

(2 Corinthians 8:1-24)

# CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

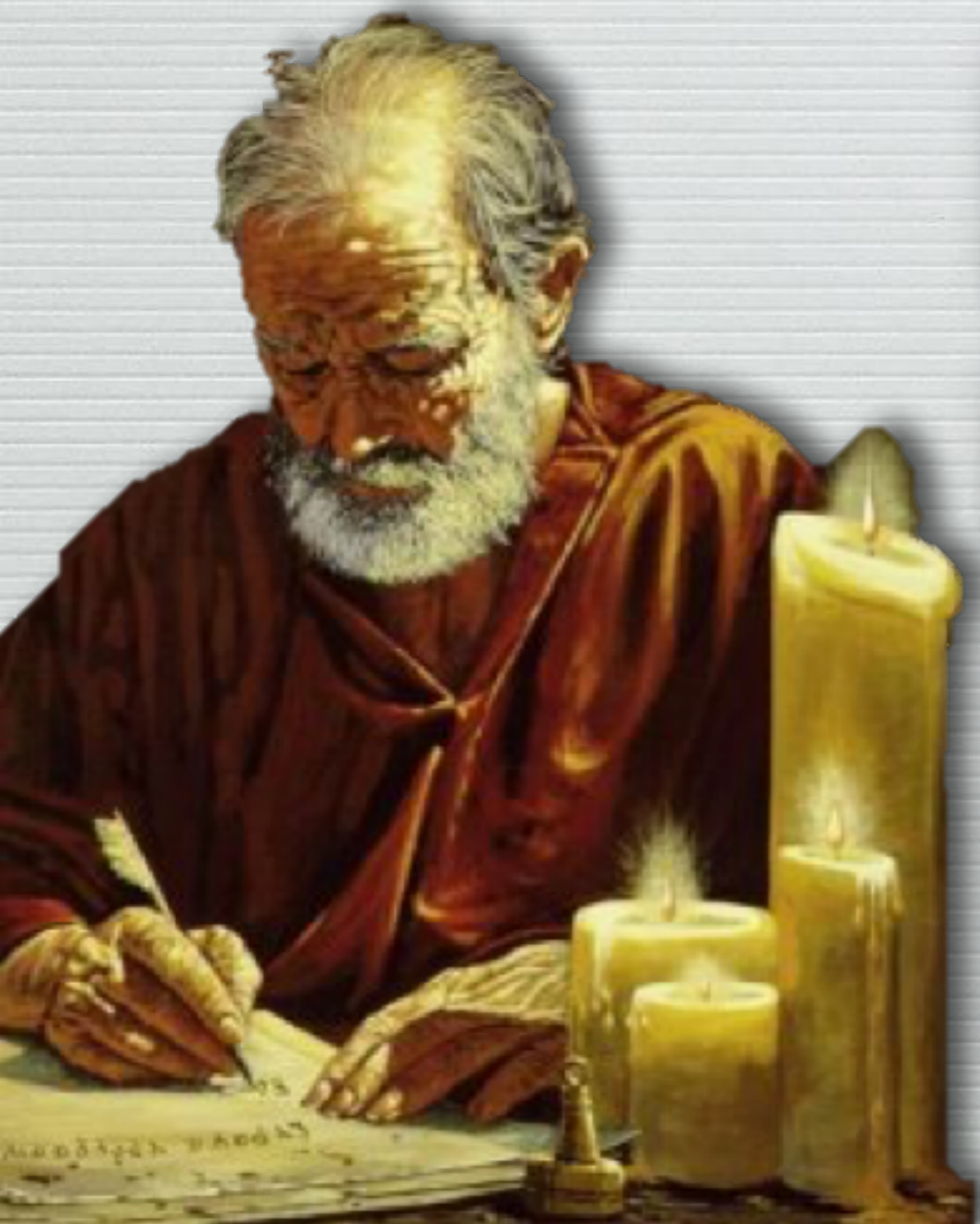
“Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love”

2 Corinthians 8:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

# "Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love"

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Chapter 8 is the beginning of a new section - 8:1-9:15

- Paul encourages The Corinthians to help the needy saints in Judea - 1 Cor. 16:1-4; Rom 15:25-27; Acts 20:24; 24:17
- Paul emphasizes the motive needed behind their contribution – 2 Cor 8:1-15

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: <sup>2</sup> that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. <sup>3</sup> For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. <sup>5</sup> And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. <sup>8</sup> I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;

<sup>11</sup> but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. <sup>12</sup> For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; <sup>14</sup> but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”

# "Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love"

## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)

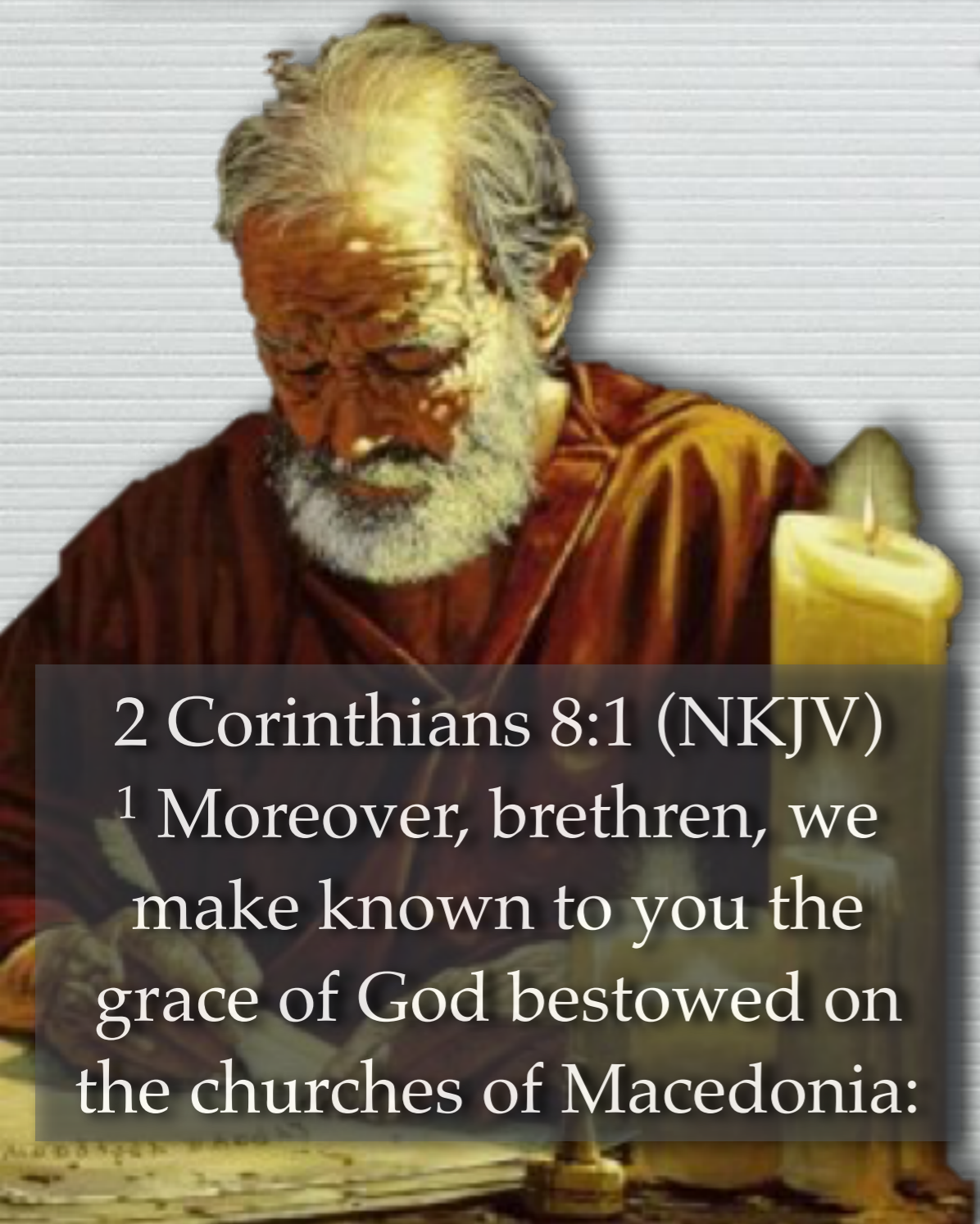
- ◆ The example of the churches in Macedonia - (8:1-6)



2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)  
1 Moreover, brethren, we  
make known to you the  
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# *“Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love”*

## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)



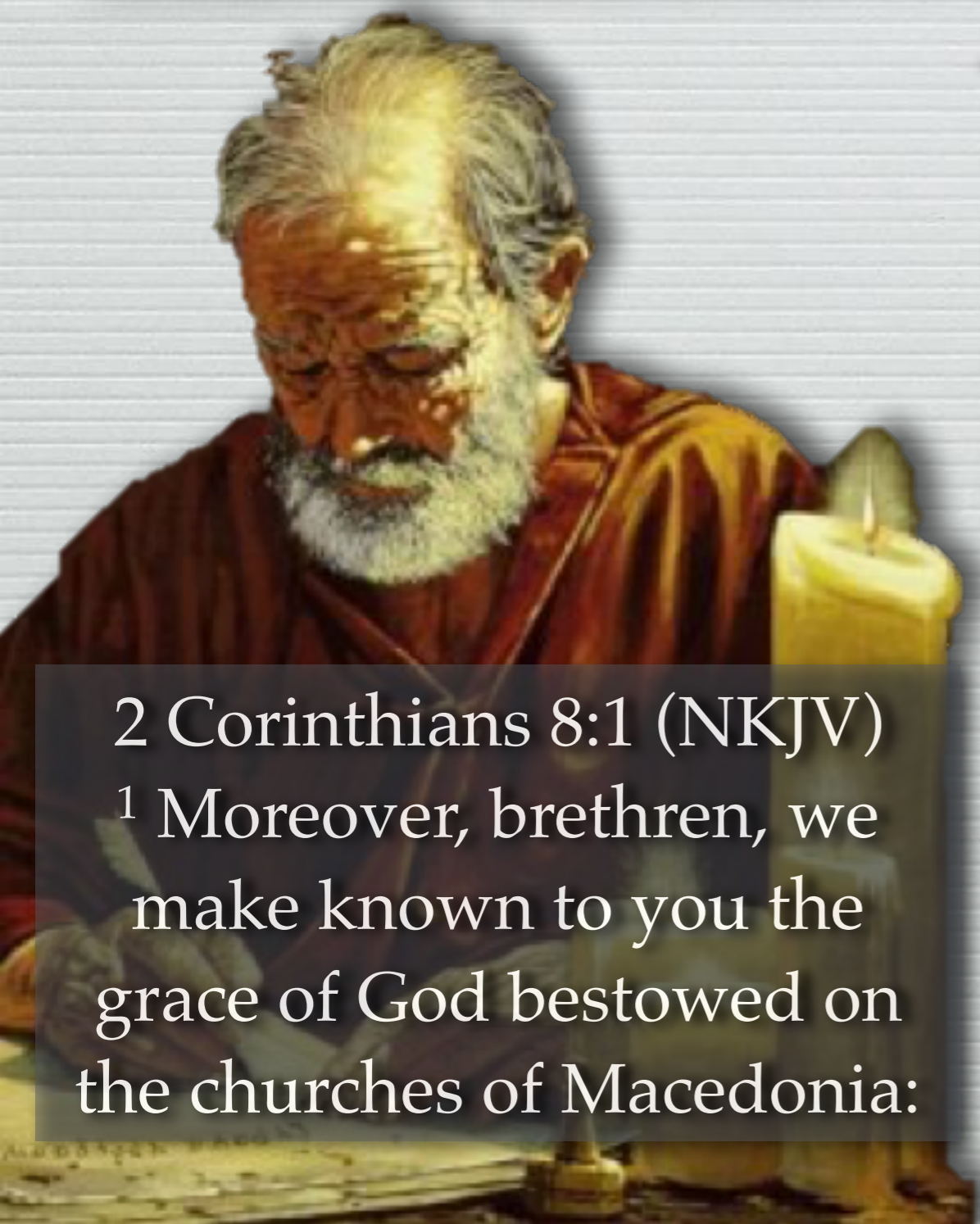
2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

- ◆ The example of the churches in Macedonia - (8:1-7)
- ◆ *“we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia”* — [Philippi (Acts 16:12-40), Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9), & Berea (Acts 17:10-15)]
- ◆ These believers suffered for their faith (Phil. 1:29-30; 1 Thes. 1:6), but remained steadfast (Phil. 1:5; 1 Thes. 1:7).

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2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

- ◆ The example of the churches in Macedonia - (8:1-7)
  - ◆ 2. *“in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.” - (cf Mk 12:42-44)*
  - ◆ 3. *“For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing”*
  - ◆ 4 *“imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.” – (Rom 15:25,26)*

# "Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love"

## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)



2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

- ♦ The example of the churches in Macedonia - (8:1-7)
  - ♦ *5. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. — (Mat 6:33; Mark 12:29-31)*
  - ♦ It is by giving ourselves wholly to the Lord that we can truly give to others what we should. - (Ep 5:22, 25; 6:1-4; Phil 1:27; 2:12-16 ...)
  - ♦ God provides opportunities, we must use what He has blessed us with — (Rev 3:7-8; 2 Cor 2:12)

# “Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love”

## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)

2 Corinthians 8:6–7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. <sup>7</sup> But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

- ✦ The example of the churches in Macedonia - (8:1-7)
- ✦ Paul dispatched Titus to give them opportunity to excel in this grace of giving. (6)
- ✦ Seeing how the Macedonians responded to God’s grace, (vv. 1–5), could the Corinthians, who had benefited so richly (*excelling in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and ... love; cf. 1 Cor. 1:4–7*), be expected to do any less? (7)

# "Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love"

## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)

2 Corinthians 8:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

### ♦ The example of the Jesus - (8:8-9)

- ♦ Their motivation should be from internal devotion, love, not merely by command — (8; 1 Cor 16:1-3; Jn 14:21,23,24; 1 Jn 3:16-20)
- ♦ *Diligence* for the needs of others is a barometer of our love — (8,24; Rm 12:9; 1 Pt 1:22; 1 Jn 3:17-19)
- ♦ How did Jesus demonstrate His love for us? — (Jn 3:16; Rm 5:8-10; Phil 2:5-9; 1 Pt 1:18,19; 2 Cor 5:14)

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## Examples of Liberality - (8:1-9)

2 Corinthians 8:8–9 (NKJV)

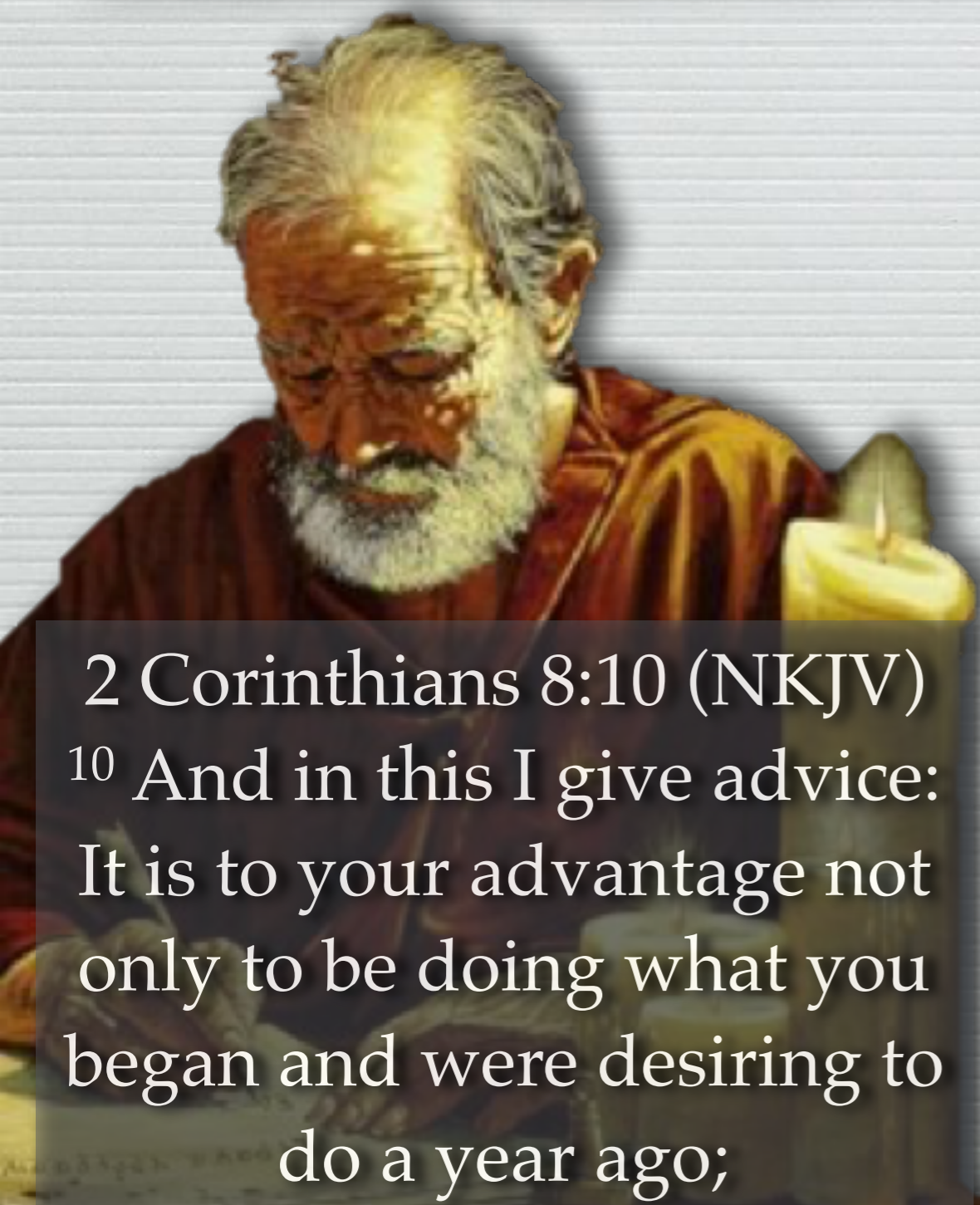
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### ♦ The example of the Jesus - (8:8-9)

- ♦ The One who had everything, was made poor, assumed our nature & condition (Jn 1:1,2,14; Phil. 2:7,8).
- ♦ The Corinthians had benefited from His love - He became what they were (poor) so they could become what He was and is (rich).
- ♦ Therefore was a material offering to Him (cf. Matt. 25:34–40) too much to ask? (1 Cor. 9:11)

# "Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love"

## Good Intentions Not Enough - (8:10-15)

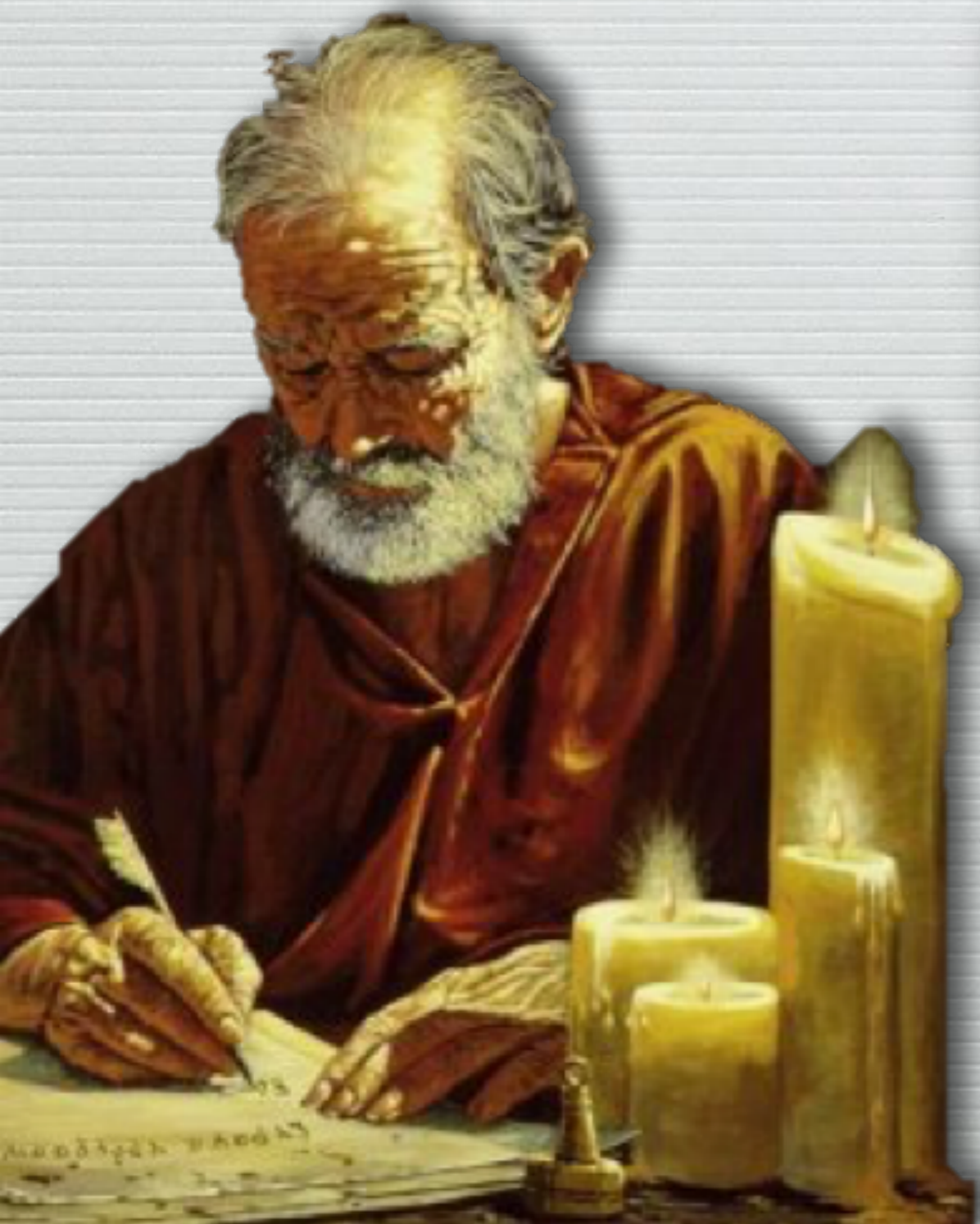


2 Corinthians 8:10 (NKJV)  
<sup>10</sup> And in this I give advice:  
It is to your advantage not  
only to be doing what you  
began and were desiring to  
do a year ago;

- ◆ That there be equality - (8:10-15)
  - ◆ Paul's advice, (*appeal, inspired instruction* - cf. v. 8; 1 Cor 7:25,40)
  - ◆ He instructs them to finish what they started [*Good intentions are no substitute for good deeds*] — (10,11; cf. v. 6; James 2:15-16).
  - ◆ An individual's giving should be commensurate with his means ... according to what one has; (12; cf. 1 Cor. 16:2; Mar 12:41-44).
  - ◆ Generosity of many would supply the needs of the few - (13-15)

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What does our giving  
say about our love?

What does it mean to  
sacrifice?

Have we given  
ourselves wholly to  
the Lord?



(2 Corinthians 8:1-24)

# CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

**“Our Giving—An Expression of Our Love”**

**Charts by Don McClain**

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# ROMANS 15:22-29 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your *company* for a while.

# ROMANS 15:22-29 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. <sup>26</sup> For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup>

It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

# ROMANS 15:22-29 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. <sup>29</sup> But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.