

(2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

# CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

***“Equipped For Victory”***

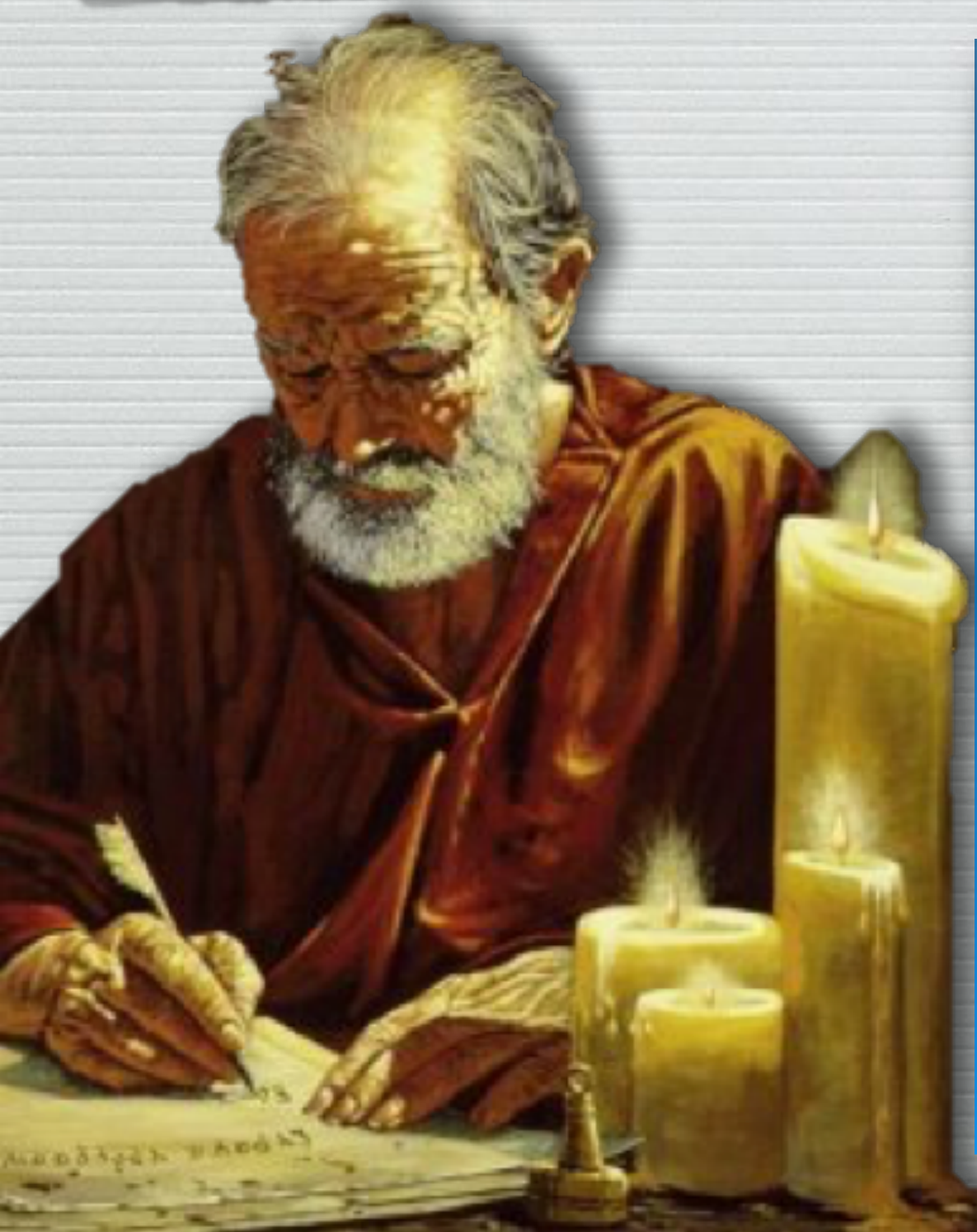
## 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,



# EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,



- Paul returns to the defense of his apostolic authority – 10:1-13:10
- Weapons spiritual, not carnal – 10:1-6
- Paul's authority is from the Lord – 10:7-11
- Who the LORD commends is what matters – 10:12-17



## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. <sup>2</sup> But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.



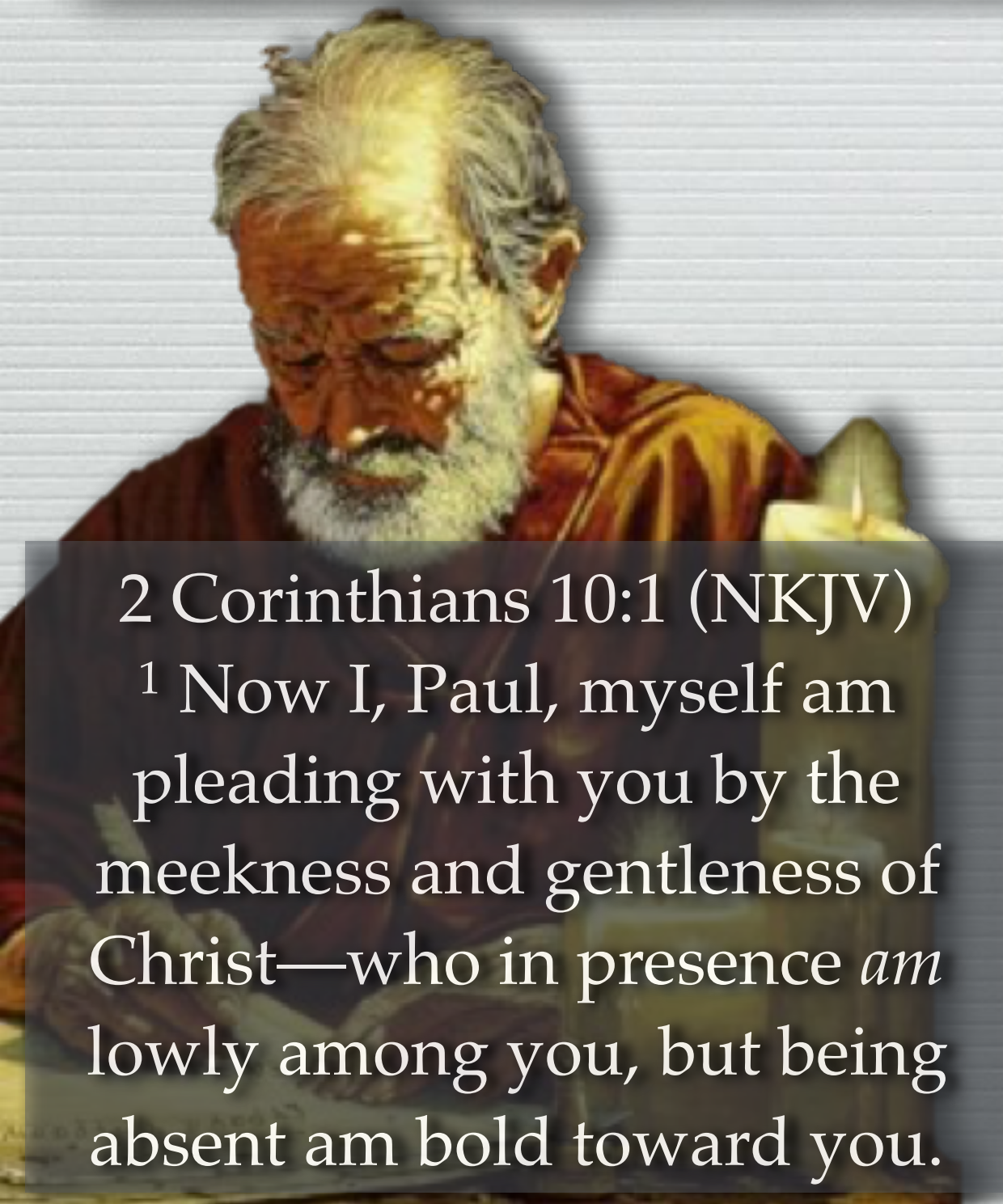
## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.



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## Paul's personal appeal – 1,2



2 Corinthians 10:1 (NKJV)

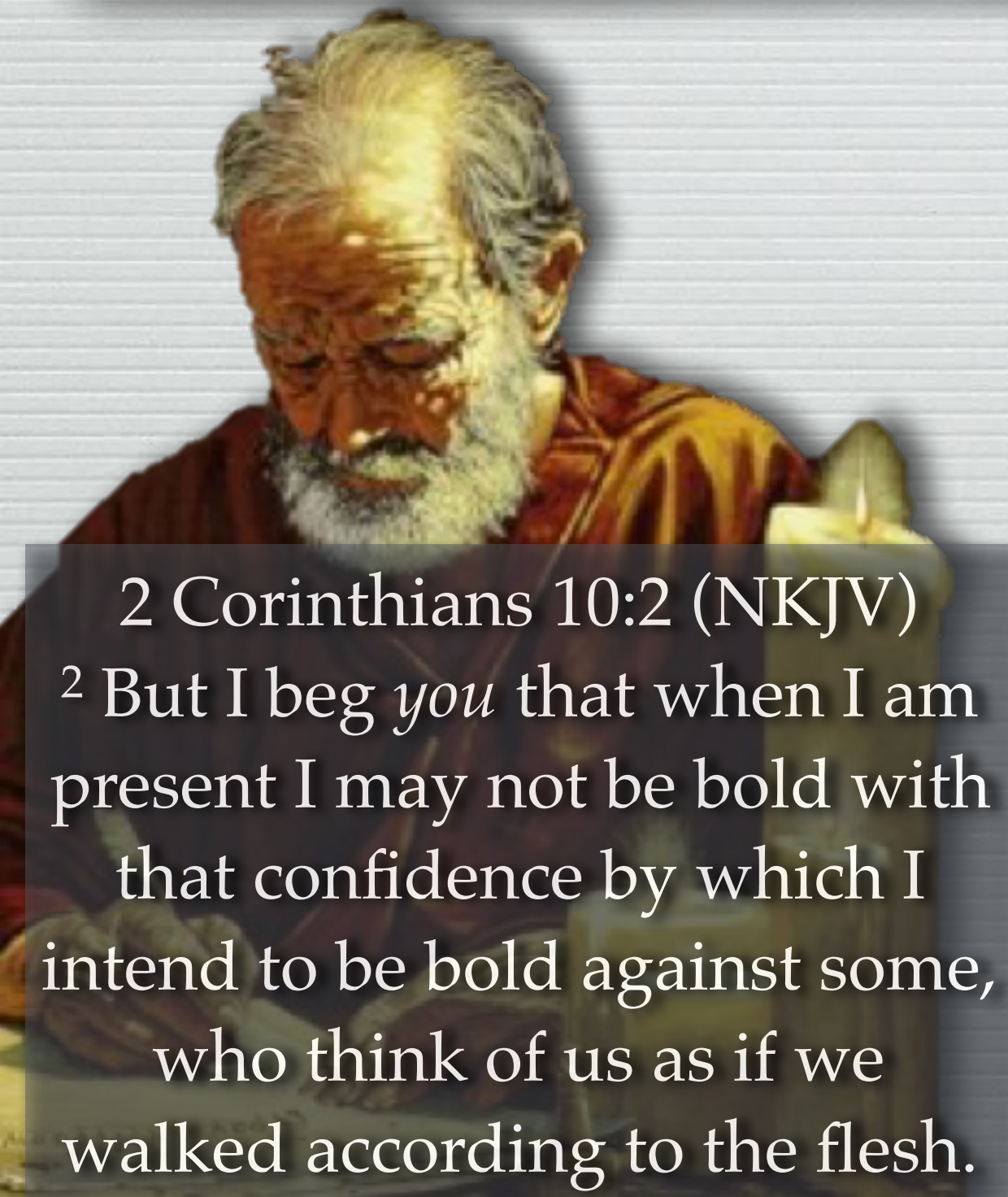
<sup>1</sup> Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence *am* lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

- *I, Paul, myself* - an intensified form of pleading — (Gal 5:2)
- “*By the meekness and gentleness of Christ*” — qualities absent in his opponents / yet qualities they knew imitated Christ - (Mt 11:29; 1 Cor 11:1; 1 Pet 2:21)
- Paul uses the words of his antagonists - which were meant to subvert his authority - 10:10



# EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

## Paul's personal appeal – 1,2



2 Corinthians 10:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> But I beg *you* that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

- *I beg of you* - Paul would prefer not to act with severity in their presence, but he can and will – (1 Cor 4:19-21; 2 Cor 13:2,10)
- “*I intend to be bold against some*” – He specifies the *some* later – (2 Cor. 11:13).
- “*who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh*” – they attributed to Paul their own motives and tactics - (1 Cor 4:19)



# EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

## Paul's war – 3-5



- *though we walk in the flesh* - in the body, with all its incidental infirmities and trials without implying sin, as “according to the flesh” does (*Gal 2:20; Phil 1:22-24; 1Tim 3:16*).
- This battle is fought in the minds of men - (Note - Arguments; Knowledge; Thoughts - vs. 5)

2 Corinthians 10:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.



# EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

## Paul's war – 3-5

### THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- *are not carnal -*
- E.g., weapons that may be used "AGAINST" the flesh – (*Guns, bombs, swords . . .*)
- E.g., weapons that are "OF" the flesh. – (*NOT Psychology – Secular Education – Human Wisdom – or Positive Thinking*)



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- *but mighty in God - the word of God!*
- *Living & powerful - He 4:12*
- *Can produce faith - Ro 10:17*
- *Able to save souls - Jam 1:21*
- *Able to regenerate - 1Pe 1:23*
- Unless we use this Word, all our efforts will be in vain



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## Paul's war – 3-5

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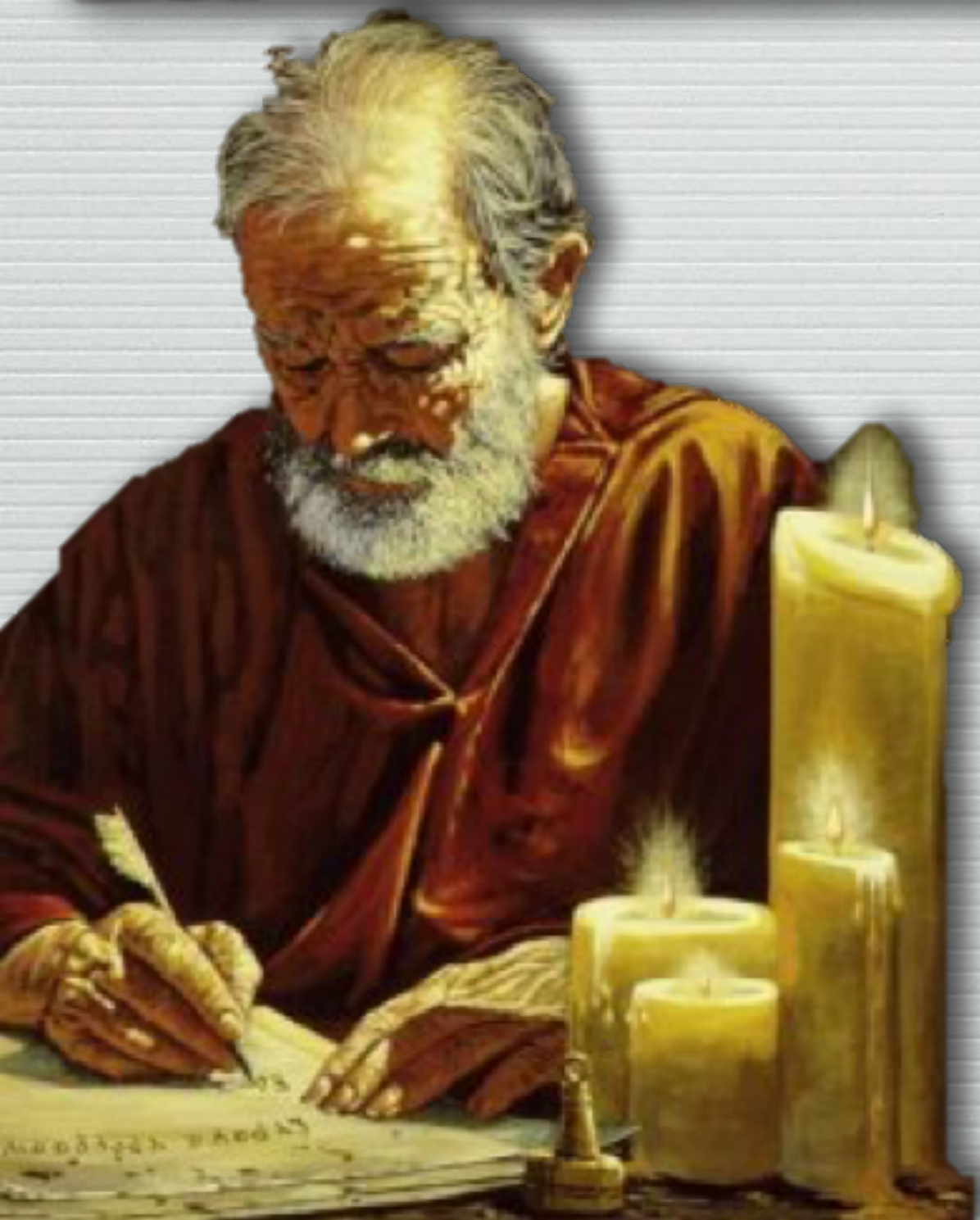
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- These weapons are able to demolish every argument against the gospel. (1 Cor. 2:4–5; Heb 4:12)
- Neither the god of this Age nor his henchmen (11:15) can oppose the knowledge of God. — (2 Cor. 4:4; 11:15)
- Can conquer & control every thought, bringing one to obedience in Christ — (Heb 4:12)



# EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

## Paul's war – 3-5



2 Corinthians 10:6  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> and being ready to  
punish all  
disobedience when  
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(2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

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**Charts by Don McClain**

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