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- ✦ Paul did not need letters of commendation, or even to commend himself again to them - the authenticity of his ministry was self evident - (5:12) [*unlike the false teachers* — (3:1; 10:18; 11:22)]
- ✦ Paul’s authenticating marks of the ministry were his sufferings as a servant and the sustaining enablement of God to carry on (cf. 2 Cor. 4:8–10; 6:4; cf. 11:16–12:10; 1 Cor. 4:9–13; Gal. 6:17).

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Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

“we commend ourselves ...” — (4)

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³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. ⁴ But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: ...

- ♦ Nine trials, in three sets of three each (vv. 4-5).
- ♦ Nine inner qualities (vv. 6-7),
- ♦ Nine pairs of paradoxes (vv. 8-10).

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

“we commend ourselves ...” — (6:4-7)

9 Hardships	9 Inner Qualities
In afflictions	In much patience
In necessities	By purity
In distresses	By knowledge
In Stripes	By kindness
In imprisonments	By the Holy Spirit
In tumults (riots)	By unfeigned love
In labors	By the word of truth
In watchings	By the power of God
In fastings	By the armor of righteousness

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Marks of His Ministry - (6:3-10)

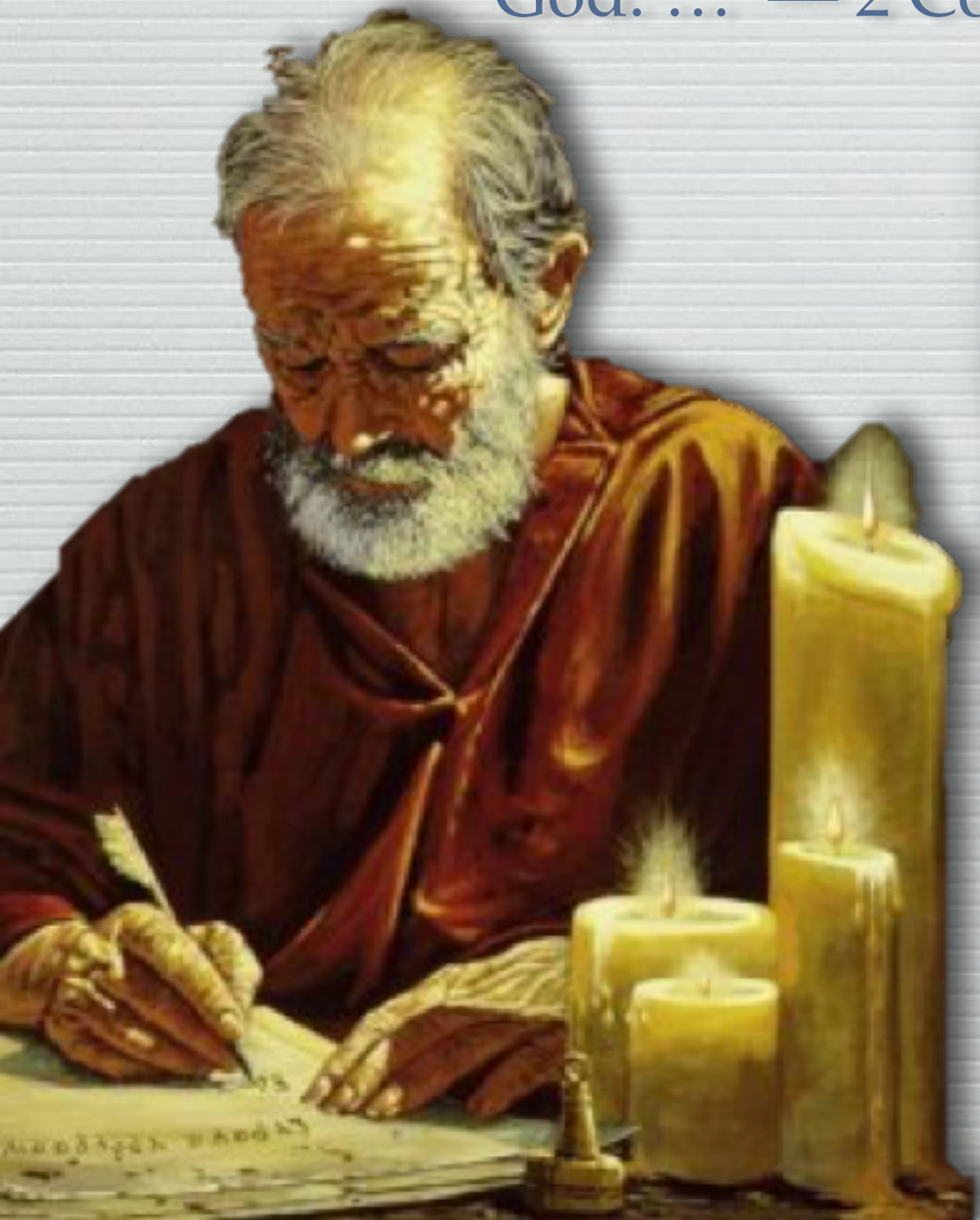
“we commend ourselves ...” — (6:4-7)

✦ **Nine pairs of paradoxes (vv. 8-10).**

⁸ by honor and dishonor,
by evil report and good report;
as deceivers, and *yet* true;
⁹ as unknown, and *yet* well known;
as dying, and behold we live;
as chastened, and *yet* not killed;
¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

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Our Plea - Today Is The
Day of Salvation!

Do Our Words & Deeds
Help or Hinder?

What Commending
Marks Do We Bear?

(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

COMMENDING OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD

Charts by Don McClain

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1 CORINTHIANS 4:1–9 (NKJV)

¹ Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1–9 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. ⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written,

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1–9 (NKJV)

that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. ⁷

For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? ⁸ You are already full! You are already rich!

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1–9 (NKJV)

You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! ⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.