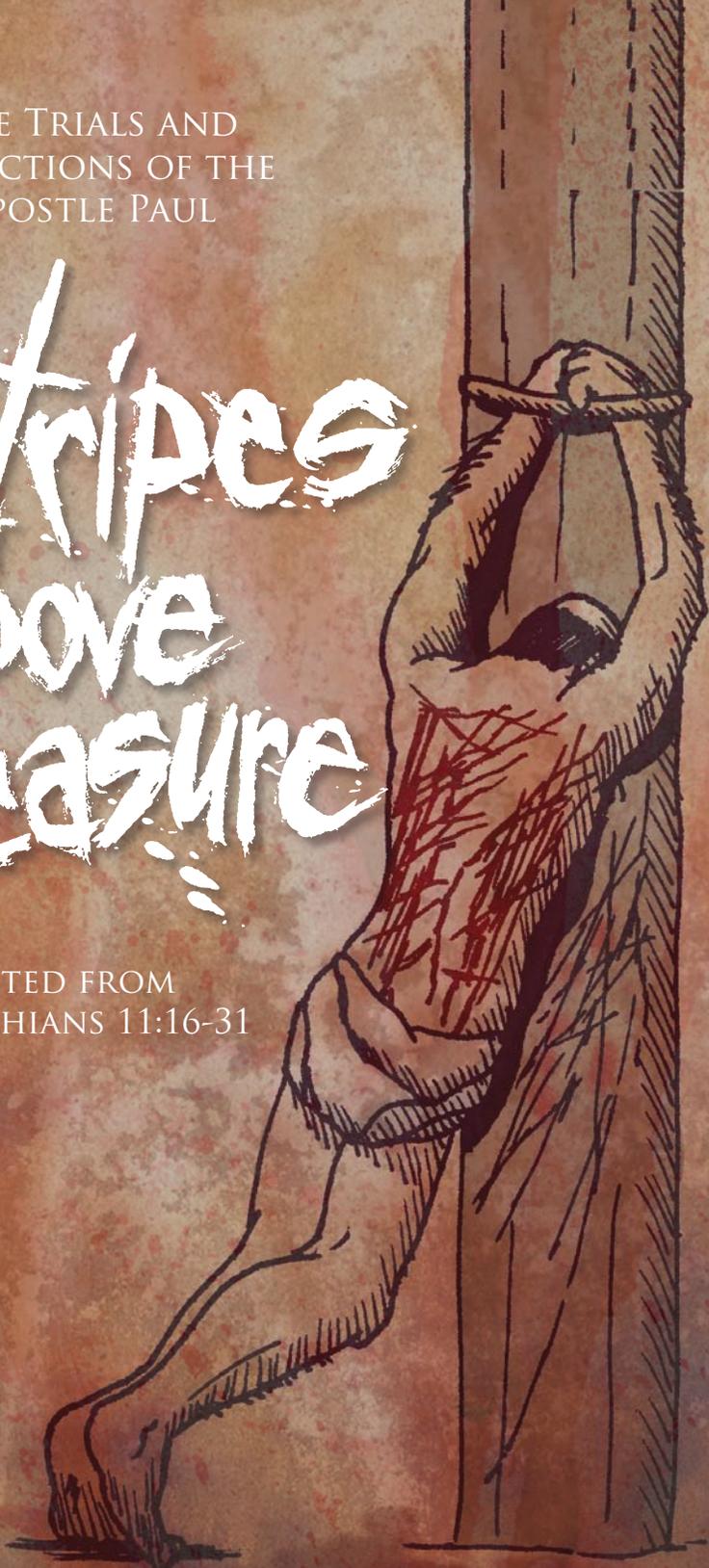


THE TRIALS AND  
AFFLICTIONS OF THE  
APOSTLE PAUL

# Stripes Above Measure

ADAPTED FROM  
2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-31



Illustrated by Robert H. Flores

# Stripes Above Measure

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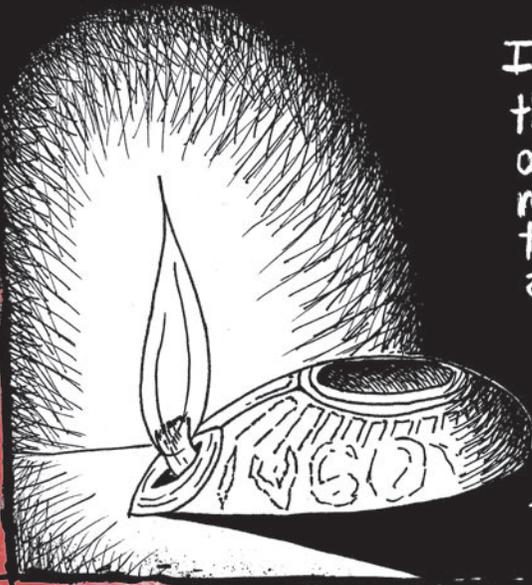


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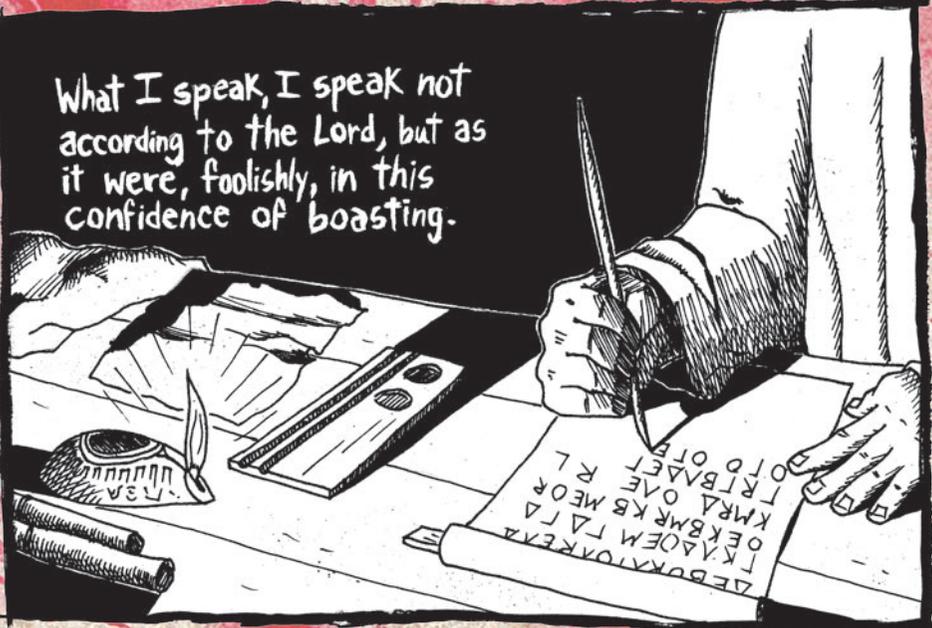
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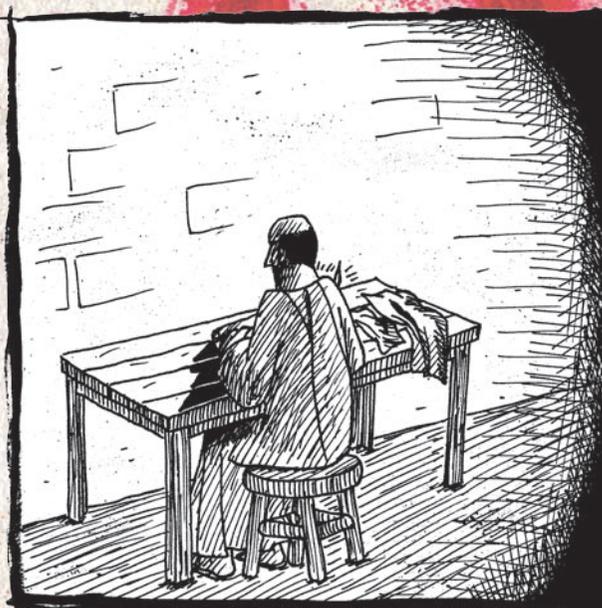
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I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little.

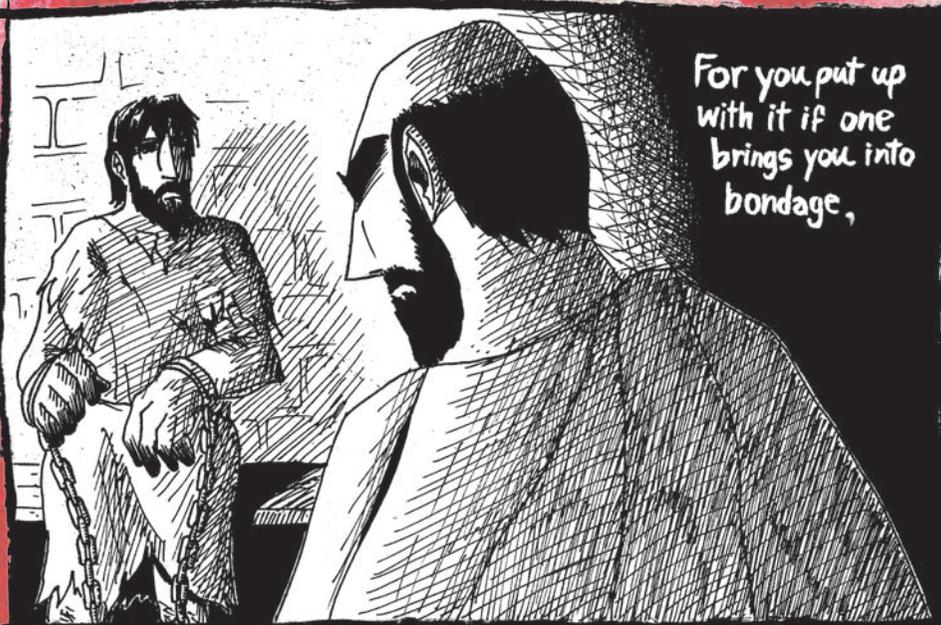


What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.





Seeing that many  
boast according to  
the flesh, I also  
will boast. For you  
put up with fools  
gladly, since you  
yourselves are wise!

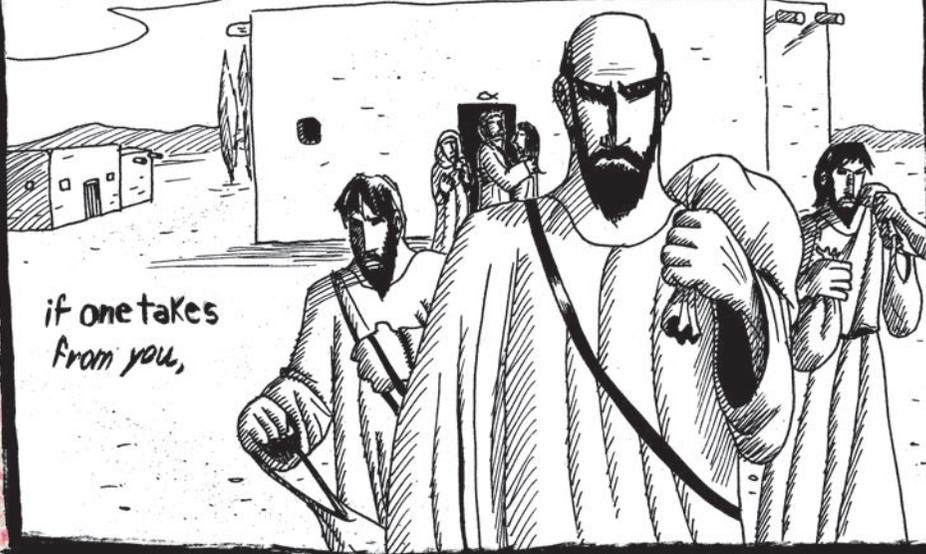


For you put up  
with it if one  
brings you into  
bondage,

if one devours you,



if one takes  
from you,



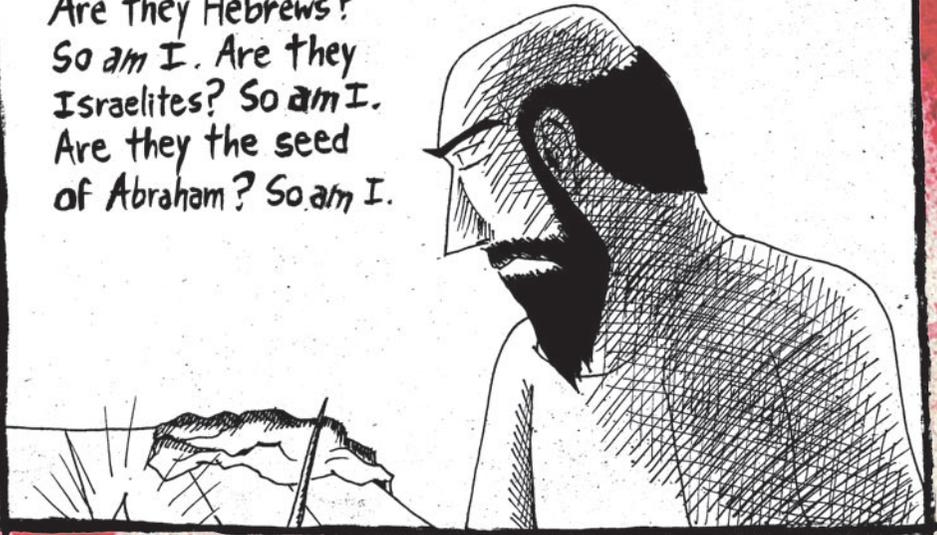




To our shame I say  
that we were too  
weak for that!  
But in whatever  
anyone is bold —  
I speak foolishly —  
I am bold also.



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



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



in labors more abundant,



in stripes above  
measure,





From the Jews five  
times I received  
forty *stripes* minus one.



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;

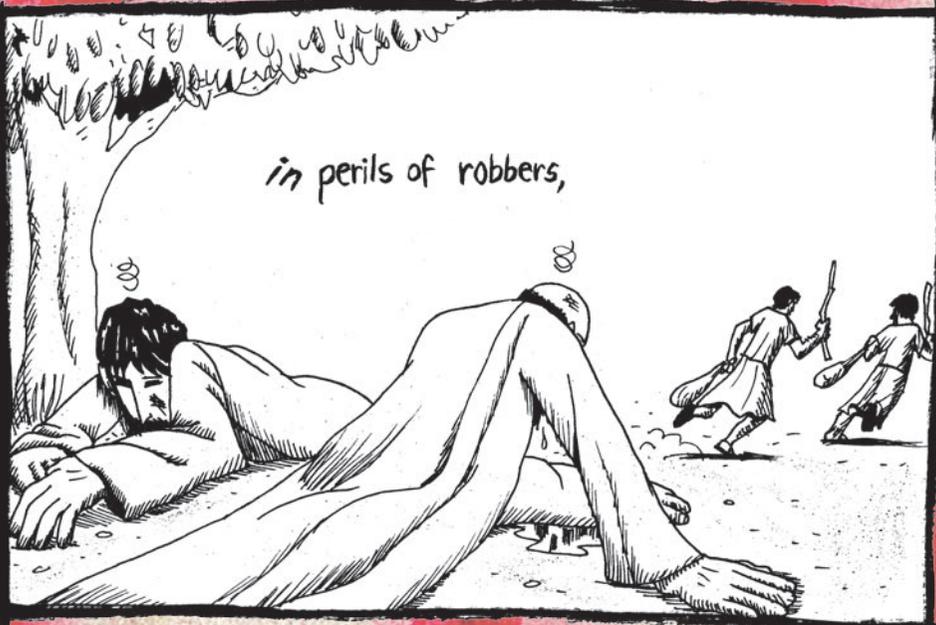


*in* journeys often,





*in perils of waters,*

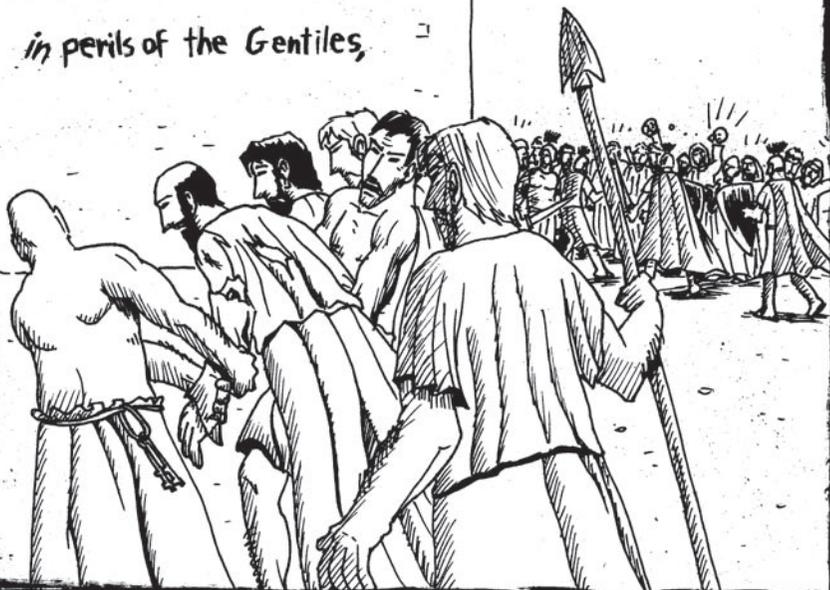


*in perils of robbers,*

*in perils of my own countrymen,*



*in perils of the Gentiles,*



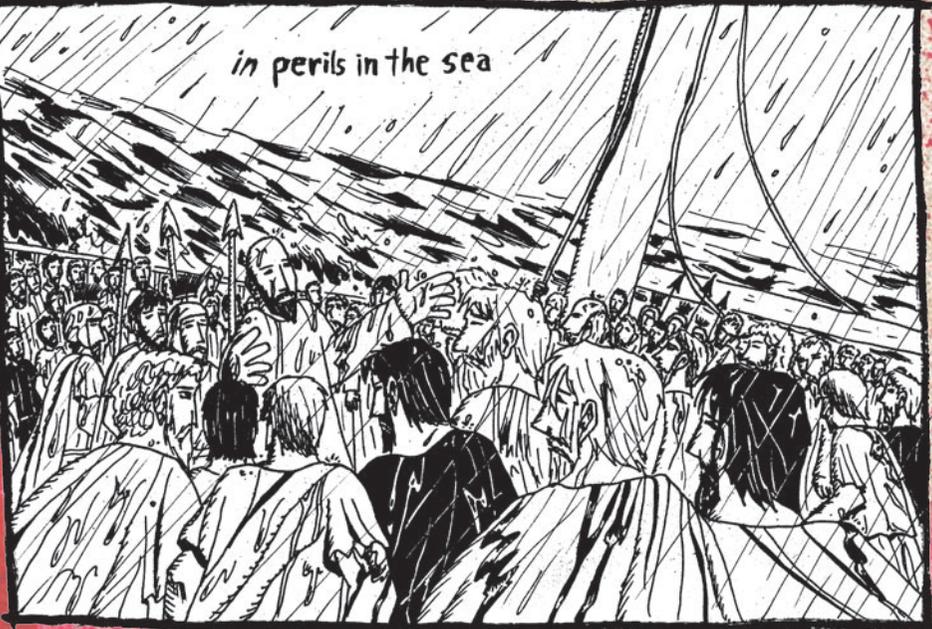
*in perils in the city,*



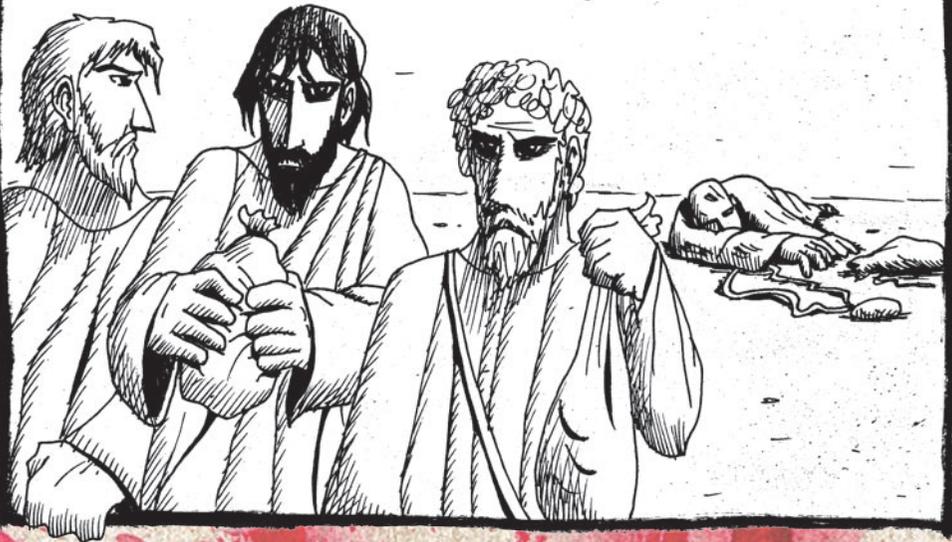
*in perils  
in the wilderness,*



*in perils in the sea*

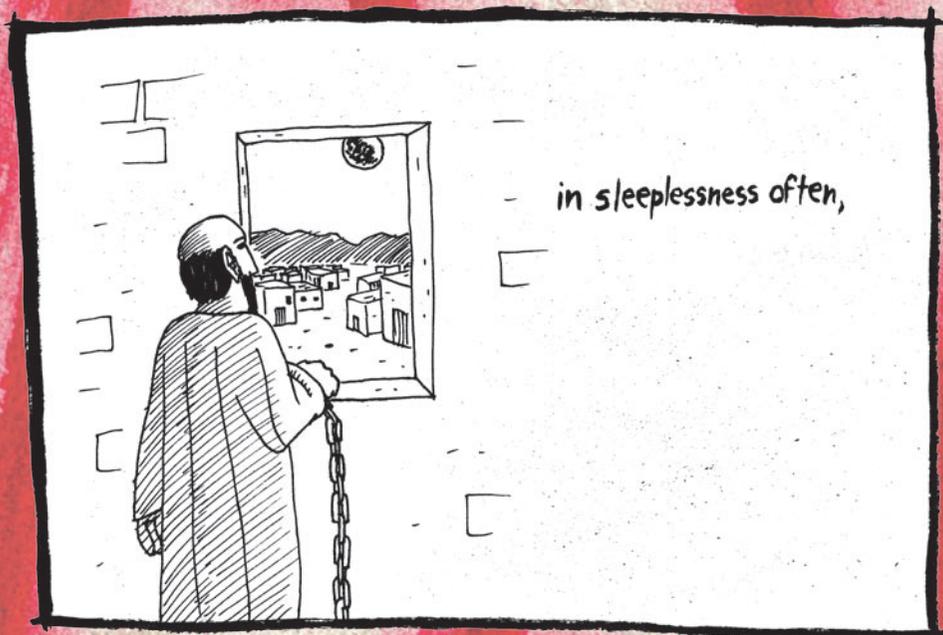


*in perils among false brethren;*





in weariness  
and toil,

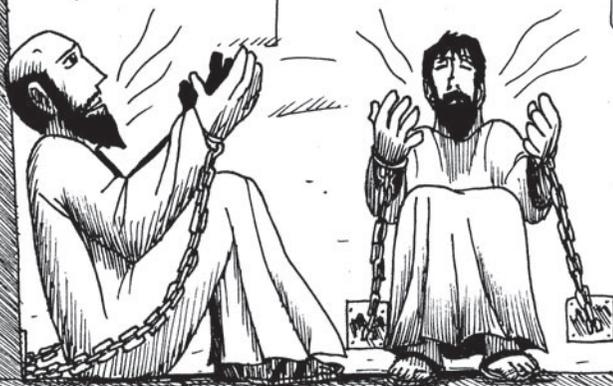


in sleeplessness often,

in hunger and thirst,



in fastings often,



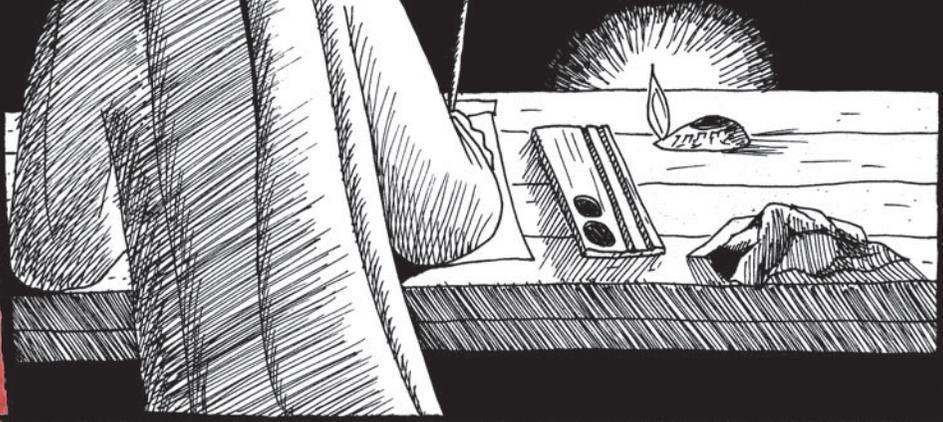
in cold and nakedness —



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



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



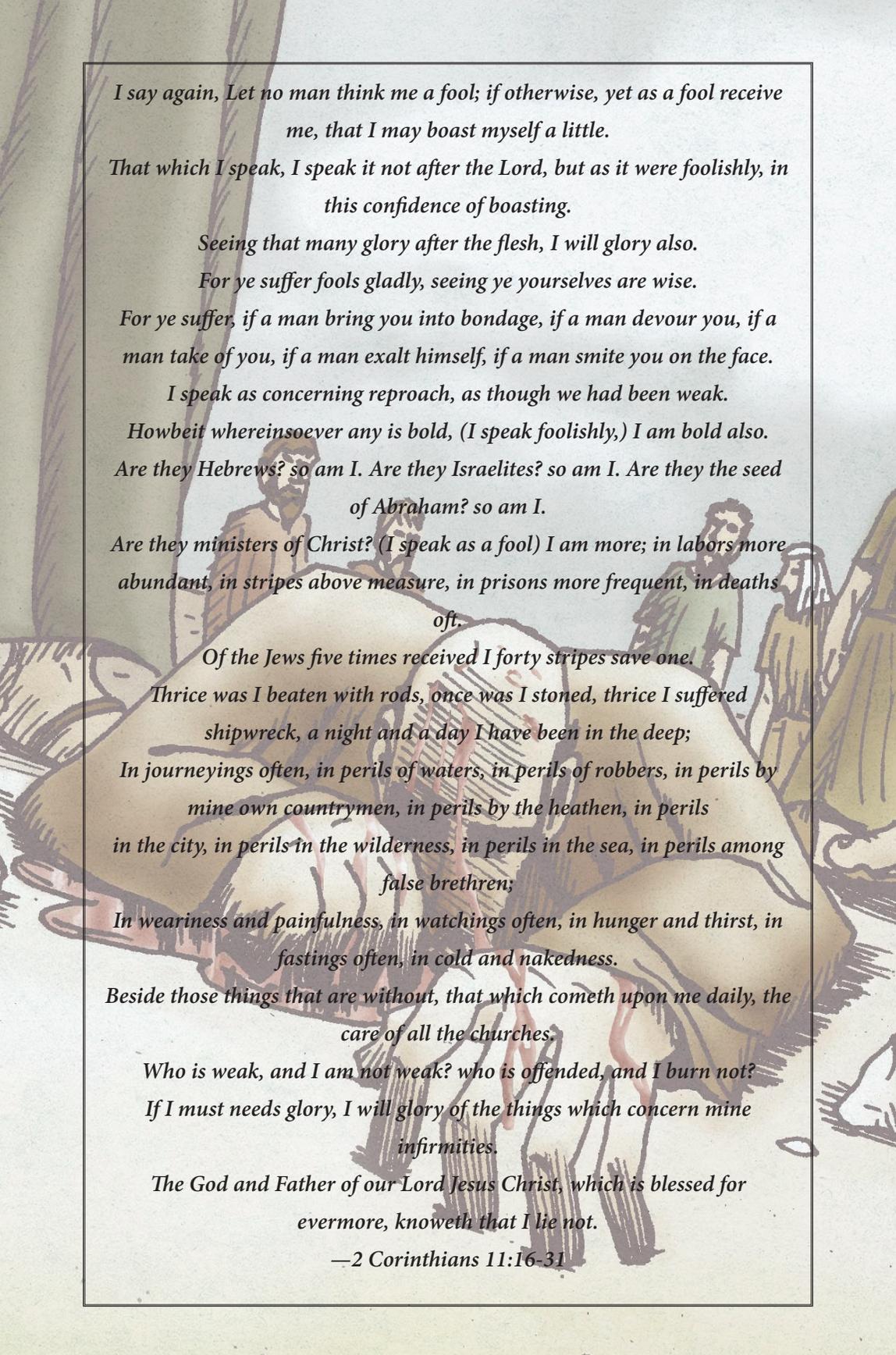
If I must boast, I will boast  
in the things which concern  
my infirmity.



The God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, who is  
blessed forever, knows  
that I am not lying.



end!



*I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.*

*That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.*

*Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.*

*For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.*

*For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.*

*I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak.*

*Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.*

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

*Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.*

*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.*

*Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*

*In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*

*In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*

*Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

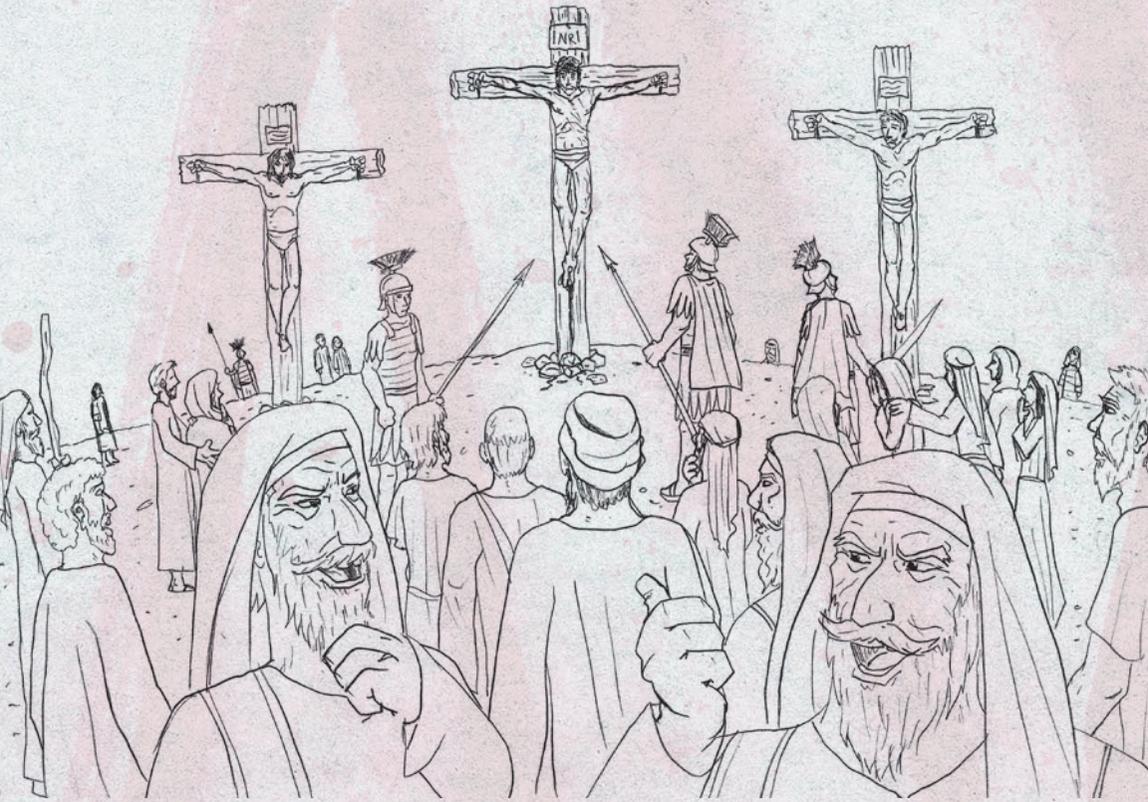
*Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?*

*If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.*

*The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.*

*—2 Corinthians 11:16-31*

# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



What is the Gospel?

The gospel is the undeserved salvation of all mankind from sin and eternal death, accomplished only by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These facts are made real to an individual's heart by the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the gospel is God's plan to rescue us, sustain us and grow us up in Him for all eternity. The famous passage, John 3:16, explains the gospel:

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

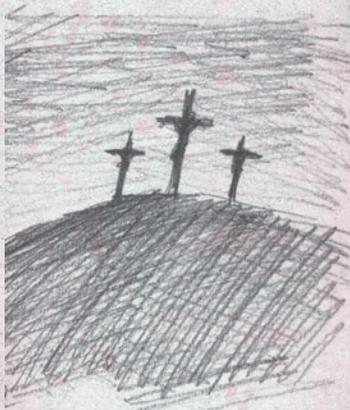
The gospel's foundation is only based upon what Jesus has done; not what we have done. It is God's free gift to us. Heaven is for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior. People think that getting to heaven is some long, drawn-out process in which you have to try and follow the Ten Commandments or be a do-gooder or go to church or something. But it's really not complicated at all. Salvation isn't about getting to God on our own terms or pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps; it's about God reaching down to us and offering us salvation free of charge.

Paul says in Ephesians 2:4-5, *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)."*

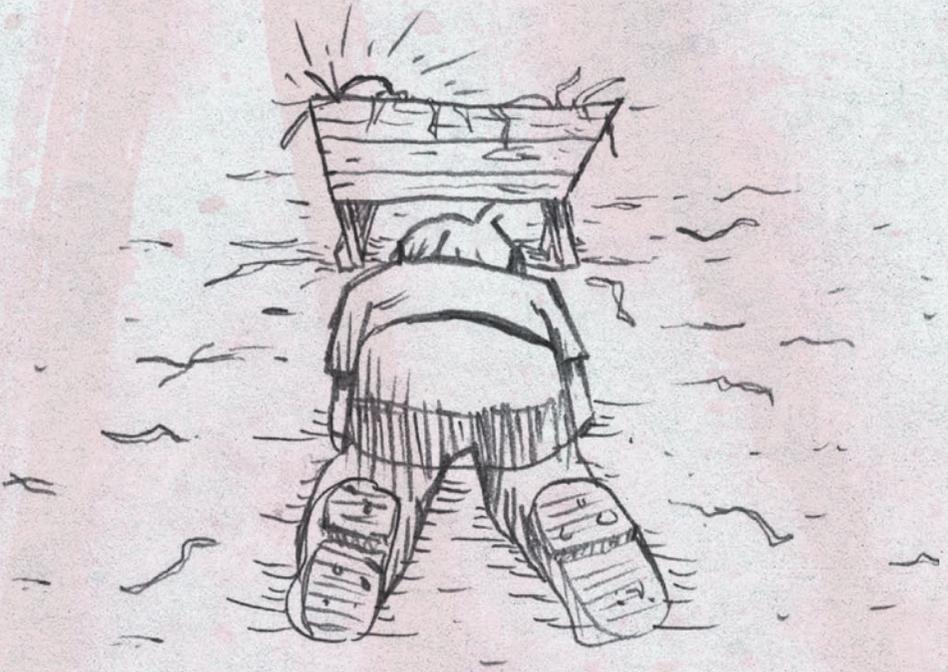
Our sins won't allow us to get to heaven on our own terms; it is only God's rich mercy that He has made a way for us. God demands no less than perfection, and only perfect people get to go to heaven. Based on works, none of us would make it; only Jesus would. But, God has provided a way to give perfection to us through Jesus. Jesus is the exclusive, one-way to the Father.

Jesus says this in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Either that statement is true or it is not. Every Christian knows that it is absolutely and irrevocably true. Ask Christ to reveal Himself to you today. It's your choice.



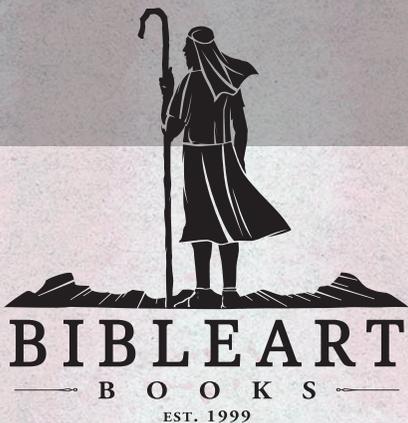
# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Robert H. Flores enjoys writing, illustrating and sharing stories about God in creative ways. He is the author of several books, booklets and tracts.

His work can be found at:

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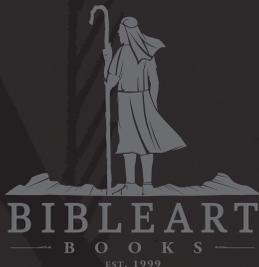
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glory, I will glory of the things which  
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—2 Corinthians 11:29-30*



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