

(2 Corinthians 11:1-15)

# CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

*“Why False Teachers  
Are So Dangerous”*

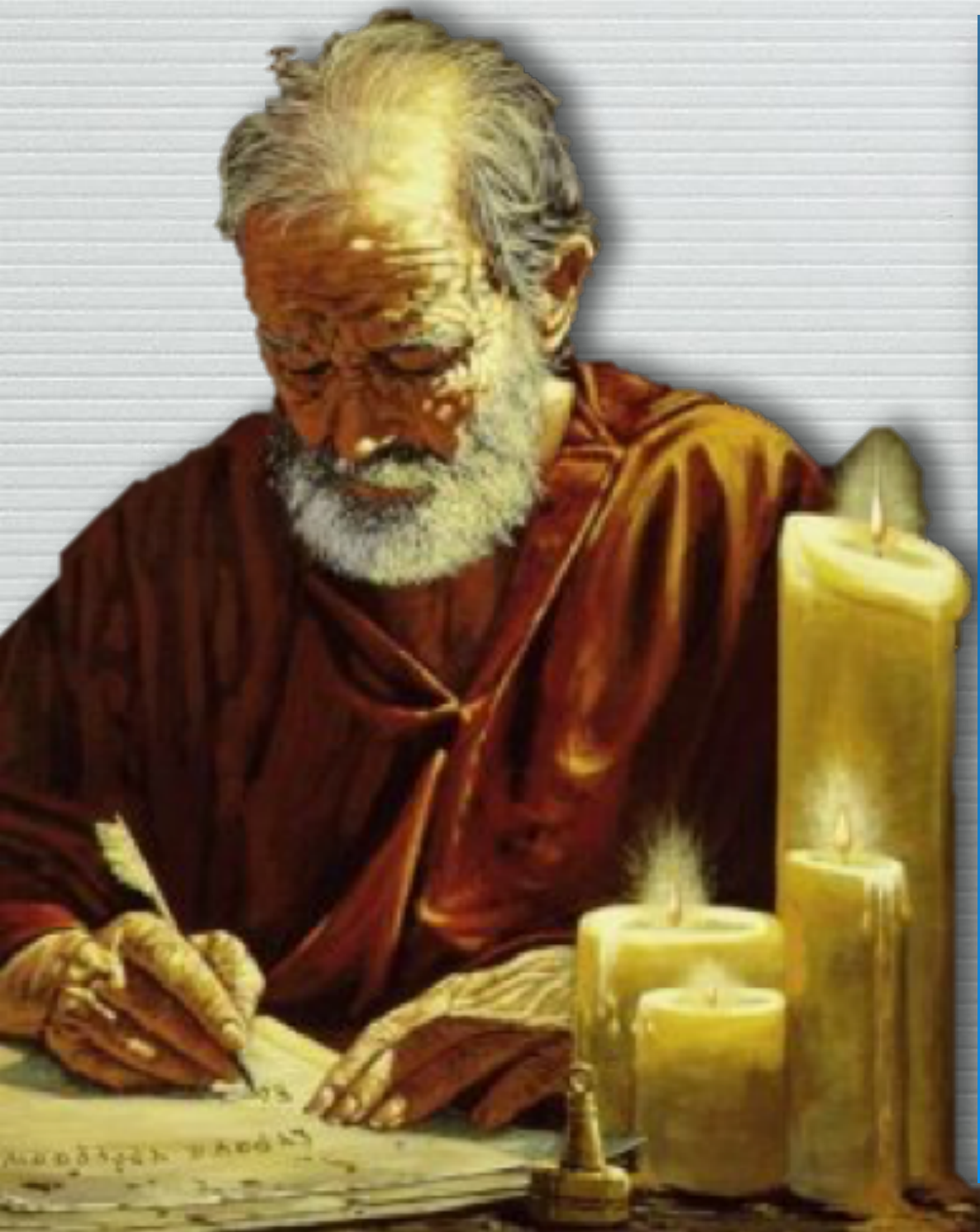
2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.



# *The Danger of False Teachers*

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- Paul defends his apostolic authority – 10:1-13:10
- Paul's concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4
- Paul's apostleship equal to the others – 11:5,6
- Paul's free gift to them – 11:7-11
- Paul warns of false teachers – 11:12-15



## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! <sup>5</sup> For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. <sup>6</sup> Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you. <sup>9</sup> And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. <sup>11</sup> Why? Because I do not love you? God knows! <sup>12</sup> But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.



# *The Danger of False Teachers*

## Paul's concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4

● *“bear with me in a little folly” - 1*

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<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. <sup>2</sup>

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin* to Christ.

- Paul is about to answer his critics by appealing to his suffering, (*something his critics may think of as boasting*) - 16-33
- Paul had confidence in the brethren there in general that they would listen to him, (as expressed in 2 Cor 7:4,14,16; 8:24; 9:2), but as long as the false teachers remained, they would be in danger.



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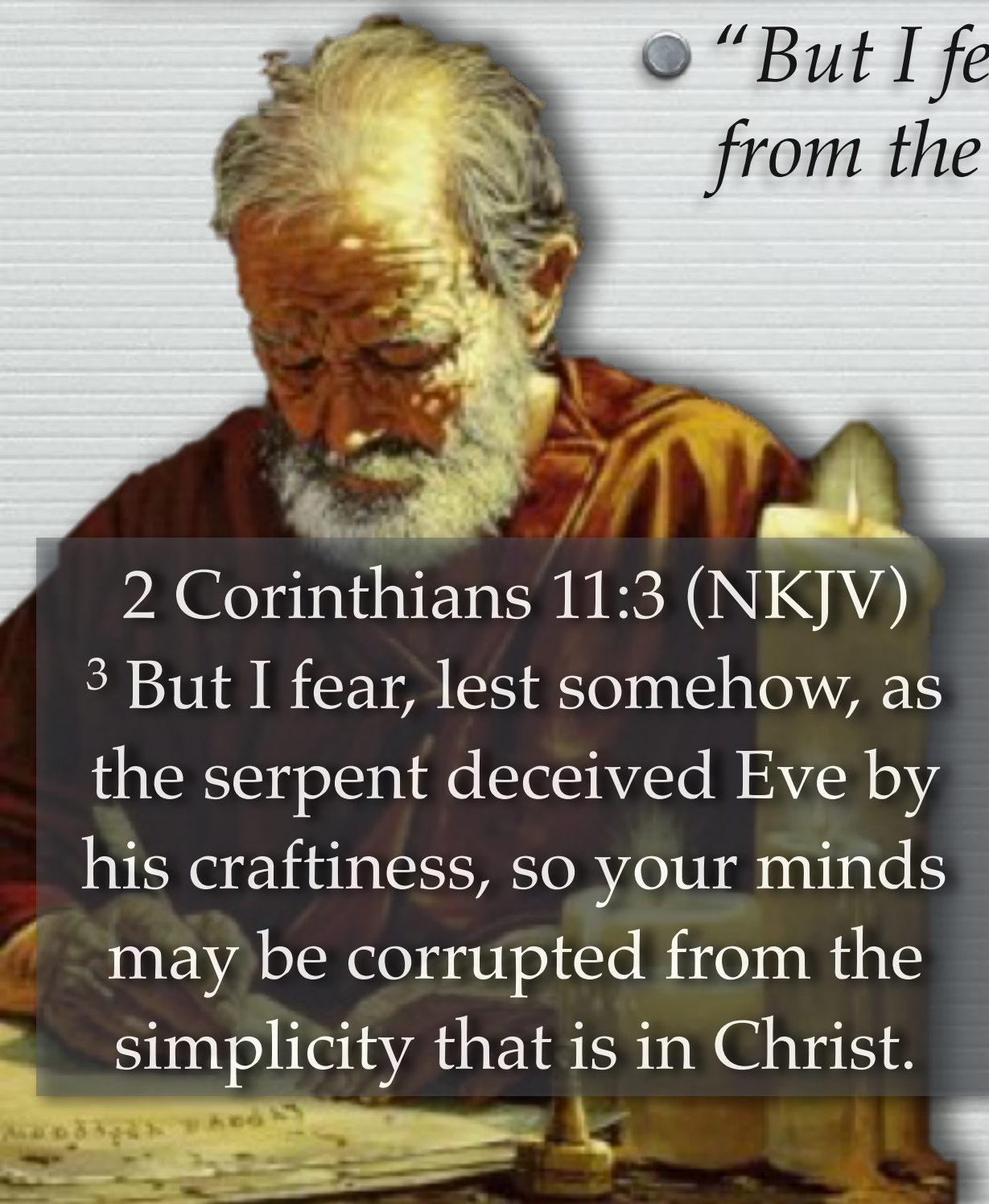
For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin* to Christ.

- Paul's rebutting his opponents and reviewing his own labor was not for his own benefit. He subjected himself to this “folly” because he loved them and they needed it — (2 Cor. 12:11).
- Paul lead them to Christ, his opponents were courting them for their own selfish and proud purposes — (Gal 4:17; Hos. 2:19; Eph. 5:22-32)



# *The Danger of False Teachers*

## Paul's concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4



- *“But I fear ... your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” - 3*


2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)  
<sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- They were in grave danger, (*the example of Eve*) — 3; Ge. 3:4, 13; Jno. 8:44; 1 Ti. 2:14)
- Satan enticed her through trickery, deceit, just as the false teachers there were turning some away from the truth — (cf. 4:2; 11:13-15; Gal 1:7,8)



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### ● **A different Jesus —**


2 Corinthians 11:4 (NKJV)  
4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- The Historical Jesus Without The Divine Jesus — Jn 1:1; John 8:24; Acts 4:12
- The Baby Jesus Without The Lord Jesus — Lk 6:46; Act 2:36
- The Loving, Compassionate Jesus Without The Sin Hating & Uncompromising Jesus — Mat 7:21-23; Jn 2:13-17



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### ● **A different Spirit —**


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- A spirit received through a different gospel — not of faith — Gal 3:2; Eph. 1:13,14; 1 Co. 12:4-11; Ep. 4:4, 5
- Behind every lie there is a lying spirit as the source of the lie — 1 Jn 2:18-23; 4:1-6; 2 Chro 18:18-22



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## **Paul's concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4**

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- *“But I fear ... your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” - 3*

### ● **A different Gospel —**

Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.


2 Corinthians 11:4 (NKJV)

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<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

**2 Corinthians 11:4 (NKJV)**  
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- Salvation by faith only - James 2:14-24
- Baptism is NOT essential - Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- One church is as good as another? - Mat. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Ep. 4:4; 5:23,24
- Once saved always saved - Heb. 3:12-4:11; Gal 5:1-4; 2 Pet 2:20-22



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## **Paul's apostleship equal to the others – 11:5,6**



2 Corinthians 11:5–6 (NKJV)  
<sup>5</sup> For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. <sup>6</sup> Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

- Paul claims association with the other apostles – 12:11, 12; 1 Co. 15:10; Ga. 2:6–9.
- Further support will be added later – 11:22–12:10
- Not a rhetorician - (cf. 10:10; 1 Cor. 2:1–5).
- They could not deny the content of his message and its transforming consequences (cf. 1 Cor. 4:15; 9:1–2).



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## **Paul's free gift to them – 11:7-11**



2 Corinthians 11:7–8 (NKJV)

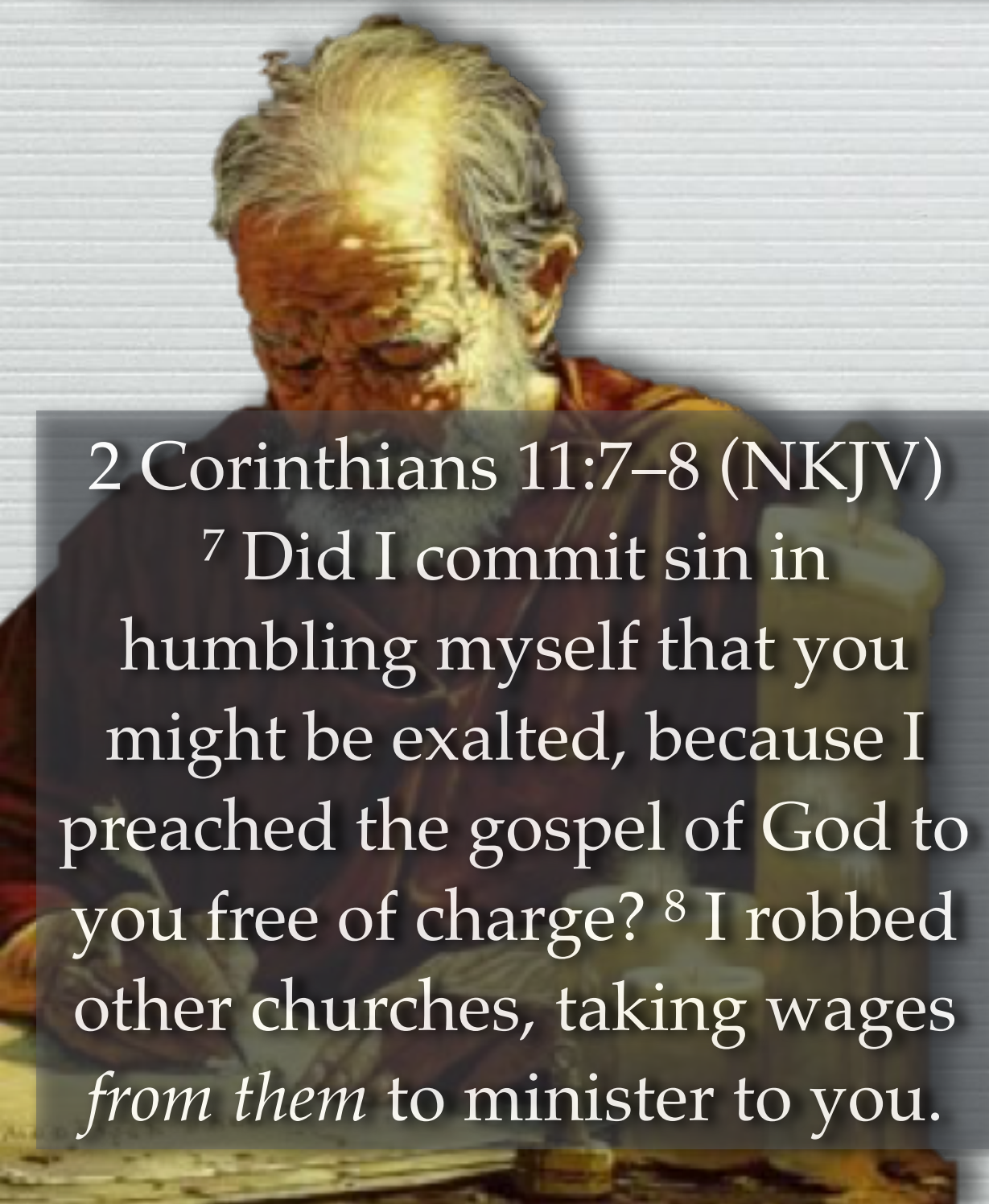
<sup>7</sup> Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you.

- **Paul did not want to be a burden to them – 12:13.**
- Paul had a right to ask for their support, but chose not to that he may be able to be a greater influence on them – (1 Cor 9:4-6; cf. 1 Cor. 4:12; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:8-10)
- Paul received his support from other churches – (Phi. 4:14-16).



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2 Corinthians 11:9–11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. <sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. <sup>11</sup> Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!



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angel of light.

- **Not A New Problem!**
- Jeremiah 23:13-32; 27:9-10;  
29:8-9; Ezekiel 13:1-23; 22:28;  
Micah 3:11; Zephaniah 3:4
- Jesus warns us — Mat  
24:5,11,24
- Peter also warns us — 2 Peter  
2:1-3
- Paul warned elders in  
Ephesus — Acts 20:28-31; 1  
Timothy 4:1-2



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- The danger lies in their skillful deceit.
- Cloaked in an appearance of piety - 2 Tim 3:5
- Pose as disciples, claim to be followers of God, Jesus & the Bible.
- The ignorant and unwary are easy targets for these slick operators,



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- The danger lies in their skillful deceit.
- “Worldly-wise” & “Charming” – Col 2:8 ; Rom 16:17-18
- “Tell people what they want to hear” – Isa. 30:10; 2 Tim 4:3,4
- Promises “*liberty*” - 2 Pt 2:18,19
- Appeals to “lust of the flesh” - 2 Pet 2:3,18; 1 Cor. 6:9,10
- Promises “peace” when there is no peace - Jer 6:14; 8:11; 14:13; 23:17; 2 Pet 2:4-9



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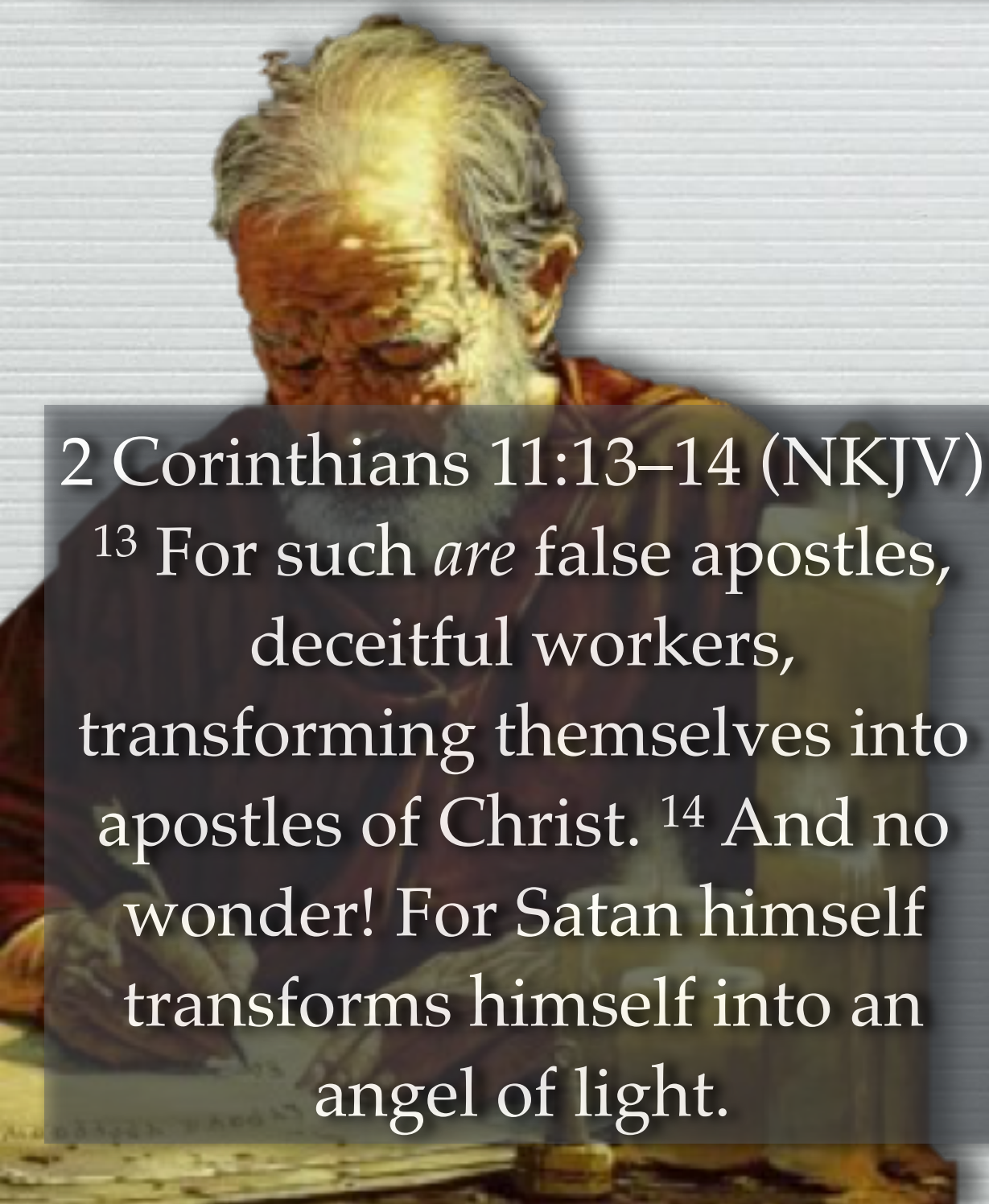
<sup>13</sup> For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

- “Religiously attractive” - 2 Cor. 11:13-15
- “13 . . . deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.”
- “14 Satan . . . transforms himself into an angel of light.”
- “15 . . . his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness”



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**They are just the sort of people who would move observers to ask - how these good, earnest and knowledgeable teachers could be wrong?**



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2 Corinthians 11:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- Teachers must first be tested at the level of their teaching. - (Acts 17:11; 1 John 1:1-3; 2:18-24; 4:1-5; Gal 1:6-8)
- If they fail the Bible test, they **MUST** be rejected as false teachers - (2 John 9-10)



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**Acts 17:11 (KJV)**

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.



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## **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



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**2 Peter 3:17 (KJV)**

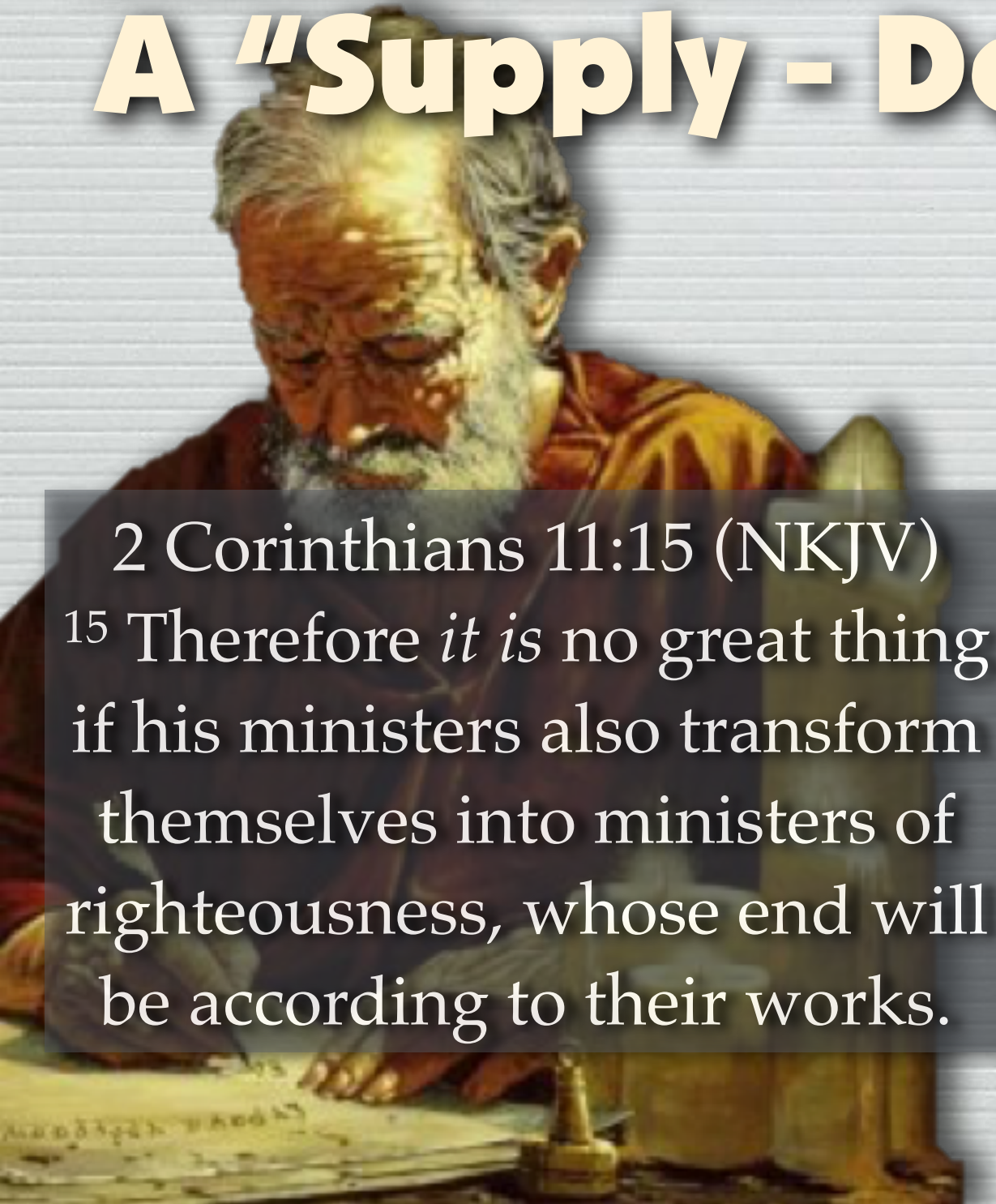
Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.



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**A “Supply - Demand” Problem!**



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**Jeremiah 5:31**  
The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?



# MATTHEW 7:15-23 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.



# MATTHEW 7:15-23 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them. <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.



# MATTHEW 7:15-23 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day,  
‘Lord, Lord, have we not  
prophesied in Your name, cast out  
demons in Your name, and done  
many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And  
then I will declare to them, ‘I never  
knew you; depart from Me, you  
who practice lawlessness!’







(2 Corinthians 11:1-15)

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THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

*“Why False Teachers  
Are So Dangerous”*

**Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared & preached January 8, 2017;

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 /

501-568-1062 / Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

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