

(2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15)

# CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

## Giving - A Matter of Love, Not Obligation

### 2 Corinthians 9:5 (NKJV)

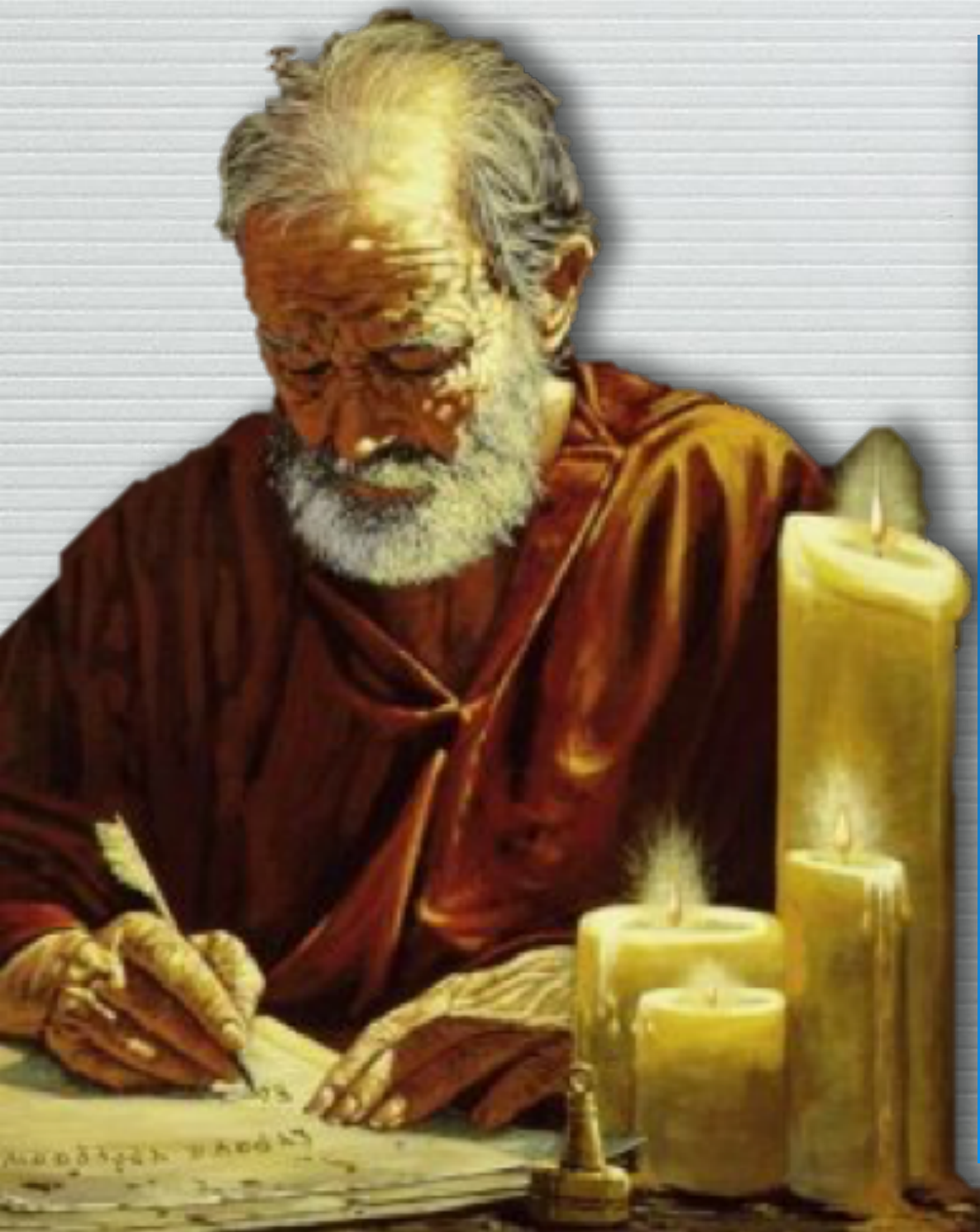
<sup>5</sup> Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

Concerning the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem

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
- The role of Titus & other Christians – 2 Cor 8:16-23
- Paul encourages them to “prove their love” & his confidence in them - 2 Cor 8:24-9:5



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord. <sup>18</sup> And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, <sup>19</sup> and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us—<sup>21</sup> providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. <sup>22</sup> And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. <sup>24</sup> Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; <sup>2</sup> for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. <sup>3</sup>

Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. <sup>5</sup> Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor; His  
righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> Now may  
He who supplies seed to the sower, and  
bread for food, supply and multiply the  
seed you have sown and increase the fruits  
of your righteousness, <sup>11</sup> while you are  
enriched in everything for all liberality,  
which causes thanksgiving through us to  
God.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:15 (NKJV)

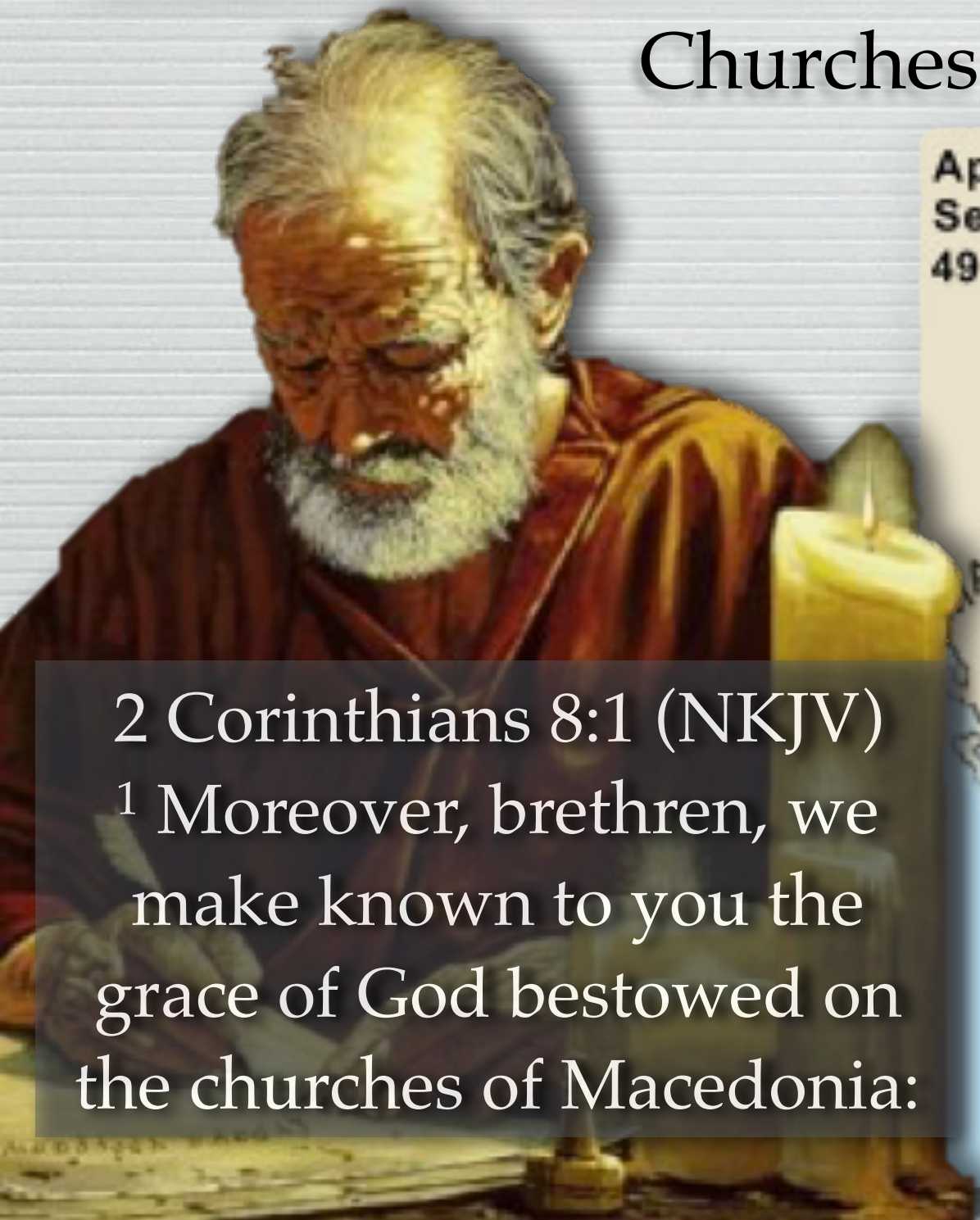
<sup>12</sup> For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, <sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, <sup>14</sup> and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

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

### Churches in Macedonia Examples - (8:1-15)



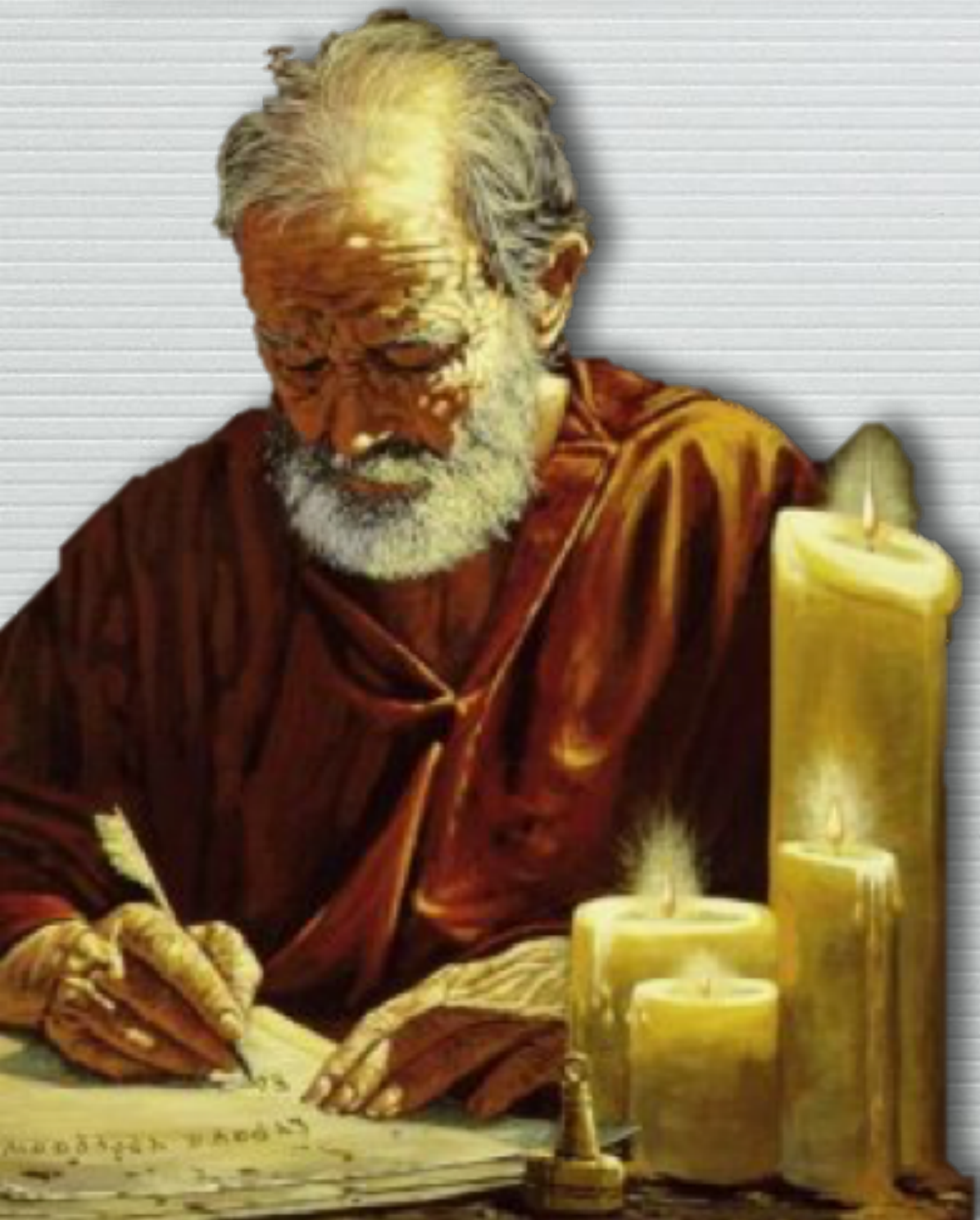
2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)  
<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we  
make known to you the  
grace of God bestowed on  
the churches of Macedonia:





# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

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

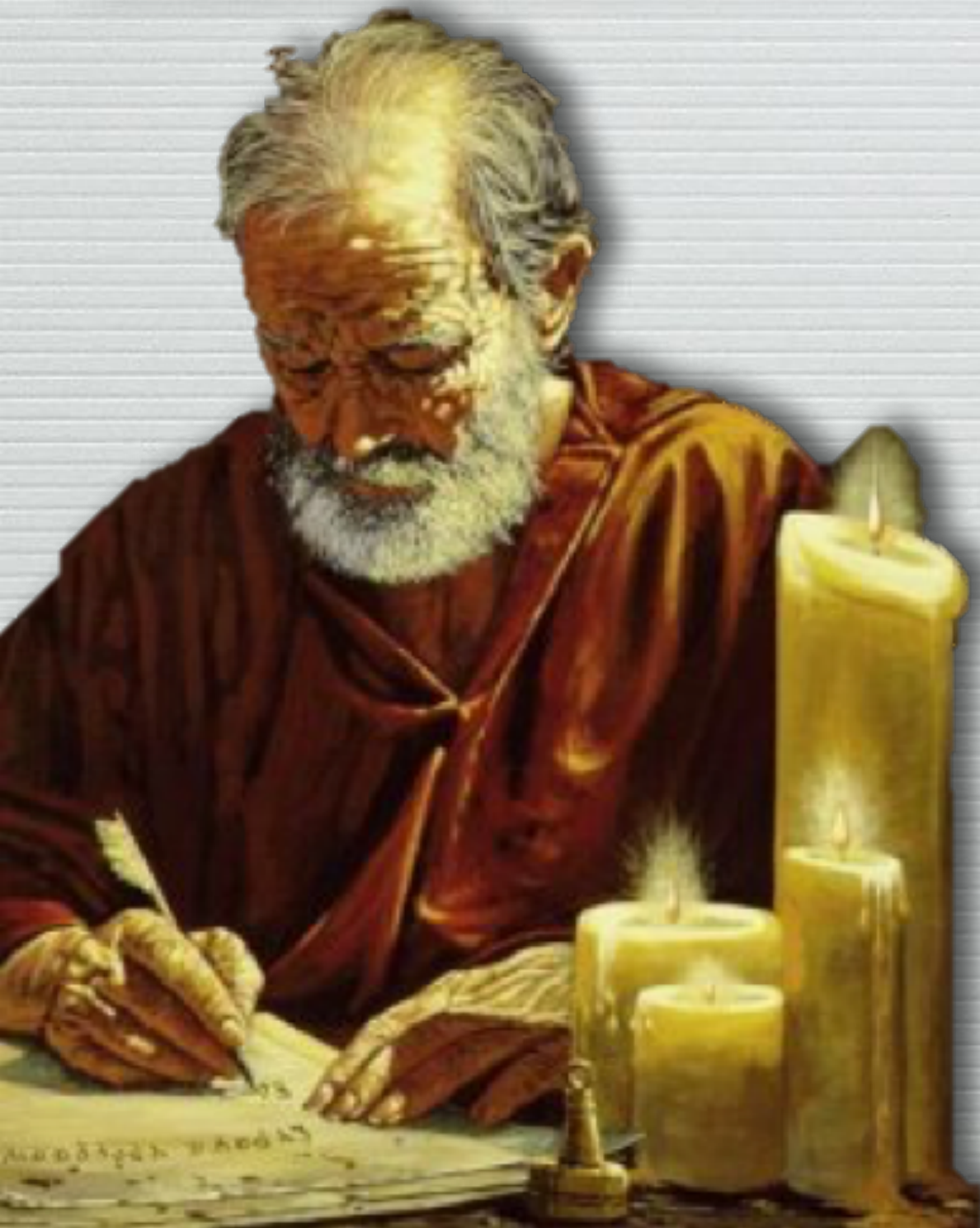


- ◆ I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others (8)
- ◆ The example of Jesus - (9)
- ◆ Fulfill what you have committed to - (10,11)
- ◆ Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility - (12)
- ◆ That there be equality - (13-15)



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

## Avoiding Criticism - (8:16-24)

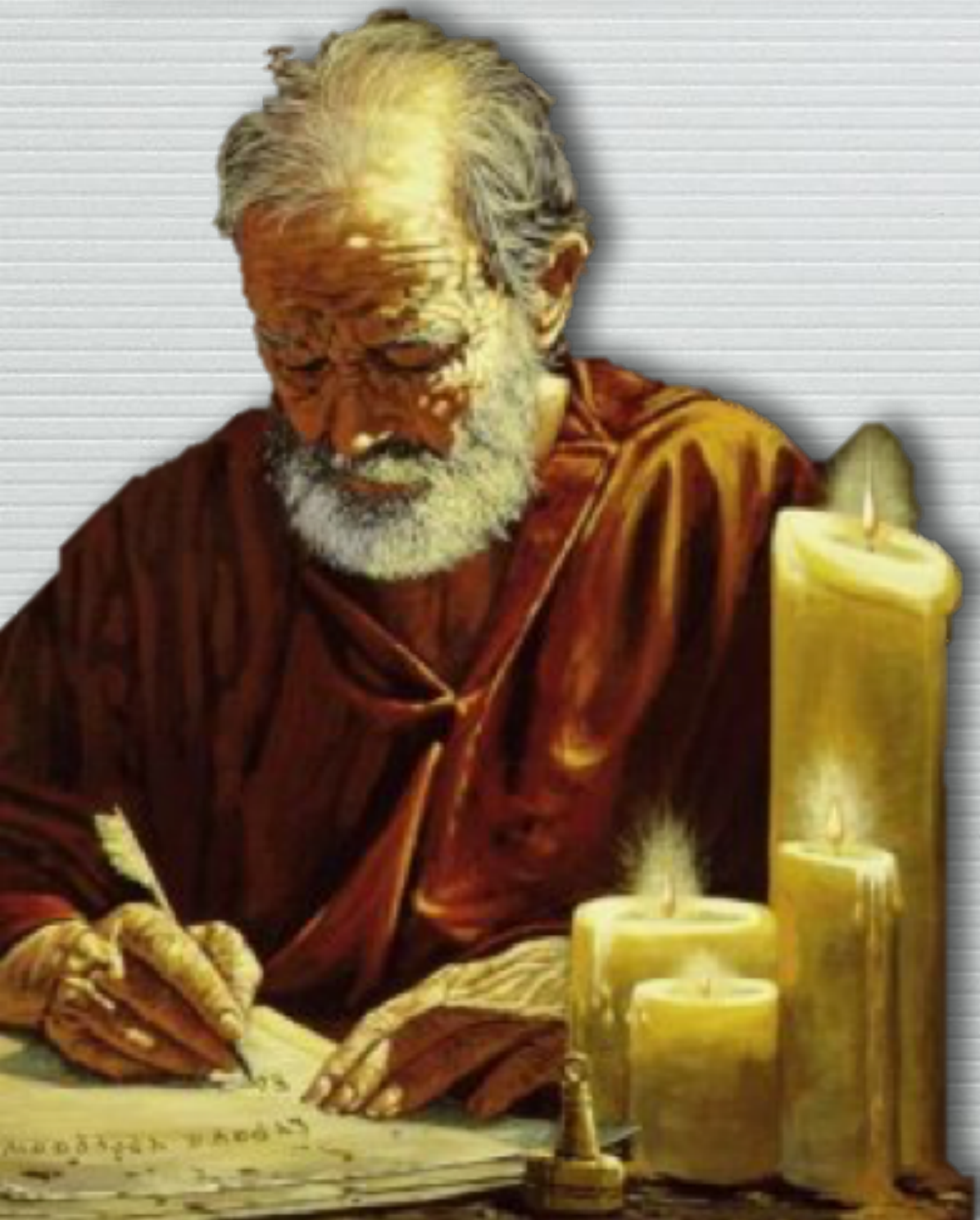


- ♦ Care of Titus - [*enthusiastically & of his own initiative accepted the challenge*] – (16,17)
- ♦ An unnamed representative sent with Titus with the gift - (18,19)
- ♦ This collection was to honor the Lord, so much effort was given to avoid criticism in how the gifts were collected & dispersed – (20-21; cf. Matt. 25:40; Gal. 2:10; 2 Cor. 8:20; cf. 12:17–18).



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## Avoiding Criticism - (8:16-24)

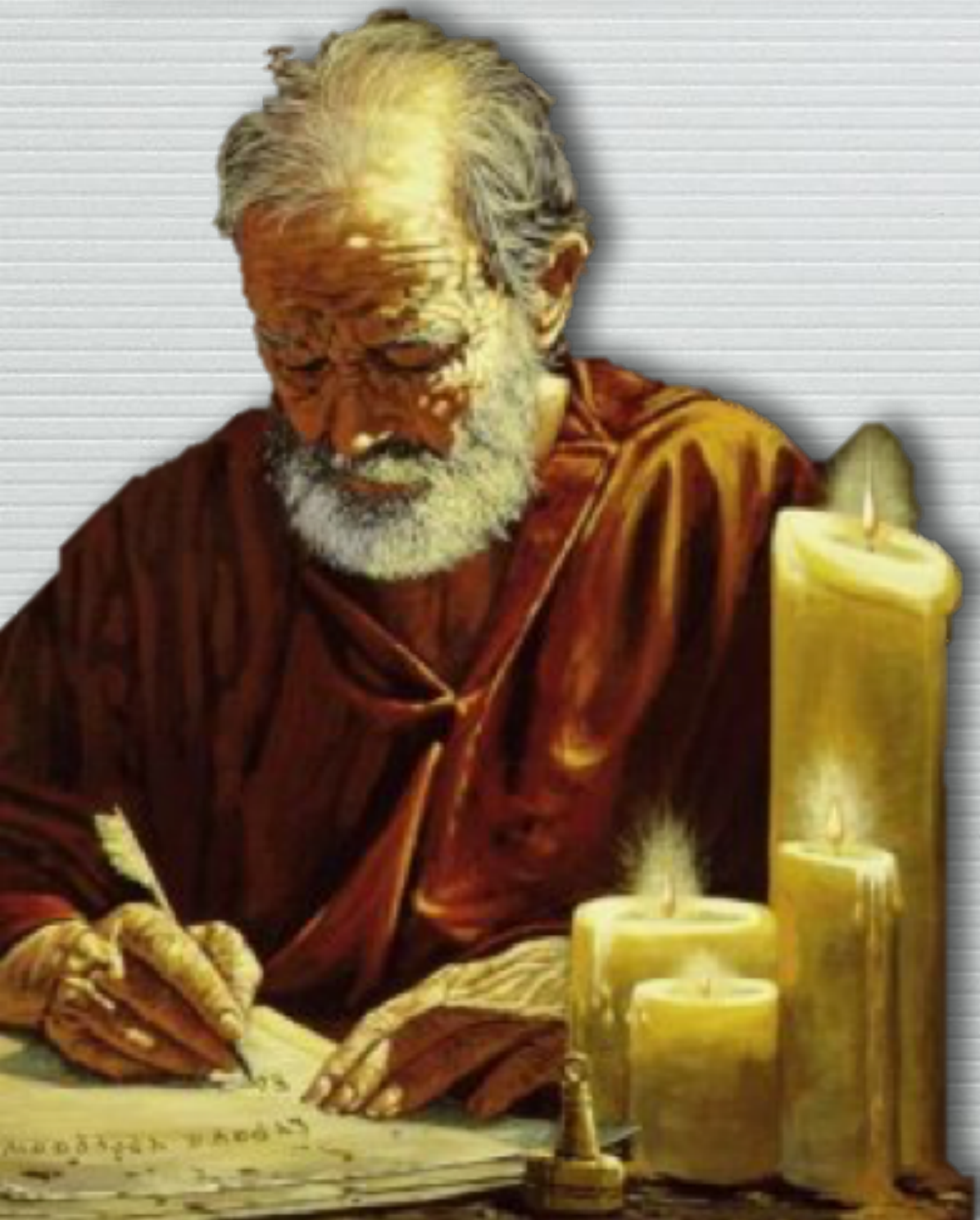


- ♦ A third proven “brother” was sent with Titus & the previous unnamed brother — (22)
- ♦ The trio would preserve the autonomy of each church involved and also spur the Corinthians on toward completing their project. (23; cf 1 Cor 16:3,4)
- ♦ By their giving, the Corinthians could demonstrate their love (24; cf. 8:8; 9:13).



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## Avoiding Shame - (9:1-5)

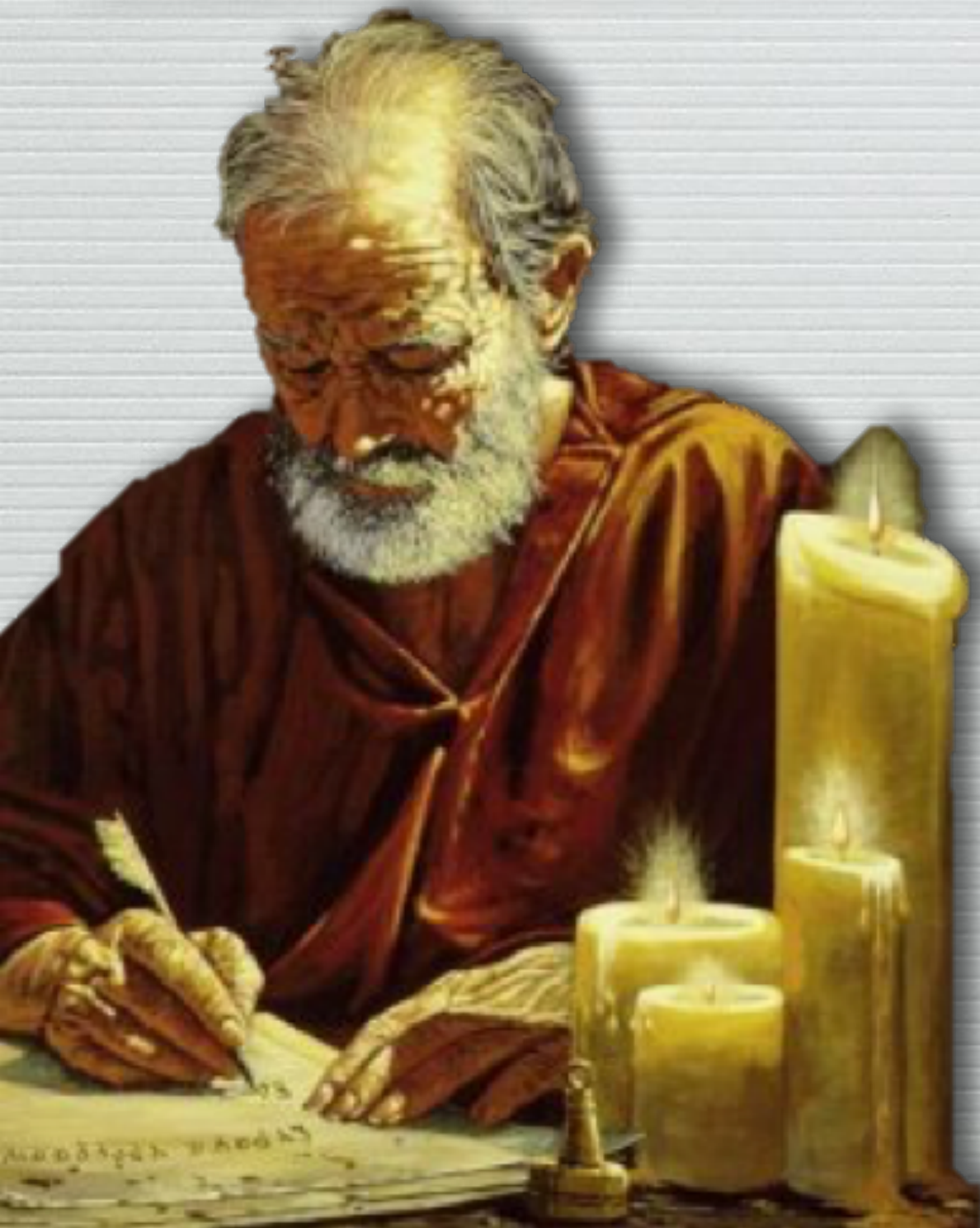


- ♦ The Corinthians had agreed enthusiastically to be involved in this service (*diakonias*) a year earlier (9:1; cf. 8:4,11).
- ♦ Paul had relayed their intentions to the Macedonians, which spurred the Macedonians on -(9:2)
- ♦ The Corinthians preparedness would prevent dishonor - (9:3,4)
- ♦ Be prepared, because you desire to serve - not because of necessity – (9:5,7; 1 Cor 16:2)



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

## God Loves A Cheerful Giver - (9:6-15)

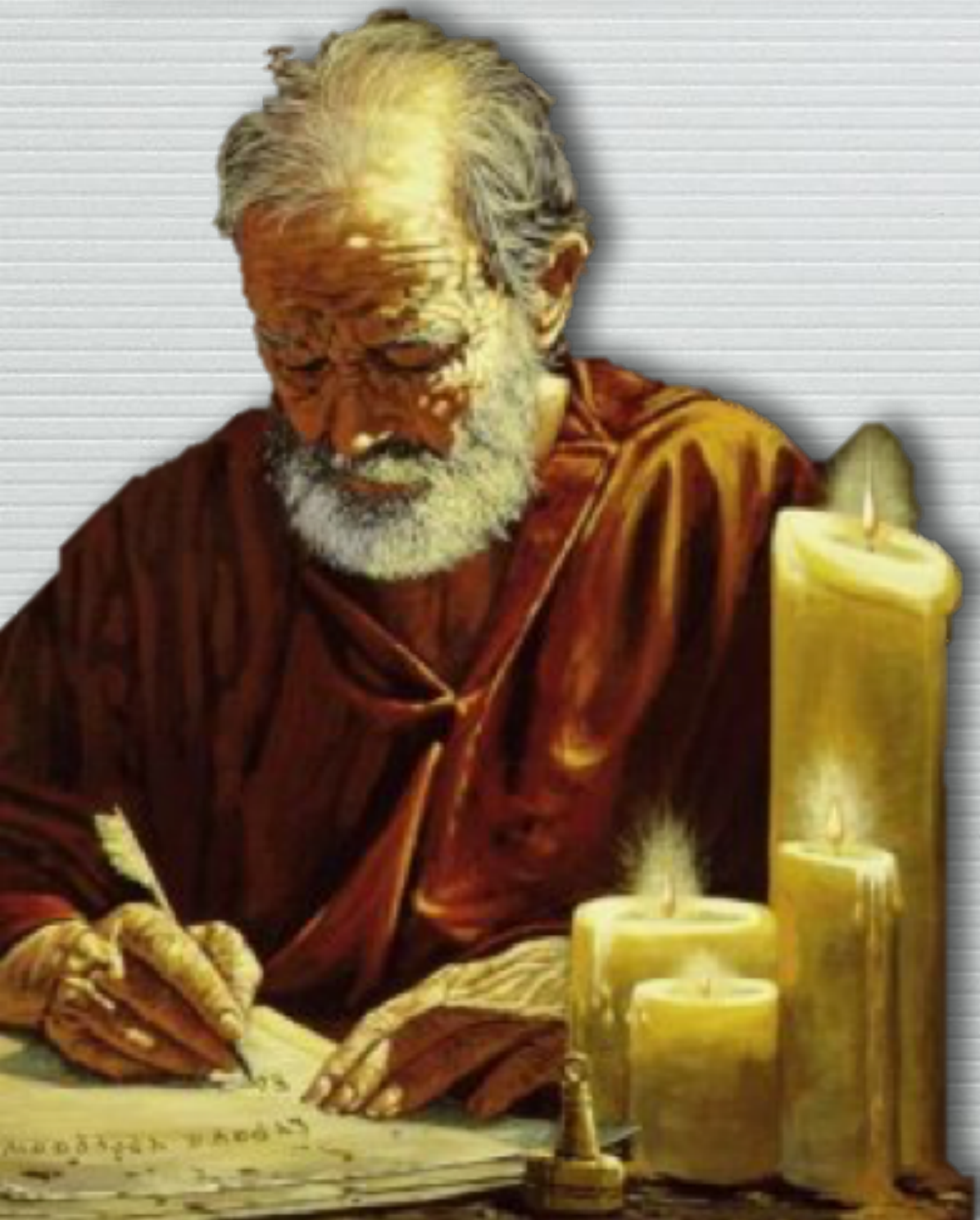


- ◆ We will reap what we so — [*not that if we give the Lord \$1,000 we will gain \$10,000*] — (6; Gal 6:7-9)
- ◆ Generosity in material things results in spiritual blessedness - (2 Cor 9:6-10; Acts 20:35)
- ◆ NOT TO give grudgingly or of necessity - BUT:
  - ◆ Purposefully - 9:7
  - ◆ Cheerfully - 9:7
  - ◆ With Thanksgiving - 9:11
  - ◆ Liberally - sharing - 9:13



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

## God Loves A Cheerful Giver - (9:6-15)



- ◆ When God is truly served and obeyed - MANY are benefited resulting in thanksgiving to God – (9:10-14)
- ◆ God is the giver of all we have - He is the enabler / the provider - we must allow God to use us in helping others (Heb 13:16)
- ◆ Obedience to the Lord causes others to rejoice - (9:13)
- ◆ We should always be thankful for God's blessings - (9:14,15)

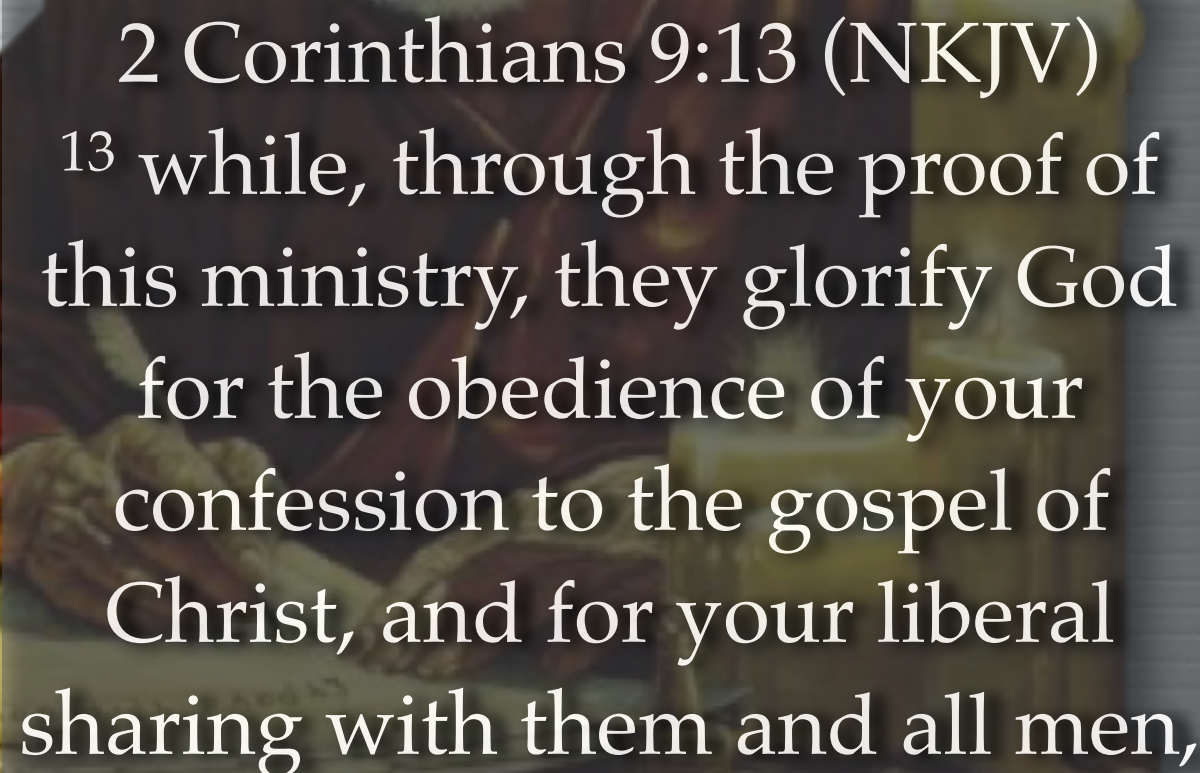


GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

# An Act of Fellowship

**Lenski, The Interpretation of I &  
II Corinthians 9:13, pp.  
1185-1186**

“The saints are seen glorifying God ‘also for the single-mindedness of (your) fellowship with them and with all,’ i.e., for your spiritual fellowship of the Corinthians which extends not only to these saints, who are being helped at present, but to all God’s saints, whether they are helped or not.”



2 Corinthians 9:13 (NKJV)  
<sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

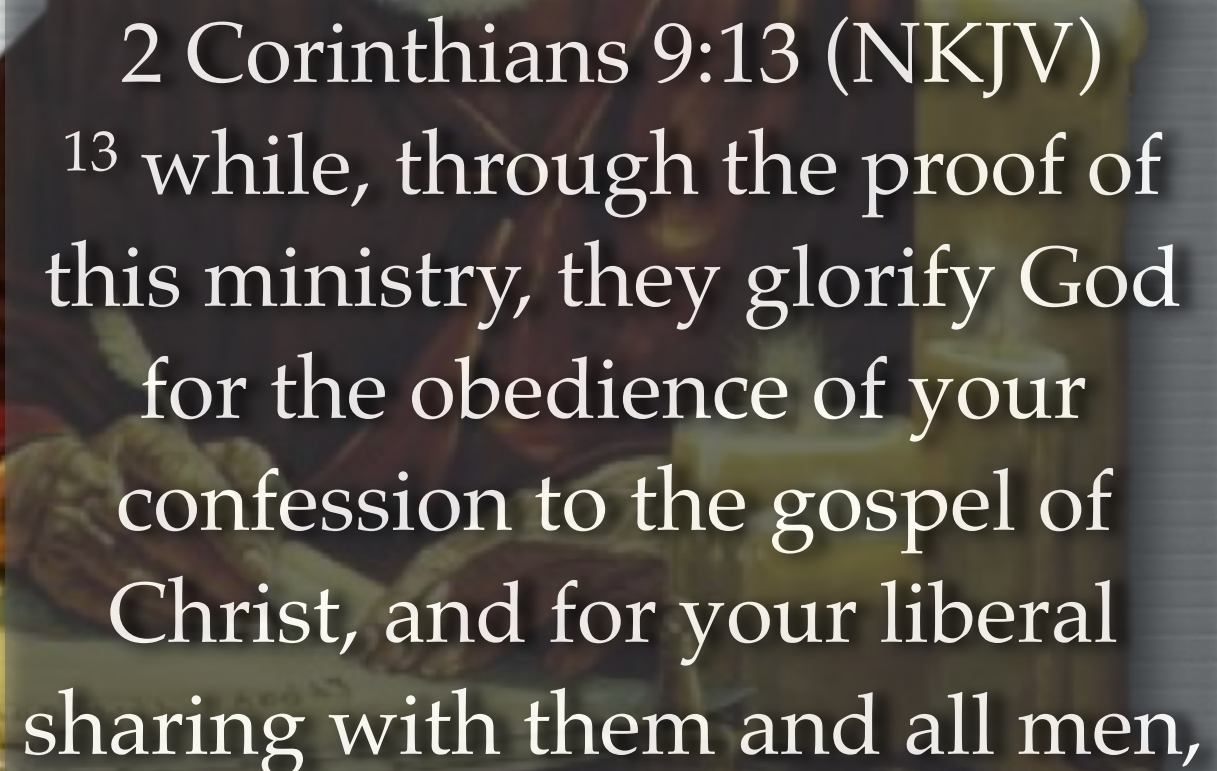


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# An Act of Fellowship

**Filson, The Interpreter's  
Bible, Vol. 10, p. 379**

“The closing words, ‘and toward all,’ may imply that a benefit to the Jerusalem saints serves the whole church, or that this specific gift will be matched by other acts of helpfulness to ‘all’ other Christians as opportunities arise.”

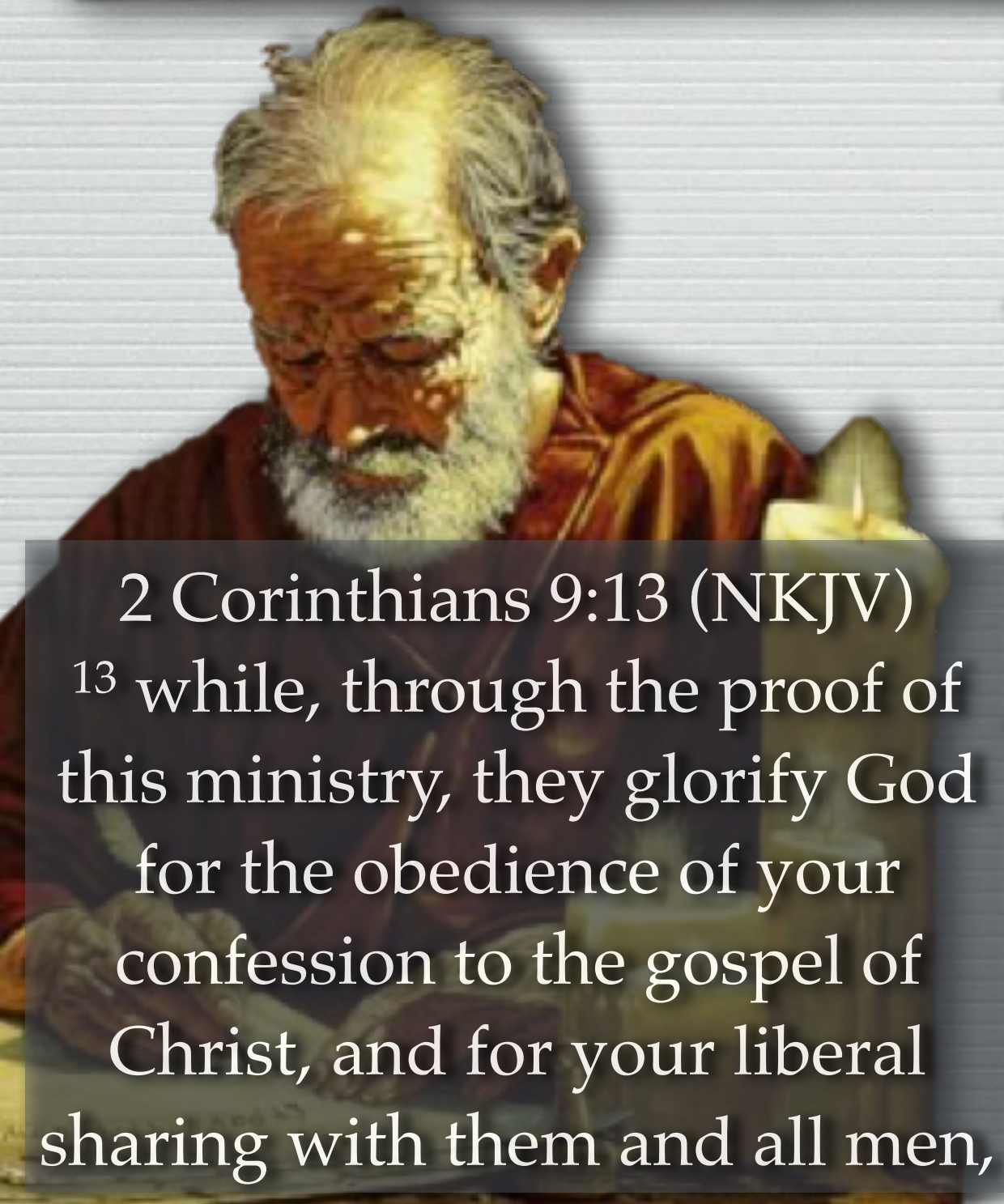


2 Corinthians 9:13 (NKJV)  
<sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,



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# An Act of Fellowship



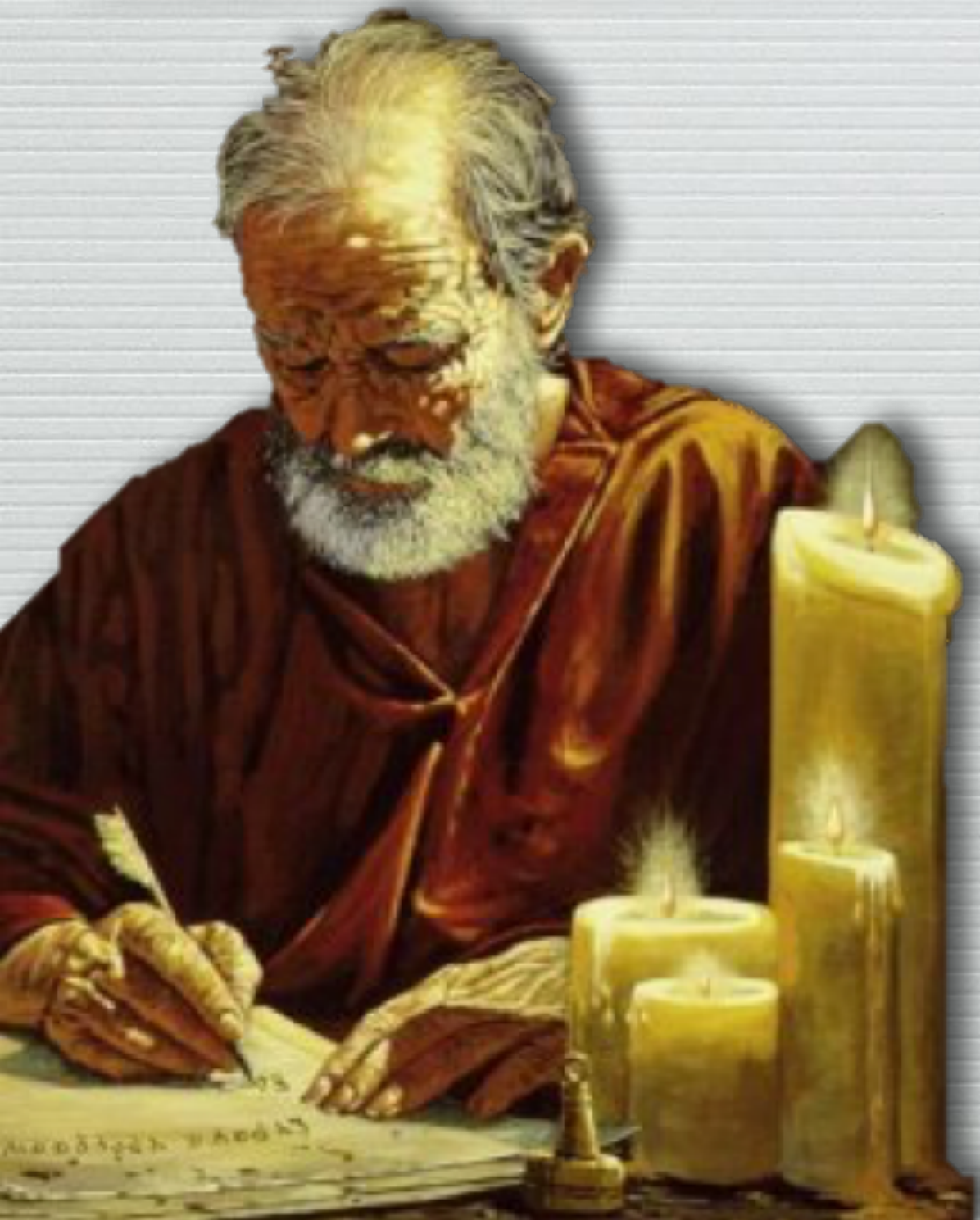
2 Corinthians 9:13 (NKJV)  
<sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

- ♦ [8:4] . . . the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
- ♦ [8:14] . . . Supply for their lack – may be equality
- ♦ [9:1] Now concerning the ministering to the saints,
- ♦ [9:12] For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

## God's Work Is Important

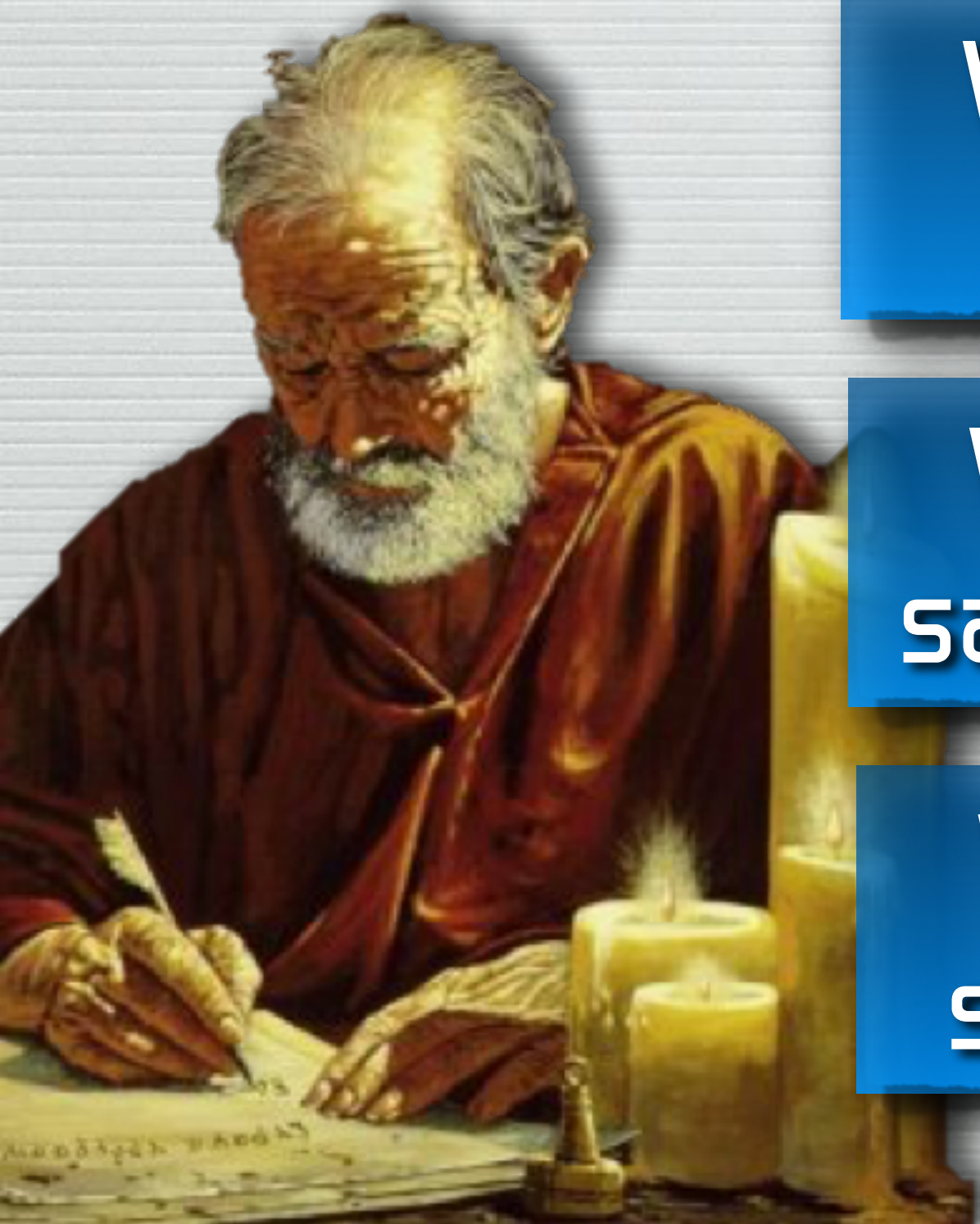


- ◆ Being good stewards of our possessions not limited to what we put into the collection plate on the first day of the week - (Mat 15:1-9; 1 Tim 5:8,16)
- ◆ However, our collective work depends upon the free will offering of our members - (1 Cor 16:1,2; 14:26; 2 Cor. 8,9; 11:8; Phil. 4:15-19; Acts 4:37; 6:1-7)
- ◆ Let Us Train Our Hearts to Regard our material blessings as Tools for God's Service.



# GIVING - To Be A Matter of Love / Not Obligation

<sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)



What does our giving  
say about our love?

What does our giving  
say about our priorities?

What does our giving  
say about our values?







(2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15)

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## Giving - A Matter of Love, Not Obligation

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