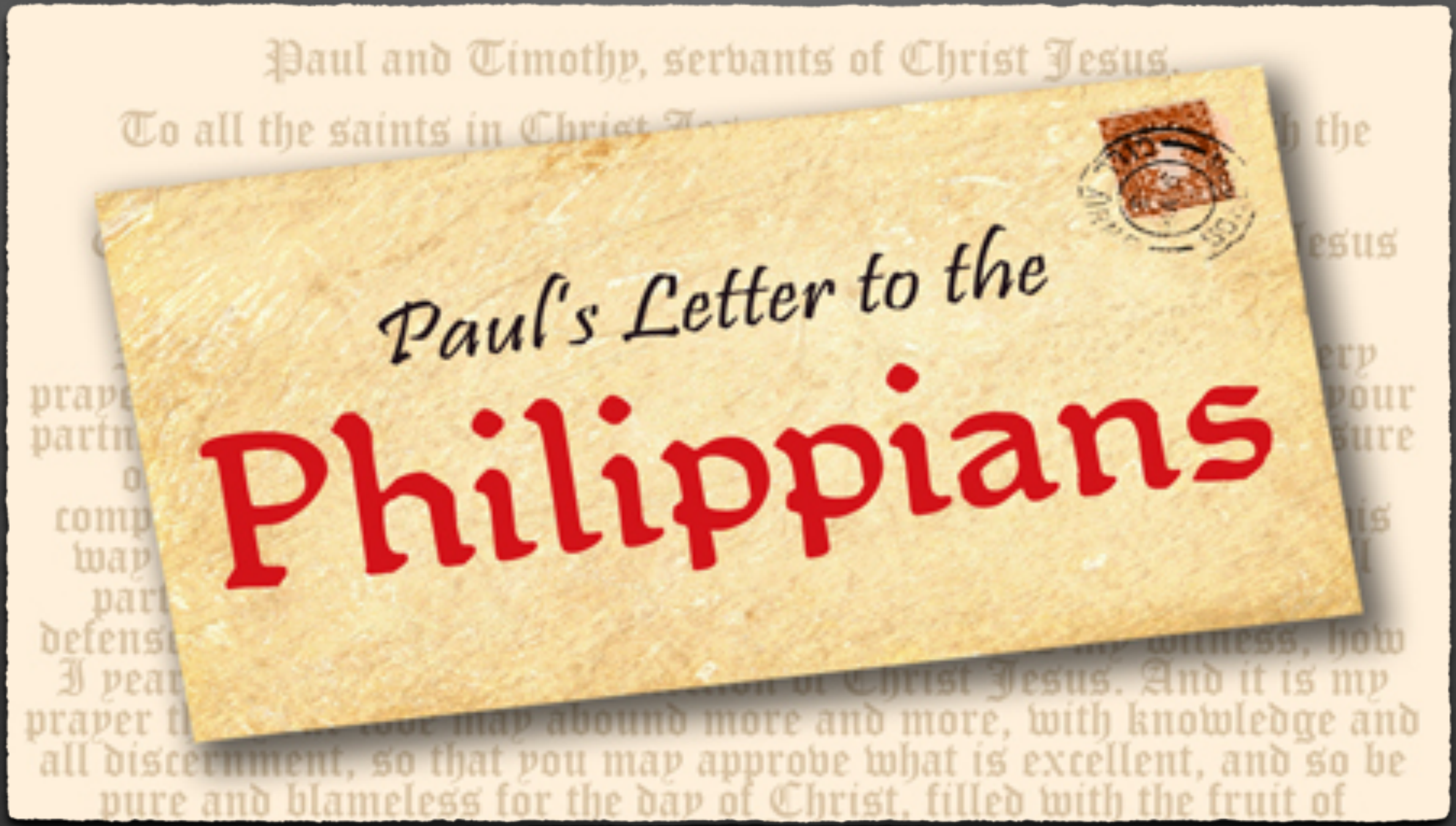
Lesson 13



"Behold I Thought" — (Philippians 4:4-9)

The Importance of Our THOUGHTS Being BASED UPON The Things of GOD

"Behold I Thought"
(Philippians 4:4-9)

PHILIPPIANS — *Joy No Matter What*

ALL *those* IN CHRIST *can Have* TRUE JOY & PEACE:

- **Regardless** of our past - (our sins or what others have done to us)
- **Regardless** of our circumstances - (Our physical or material condition or how others are mistreating us)

Philippians 4:4–9 (NKJV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will
say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known
to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. 6 Be
anxious for nothing, but in everything by
prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God; 7
and the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and
minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4–9 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true,
whatever things *are* noble, whatever things
are just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever
things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good
report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is*
anything praiseworthy—meditate on these
things. 9 The things which you learned and
received and heard and saw in me, these do,
and the God of peace will be with you.

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

Two WAYS of Thinking With Two Different Destinies!

- **Follow the approved pattern 3:17**
- **Reject the false teachers - Refuse to follow their destructive ways 3:18,19**
- **Are we living for HEAVEN? - Eagerly waiting for our Lord's return? 3:20,21**

(Philippians 3:17-4:1)

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

We Are What We Think …

- "For as he **thinks** in his **heart**, so *is* he. … — **Proverbs 23:7** (NKJV)
- "**Keep your heart** with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." — **Proverbs 4:23** (NKJV)

(Philippians 4:4-9)

“**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right”

We Are What We Think …

- “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** 35 A good man **out of the good treasure of his heart** brings forth good things, and an evil man **out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.** — **Matthew 12:34–35 (NKJV)**

(Philippians 4:4-9)

“**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right”

We Are What We Think …

21 “For from within, **out of the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things **come from within** and defile a man.”
— **Mark 7:21–23 (NKJV)**

(Philippians 4:4-9)

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

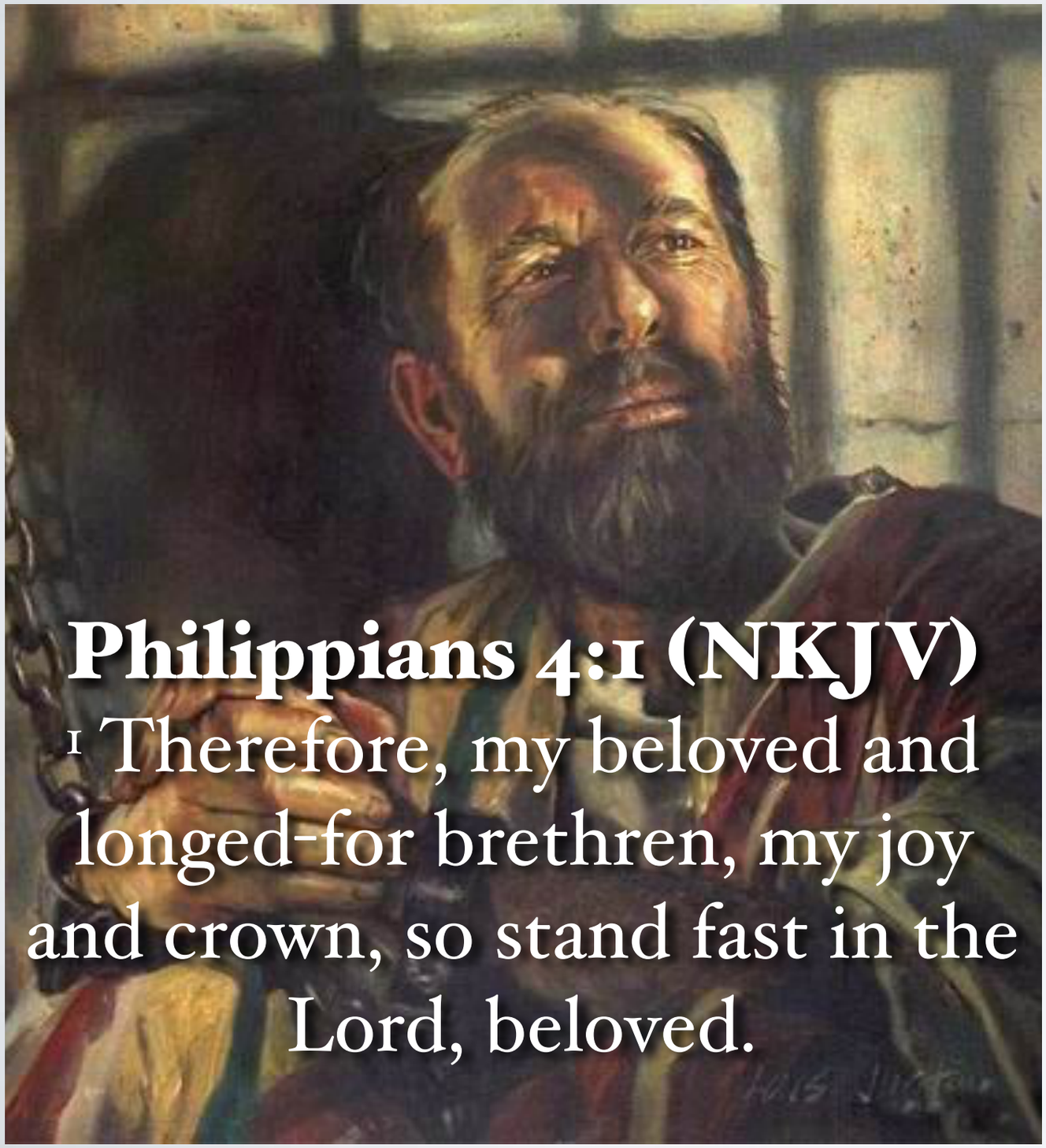
How would you describe Paul's frame of mind?

- **Aware** of his current state & his need 12a
- **Determined** to faithfully serve Christ 12b
- **Focussed** on the task of progression 13
- **Diligent**, continuous effort to gain the prize 14
- **His plea** for them, (us) to be likeminded 15,16

(Philippians 3:12-16)

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

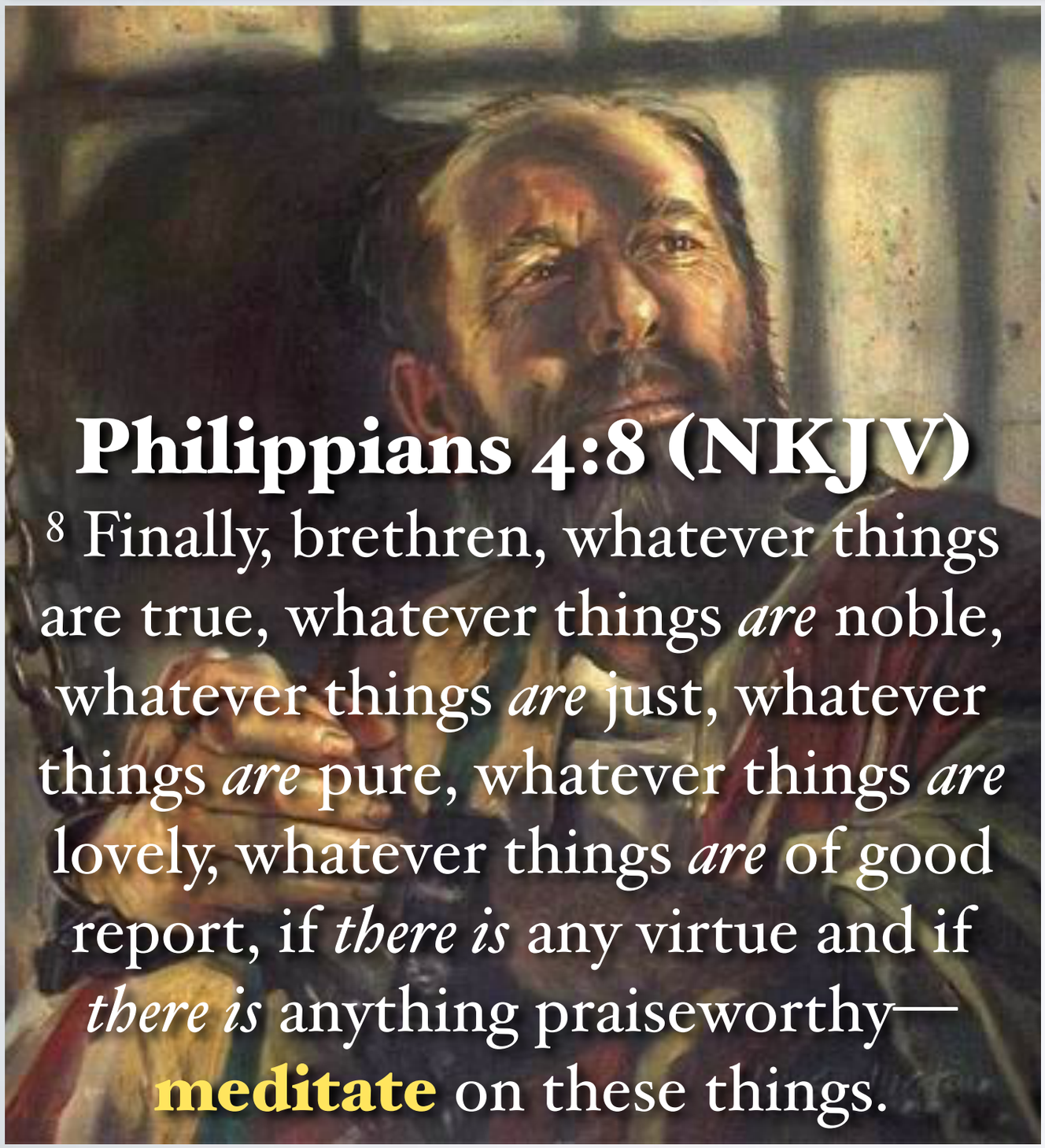
STAND FAST IN THE LORD BELOVED



- SEEK unity - 2,3
- Rejoice In The Lord Always - 4
- BE Patient With All - 5
- BE Anxious for nothing - 6
- The PEACE of God Will Guard US - 7

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS — 8



Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—
meditate on these things.

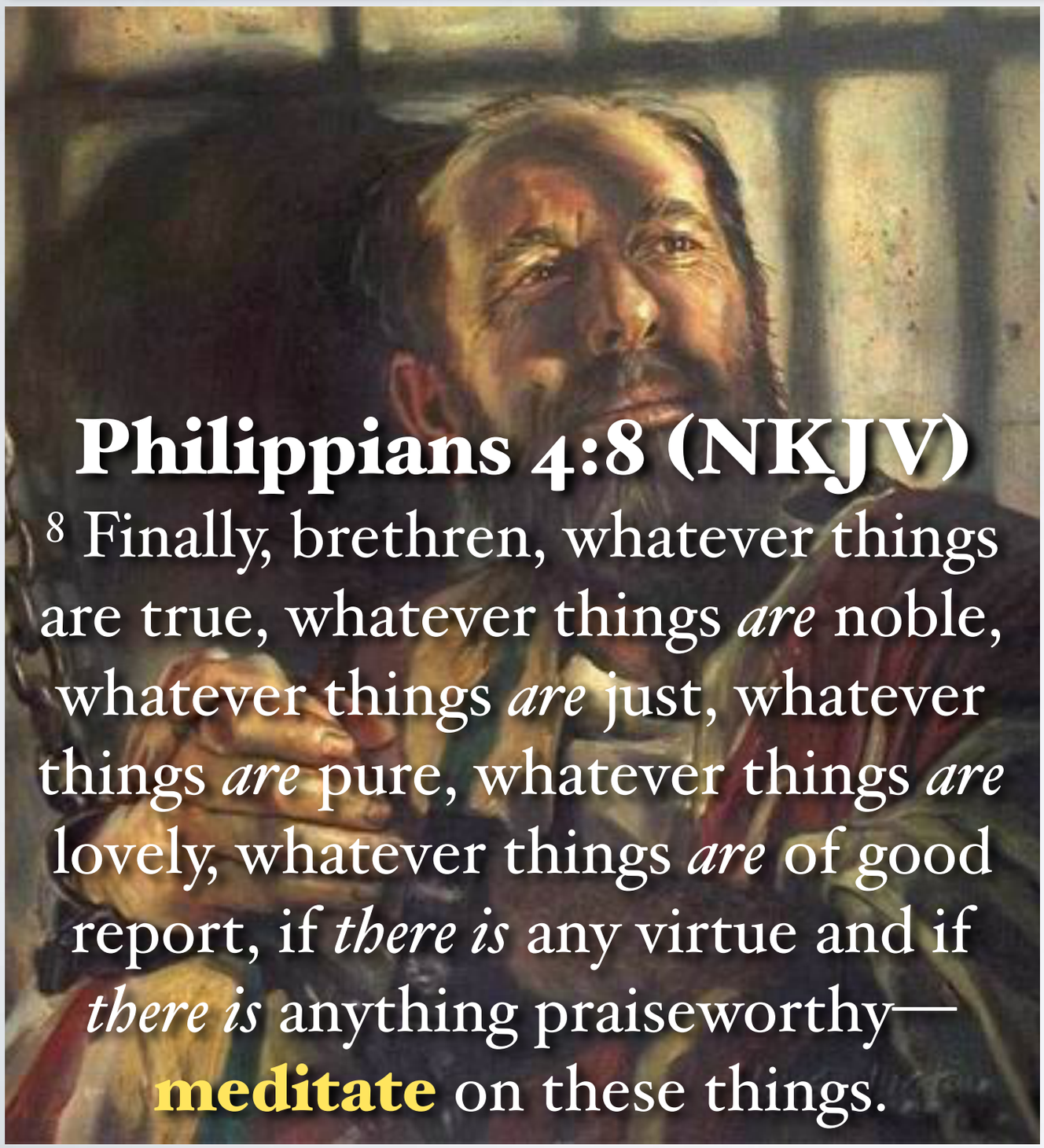
Think / Meditate — λογίζομαι (*logizomai*): vb.;

"to consider, take account, weigh, meditate on": Ï„Î[1], a thing, with a view to obtaining it, Philippians 4:8;"

Thayer Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS — 8



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meditate on these things.

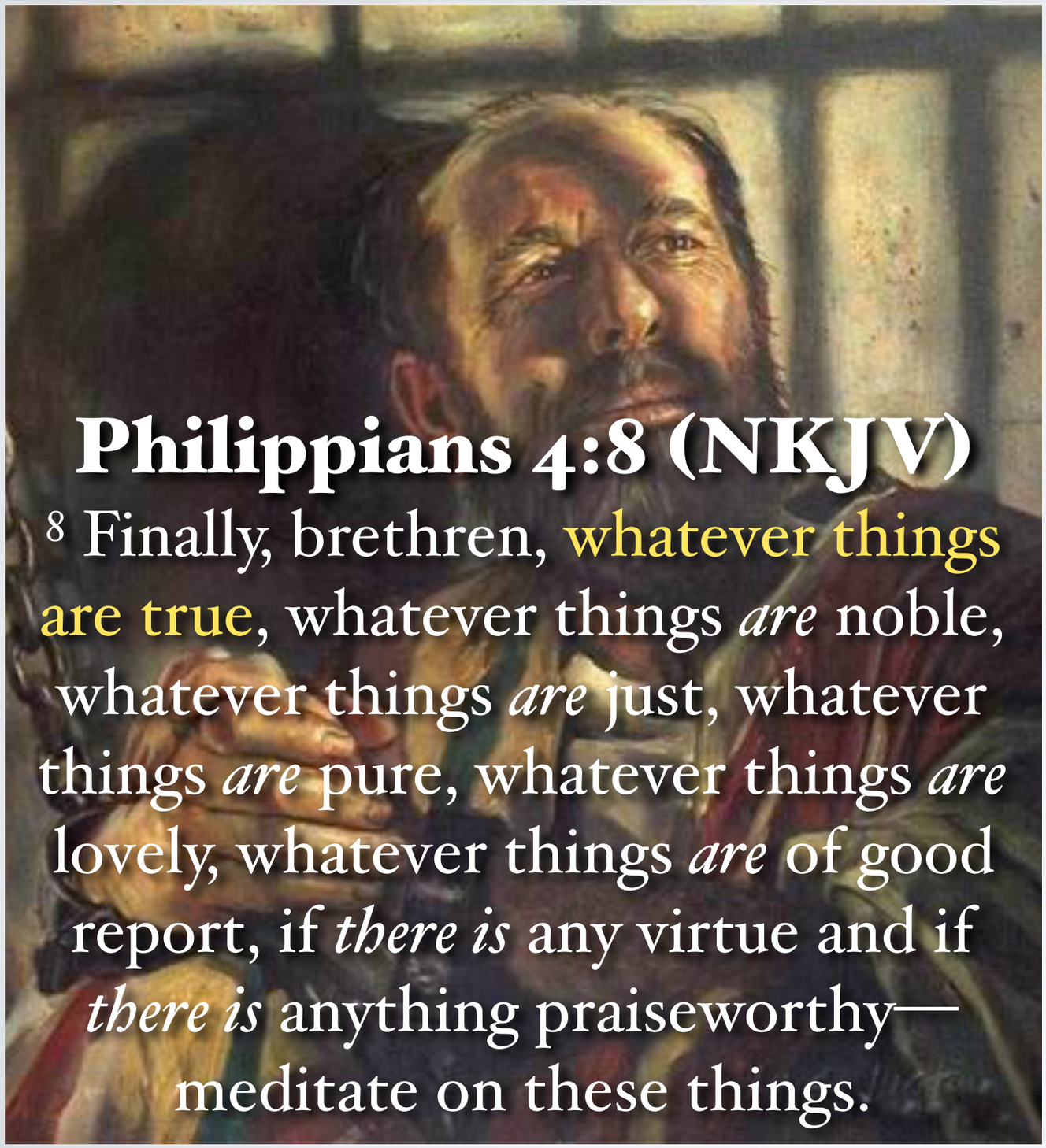
Think / Meditate — λογίζομαι (*logizomai*): vb.;

to give careful thought to a matter, think (about), consider, ponder, let one's mind dwell on something - Philippians 4:8

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. (BDAG)

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

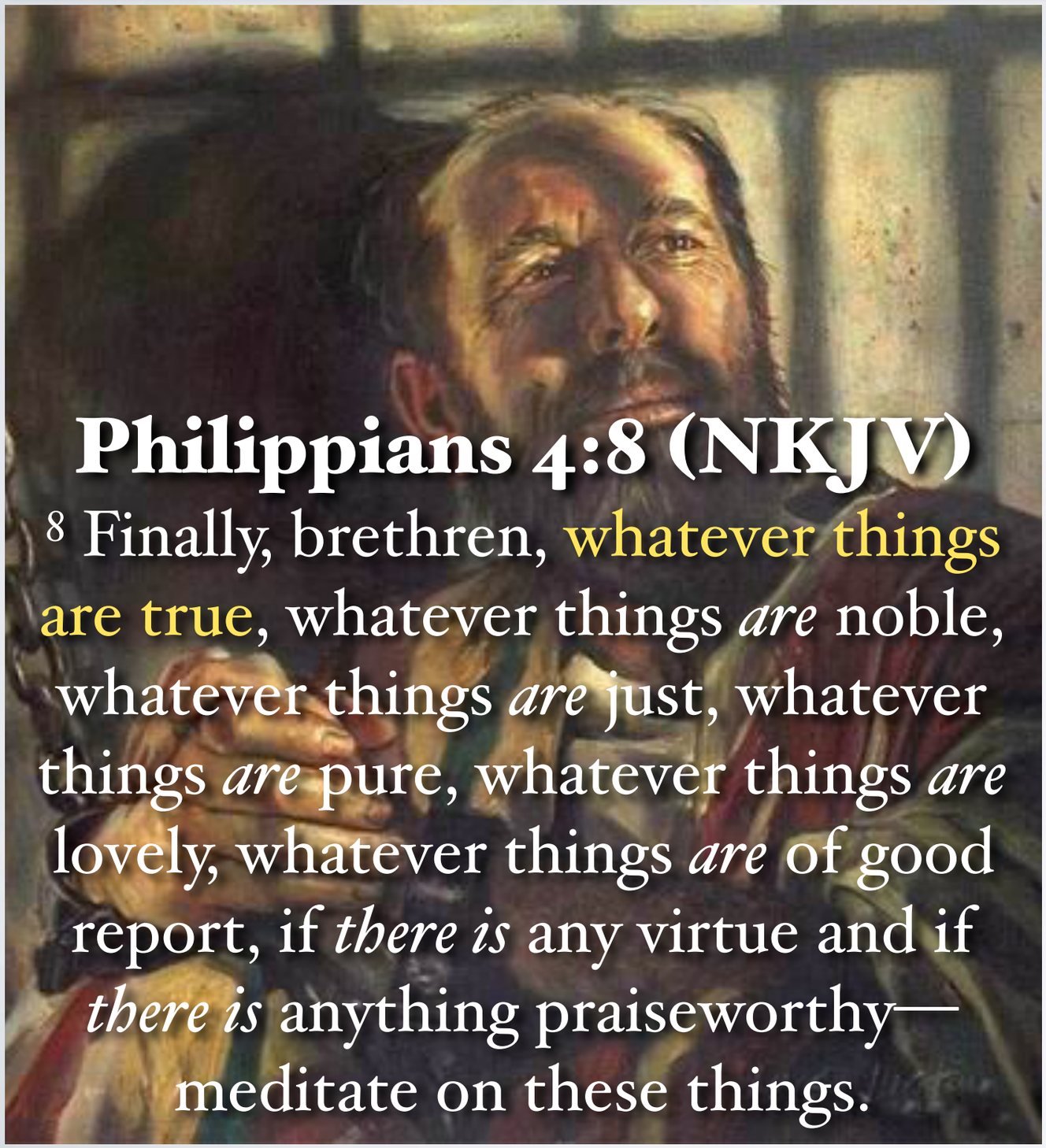
MEDITATE ON TRUE THINGS — 8



- **What Is TRUE?**
  - Importance of this being first — truth pertains to that which is REAL & ACTUAL — Rom 1:25
  - We know truth exist; truth can be known, & understood on an individual basis — John 8:32; 7:17,18; Eph 3:3-5

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

MEDITATE ON TRUE THINGS — 8



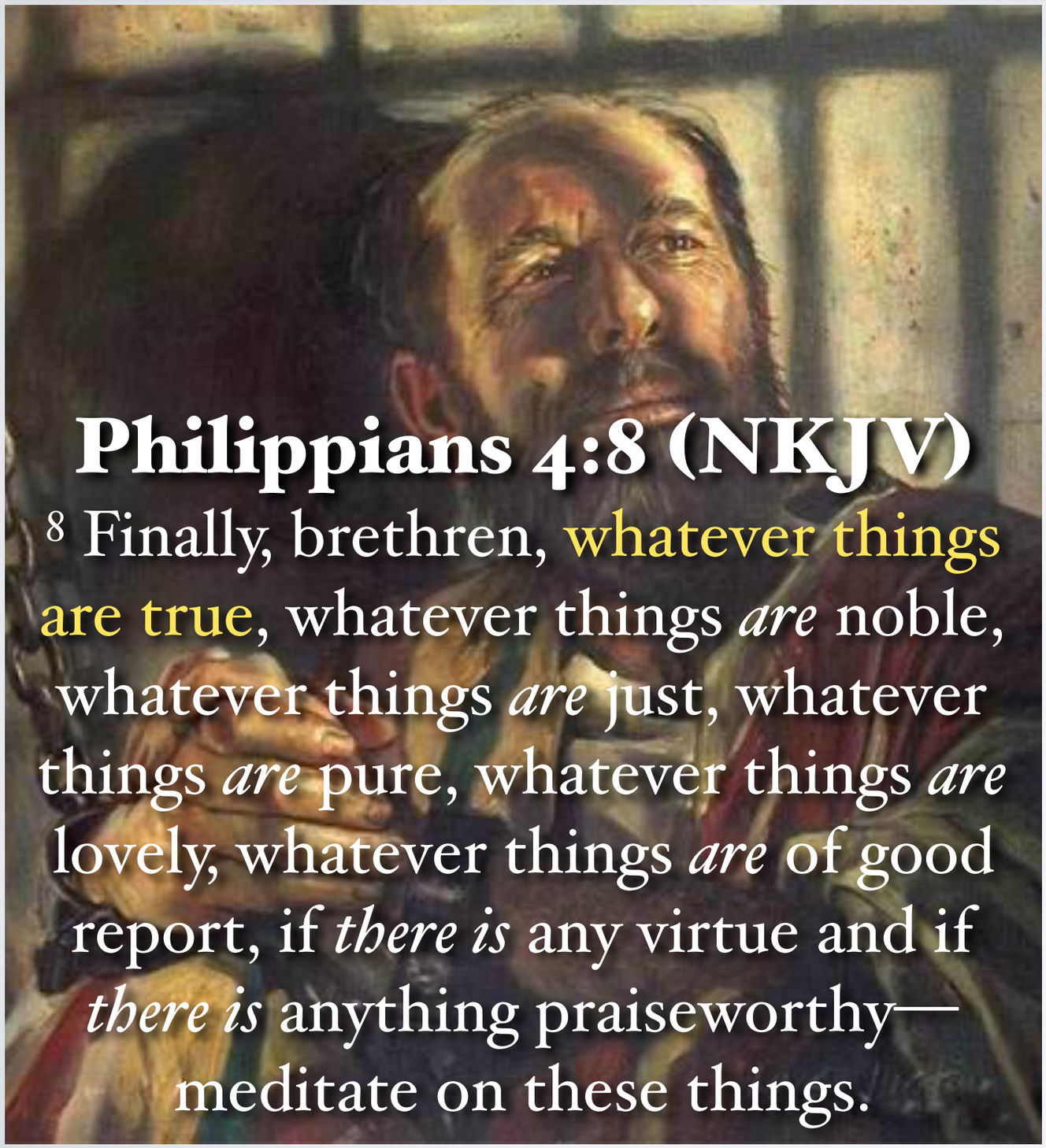
- **What Is TRUE?**
  - God is TRUE: Rom. 3:4
  - Jesus is TRUE: Jn 14:6
  - All of God's words are TRUE: Jn 17:17

Matthew 22:16 (NKJV)

16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

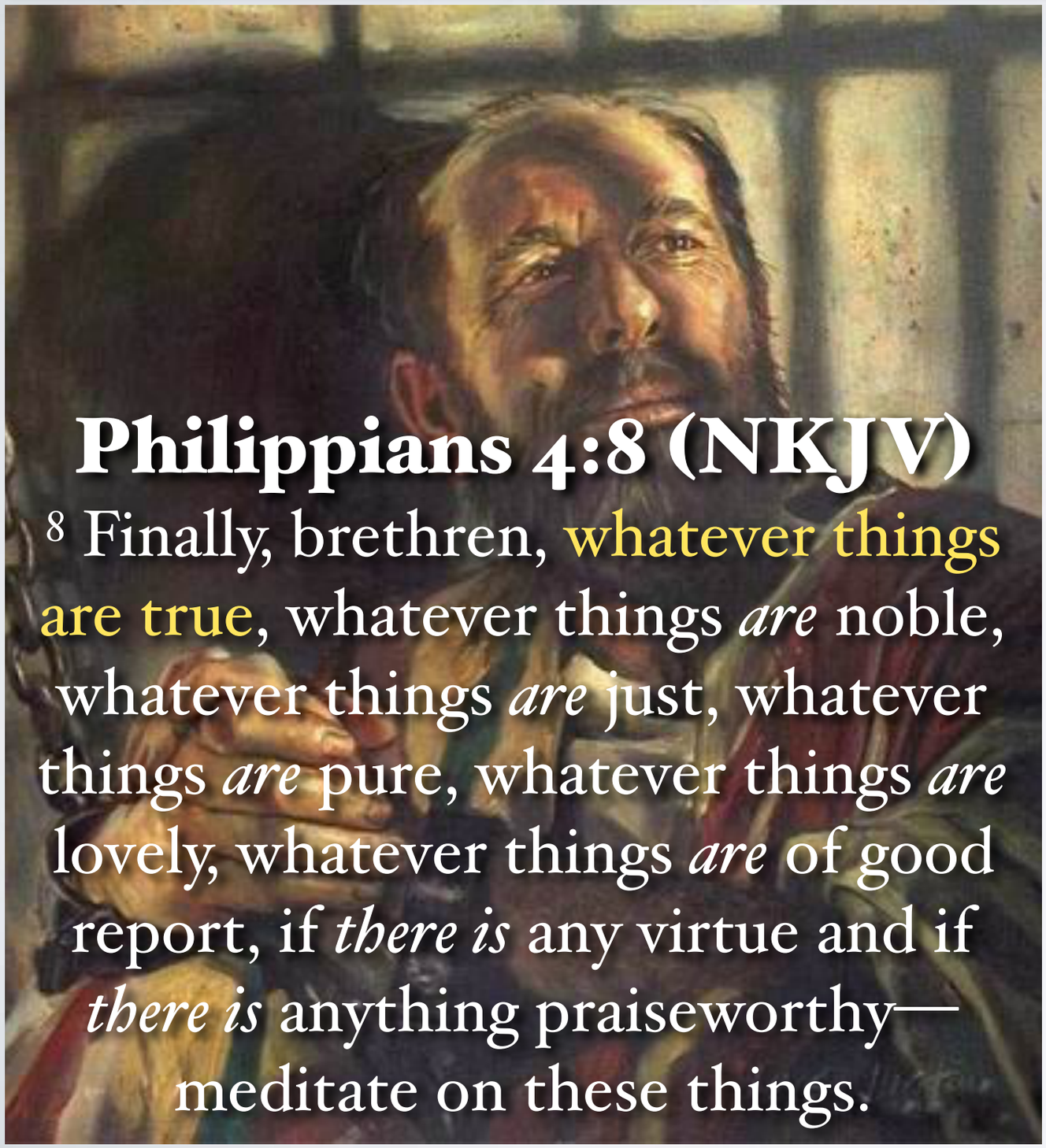
MEDITATE ON TRUE THINGS — 8



- **What Is TRUE?**
  - God is TRUE: Rom. 3:4
  - Jesus is TRUE: Jn 14:6
  - All of God's words are TRUE: Jn 17:17
- We MUST set our thoughts & affections upon the things of God - His revealed info / instructions / promises — Rom. 3:4; Heb. 6:13-20

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

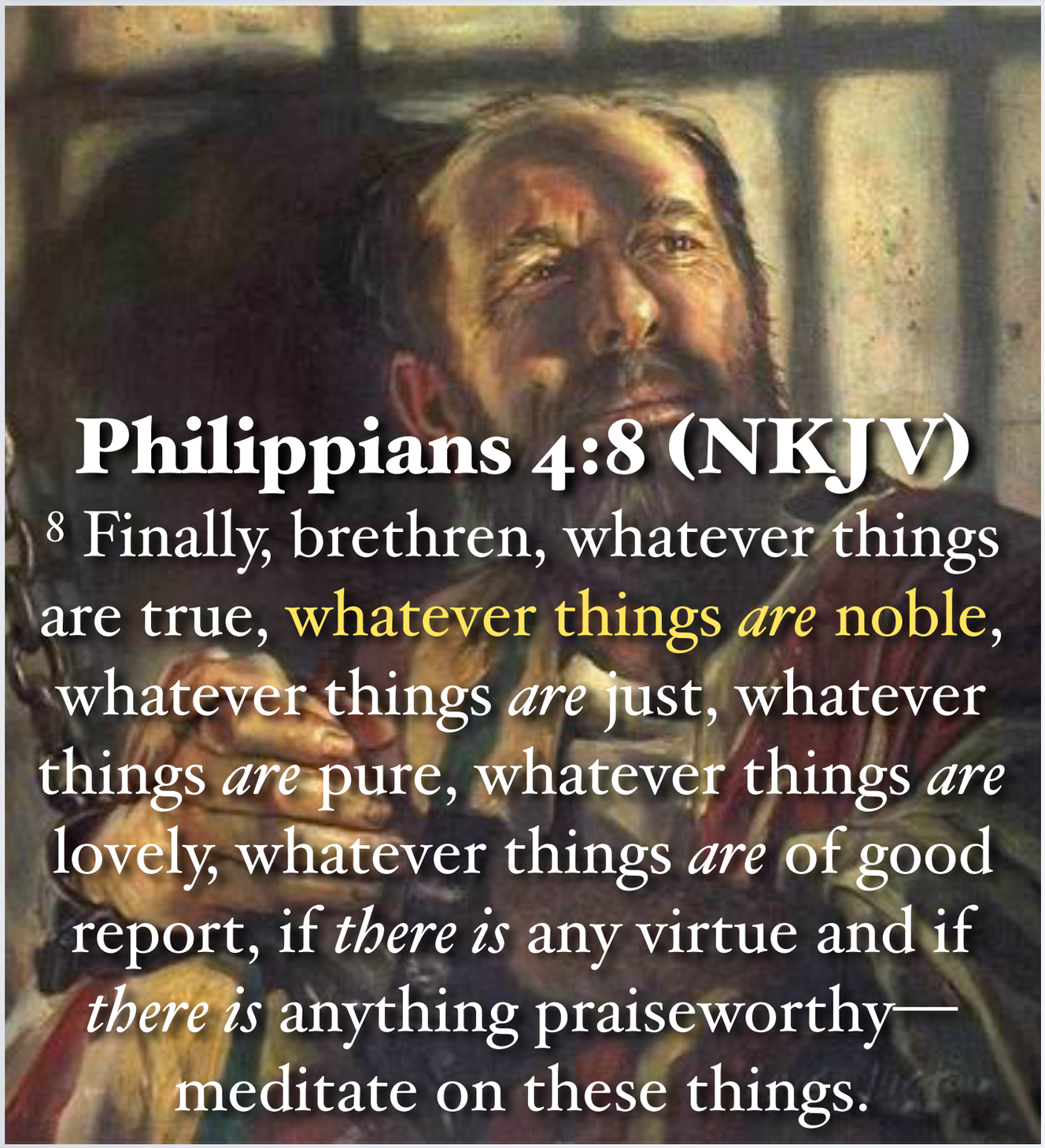
MEDITATE ON TRUE THINGS — 8



- **Psa. 1:2** — "But his delight is in the law of the LORD ; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
- **Psa. 119:11, 15** — "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.... 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways."
- **Psa. 119:97** — "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

MEDITATE ON NOBLE THINGS — 8



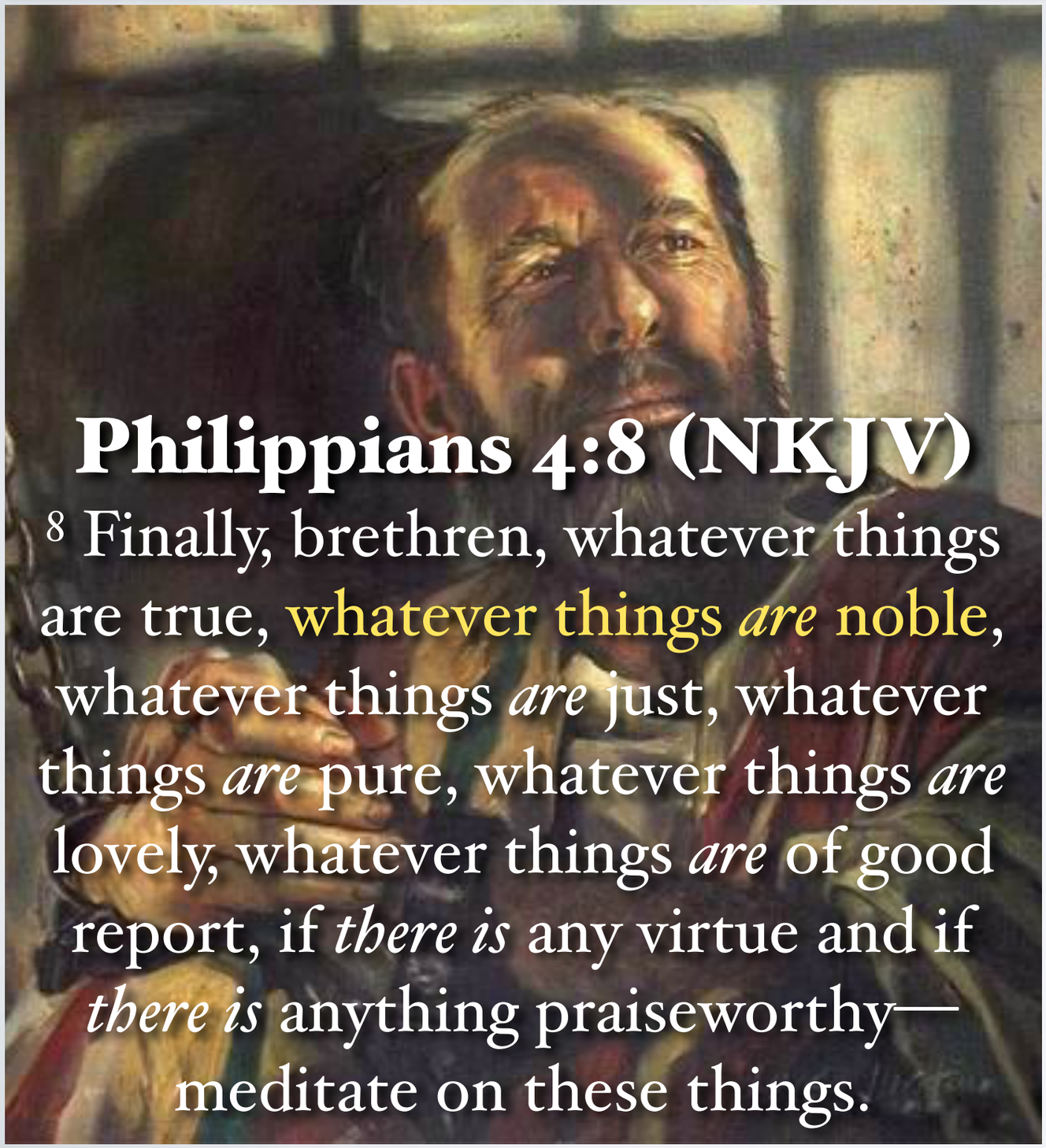
- **What Is NOBLE?**

88.47 σεμνός, ή, όν: pertaining to appropriate, befitting behavior and implying dignity and respect —'honorable, worthy of respect, of good character.'

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

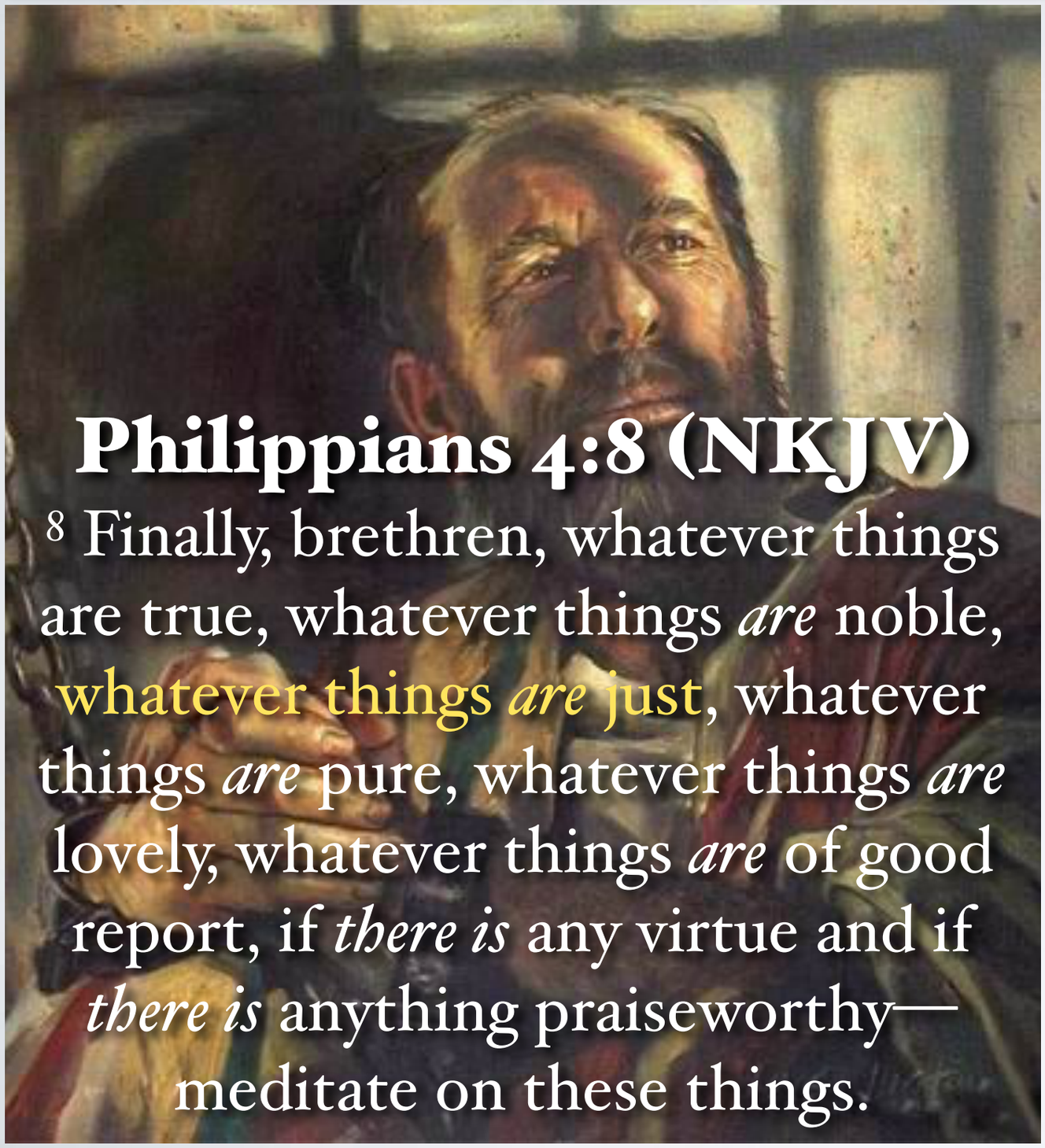
MEDITATE ON NOBLE THINGS — 8



- **What Is NOBLE?**
  - (this word *semna* is used in the NT only here and in 1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2)
  - Things characterized by the dignity of holiness as opposed to a frivolous flippant attitude.
  - Things that will elevate our thinking and actions so our thoughts & deeds are truly appropriate, edifying and beneficial.

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

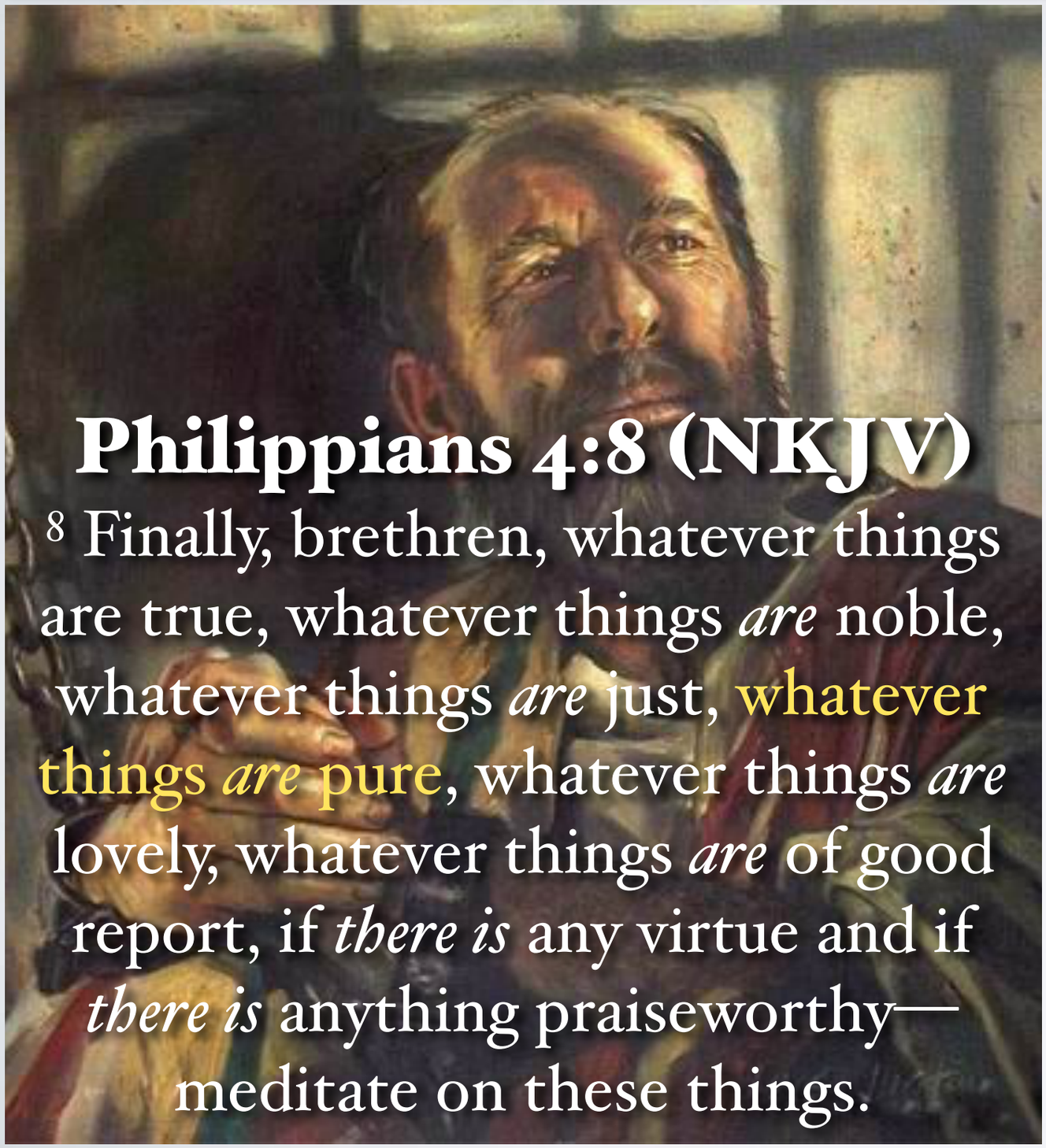
MEDITATE ON JUST THINGS — 8



- **What Is JUST?**
  - The Greeks used this word to define the man who gives to god and man that which is their due.
  - In the NT it denotes a state of being right, or right conduct, as judged by the God's divine standard.
  - Think on things that right in God's sight!

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

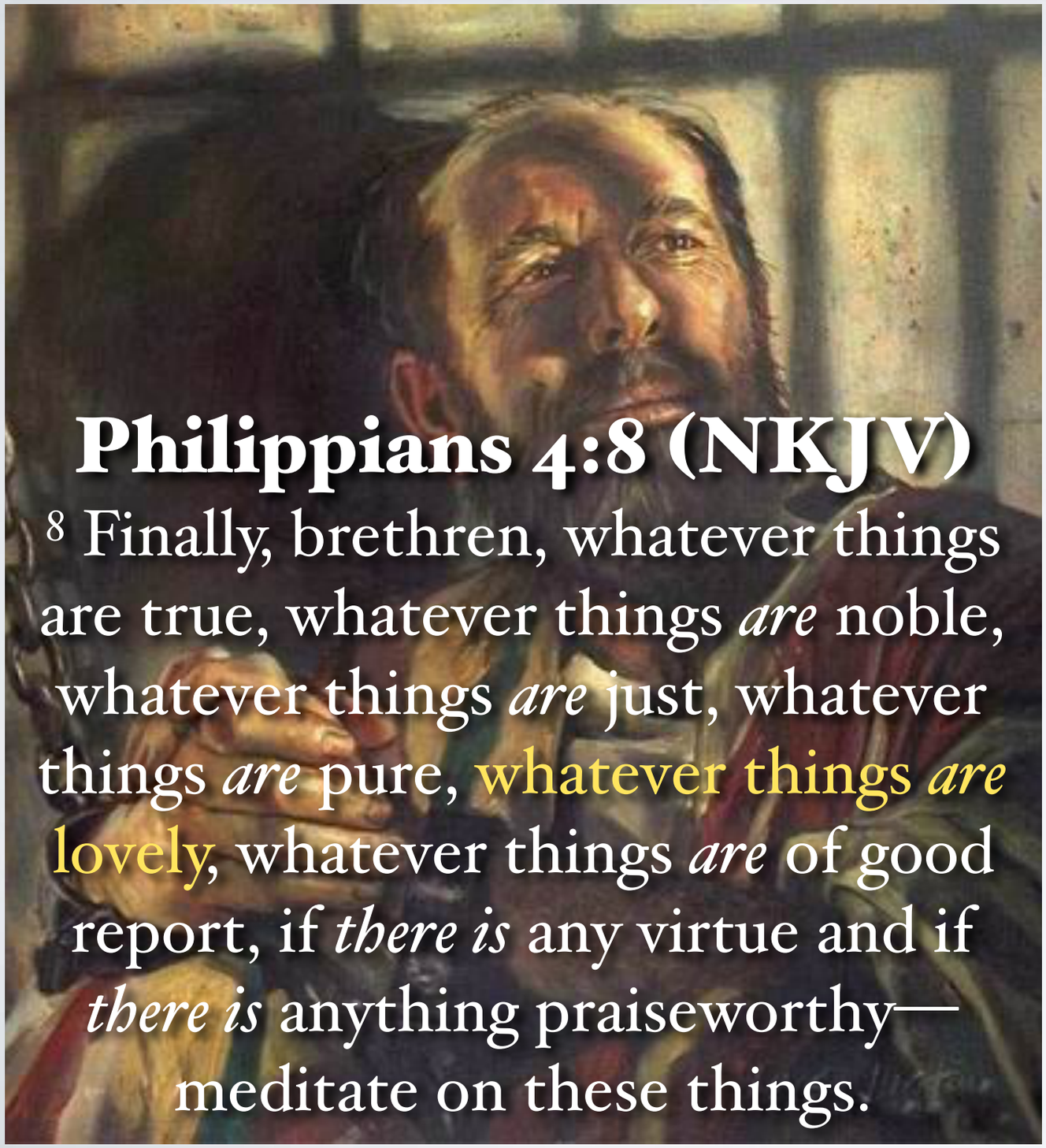
MEDITATE ON PURE THINGS — 8



- **What Is PURE?**
  - ***hagnos*** (**ἁγνός**, 53) refers to what is wholesome, chaste, virtuous, undefiled, not mixed with moral impurity.
  - Our thoughts are to be on holy things - things that are good and wholesome for the one striving to be holy — 1 Pet 1:13ff; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Jn 3:3; Rom 12:3

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

MEDITATE ON LOVELY THINGS — 8

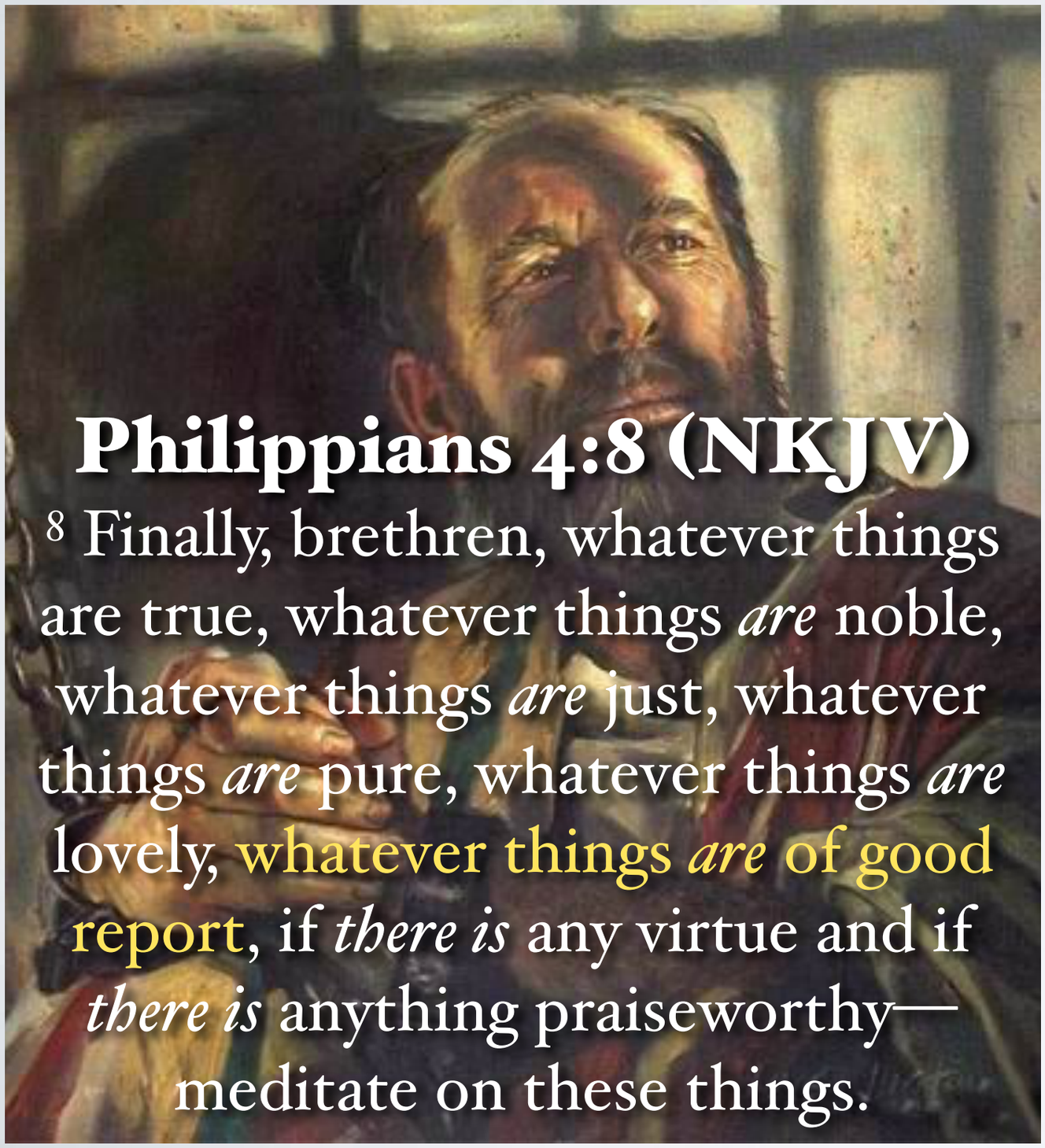


What Is LOVELY?

- ***prosphiles*** (**προσφιλής**, 4375), "pleasing, agreeable, lovely" (*pros*, "toward," *phileo*, "to love"),
- Focussing on things that promote love for God & others — Mat. 22:37-40
- Focussing on things that promote love within ourselves — *not thoughts of bitterness, selfishness, greed, envy, etc.*

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

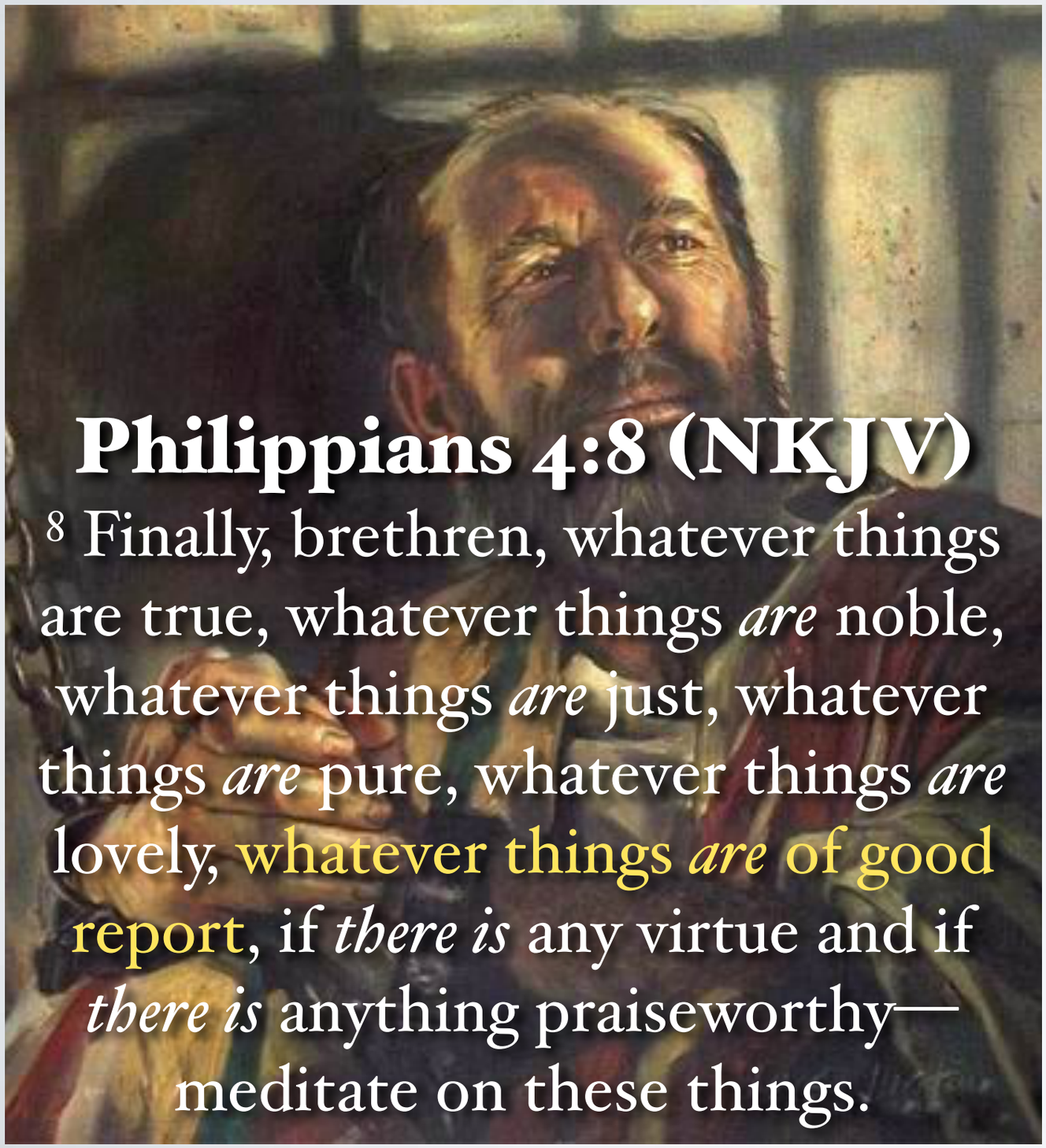
MEDITATE ON CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS — 8



- **What are things that are "of GOOD REPORT?**
  - **εὔφημος** (***euphēmos***), ον (*on*): adj.; (used only here) things well reported of / pertaining to deserving approval or good / literally means sounding well, thus that which is fit to hear.
  - Relates to what is positive and constructive rather than negative and destructive.

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

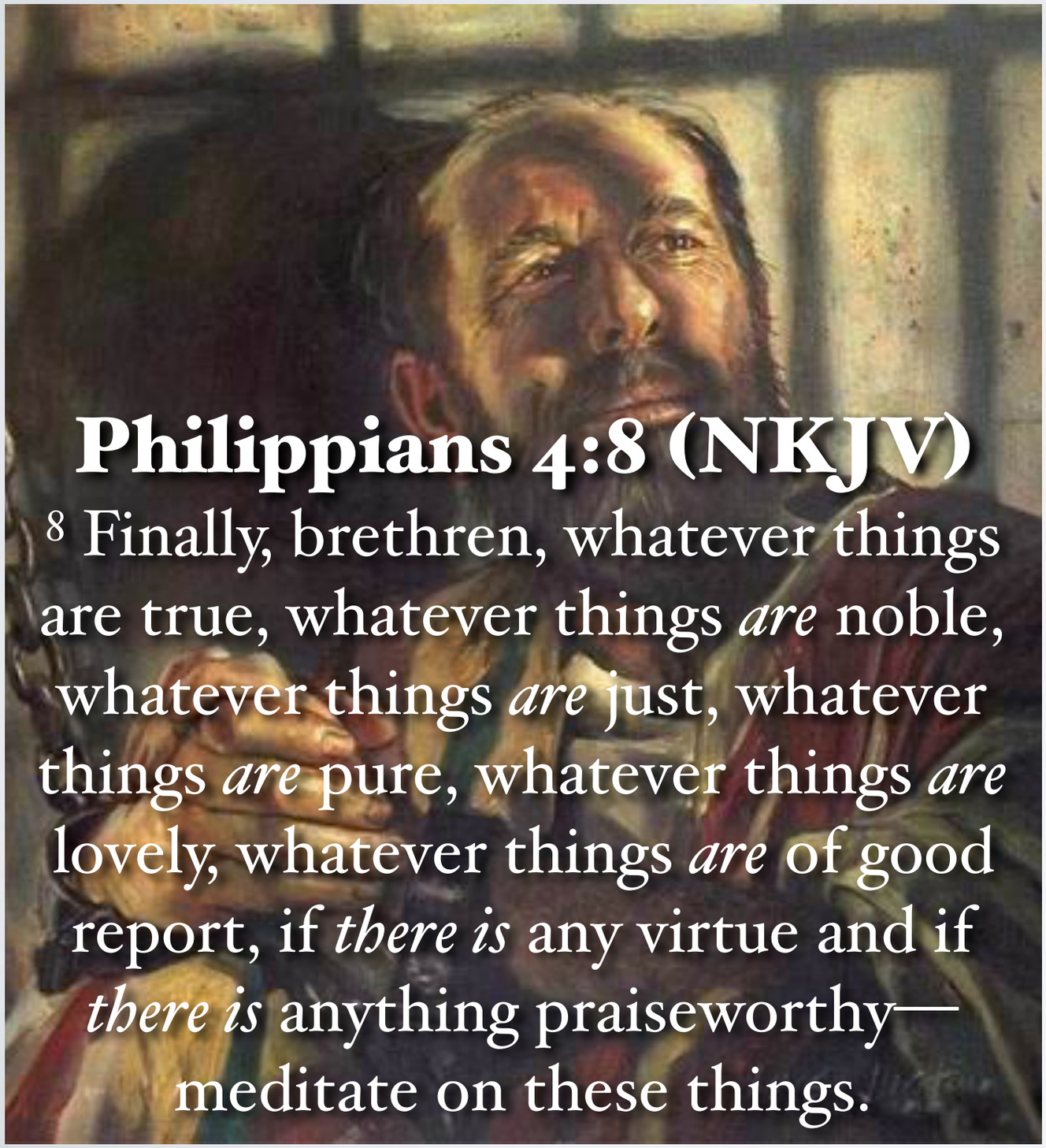
MEDITATE ON CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS — 8



- **What are things that are "of GOOD REPORT?**
  - Think on information, both heard and spoken which will build up both ourselves and others!
  - Thus rejecting things that tear down and destroy:
    - Error / lies / deception
    - Obscenities / filth
    - Gossip / rumors
    - Flattery / negativity

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

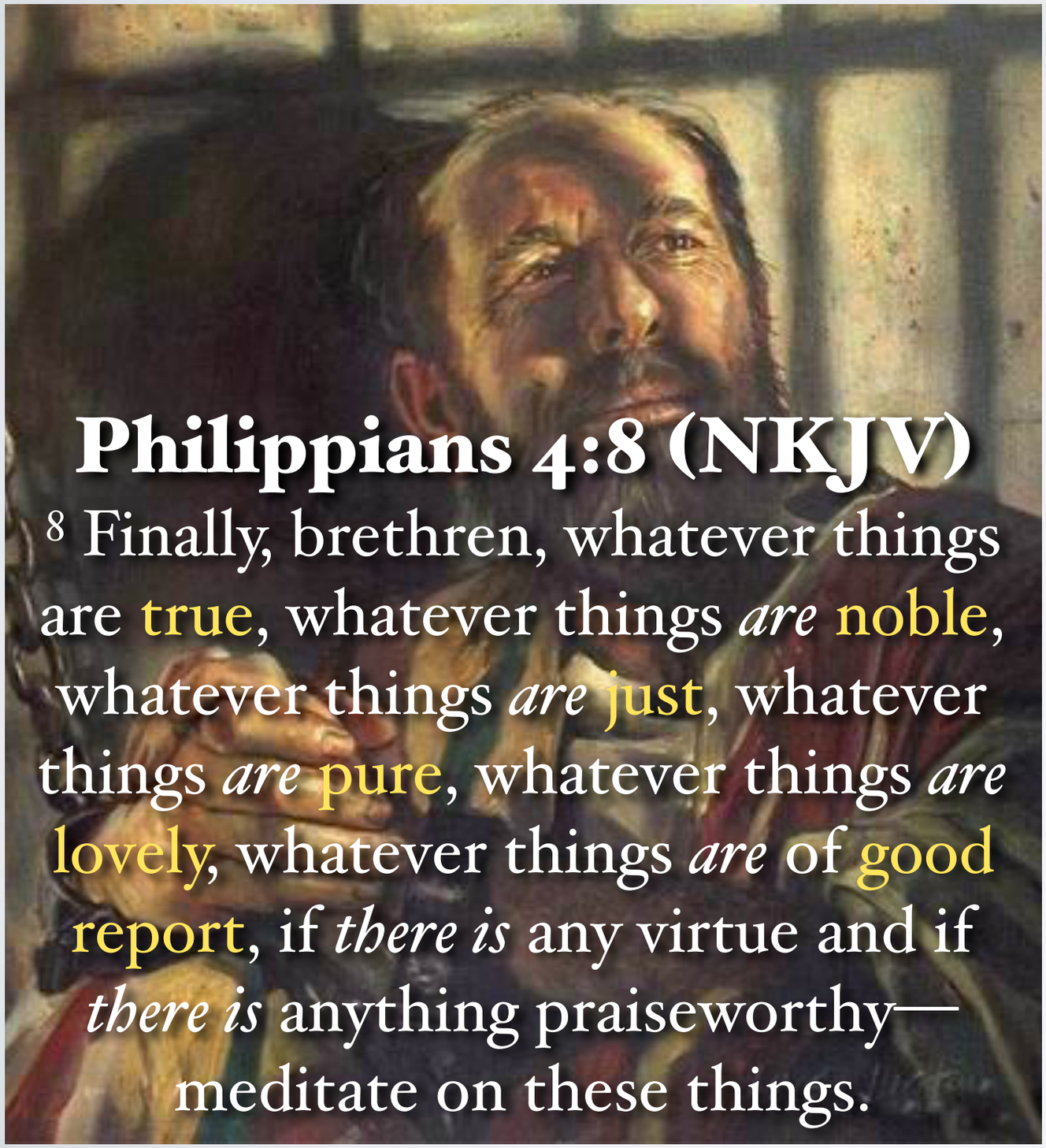
MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS — 8



- These six objects of thought are described as excellent (aretē) and praiseworthy (epainos).
  - The basis for ALL THINGS EXCELLENT is God — (thus all these things are of God & for God)
  - If anything is WORTHY of PRAISE it is either from God or God Himself.

"Behold I Thought — Importance of Thinking Right"

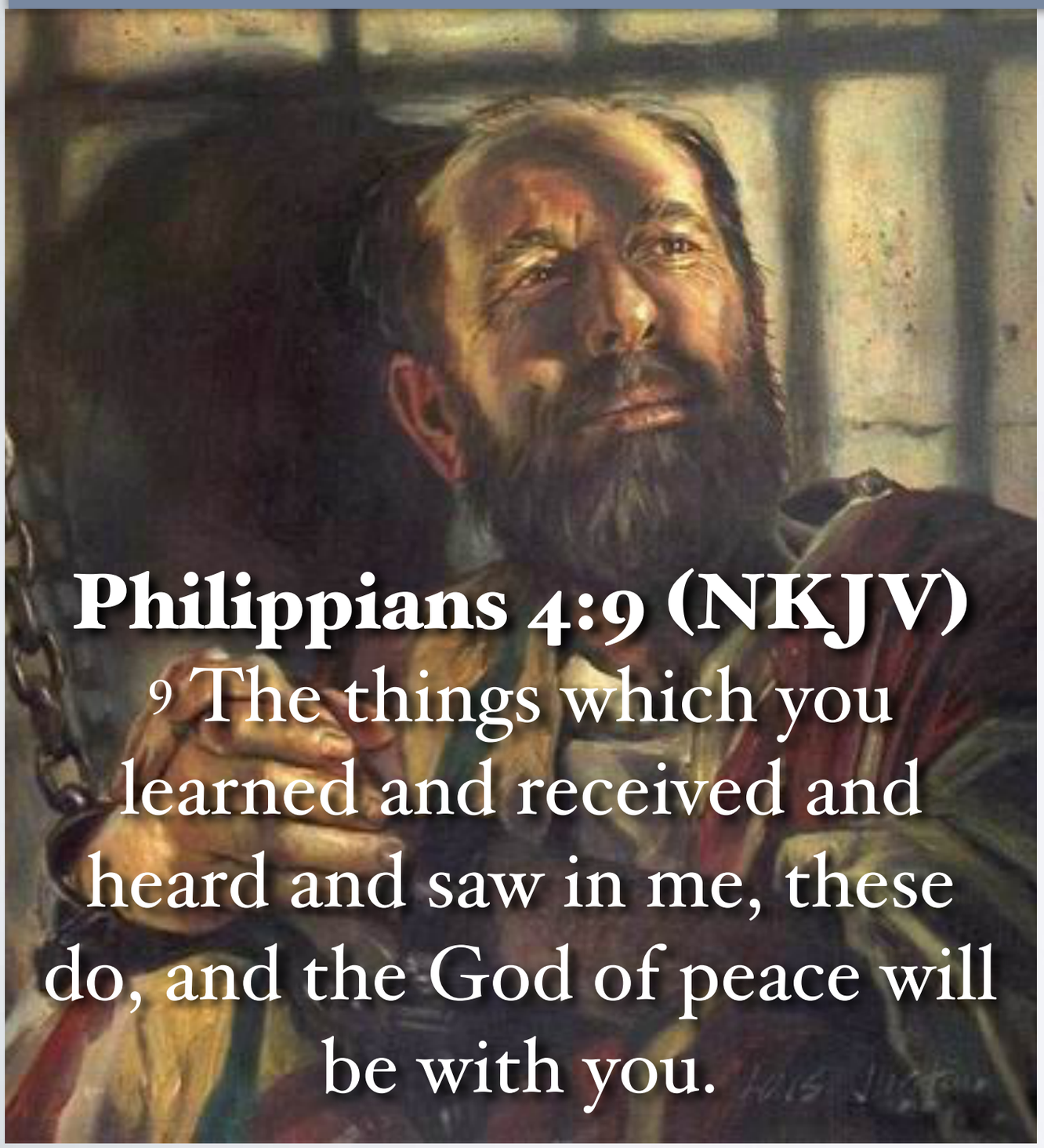
MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS — 8



- Things that will draw us closer to God in understanding and service …
- Things that will strengthen our faith …
- Things that are right, according to God …
- Things that are holy …
- Things that will grow our love, and affection …
- Things that will lift ourselves and others up …

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

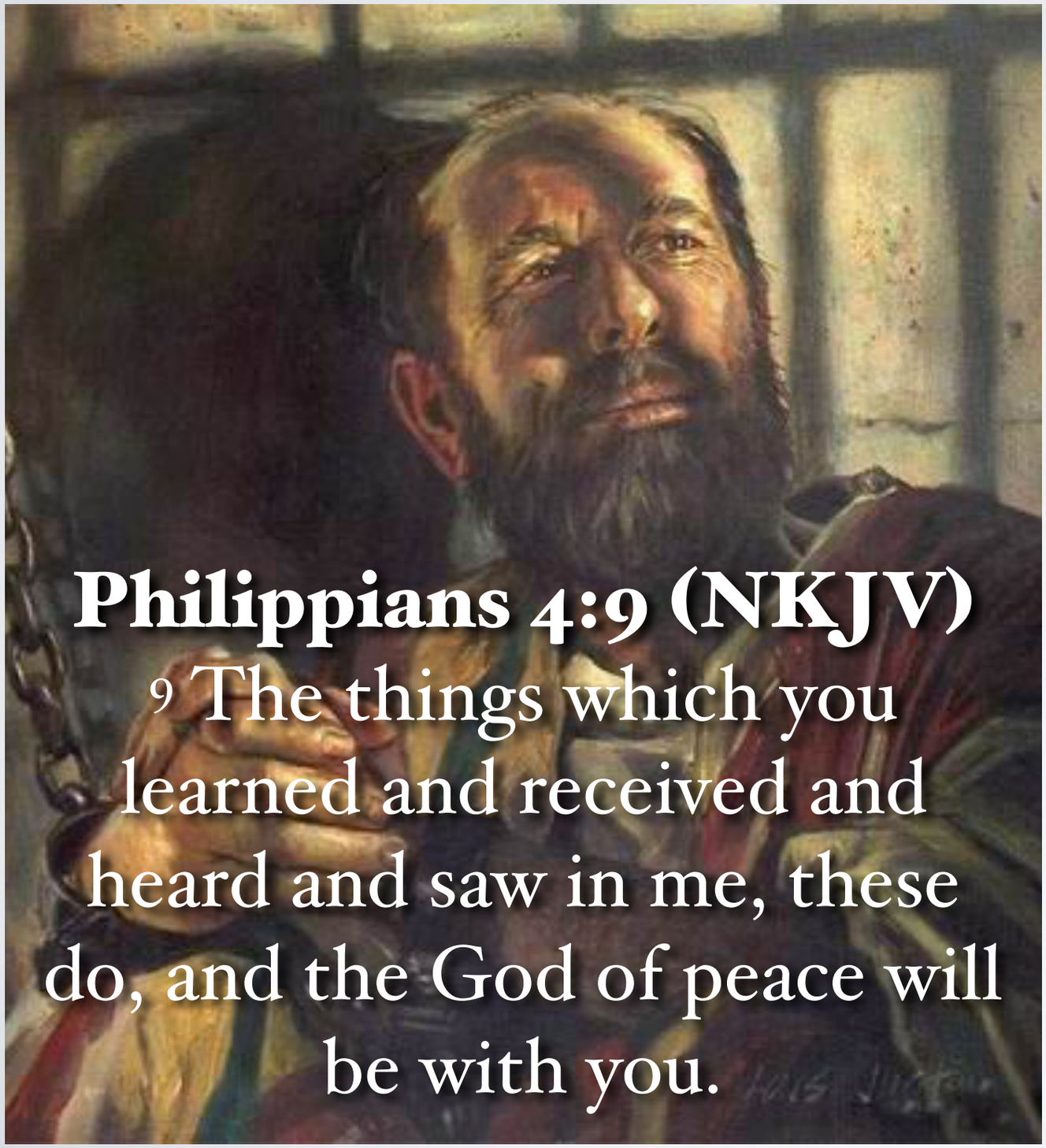
DO THESE THINGS — 9



- **They had learned … received and heard from him, … they had seen the apostle's conduct.**
- As they put these things (from Paul's teaching and living) into practice, they would enjoy the presence of the God of peace *(cf. "the peace of God," v. 7)*.
- Correct Godly thinking MUST BE put into ACTION if we desire God's favor! — James 1:25; 2:14-26

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

STAND FAST IN THE LORD BELOVED



If our thinking is TRULY right it will strengthen our hearts & minds so we can STAND FAST IN THE LORD!!!

If our thinking is TRULY right it will flow out in our **words** & **deeds**!

"**Behold I Thought** — Importance of Thinking Right"

WILL HEAVEN BE YOUR HOME?

- Right & godly living is predicated on right & godly thinking — Rom. 12:1,2; Col. 3:1-3
- We choose what we think about — 2 Cor. 10:5
- Upon what are our thoughts based? - God's word or our own thoughts — cf. 2 Kings 5:11

WILL HEAVEN BE YOUR HOME?

It starts with doing what you know to be true - then growing in knowledge & service?

- First must obey the gospel — Heb 5:8,9; Mk 16:16
- Growing in faith, diligently serving the Lord — 2 Pet 1:5-10
- Eternal joy awaits — (Rom 8:18; 1 Cor 15:58)

"The Unity, Joy, Contentment & Peace In Christ"
(Philippians 4:1-7)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached April 22, 2018

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ROMANS 12:1-3 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies
of God, that you present your bodies a living
sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your
reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to
this world, but be transformed by the renewing of
your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good
and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3 For I say,
through the grace given to me, to everyone who is
among you, not to think *of himself* more highly
than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as
God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.