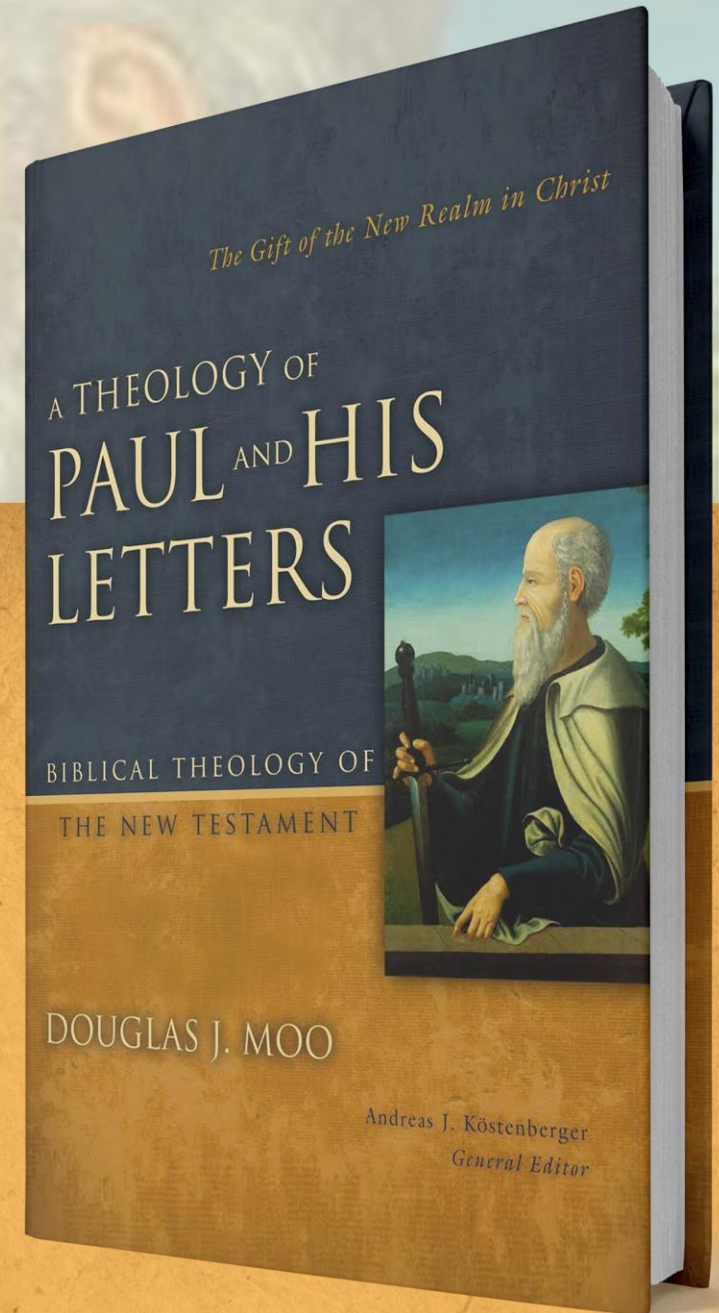
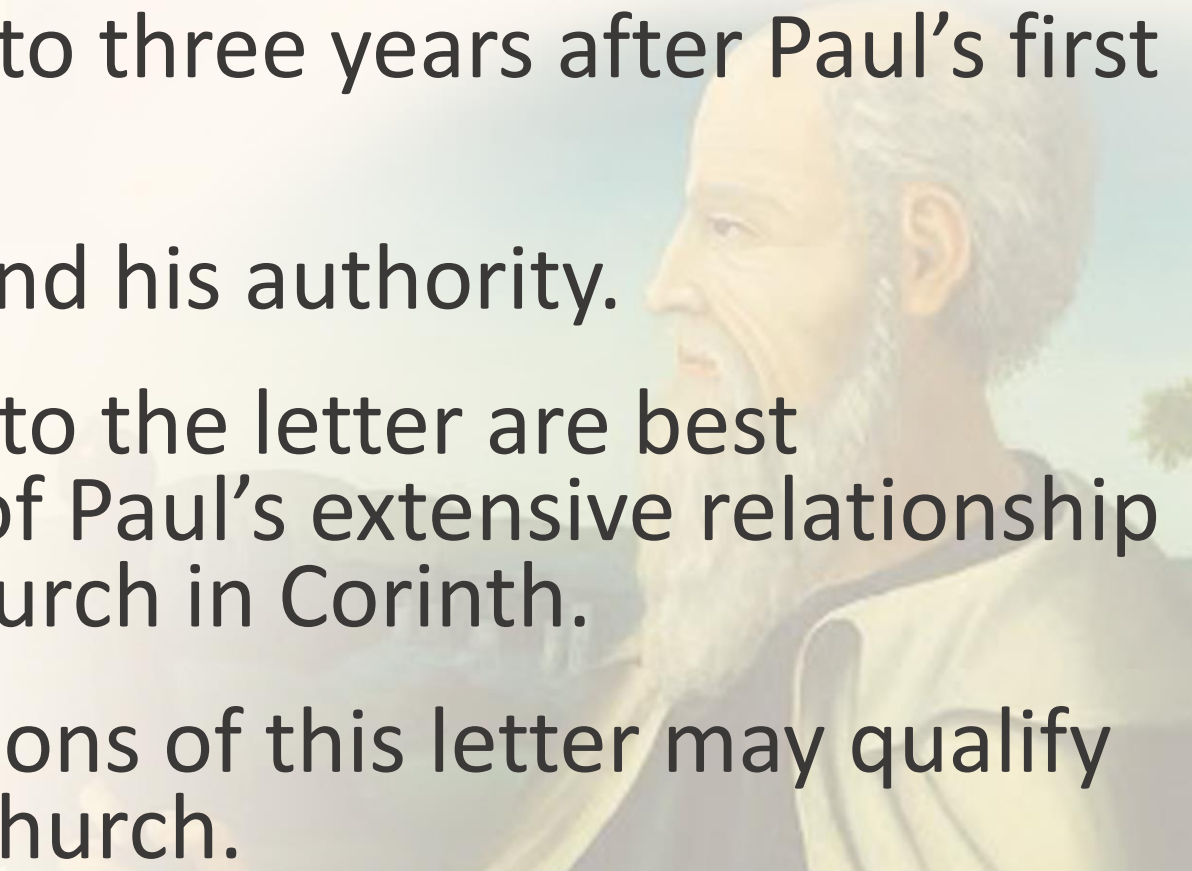


CHAPTER 8

2 Corinthians

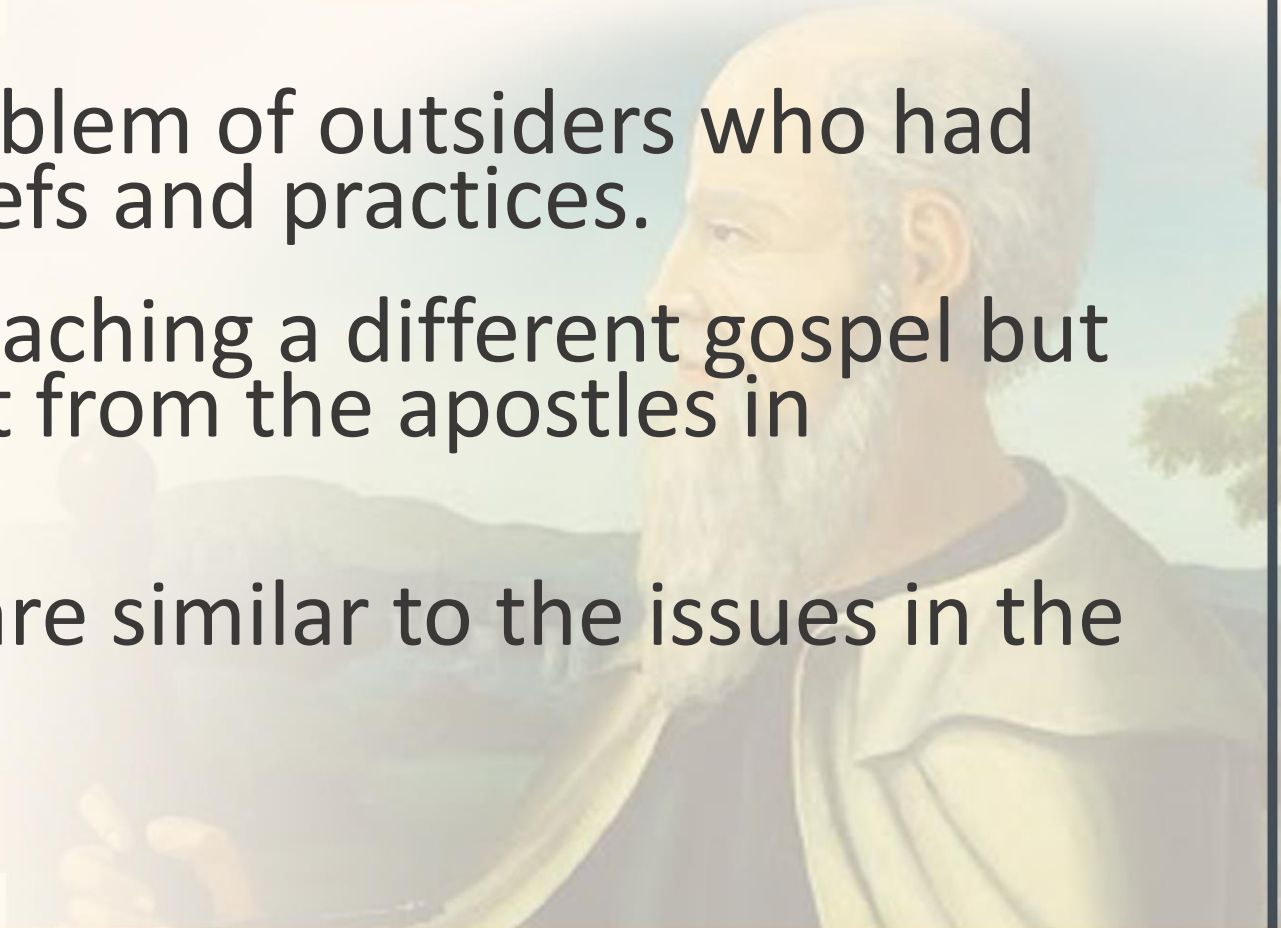


Locating the Letter

- This letter was written one to three years after Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.
 - Paul used the letter to defend his authority.
 - The circumstances that led to the letter are best understood in the context of Paul's extensive relationship and experience with the church in Corinth.
 - Some scholars believe portions of this letter may qualify as a separate letter to the church.
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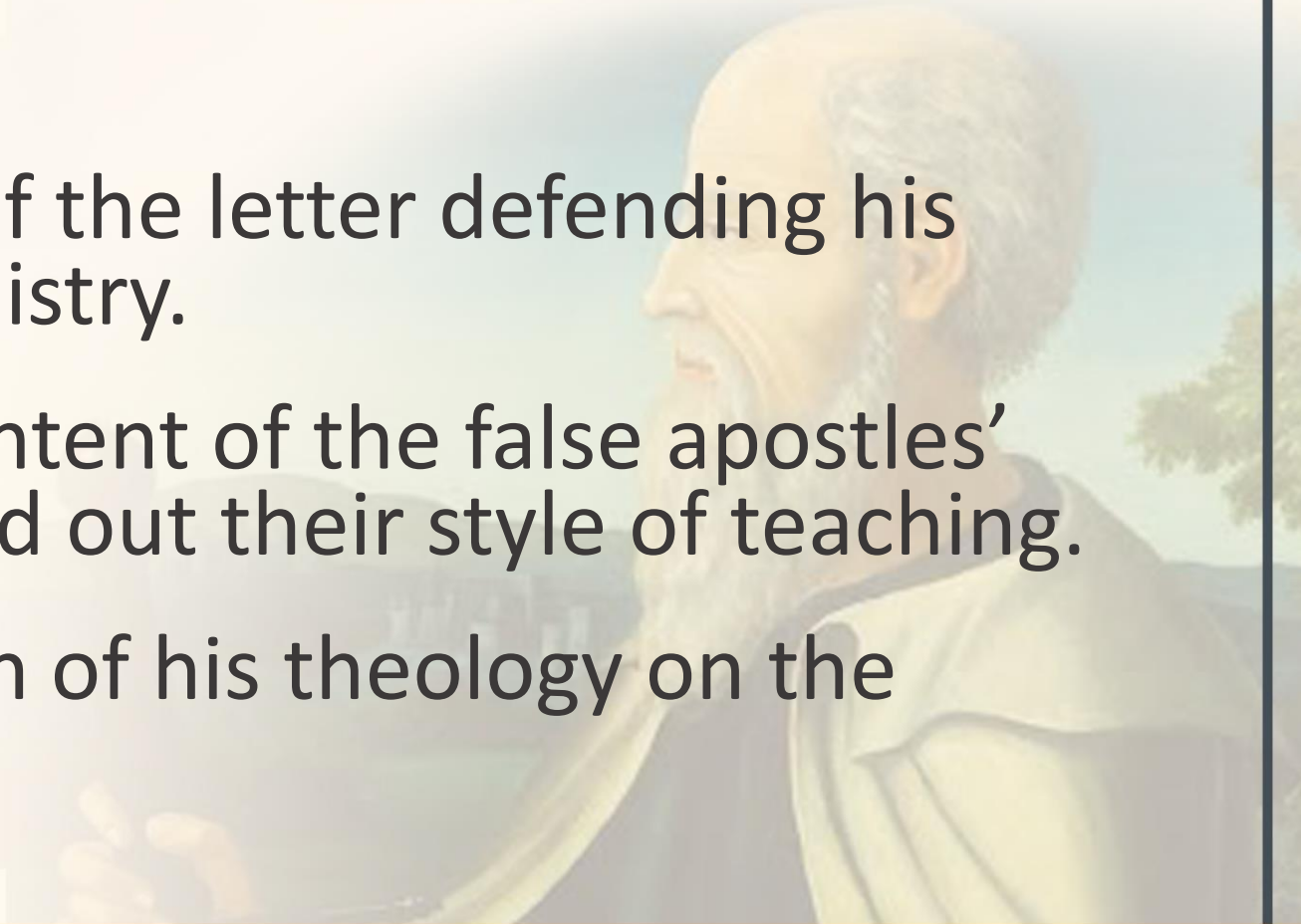
Isolating the Issues

- Paul was addressing the problem of outsiders who had influenced the church's beliefs and practices.
- The “false apostles” were teaching a different gospel but were trying to claim support from the apostles in Jerusalem.
- The issues in 2 Corinthians are similar to the issues in the Galatian church.

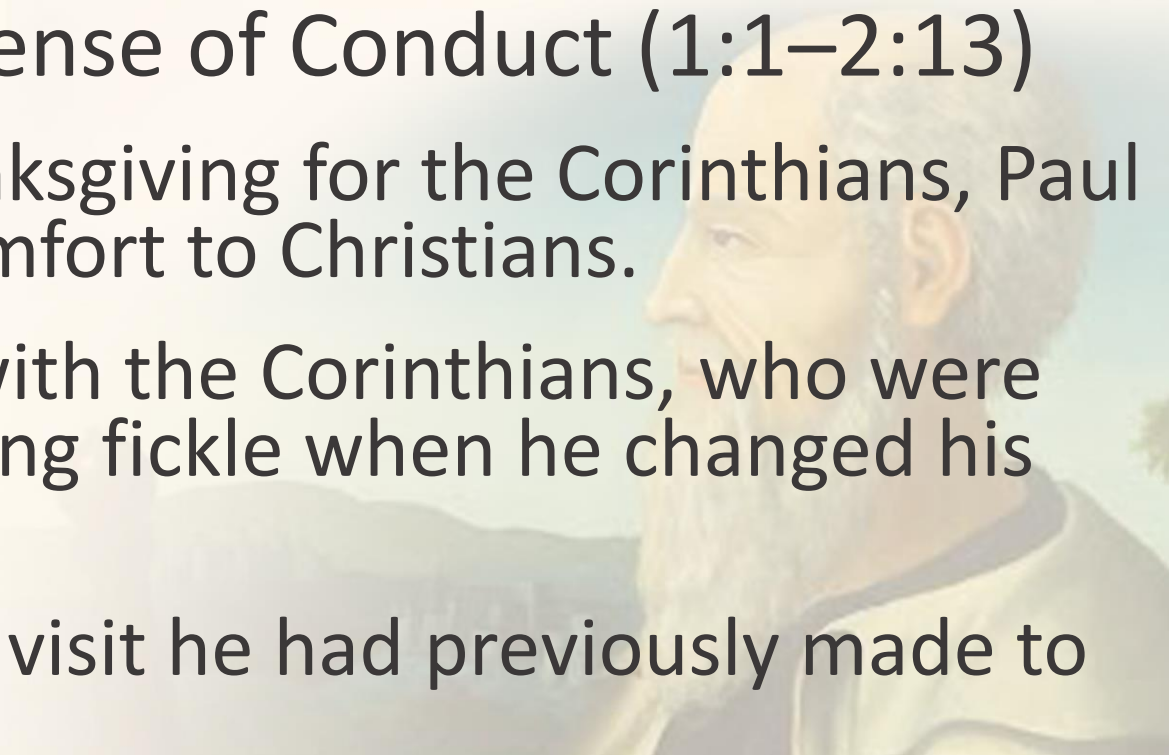


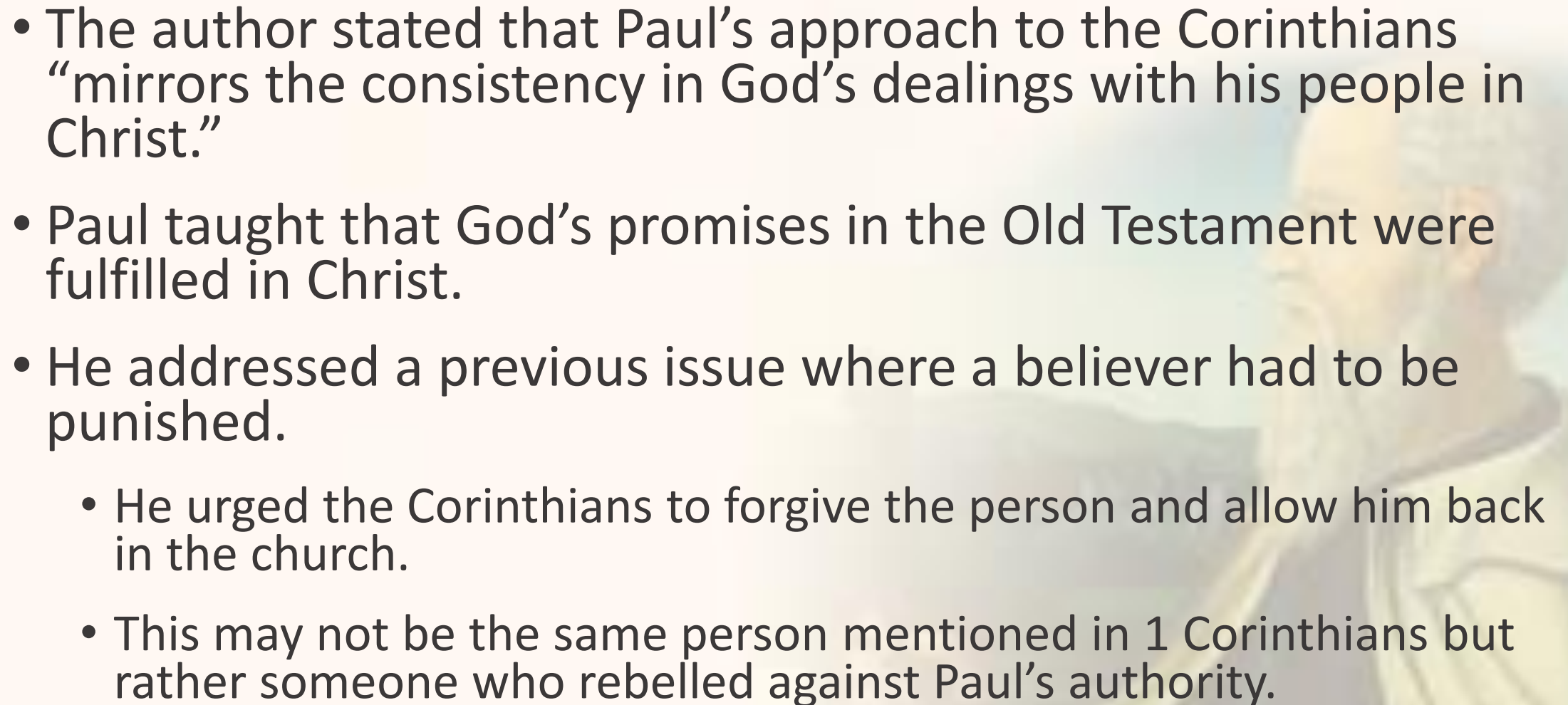
Analyzing the Argument

- Paul spent a large portion of the letter defending his authority and apostolic ministry.
- Paul did not identify the content of the false apostles' teachings but rather pointed out their style of teaching.
- Paul focused the foundation of his theology on the resurrection of Christ.



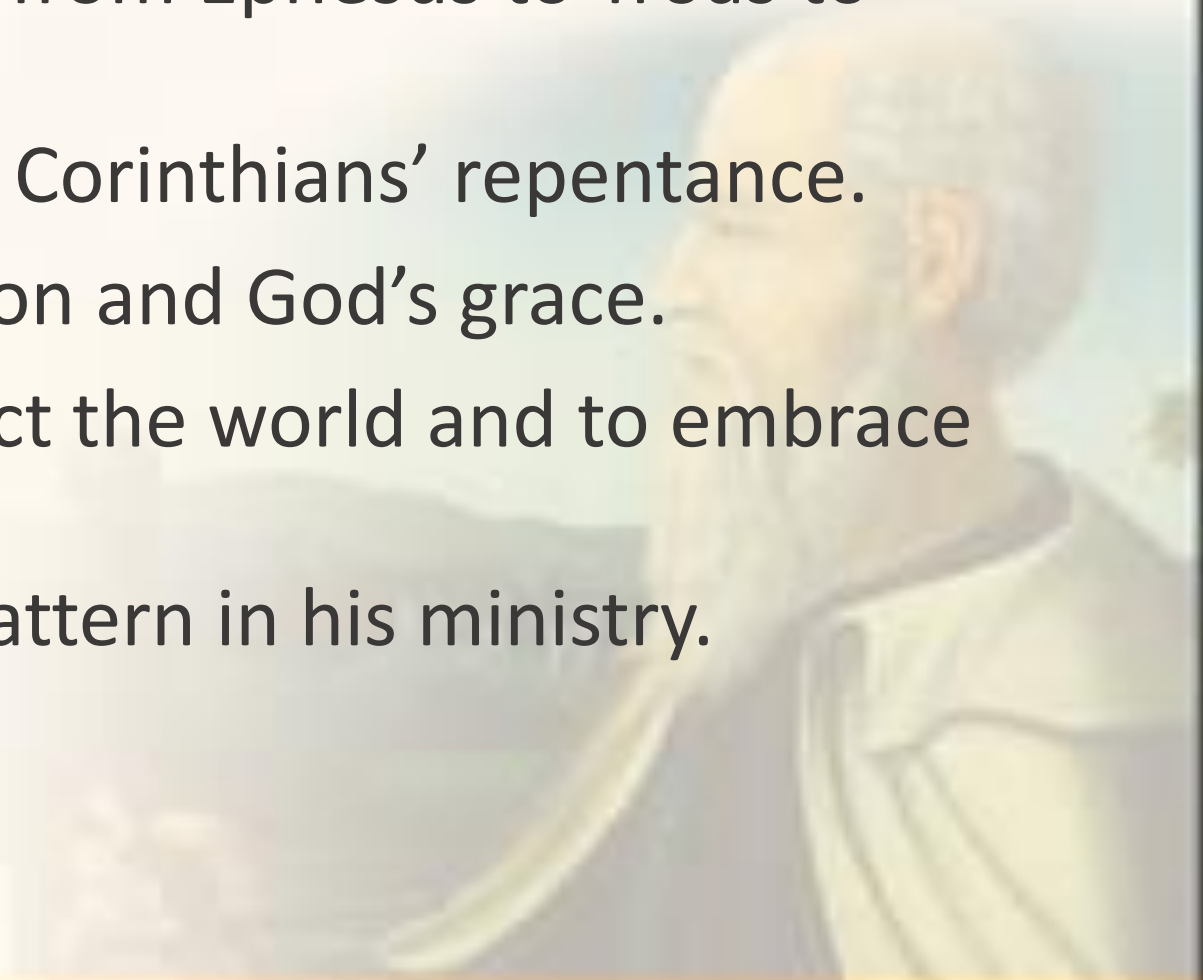
Paul's Boldness in Ministry (1:1–7:16)

- Introduction and Initial Defense of Conduct (1:1–2:13)
 - Rather than expressing thanksgiving for the Corinthians, Paul praised God for bringing comfort to Christians.
 - He reinforced his integrity with the Corinthians, who were possibly accusing him of being fickle when he changed his travel plans.
 - He referred to the “painful” visit he had previously made to Corinth.
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- The author stated that Paul's approach to the Corinthians "mirrors the consistency in God's dealings with his people in Christ."
 - Paul taught that God's promises in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Christ.
 - He addressed a previous issue where a believer had to be punished.
 - He urged the Corinthians to forgive the person and allow him back in the church.
 - This may not be the same person mentioned in 1 Corinthians but rather someone who rebelled against Paul's authority.

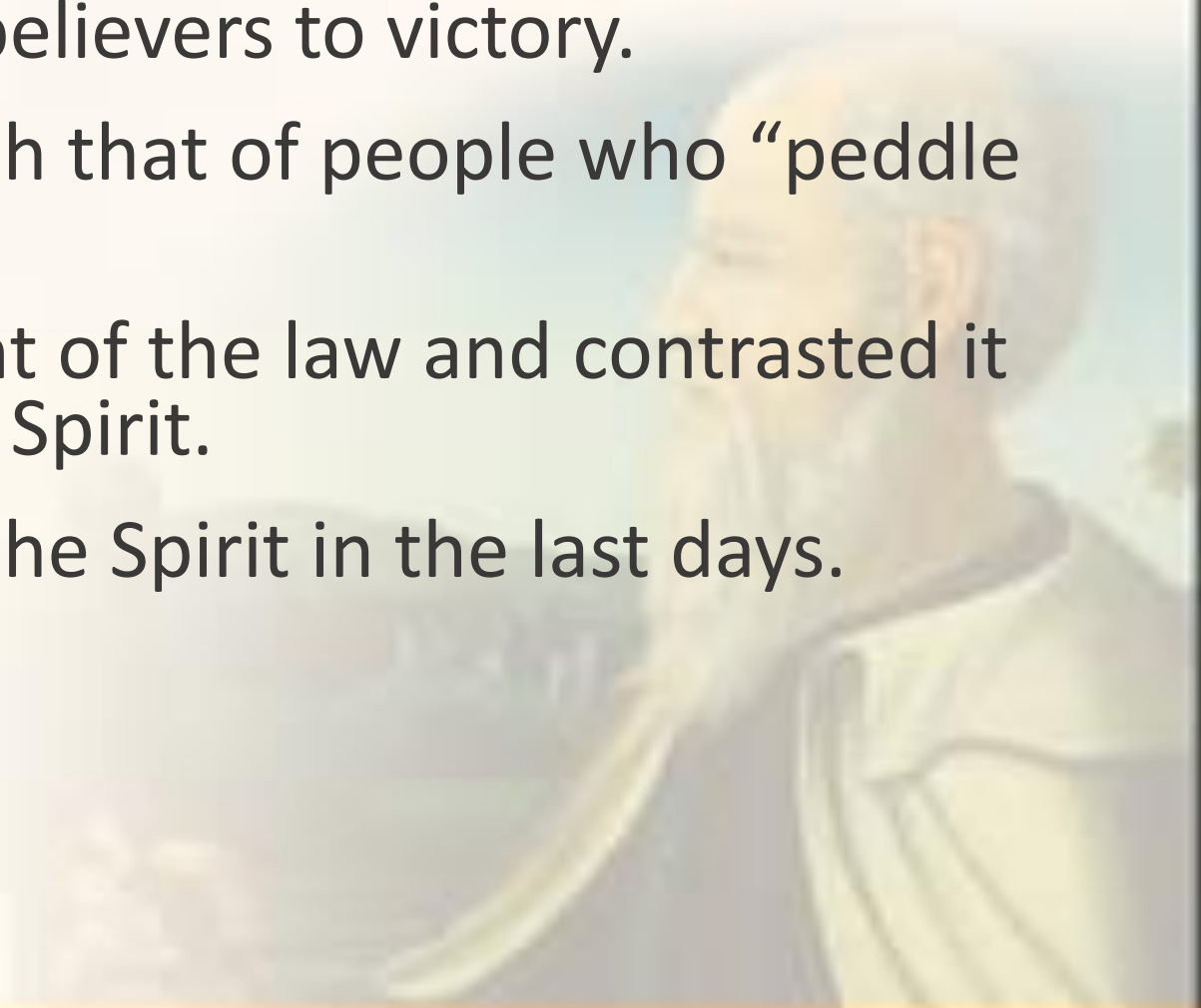
- Paul's New-Covenant Ministry (2:14–7:4)

- Paul outlined his recent travels from Ephesus to Troas to Macedonia.
- He expressed concern over the Corinthians' repentance.
- Paul taught them about salvation and God's grace.
- He exhorted the church to reject the world and to embrace his ministry and gospel.
- He used a life-through-death pattern in his ministry.

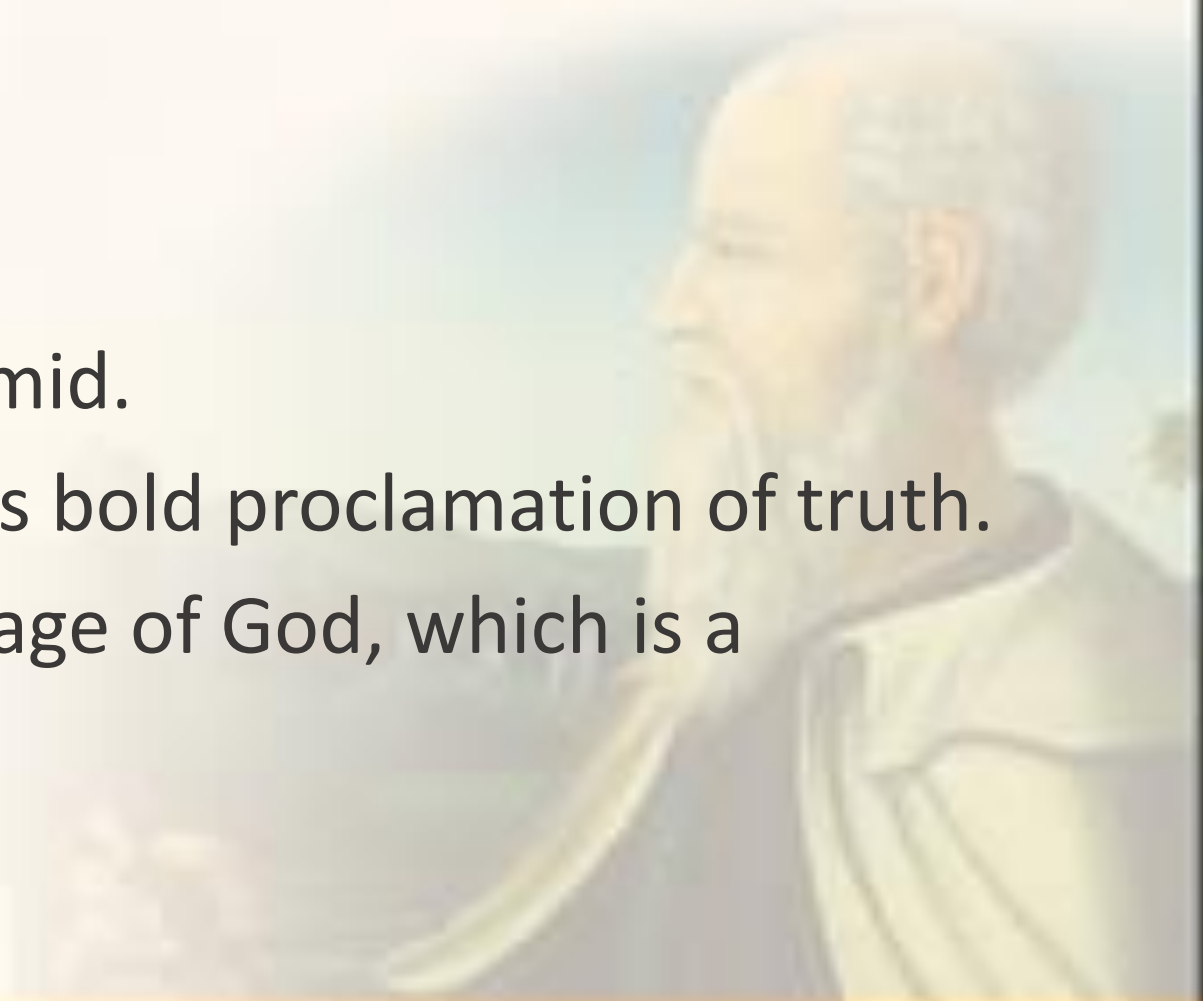


- Paul's New-Covenant Boldness (2:14–4:6)

- Paul praised God for leading believers to victory.
- He contrasted his ministry with that of people who “peddle the word of God for profit.”
- He alluded to the old covenant of the law and contrasted it with the new covenant of the Spirit.
- He taught about the work of the Spirit in the last days.

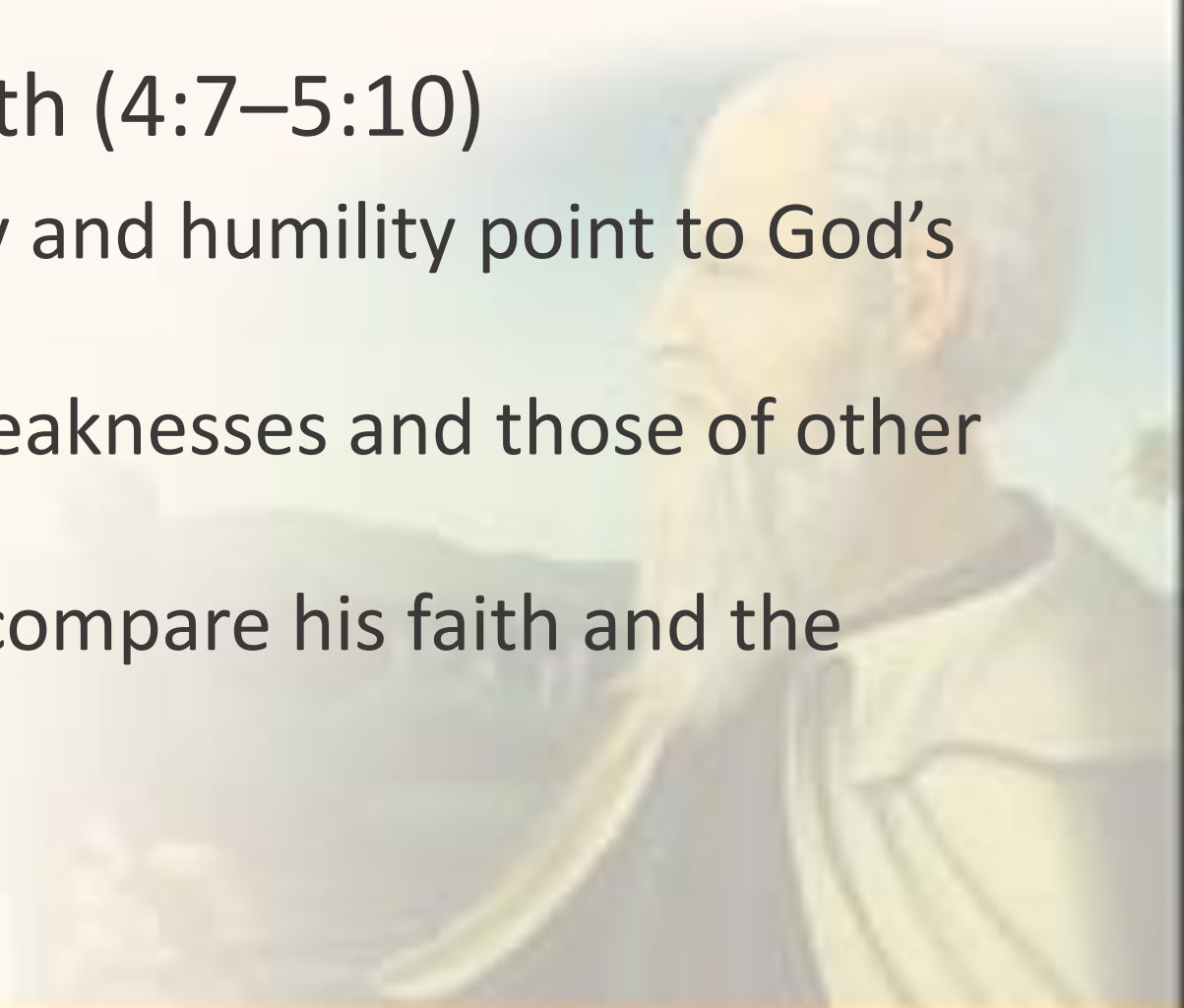


- Paul also contrasted his ministry with the ministry of Moses.
 - Life vs. death/condemnation
 - Permanent vs. fading
 - Open and bold vs. hidden
- Paul asserted that he is not timid.
- He commended himself for his bold proclamation of truth.
- He noted that Christ is the image of God, which is a “creation/new-creation link.”

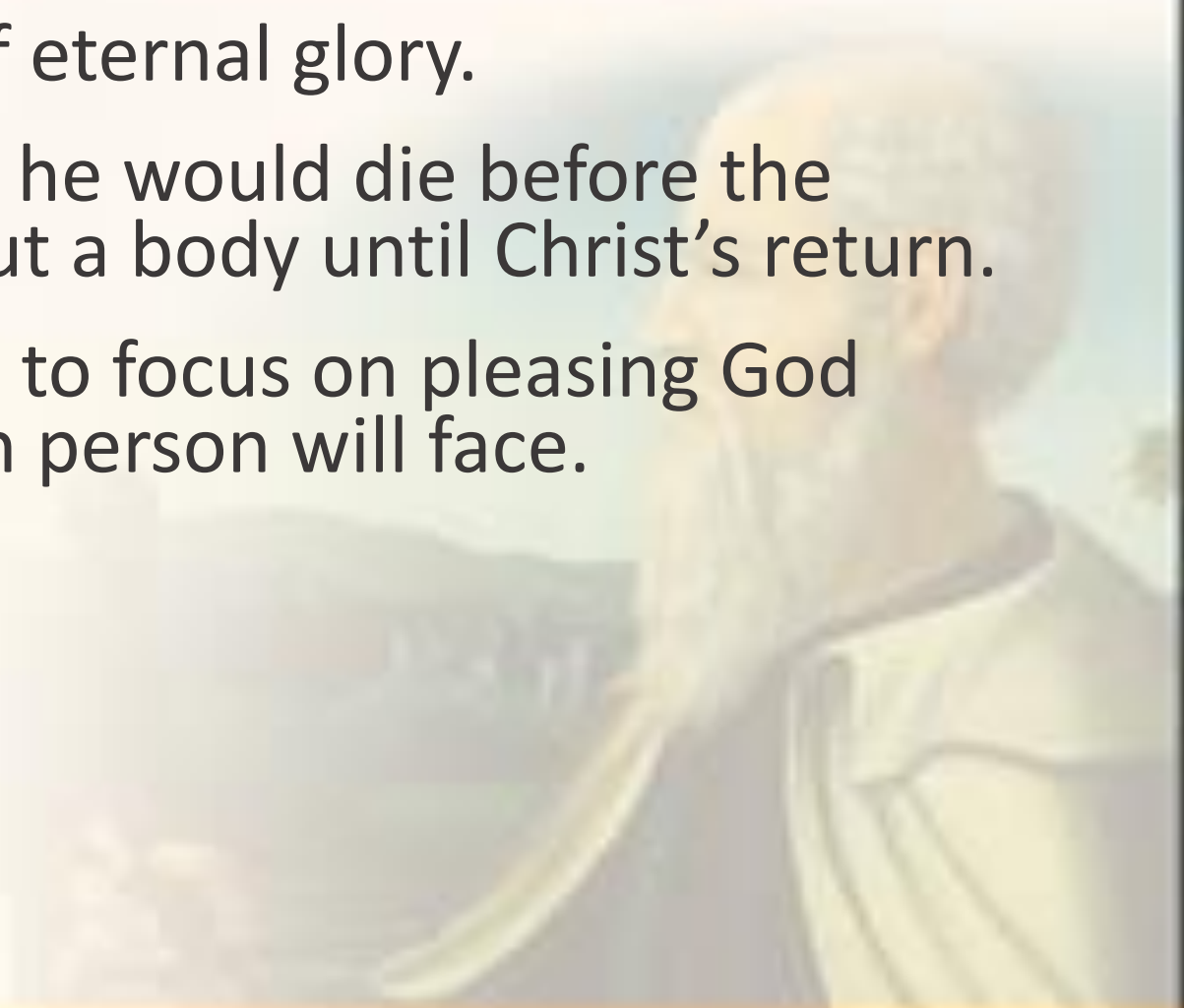


- The Interplay of Life and Death (4:7–5:10)

- Paul taught that human frailty and humility point to God's glory and power.
- He mentioned his personal weaknesses and those of other ministers.
- Paul quotes Psalm 116:10 to compare his faith and the boldness of his ministry.

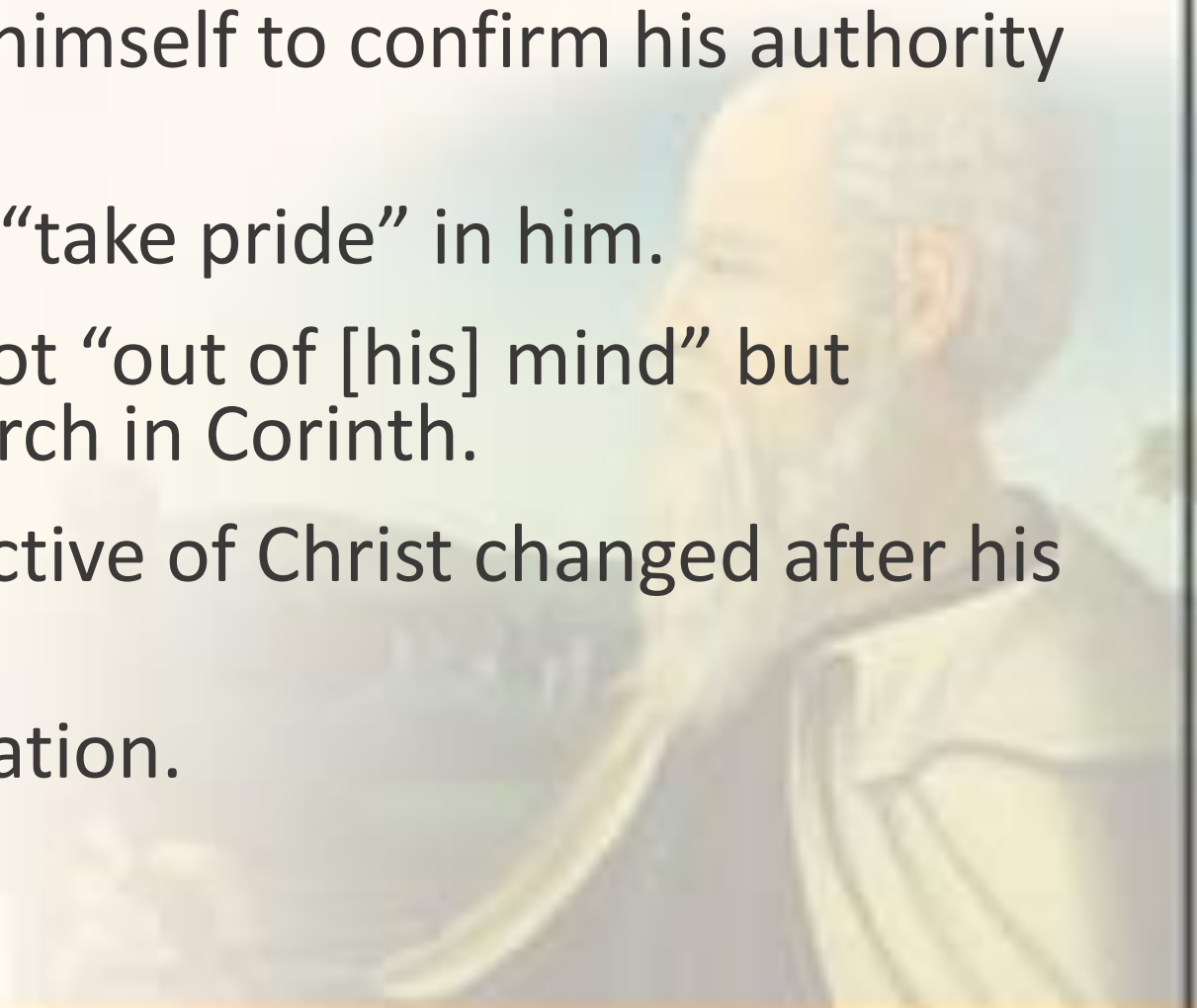


- Paul taught about the hope of eternal glory.
- Paul may have suggested that he would die before the parousia and would be without a body until Christ's return.
- Paul exhorted the Corinthians to focus on pleasing God because of the judgment each person will face.

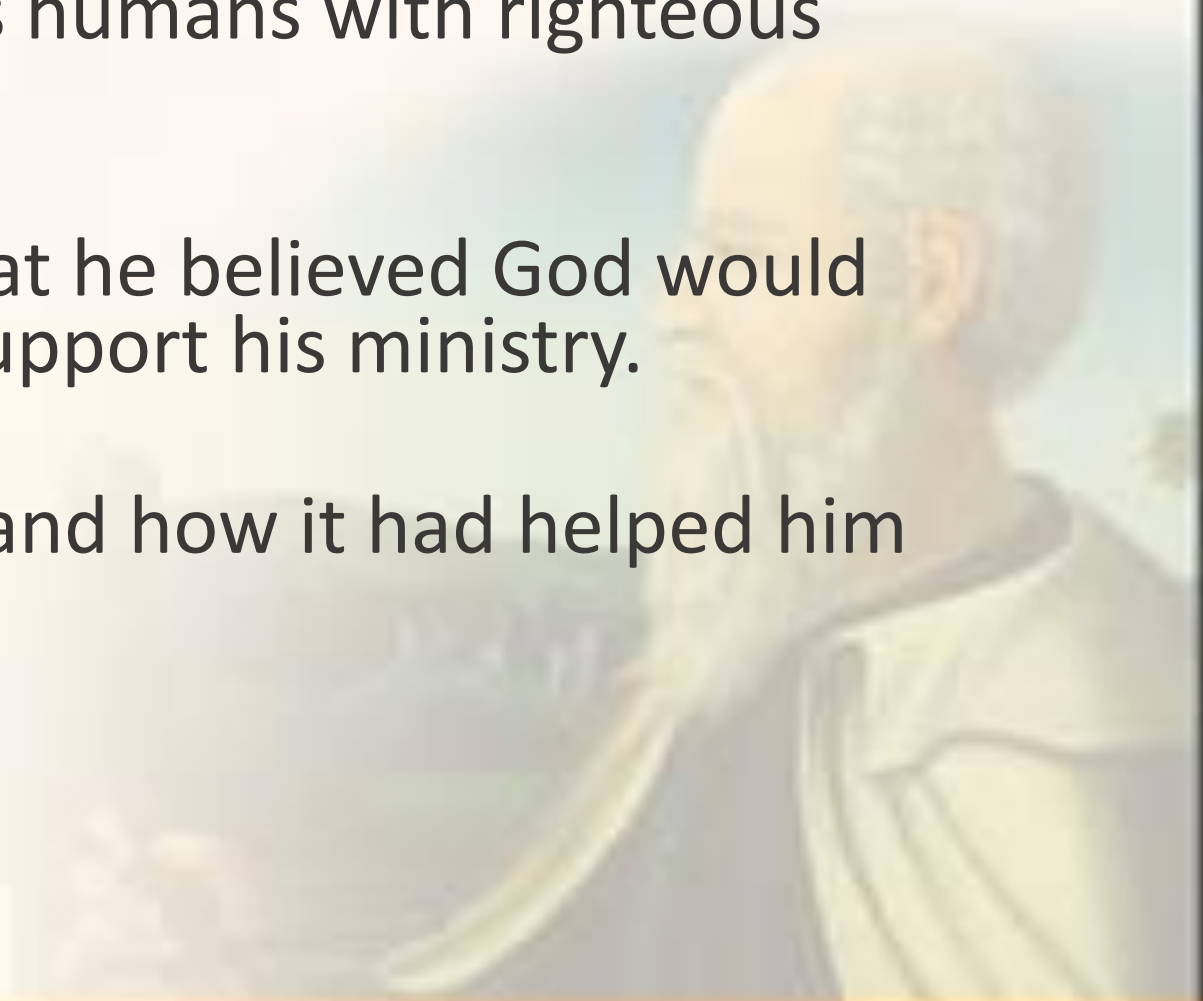


- Responding to Paul, God's Ambassador (5:11–6:10)

- Paul once again commended himself to confirm his authority as a messenger of the gospel.
- Paul asked the Corinthians to “take pride” in him.
- He emphasized that he was not “out of [his] mind” but merely concerned for the church in Corinth.
- He addressed how his perspective of Christ changed after his conversion.
- He used language of reconciliation.



- Paul taught that God provides humans with righteous standing through Christ.
- Paul quoted Isaiah to state that he believed God would continue to provide for and support his ministry.
- Paul mentioned his suffering and how it had helped him conform to Christ.

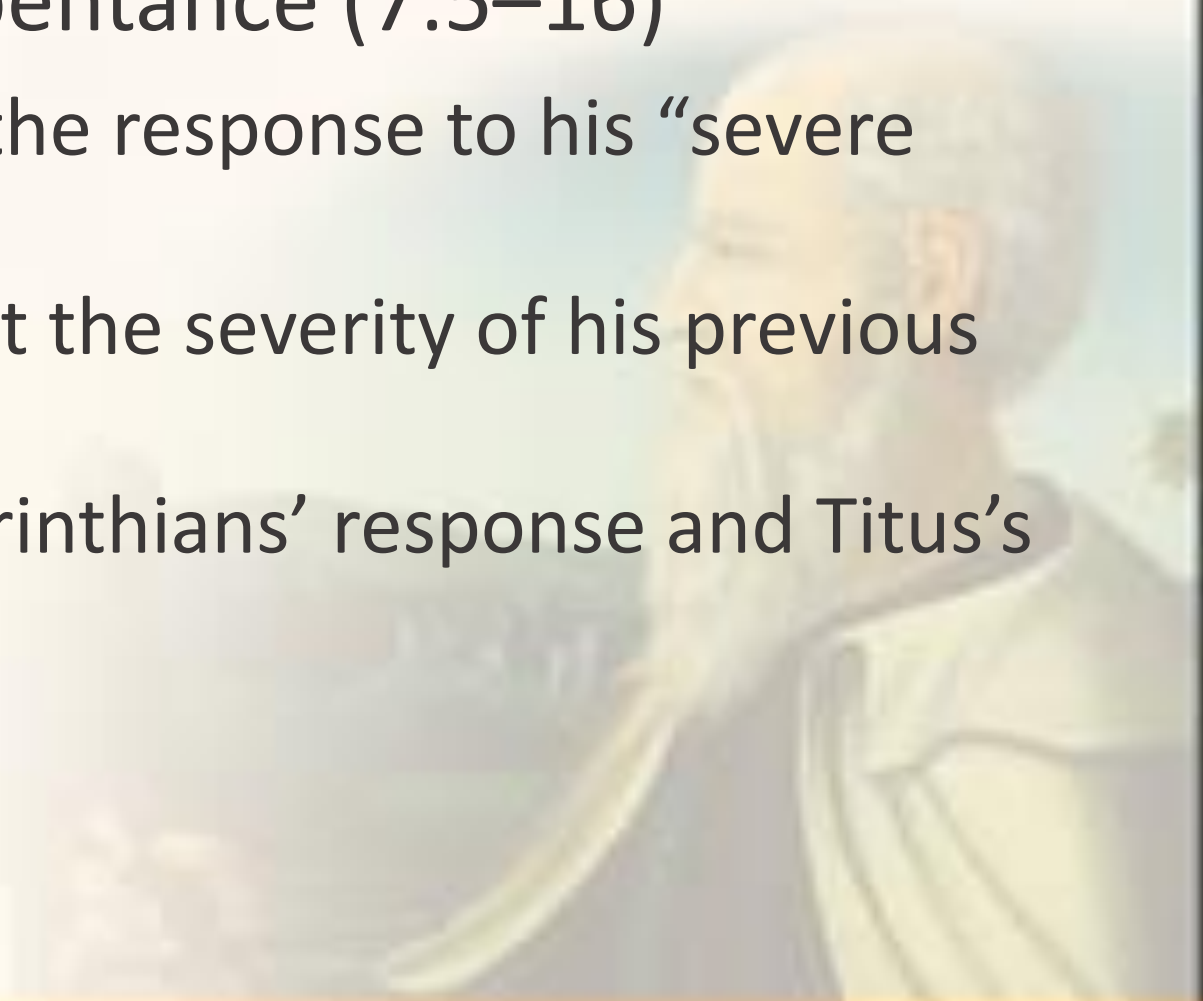


- Embracing Paul and Renouncing Idolatry (6:11–7:4)

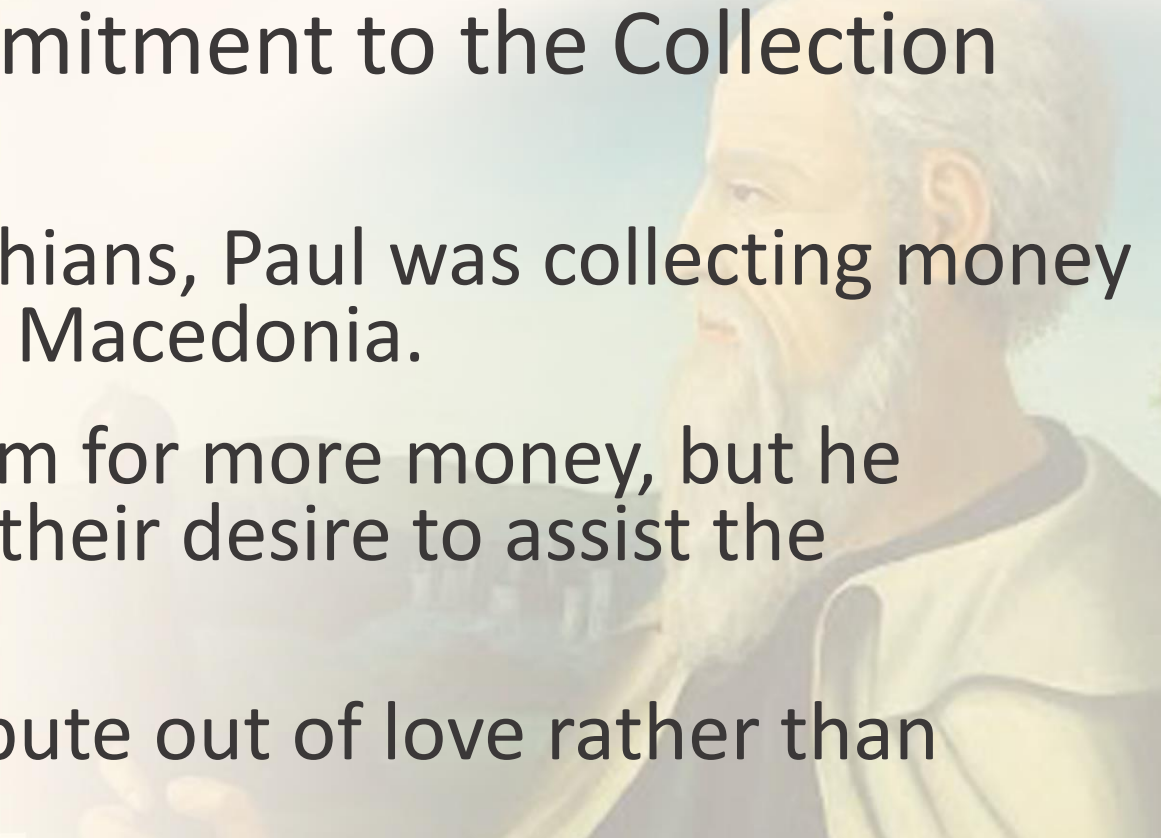
- Paul begged the Corinthians to respond to his love with their own love.
- He then warned them against idolatry.
- He returned to his pleas for them to open their hearts to him.
- In his warning against idolatry, Paul urged believers not to yoke themselves to unbelievers. He argued the following:
 - Surrender to Christ means not being involved with the world.
 - God now lives in the bodies of believers, who are now his temple.

- Joy over the Corinthians' Repentance (7:5–16)

- Paul expressed concern over the response to his “severe letter” to the Corinthians.
- He explained again why he felt the severity of his previous letter was necessary.
- He was delighted with the Corinthians' response and Titus's report.



The Collection (8:1–9:15)

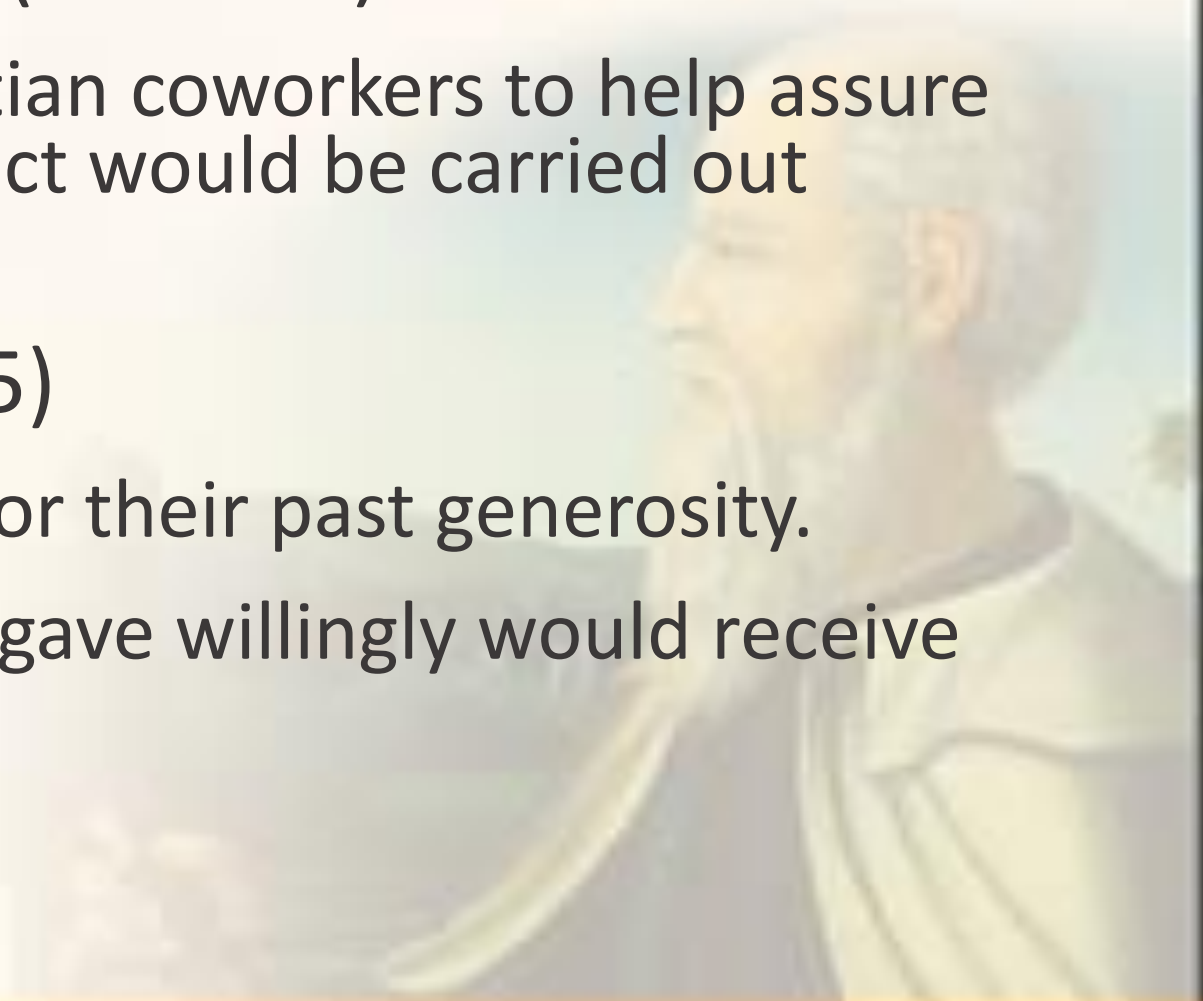
- Exhortation to Renew Commitment to the Collection (8:1–15)
 - As he addressed in 1 Corinthians, Paul was collecting money for poor Jewish believers in Macedonia.
 - He was reluctant to ask them for more money, but he requested that they renew their desire to assist the Macedonians.
 - Paul asked that they contribute out of love rather than obedience.
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- Administering the Collection (8:16–25)

- Paul mentioned several Christian coworkers to help assure the Corinthians that the project would be carried out appropriately.

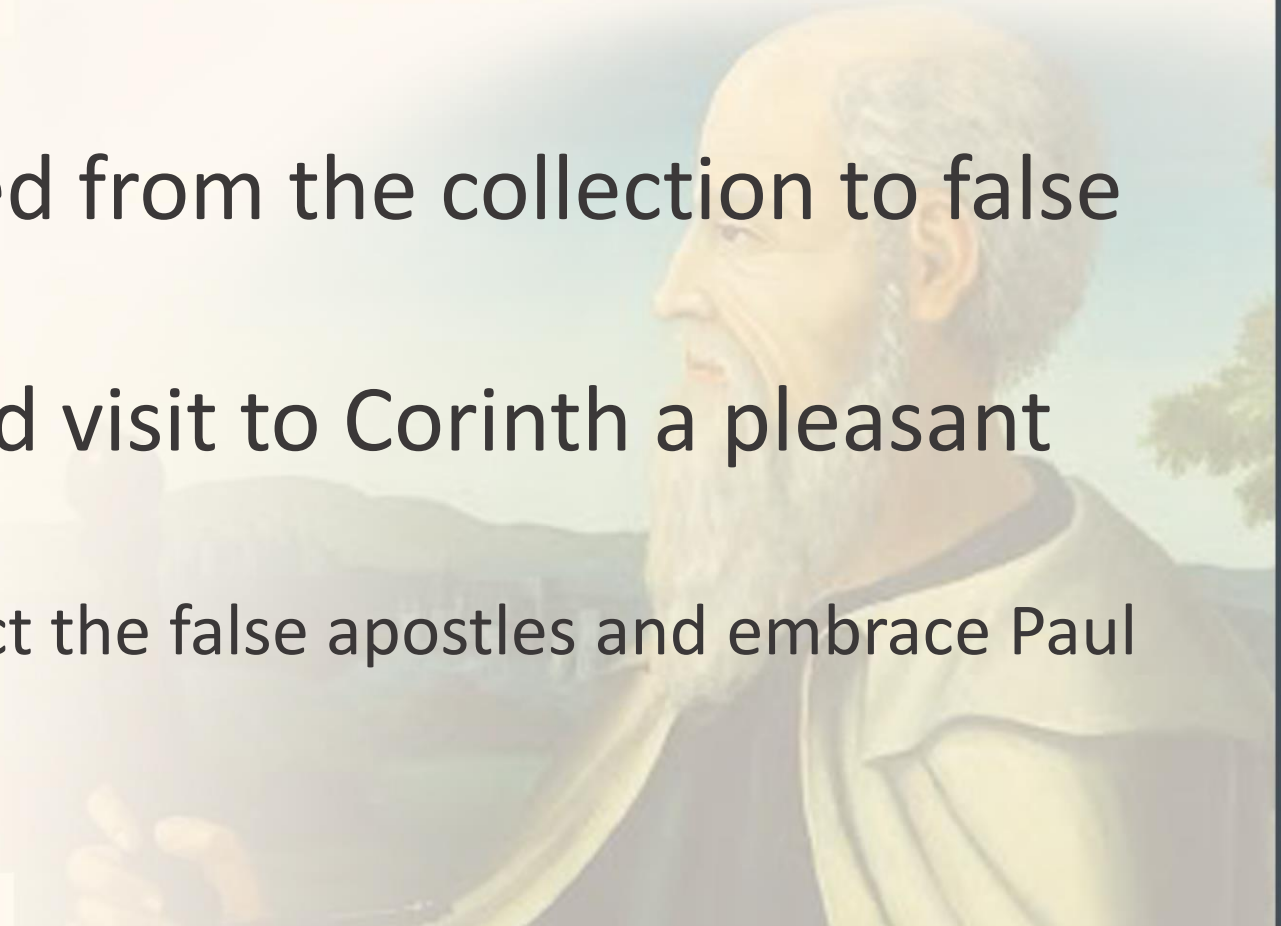
- Completing the Work (9:1–15)

- Paul praised the Corinthians for their past generosity.
- He taught that believers who gave willingly would receive generous gifts from God.



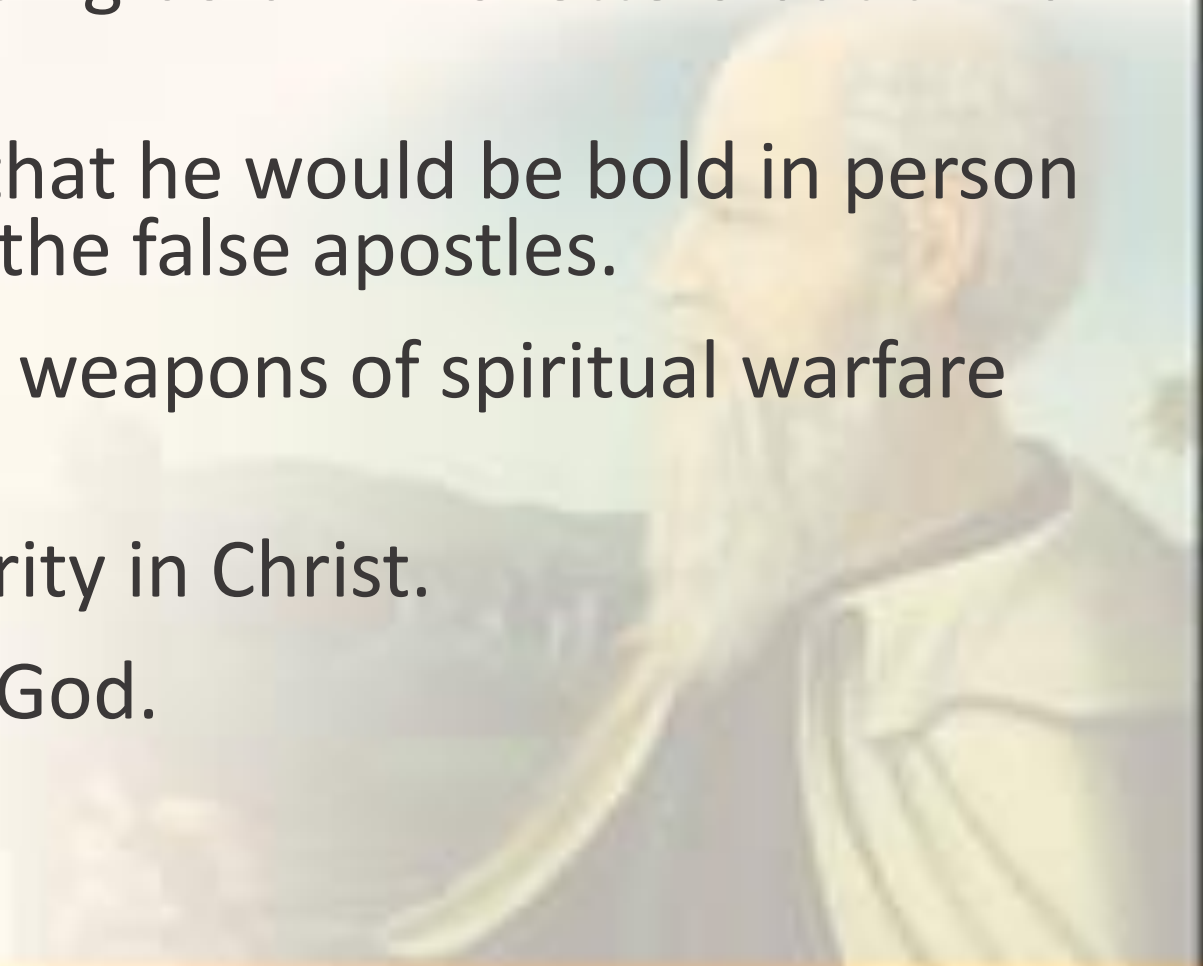
Paul and the False Apostles (10:1–12:13)

- Paul's focus suddenly shifted from the collection to false apostles.
- He wanted to make his third visit to Corinth a pleasant one.
 - The Corinthians needed to reject the false apostles and embrace Paul in order for this to happen.



- Paul Defends His Ministry Style (10:1–18)

- Paul's rivals accused him of being bold in his letters but timid in person.
- Paul warned the Corinthians that he would be bold in person if they continued to embrace the false apostles.
- He also assured them that his weapons of spiritual warfare were from God.
- He again confirmed his authority in Christ.
- Paul boasted in his service to God.



- Paul Boasts as a “Fool” (11:1–12:13)

- Paul felt embarrassed to do so, but he boasted of the accomplishments of his ministry.

- This was necessary to counter his rivals’ attacks.

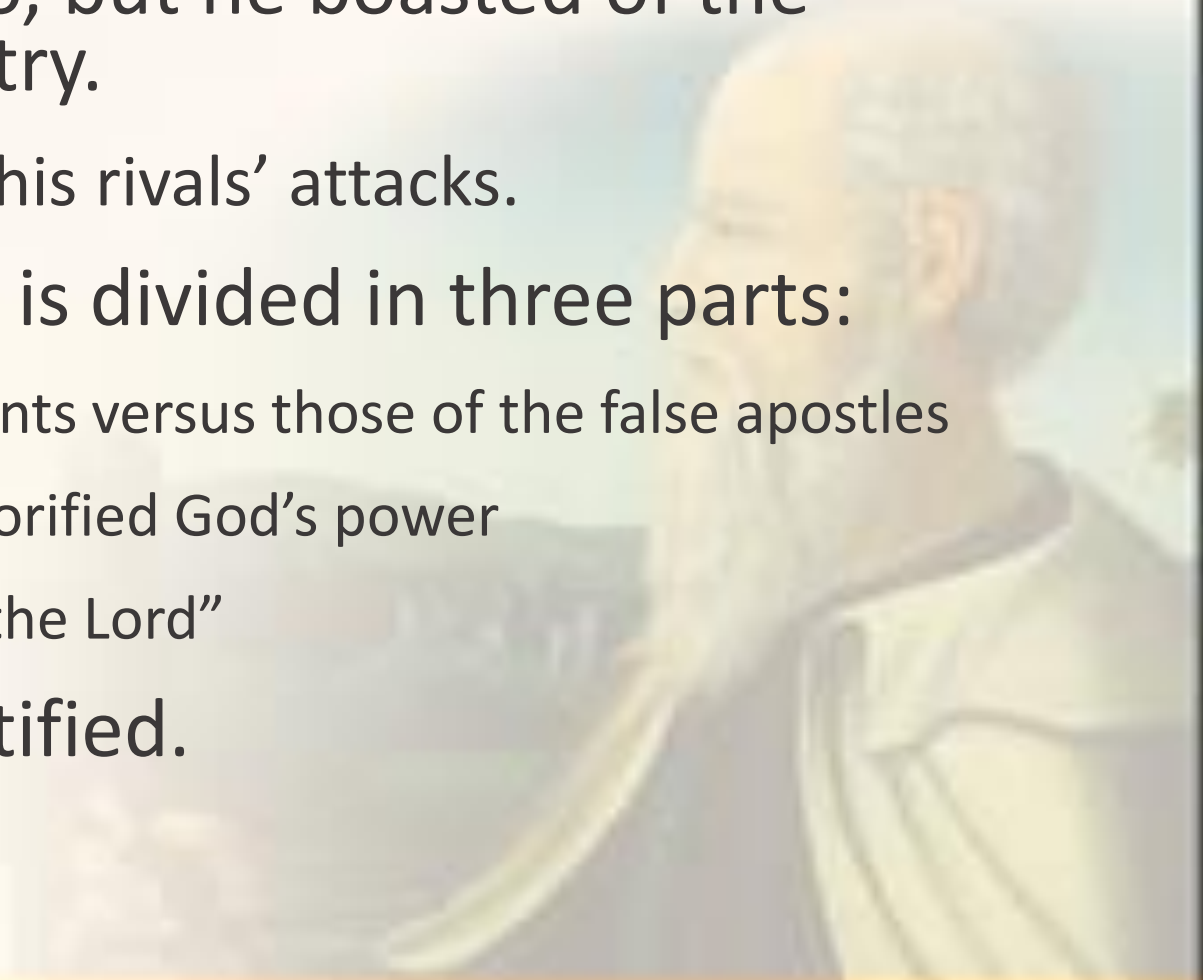
- Paul’s argument against them is divided in three parts:

1. His credentials and accomplishments versus those of the false apostles

2. His weaknesses in ministry that glorified God’s power

3. His “visions and revelations from the Lord”

- Paul’s weakness is never identified.



Preparing for Paul's Visit (12:14–13:14)

- Paul addressed his upcoming third visit to Corinth.
 - He was hoping to prompt them to repent and urged them to examine their hearts and motives.
 - He questioned whether they were truly in the faith.
 - He hoped that his own weakness would spiritually strengthen the Corinthians.
 - He added his usual conclusion.
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