

(2 Corinthians 10:7-18)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

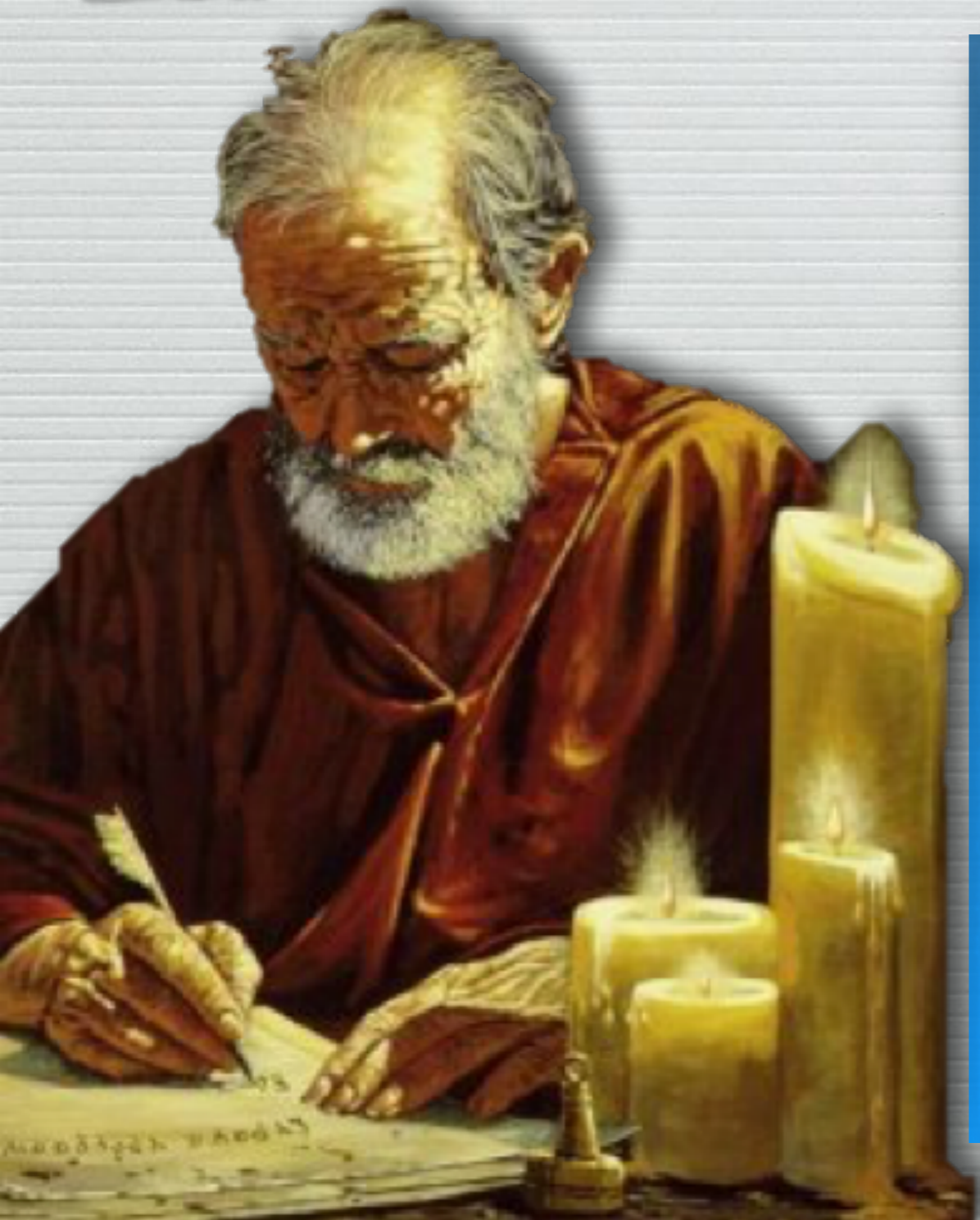
Whom The Lord Commends
Is What Matters

2 Corinthians 10:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But “he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

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 – 10:12-18

2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18 (NKJV)

⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's. ⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—⁹ lest I seem to terrify you by letters.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ “For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” ¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.

¹² For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18 (NKJV)

¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. ¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵ not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere,

2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment. ¹⁷ But "he who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

The Lord Authorized Paul's Ministry – 7-11




2 Corinthians 10:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we *are* Christ's.

- *“Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?” -*
- Interrogative? ^ (KJV, NKJV)
- Declarative? *“You are judging by appearances.” - (NIV; NASB)*
- Imperative? - *“Look at what is before your eyes.” - (ESV; NRSV).*
- The context seems to indicate the imperative ...

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

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2 Corinthians 10:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

- Paul challenges the brethren in Corinth to consider the facts —
- If any man ... *"This probably refers to an outstanding example of the false apostles who had gone to Corinth to try to supplant Paul." they were pretending to be Christ's; but their pretensions were refuted by the certainty of Paul's being actually "of Christ."*
— Coffman Com. pg. 462; ^[9] Floyd V. Filson, op. cit., p. 385

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

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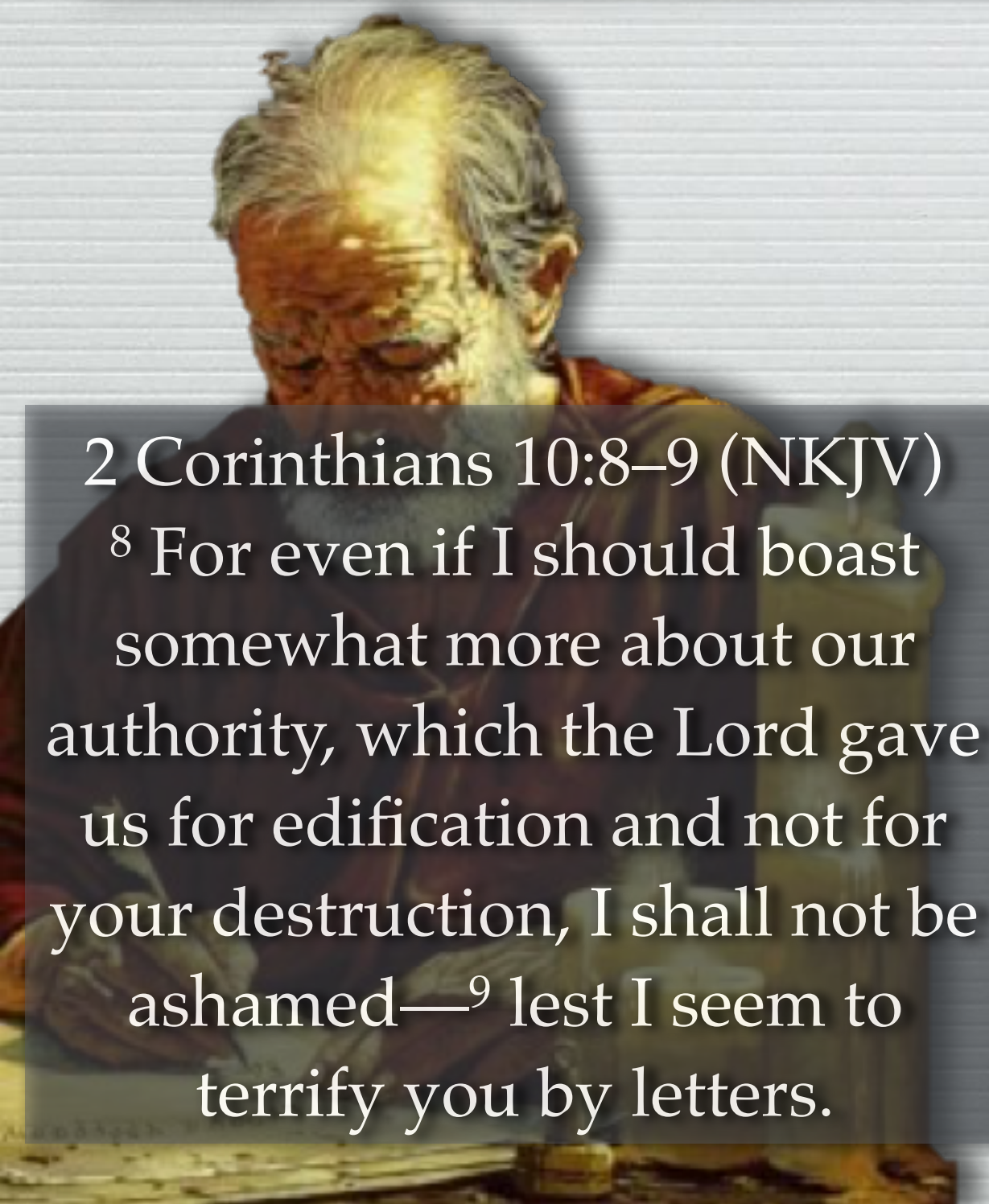
2 Corinthians 10:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

- Paul challenges the brethren in Corinth to consider the facts —
- Paul's apostleship had been sufficiently demonstrated among them — (3:1-3; 6:4-10; 9:2; 11:5; 12:11-13; 1 Co. 2:1-5)
- “*We are Christ's*” - Any who were actually in Christ would know Paul was as well — (1 Co. 3:23; 14:37)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

The Lord Authorized Paul's Ministry – 7-11



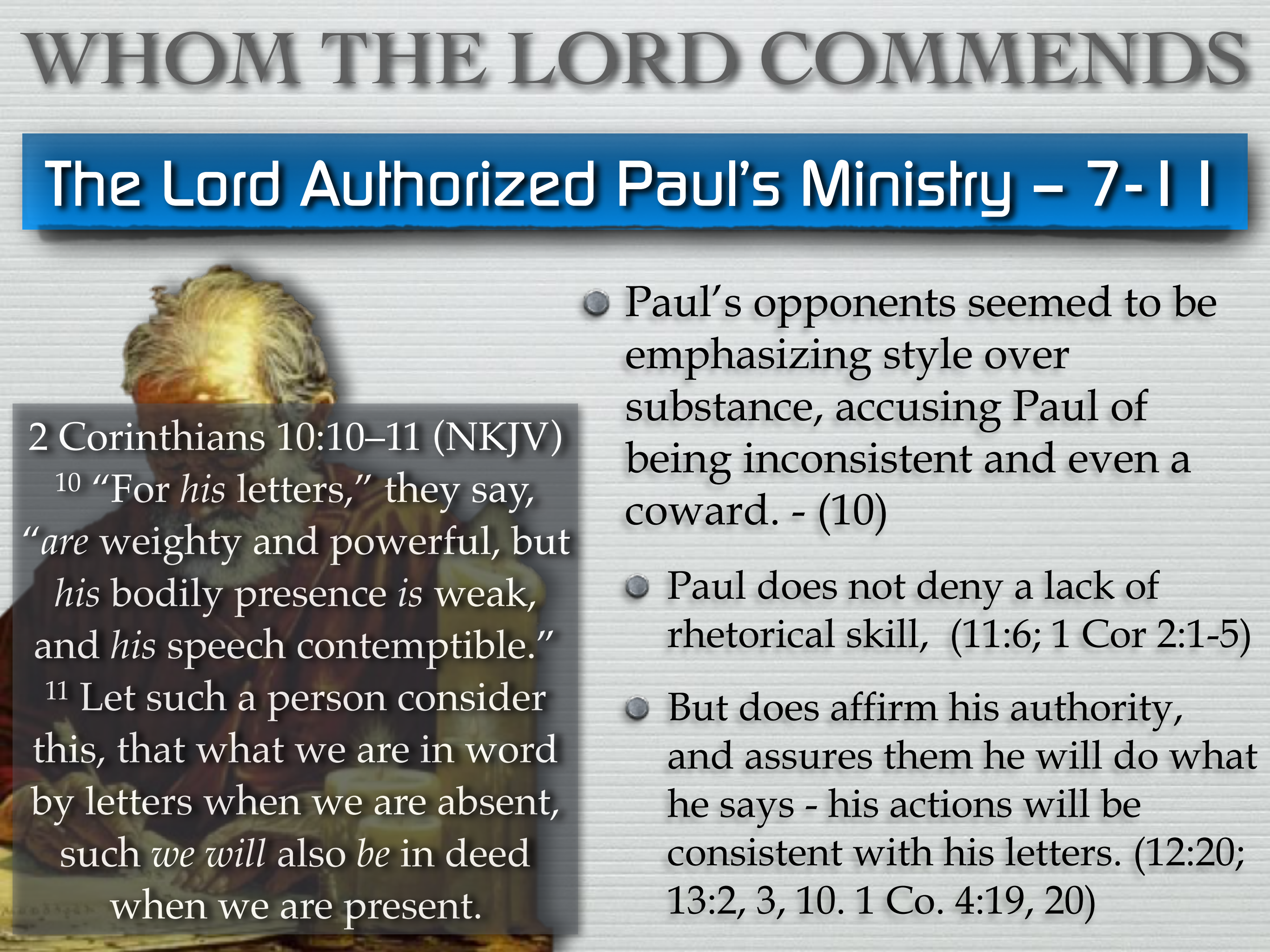
2 Corinthians 10:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—⁹ lest I seem to terrify you by letters.

- Paul saw boasting in oneself as repugnant, but saw it necessary to speak the truth regarding his authority - even if some saw it as boasting. - (12:6; 11:16-21)
- Paul affirms his authority as an apostle of Christ without being ashamed of it. (7:14; 12:6)
- He destroyed “strongholds,” “arguments,” & “pretensions” of his opponents (10:4–5) but he built up believers. (7:8-12)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

The Lord Authorized Paul's Ministry – 7-11



2 Corinthians 10:10–11 (NKJV)


¹⁰ “For *his* letters,” they say,
“*are* weighty and powerful, but
his bodily presence is weak,
and *his* speech contemptible.”

¹¹ Let such a person consider
this, that what we are in word
by letters when we are absent,
such *we will* also *be* in deed
when we are present.

- Paul's opponents seemed to be emphasizing style over substance, accusing Paul of being inconsistent and even a coward. - (10)
- Paul does not deny a lack of rhetorical skill, (11:6; 1 Cor 2:1-5)
- But does affirm his authority, and assures them he will do what he says - his actions will be consistent with his letters. (12:20; 13:2, 3, 10. 1 Co. 4:19, 20)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

Paul Will Not Exceed His Authority – 12-18



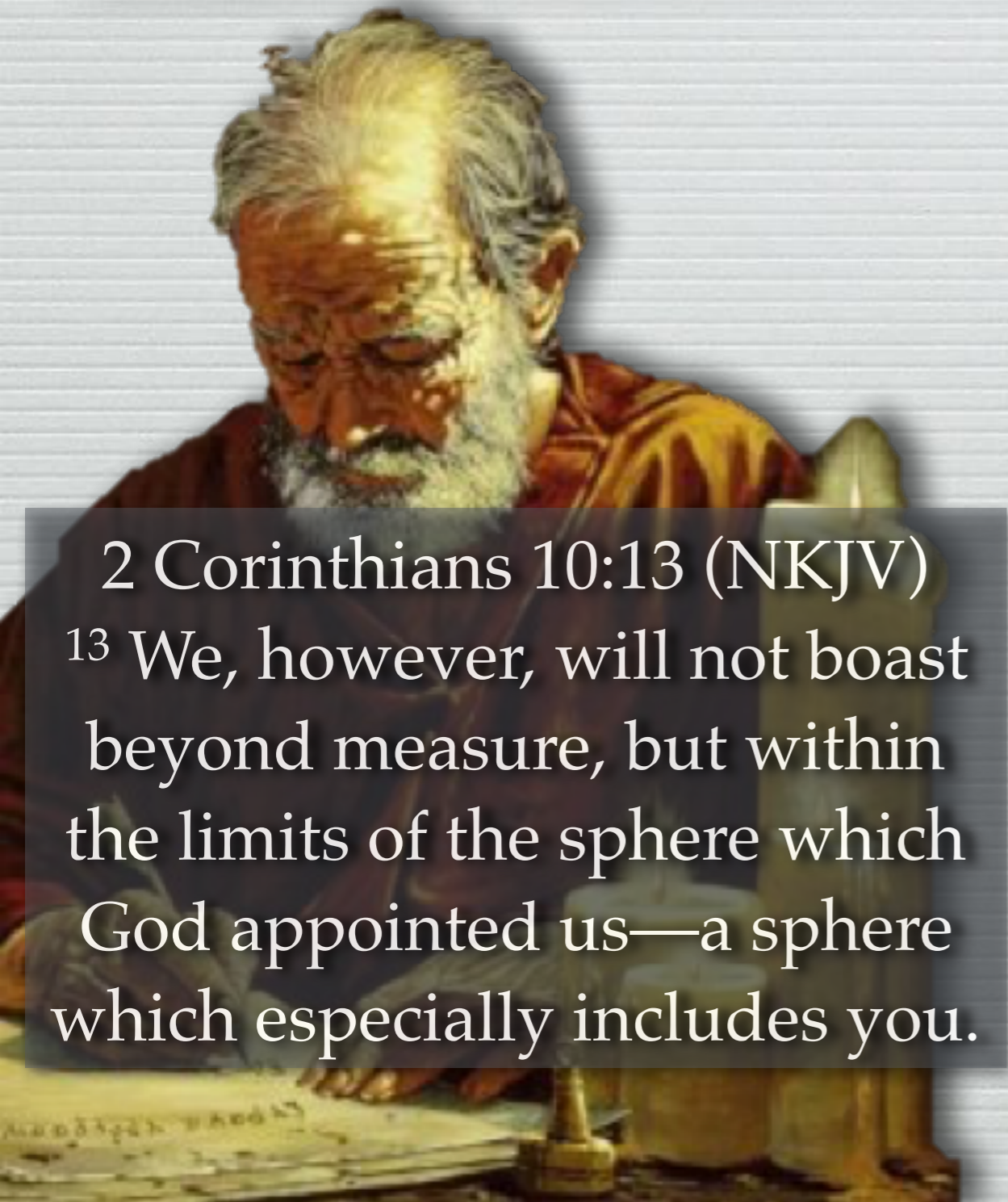
2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- We dare not. - (12)
- A sharp contrast is drawn between the standard, or measure, used by Paul and the measure used by his opponents - (12; 3:1; 5:12)
- They compared themselves with themselves — they were their own authority - (3:1; Lu. 18:11; Ro. 15:18)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

Paul Will Not Exceed His Authority – 12-18



2 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

- We will not. - (13-16)
- Paul would not claim authority he did not have (13,14; Ro. 15:18, 19)
- The Corinthians were clearly within his sphere of labor as directed by the Holy Spirit - (15; 3:1-3; 1 Co. 2:10; 3:5-10; 4:15; 9:1, 2)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

Paul Will Not Exceed His Authority – 12-18




2 Corinthians 10:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But “*he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.*” ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

- Paul had reminded the Corinthians of this in an earlier letter (1 Cor. 1:31) quoting from Jeremiah 9:24, as he does here.
- Paul knew he would answer one day to the Lord for his labor - it is only the Lord's approval that REALLY matters! - (13:7. Ac. 2:22. Ro. 14:18; 16:10. 1 Co. 11:19. 2 Ti. 2:15)

WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT WE ARE
APPROVED BY THE LORD!



2 Corinthians 10:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But “*he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.*” ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

- The majority may not approve or like how we worship -
- The majority may not approve or like the doctrine we preach -
- The majority may not like the stances we take on moral issues -
- What REALLY MATTERS?

(2 Corinthians 10:7-18)

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¹⁷ But “he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

(2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Whom The Lord Commends Is What Matters

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NUMBERS 16:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.

NUMBERS 16:1-5 (NKJV)

³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “*You take* too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the Lord *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?” ⁴ So when Moses heard *it*, he fell on his face;

NUMBERS 16:1-5 (NKJV)

⁵ and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who *is* His and *who is* holy, and will cause *him* to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.