

(2 Corinthians 11:16-33)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

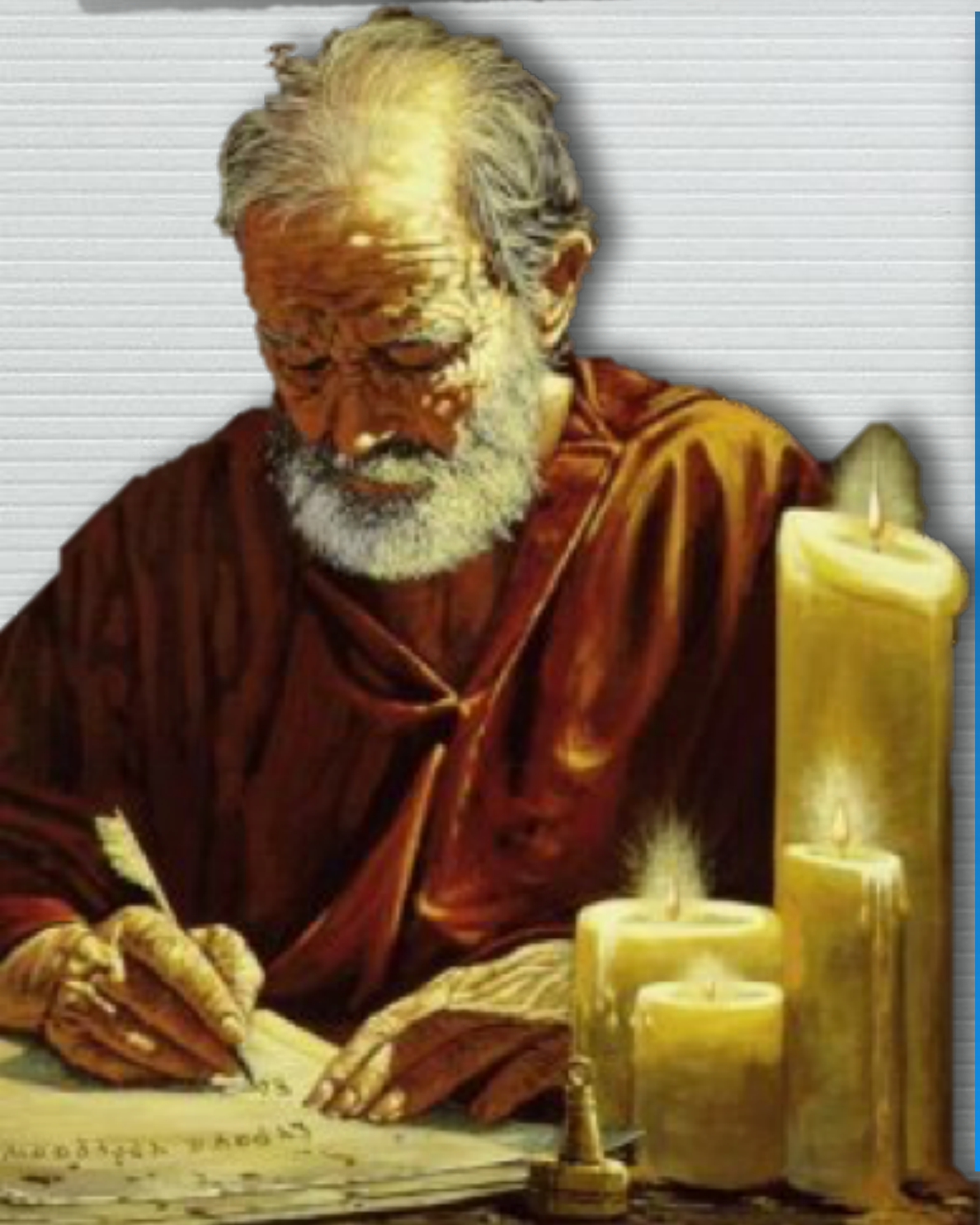
Paul's Reluctant Boasting Suffering For Christ

2 Corinthians 11:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. ³¹
The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever,
knows that I am not lying.

Paul's Reluctant Boasting / His Suffering For Christ

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- Defense of Paul's apostolic authority – 10:1-13:10
- Concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4
- Equal to the others – 11:5,6
- Paul's free gift to them – 11:7-11
- Warns of false teachers – 11:12-15
- Reluctant boasting in his sufferings – 11:16-31

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. ¹⁸ Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast. ¹⁹ For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise!

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33 (NKJV)

²⁰ For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face. ²¹ To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33 (NKJV)

²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33 (NKJV)

²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33 (NKJV)

²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.

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Paul's Reluctant Boasting / His Suffering For Christ

A Plea For Equal Consideration - 11:16-21



- “... at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little”

2 Corinthians 11:16–17 (NKJV)

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- The False apostles emphasized *apparent* external qualifications and self-aggrandizement. (12, 3:1; 10:10-12; 1 Cor 4:10)
- Paul's purpose is to demonstrate a sharp contrast between the false apostles and himself — using their own boastings against them.

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A Plea For Equal Consideration - 11:16-21

● *“... at least receive me as a fool,
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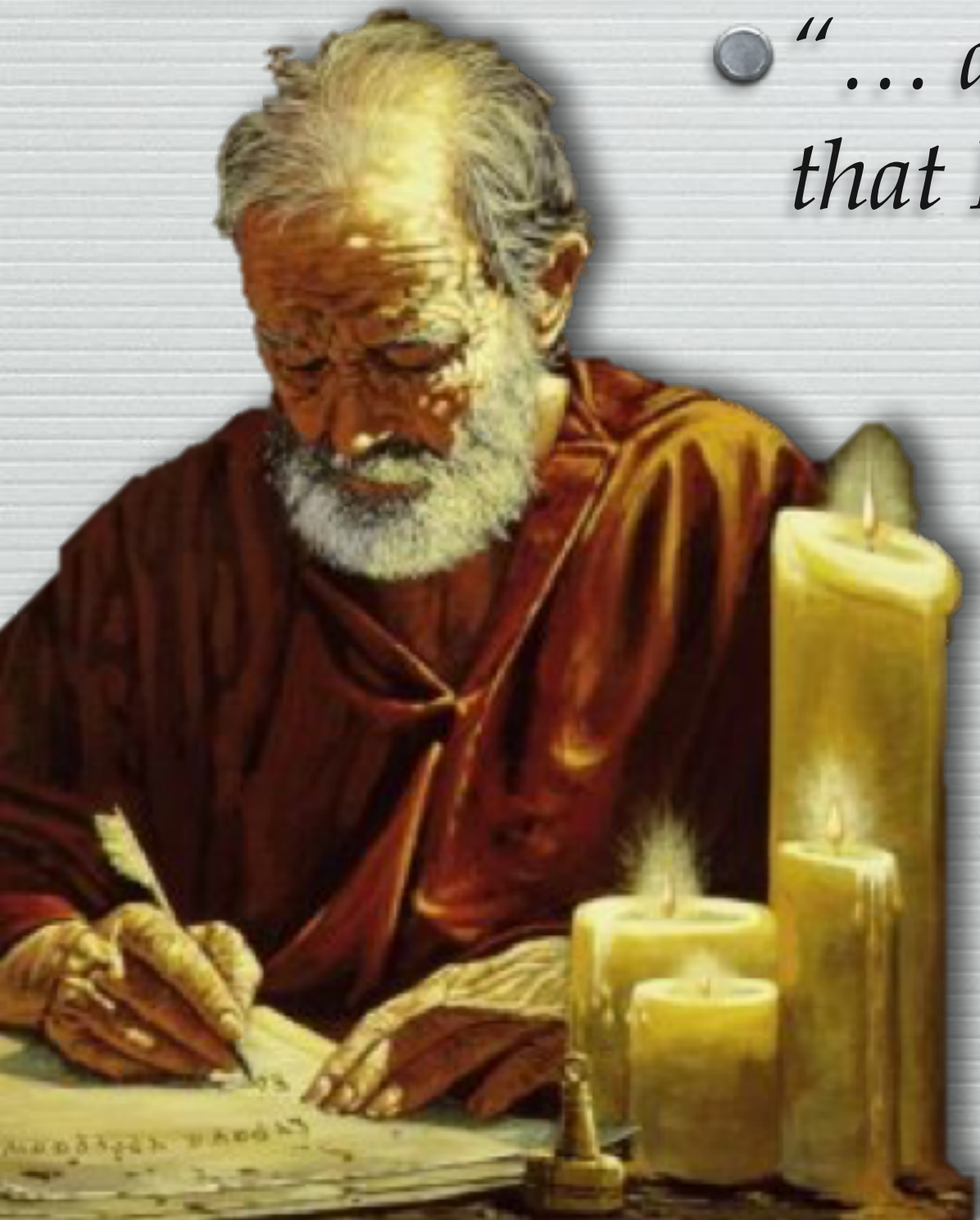
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- Paul repeatedly emphasizes, that if one boast, let him boast in the Lord — 1 Cor. 1:31; 2 Cor 10:17; cf. Jer 9:34
- Paul does not, (but could), boast in his cultural & religious background, (21,22; cf. Gal 1:13,14; Phili 3:4-7); his accomplishments, (23-33); his knowledge, (12:1-10) & his powerful miracles, (12:11-13)
- Glory is given to the Lord for ALL—

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A Plea For Equal Consideration - I I:16-21



- *“... at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little”*
 - Paul is answering a fool according to his folly — 16,17; Prov 26:5
 - Paul is not comfortable with this line of argumentation, but it is necessary to persuade some — 18
 - Clearly Paul is using sarcasm — *The Corinthians, thought themselves wise ... put up with fools* — 19
 - *To his shame, Paul appeared weak but his opponents strong* — 20,21; 10:10

Paul's Reluctant Boasting / His Suffering For Christ

An Eye-Opening Comparison - 11:22-33

- *“If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity” – vs. 30*

2 Corinthians 11:22,23
(NKJV)

²² Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I.

²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool —*I am* more:

- Hebrews? so am I — (22; Phil 3:5)
- Israelites? so am I — (22; *of the tribe of Benjamin*, (Phil 3:5)
- Of the seed of Abraham? so am I — (22; (Phil. 3:5; cf. Gen. 17:9–14)
- But more importantly, Paul was Abraham's spiritual descendant, i.e., a child of God by faith — (Rom 4:16; Gal. 3:26-29)

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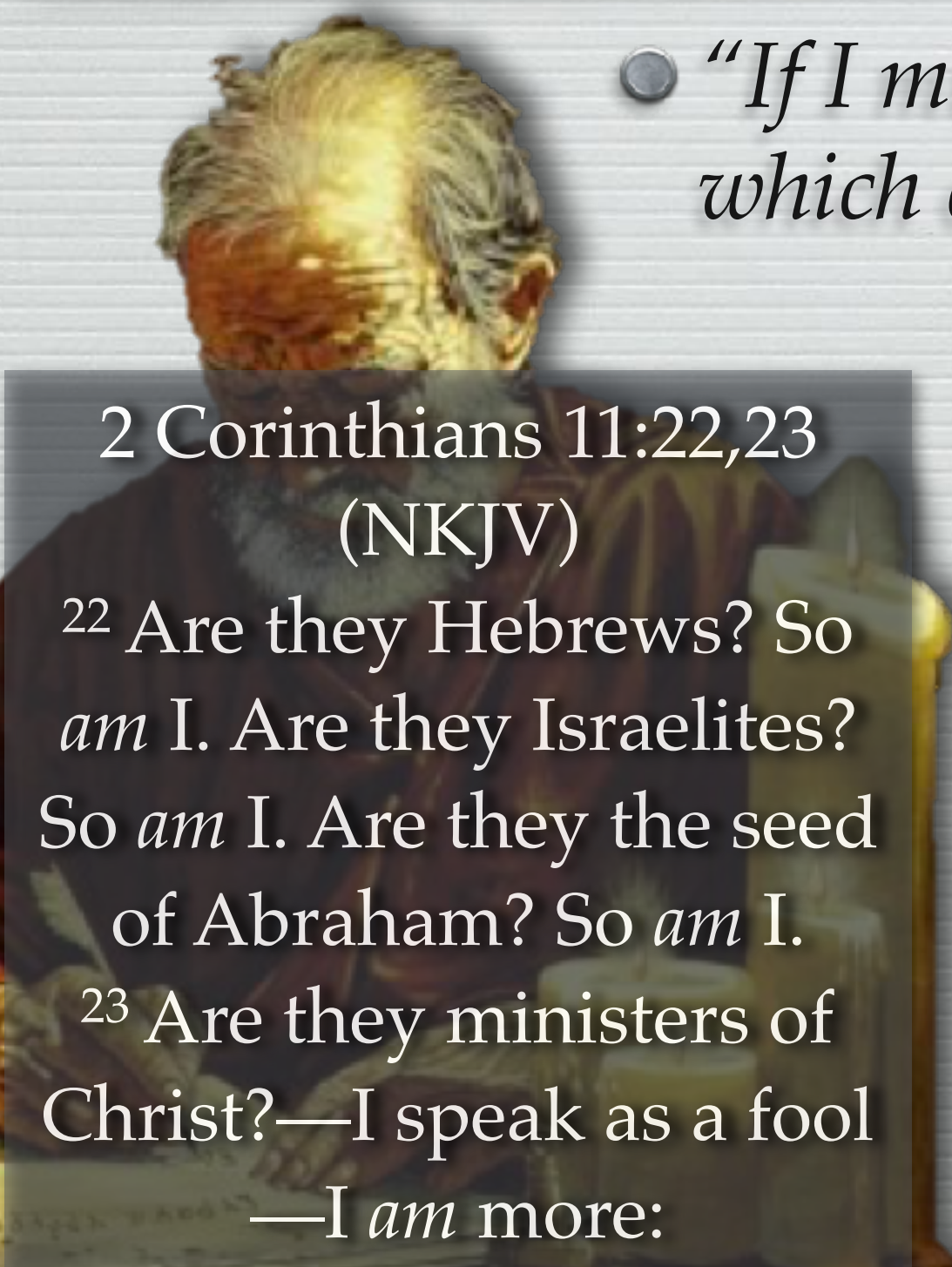
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- “Are they ministers of Christ? —I speak as a fool —*I am* more:” — (23)
- This question is different than the first three - Paul was willing to concede fleshly commonalities, but he is NOT willing to concede equality when it came to his service to Christ — (cf. Phil 1:15-18; 3:2-11; Gal 2:4,5; 5:11,12)

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- Paul now begins to list many hardships he has suffered for Christ — (*the fourth hardship list given to the Corinthians, 1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 4:8-14; 6:4-11; & now, 2 Cor 11:23b-29*)
- Paul had experienced all of these things prior to the writing of this epistle — all because he served Jesus Christ in accordance with his calling — Acts 9:16; 20:22,23

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²³ ... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.


- 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.
- 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;
- 26 in journeys often,

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- 26 ... in perils of
 - waters,
 - robbers,
 - my own countrymen,
 - the Gentiles,
 - in the city,
 - in the wilderness,
 - in the sea,
 - among false brethren;



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- 27 in weariness and toil,


- in sleeplessness often,

- in hunger and thirst,

- in fastings often,

- in cold and nakedness –

- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.



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- This verse is the climax of the catalog of his ministerial suffering. Concern for others, not for himself, weighed heavily on him. — (1 Cor 12:26; 8:9,12,13; 9:22; Rom 14:15)
- He burned with ANGER when the weak were made to stumble - (Jn 2:17; 1 Co. 5:1-5; 6:5-7, 15-18; 11:22; 15:12; Ga. 1:7-10; 2:4-6, 14; 3:1-3; 4:8-20; 5:2-4)



2 Corinthians 11:23-29
(NKJV)

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

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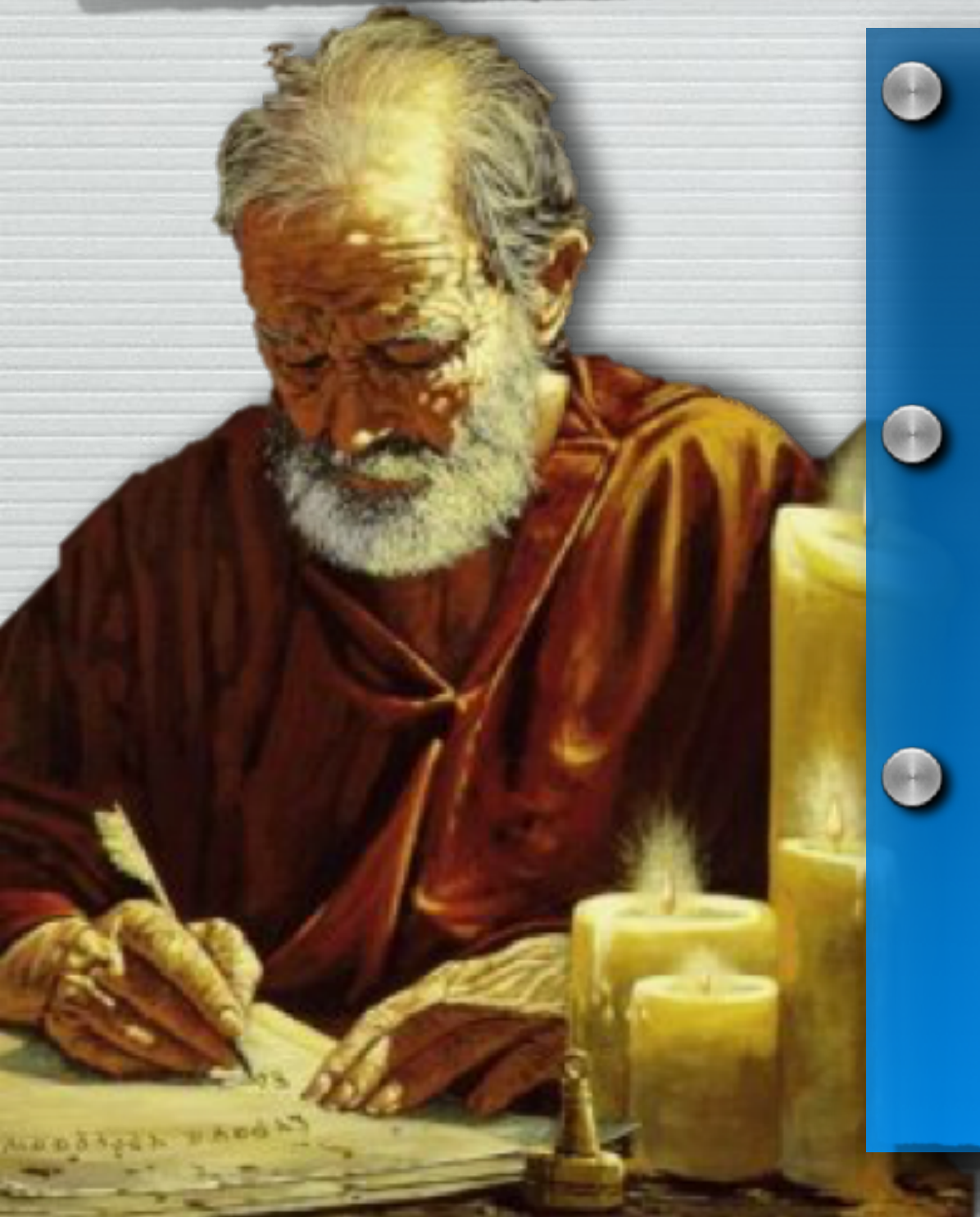
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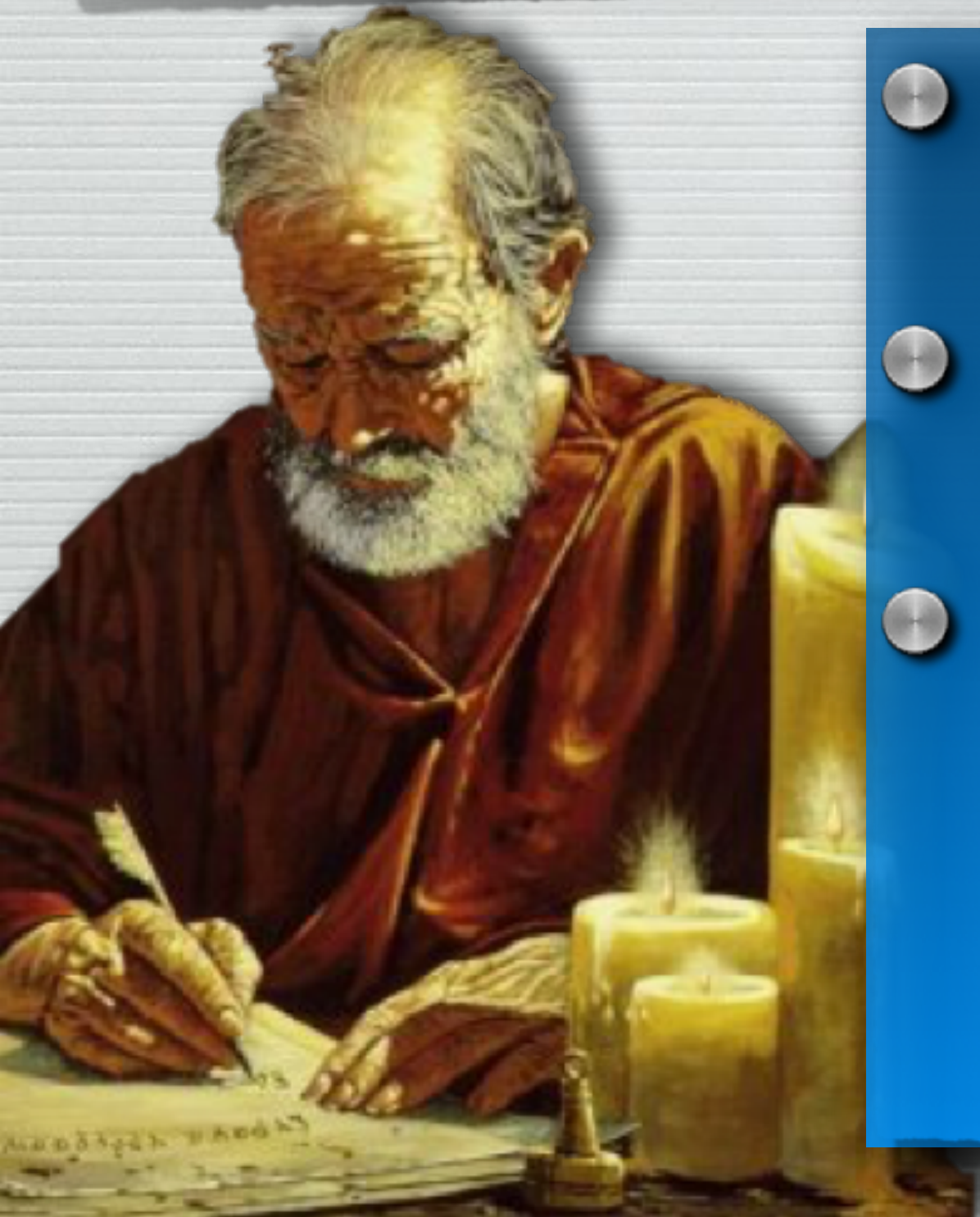
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- How did Paul's boasting compare to the boasting of his enemies?
- What would the sufferings of Paul demonstrate to his detractors in Corinth?
- Many perceived Paul as "WEAK" – likewise, many today perceive that which is strong as weak & visa versa. WHY?

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- What makes false teaching so attractive?
- What often makes truth unattractive?
- Let us have this confidence, that when truth & error are placed side by side - anyone who is HONEST can easily recognize the truth!

(2 Corinthians 11:16-33)

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ACTS 9:10-16 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

ACTS 9:10-16 (NKJV)

¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.” ¹³ Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

ACTS 9:10-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”