

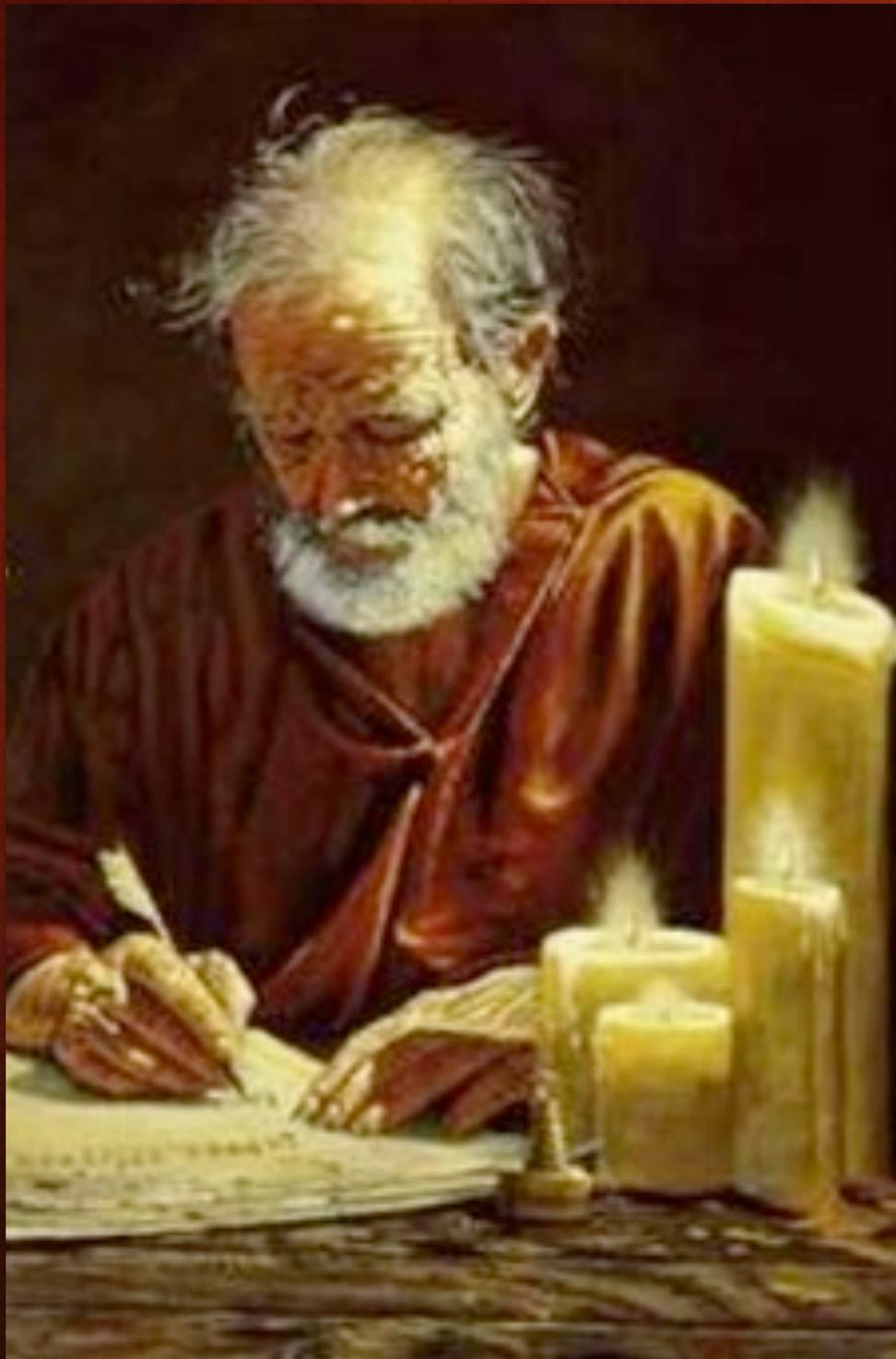


The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

An Introduction (1:1–5)

GALATIANS

An Introduction



- **By whom was the epistle written?**
- **To whom was the epistle written?**
- **When was the epistle written?**
- **Why was the epistle written?**

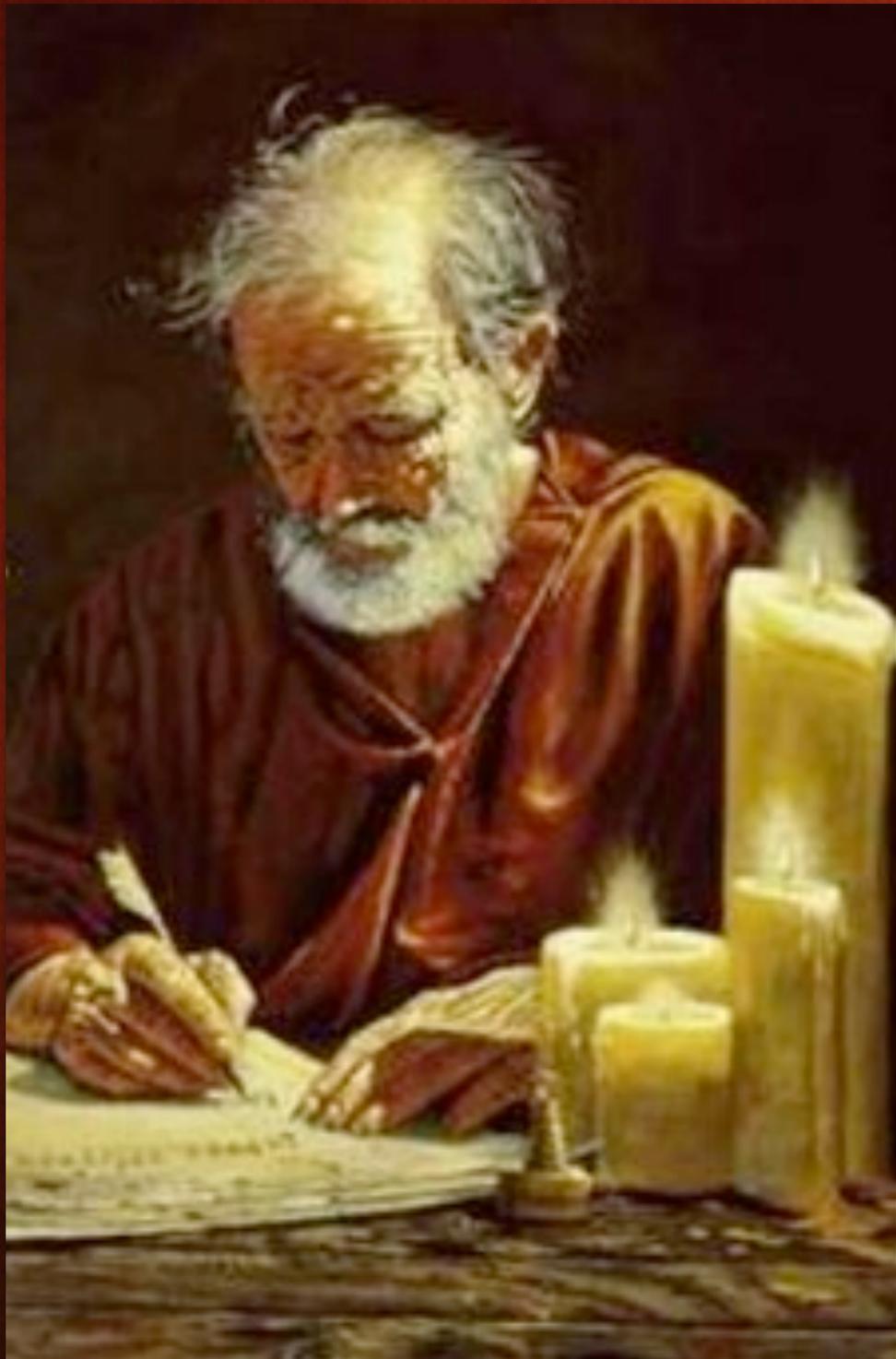
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1:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ² and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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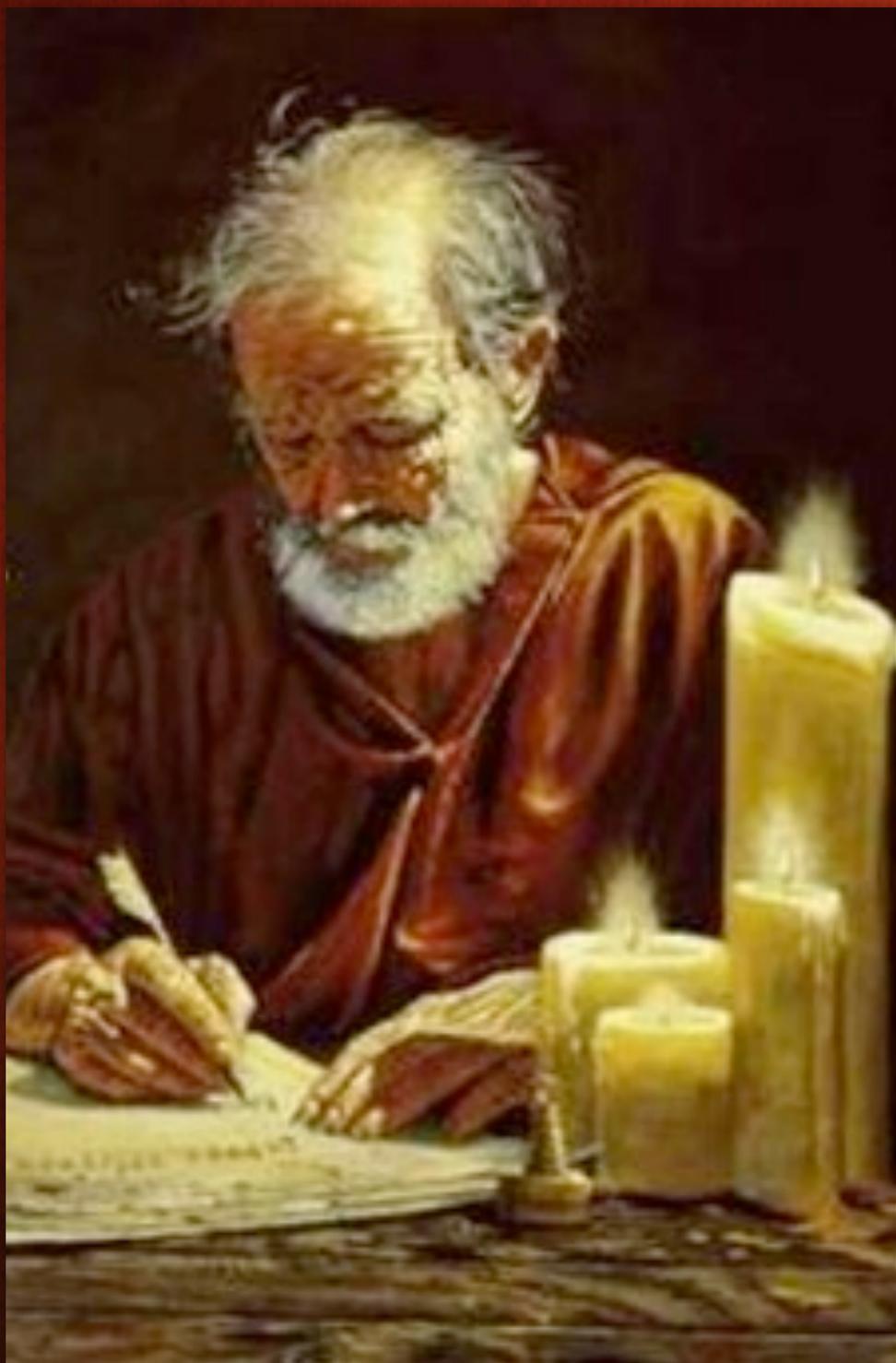
An Introduction



- **The apostle Paul is the author of the epistle -**
 - ◆ The epistle bears Paul's name - (1:1; 5:2)
 - ◆ The Pauline authorship of Galatians has been generally acknowledged.
 - ◆ The reasons for this are based on the clear testimony of both internal and external evidence.

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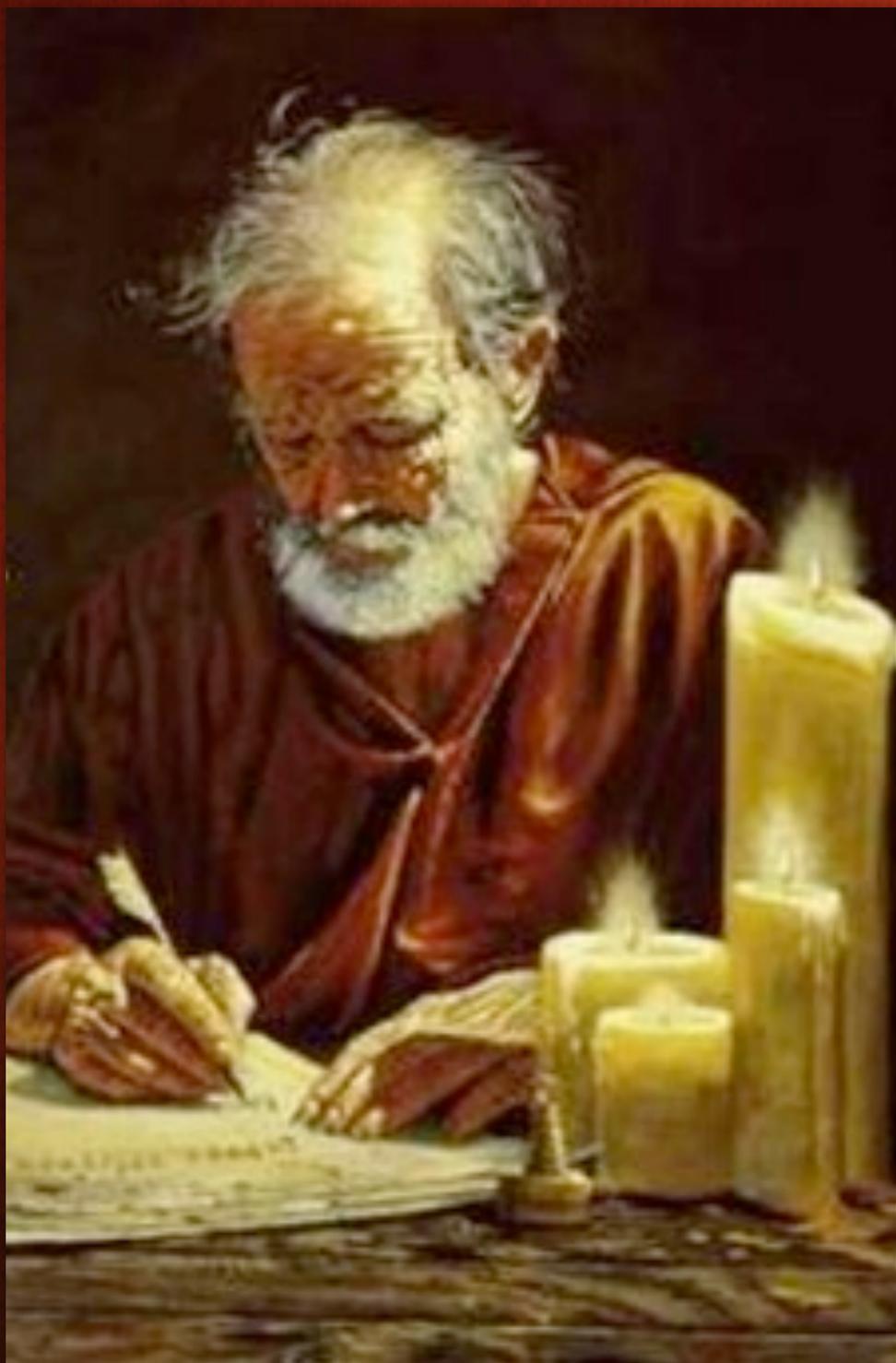
An Introduction



- **The apostle Paul is the author of the epistle -**
 - ◆ Most of chapters 1 and 2 are autobiographical and harmonize consistently with the events of Paul's life recorded in Acts.
 - ◆ The theology of Galatians is the theology of Paul as taught in his other writings such as Romans.

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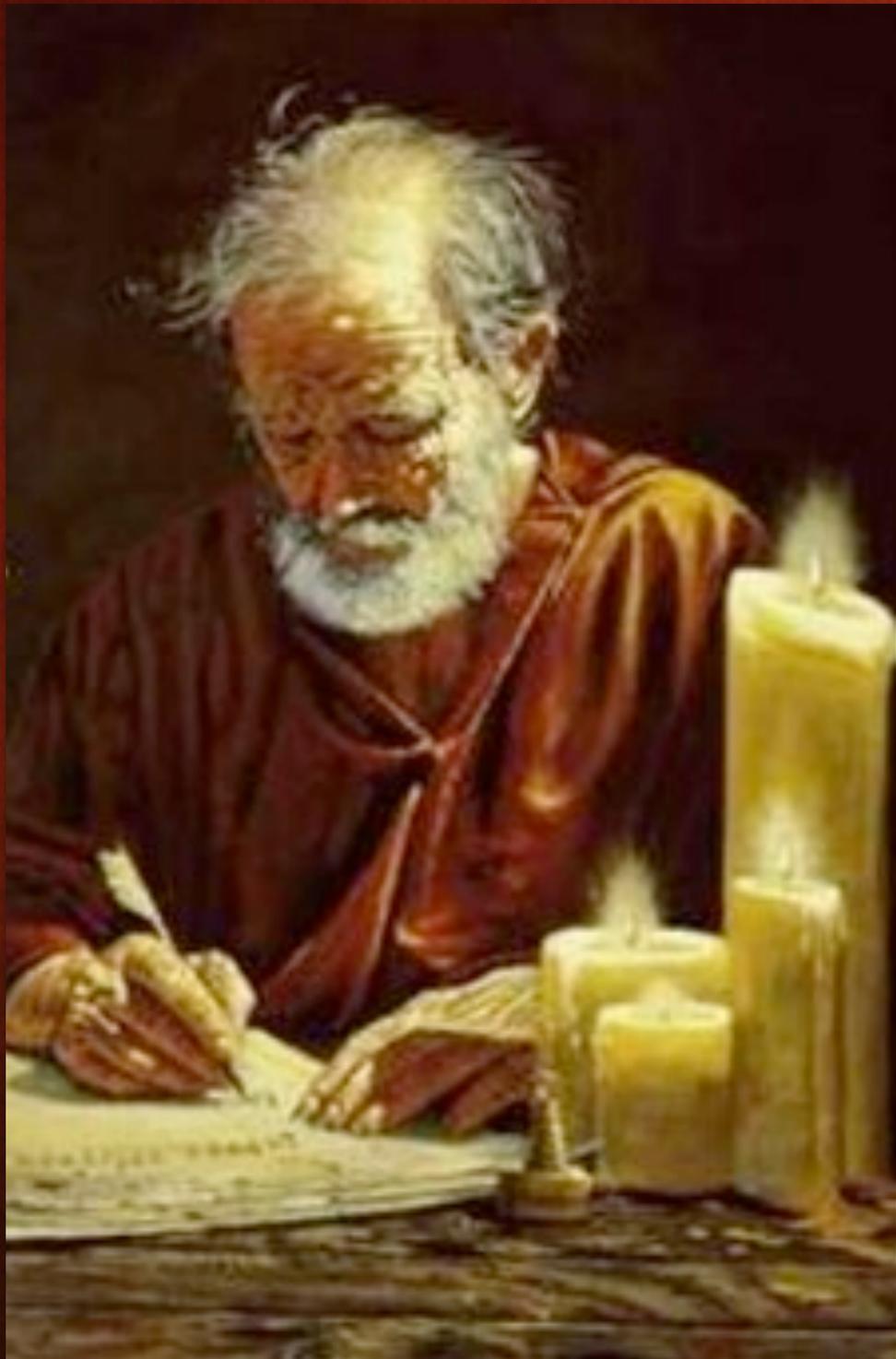
An Introduction



- **The apostle Paul is the author of the epistle -**
- ◆ The external evidence for Pauline authorship of Galatians is also convincing. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries Galatians was attributed to Paul and quoted by Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and Origen.
- ◆ Even the heretics of that time, including Marcion, accepted it as written by Paul.

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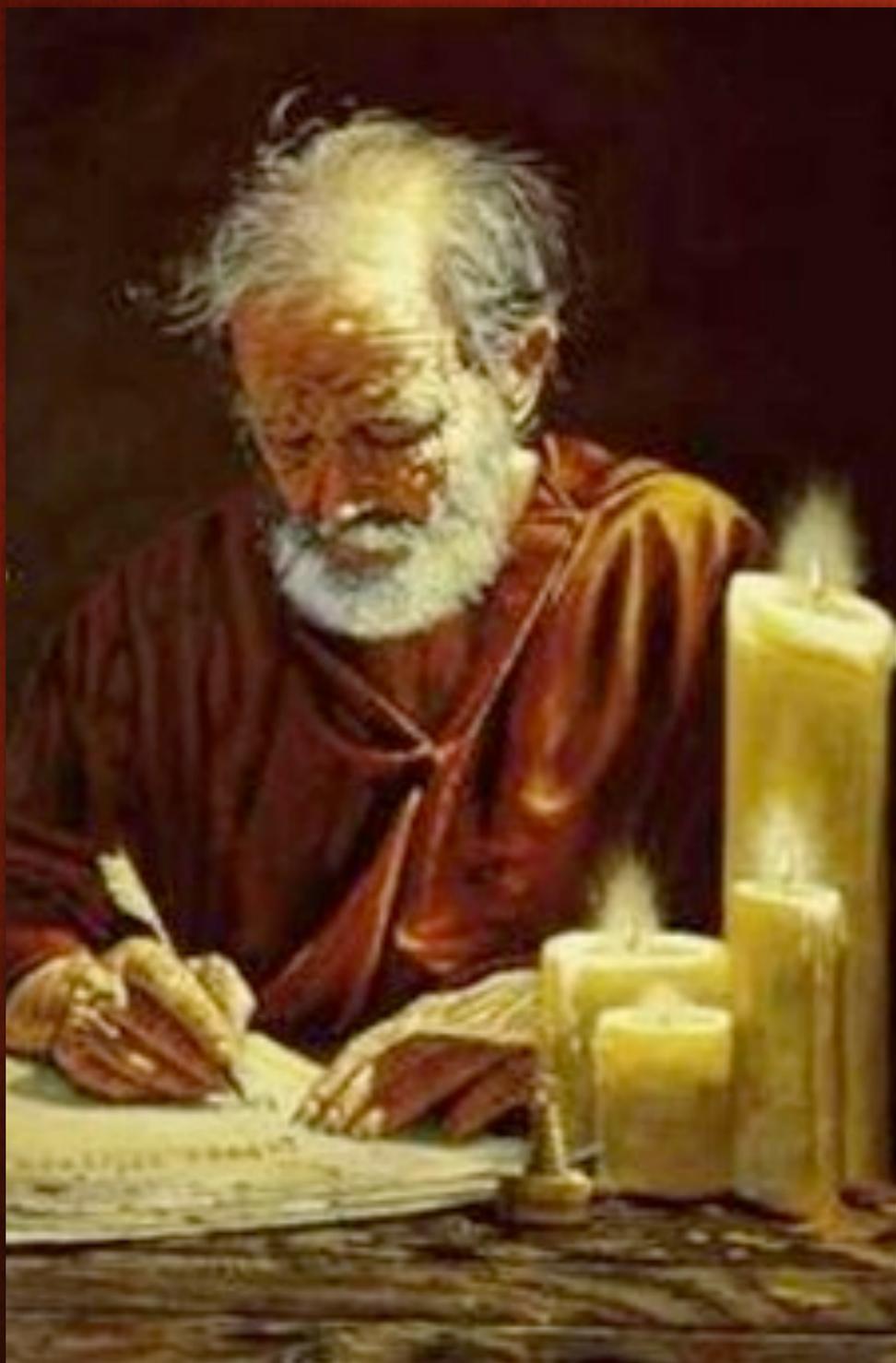
An Introduction



- **The apostle Paul is the author of the epistle -**
- ◆ The Judaizers in Galatia both discredited Paul and proclaimed a false gospel.
- ◆ It was necessary that Paul vindicate his apostleship and message, a task he undertook in the first two chapters.

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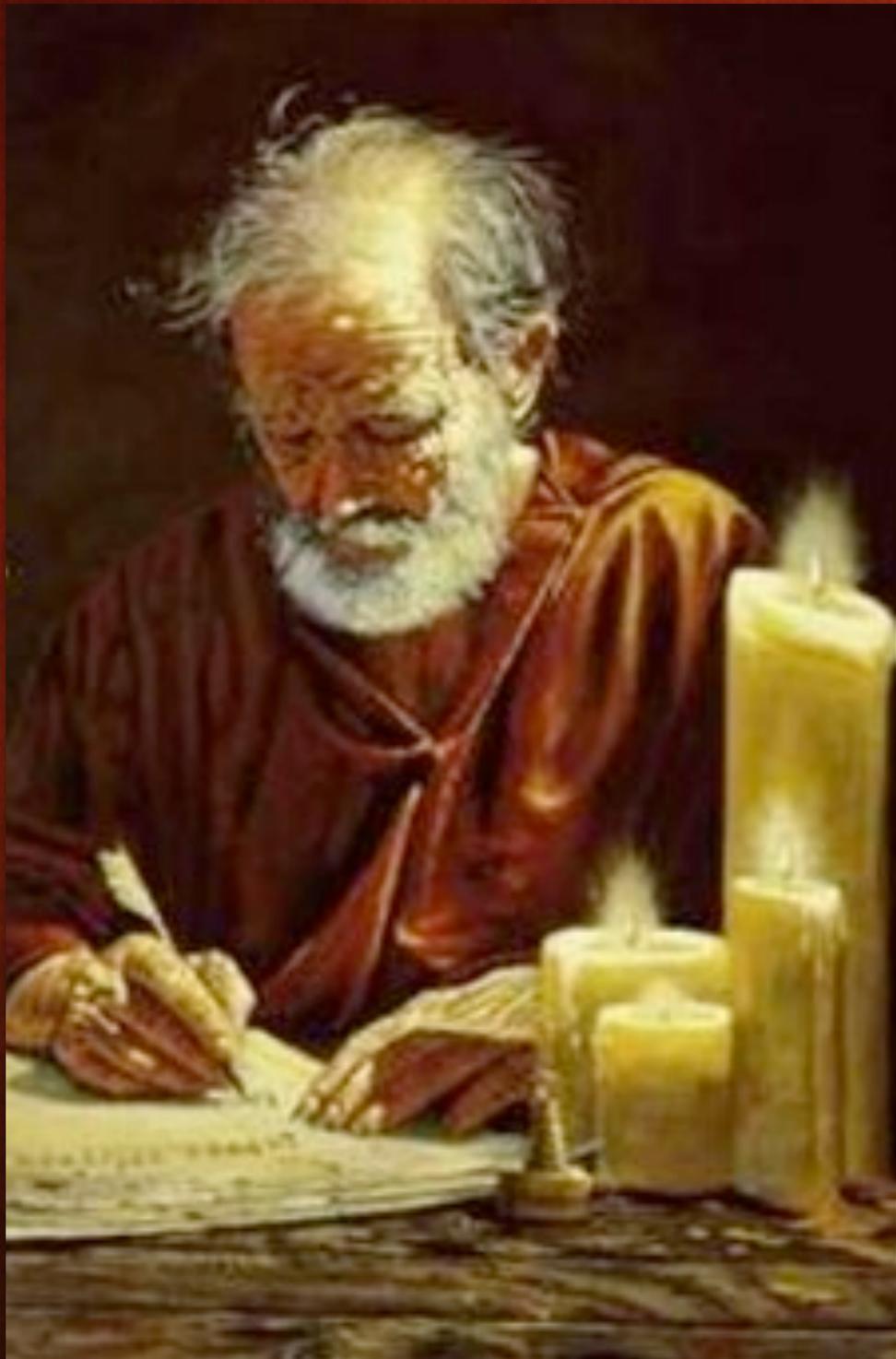
An Introduction



- **The apostle Paul is the author of the epistle -**
- ◆ In this autobiographical section Paul demonstrated convincingly that his apostleship and his message came by revelation from the risen Christ and not from men - (1:1-5, 10-2:21)

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An Introduction



- **To whom was the epistle written?**
- ◆ The letter is not addressed to one church, but to several churches. It begins: “To the churches of Galatia” (Gal 1:2)
- ◆ Four churches in the book of Acts as belonging to the region of Galatia. Antioch (of Pisidia) {13:14} Iconium {13:51-14:1} Derbe {14:6, 16:1, 20:4} Lystra {Acts 14:6-21}

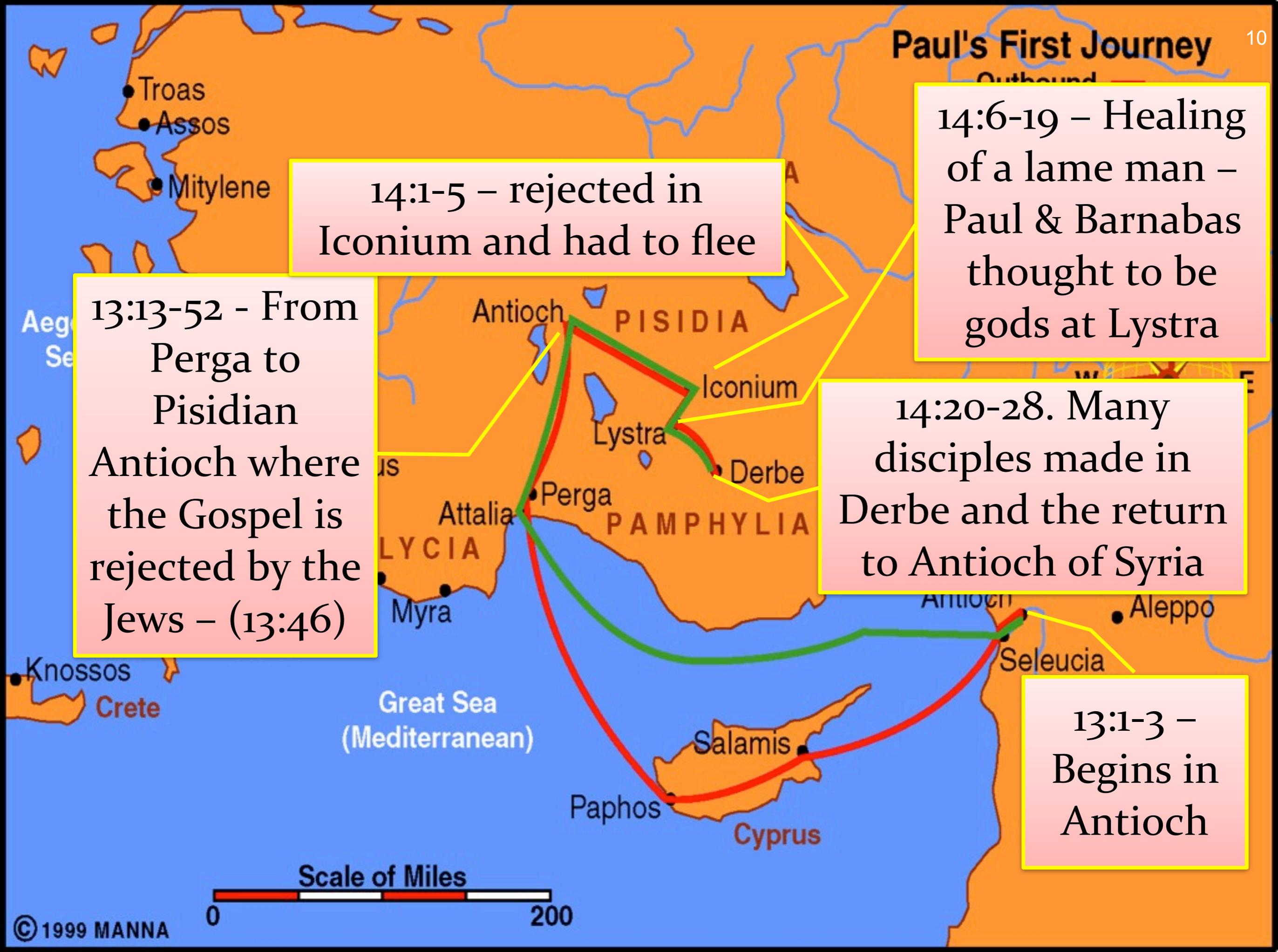
14:6-19 – Healing of a lame man – Paul & Barnabas thought to be gods at Lystra

14:1-5 – rejected in Iconium and had to flee

14:20-28. Many disciples made in Derbe and the return to Antioch of Syria

13:13-52 - From Perga to Pisidian Antioch where the Gospel is rejected by the Jews – (13:46)

13:1-3 – Begins in Antioch



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An Introduction



- **To whom was the epistle written?**
- ◆ Discussion of circumcision in Jerusalem – Acts 15:1-29 (48,49 AD)
- ◆ Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch – Contention over John Mark – Acts 15:30-40
- ◆ Paul and Silas embark on second missionary journey – Acts 15:40-18:22

A topographical map of the Eastern Mediterranean region showing Paul's second missionary journey. The map includes labels for various Roman provinces: MACEDONIA, THRACE, BITHYNIA AND PONTUS, GALATIA, ASIA, PHRYGIA, LYDIA, PAMPHYLIA, LYCIA, and CILICIA. Key cities marked include Rome, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Philippi, Neapolis, Troas, Thyatira, Ephesus, Lystra, Derbe, Tarsus, Antioch, Jerusalem, Athens, Corinth, and Cenchrea. The Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea are also labeled. A black line with arrows traces the journey path, starting from Jerusalem, going to Antioch, then through Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Ephesus, Athens, and back to Antioch. A red line indicates the return route from Antioch to Jerusalem. A north arrow is on the left, and a scale bar is at the bottom left.

**Paul's Second
Missionary Journey -
(Acts 15:40-18:22)**

Acts 15:40-41 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

A topographical map of the Eastern Mediterranean region showing Paul's second missionary journey. The map includes labels for various regions like Macedonia, Thrace, Mysia, Asia, Galatia, Phrygia, Lycaonia, Pamphylia, Cilicia, and Syria. Key cities such as Rome, Thessalonica, Berea, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Philippi, Neapolis, Troas, Thyatira, Ephesus, Lystra, Derbe, Tarsus, Antioch, Jerusalem, Corinth, and Cenchrea are marked. A black line with arrows traces the journey route, starting from Jerusalem, going to Antioch, then to Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, and Ephesus. From Ephesus, it goes to Achaia (Athens, Corinth, Cenchrea) and back to Macedonia (Thessalonica, Berea, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Philippi, Neapolis). A red line indicates the return path from Ephesus to Jerusalem. A north arrow is on the left, and a scale bar is at the bottom left.

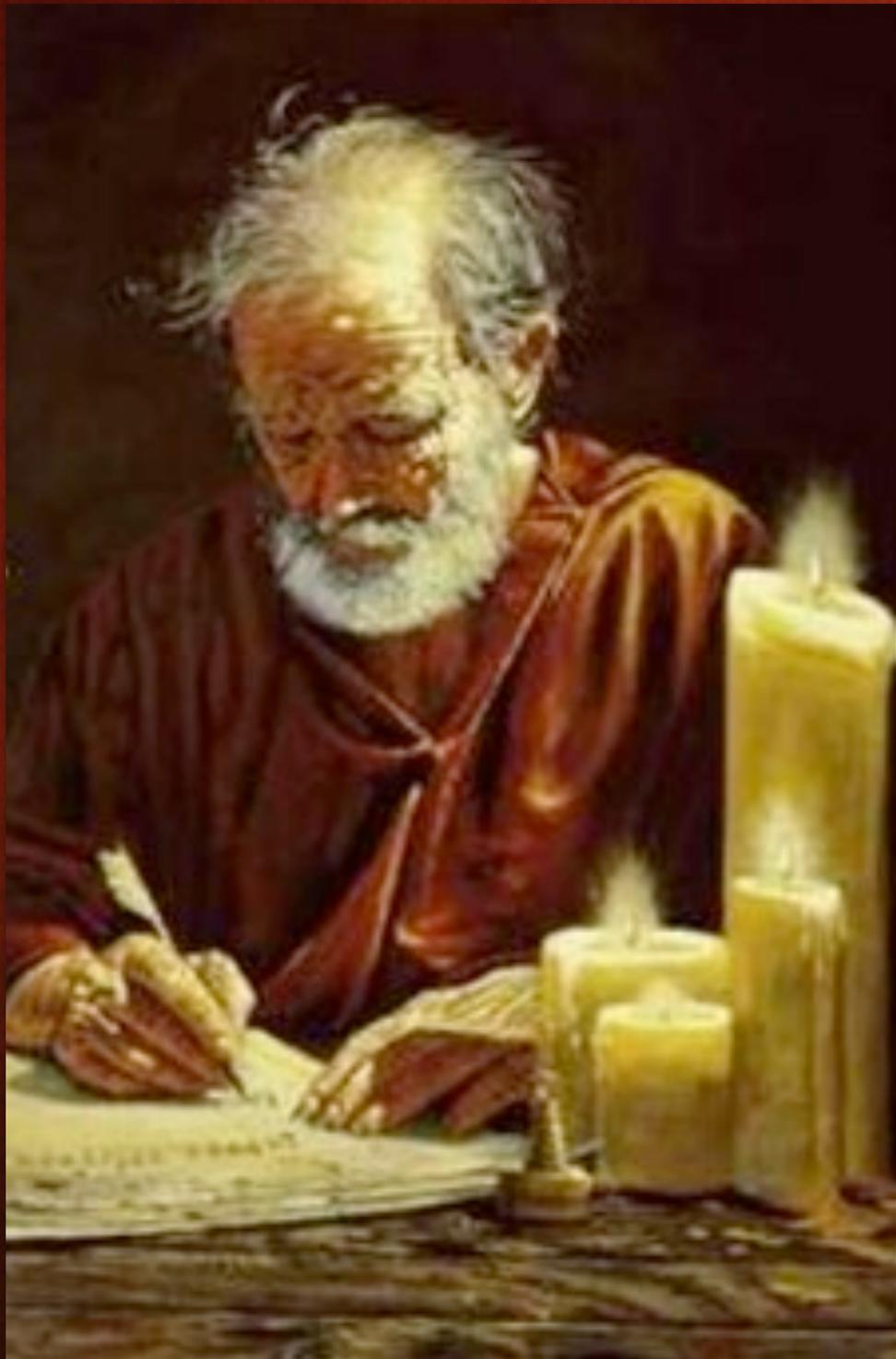
**Paul's Second
Missionary Journey -
(Acts 15:40-18:22)**

Acts 16:1 (NKJV)

Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.

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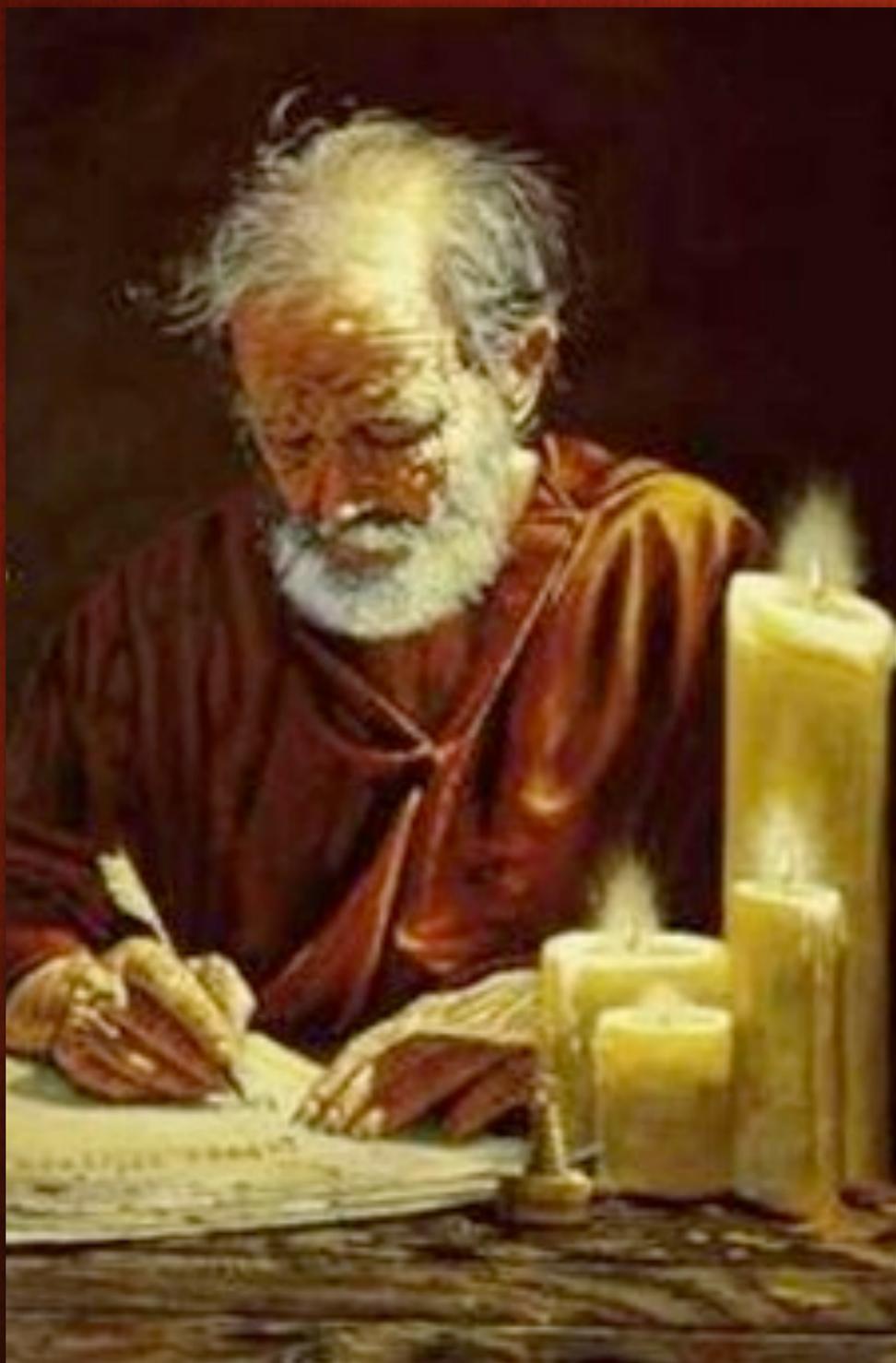
An Introduction



- **When was the epistle written?**
 - ◆ The proposed dates vary from 48 AD to 58 AD.
 - ◆ Conjectures as to where the epistle was written varies from Corinth, Ephesus, Troas, Antioch of Syria . . .
 - ◆ The date and location of the writing of the epistle cannot be determined.

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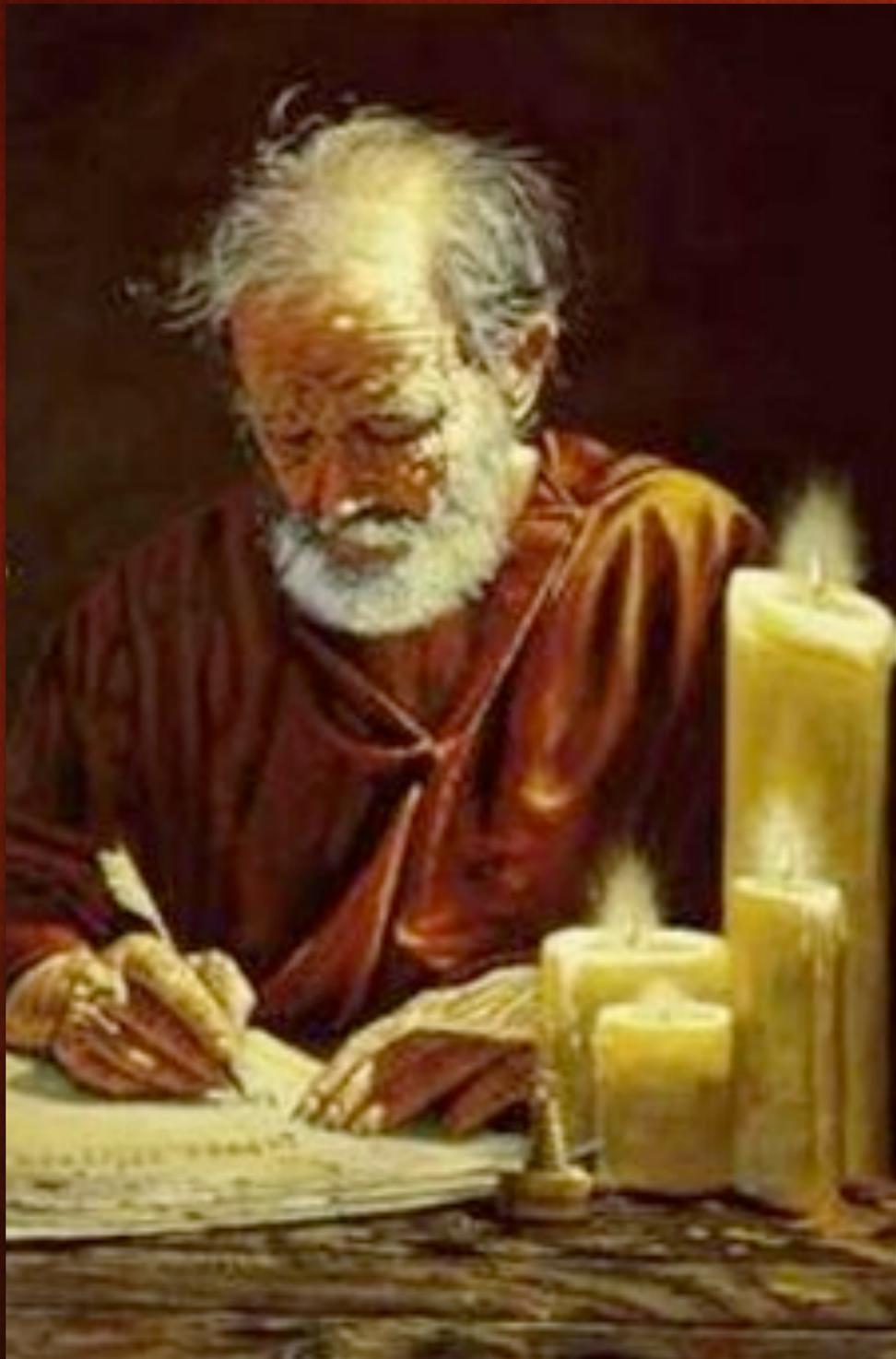
Purpose & Theme



- **To counter false teachers**
 - ◆ These new Christians were converts from paganism - (4:8-9)
 - ◆ They were being enticed by False teachers to add the observances of the Jewish law, including circumcision, to the cross of Christ as a means of salvation. (5:2; 2:16,17; 4:9,10)

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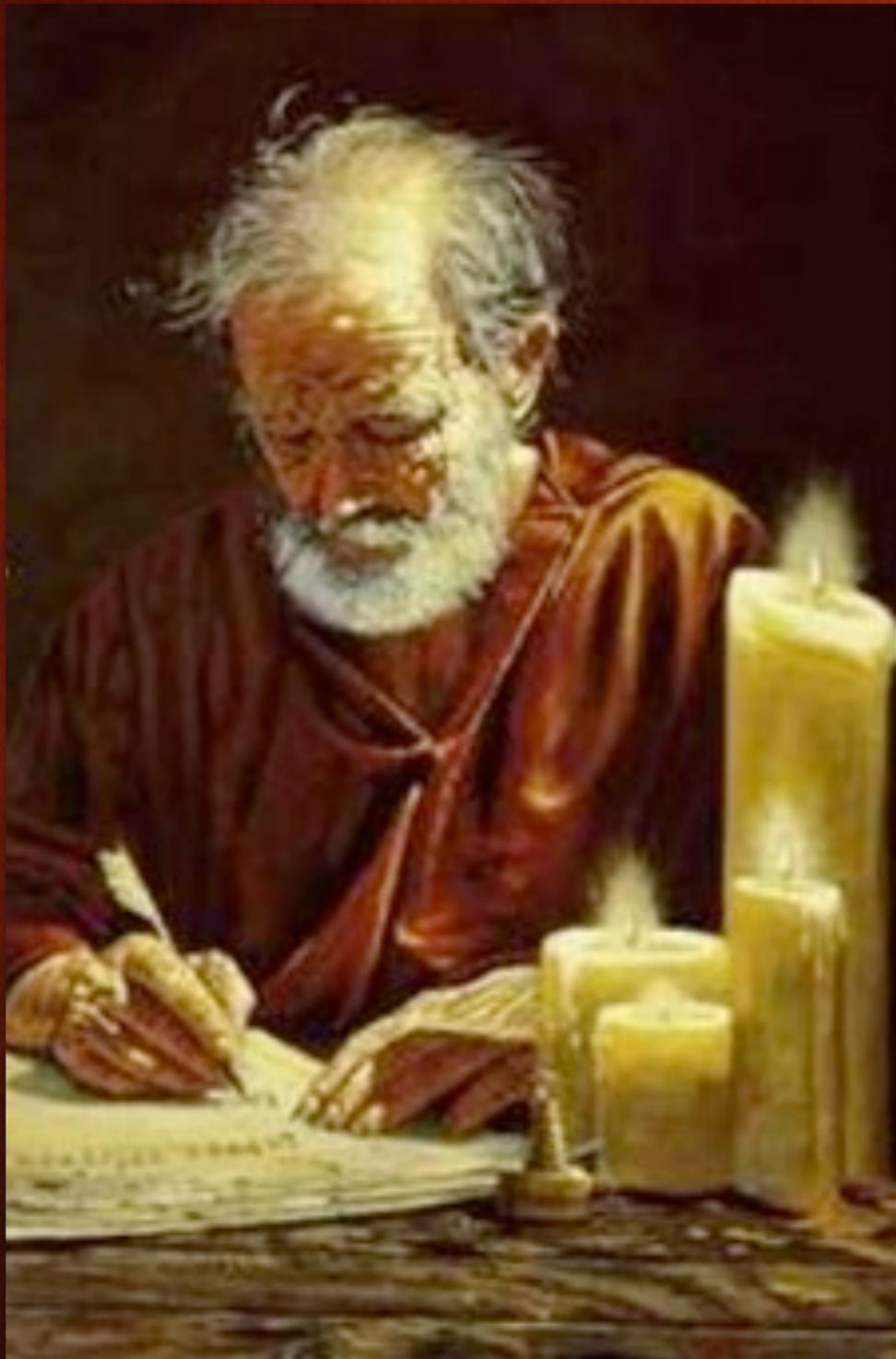
Purpose & Theme



- **To counter false teachers**
 - ◆ These false teachers evidently had influence among the Galatian Christians (note 1:6 & Paul's reference to "foolish Galatians" in 3:1,3).
 - ◆ They also questioned Paul's apostolic authority and the gospel he preached - (1:10-21)

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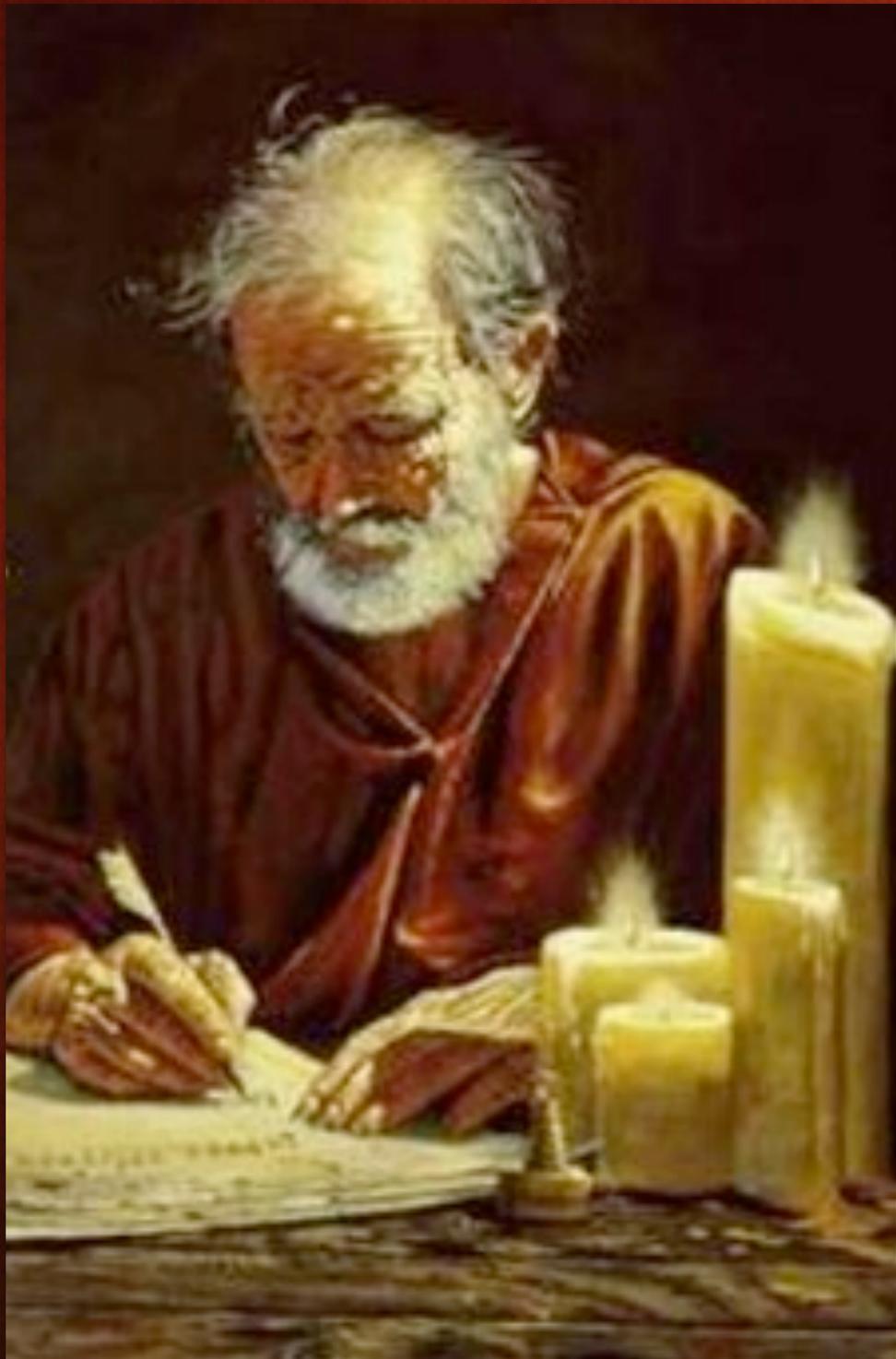
Purpose & Theme



- **To counter false teachers**
 - ◆ Judaizers greatly plagued the early church (see, for examples, Acts 15:1-30; Colossians 2:16-23).
 - ◆ Christianity cannot be “mixed” with Judaism (much of the religious world today fails to recognize the difference between the two covenants!)

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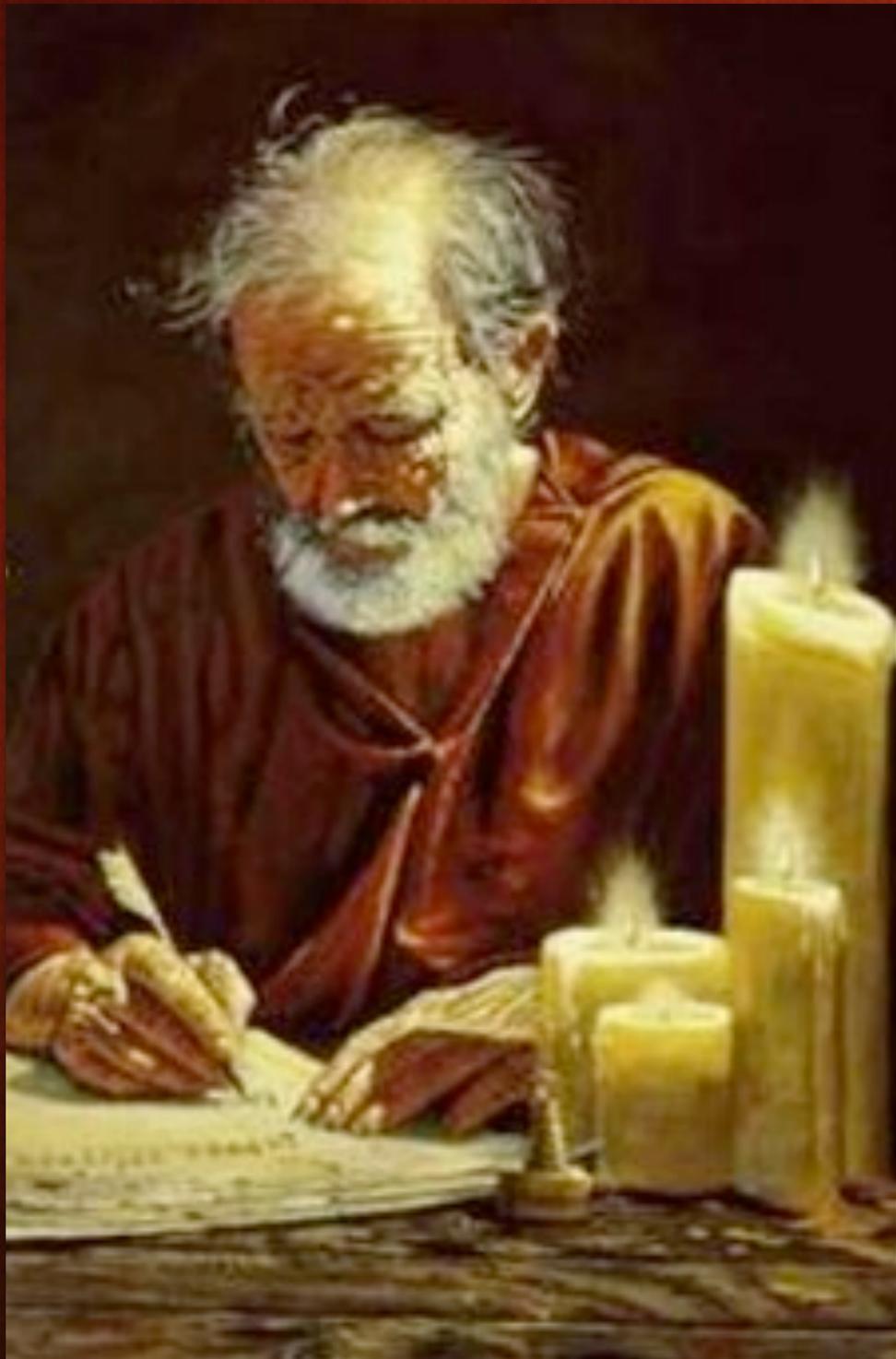
Purpose & Theme



- **To counter false teachers**
 - ◆ Paul had testified against them in person (1:9; 4:16; Acts 15), and wrote this letter to expressly oppose their doctrine.
 - ◆ Adherence to the Mosaic Law for justification brings **ONLY** bondage. “Liberty” then refers to freedom from sin, and from the Old Covenant law system as a means of justification. (3:10-13)

GALATIANS

Brief Outline of Galatians



- I. Introduction (1:1-10)
- II. Personal: A Defense of Paul's Authority (1:11-2:21)
- III. Doctrinal: A Defense of Justification by Faith & not by works of the Law of Moses (3-4)
- IV. Practical: Exhortation to Christian Living (5:1-6:10)
- V. Conclusion (6:11-18)

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1:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ² and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Truth Will Make You Free

John 8:32

The Epistle To The

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put

on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither

slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are

all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ's, then you

are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Truth Will Make You Free

John 8:32

The Epistle To The

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

GALATIANS

An Introduction

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