



ROMAINS

a new family of faith in the age of empire

ROMANS 15:14-33

I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge & competent to instruct one another.



ROMANS 15:14-33

Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles.

NEXT WEEK FAMILY MEETING

Topics will include:

- Controversial Books at the local Library
- LGBTQIA+ Acceptance
- Student Loan Forgiveness
- Anything else I can think of that is spicy

ROMANS 15:14-33

He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.



1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at Stephen, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul approved of their killing him.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

On that day a **great persecution broke out** against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.”

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

“I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify.”

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

“I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.”

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

3 PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’”

“‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

2

ACTS 22:3-5

3

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

4

ACTS 22:6-11

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

3 PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

4 ACTS 22:6-11

“‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.

My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

“‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

1 ACTS 7:57-8:3

2 ACTS 22:3-5

3 PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

4 ACTS 22:6-11

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.”

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

2

ACTS 22:3-5

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PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

4

ACTS 22:6-11

5

GALATIANS 1:13-24

- 1 ACTS 7:57-8:3
 - 2 ACTS 22:3-5
 - 3 PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6
 - 4 ACTS 22:6-11
 - 5 GALATIANS 1:13-24
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PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

- 1 ACTS 7:57-8:3
 - 2 ACTS 22:3-5
 - 3 PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6
 - 4 ACTS 22:6-11
 - 5 GALATIANS 1:13-24
- 

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

- 1 **ACTS 7:57-8:3**
 - 2 **ACTS 22:3-5**
 - 3 **PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6**
 - 4 **ACTS 22:6-11**
 - 5 **GALATIANS 1:13-24**
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PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me.

1

ACTS 7:57-8:3

2

ACTS 22:3-5

3

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6

4

ACTS 22:6-11

5

GALATIANS 1:13-24

PHARISAICAL STRATEGY

CLEANSING THROUGH COERCION

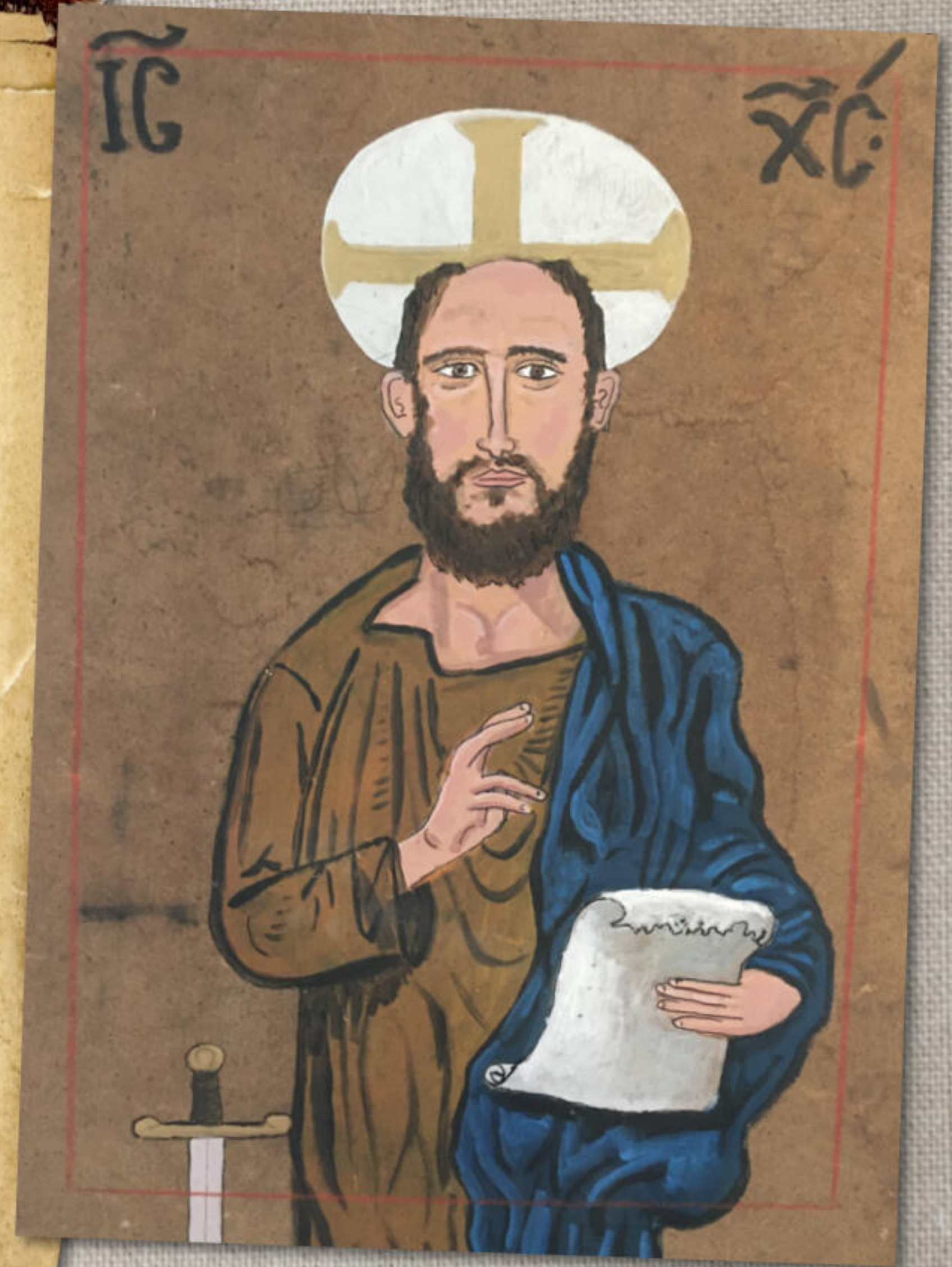
Stay away from sinners
(Judge them)

Drive out Gentiles
(Shame them)

Crack down on heretics
(Expel them)

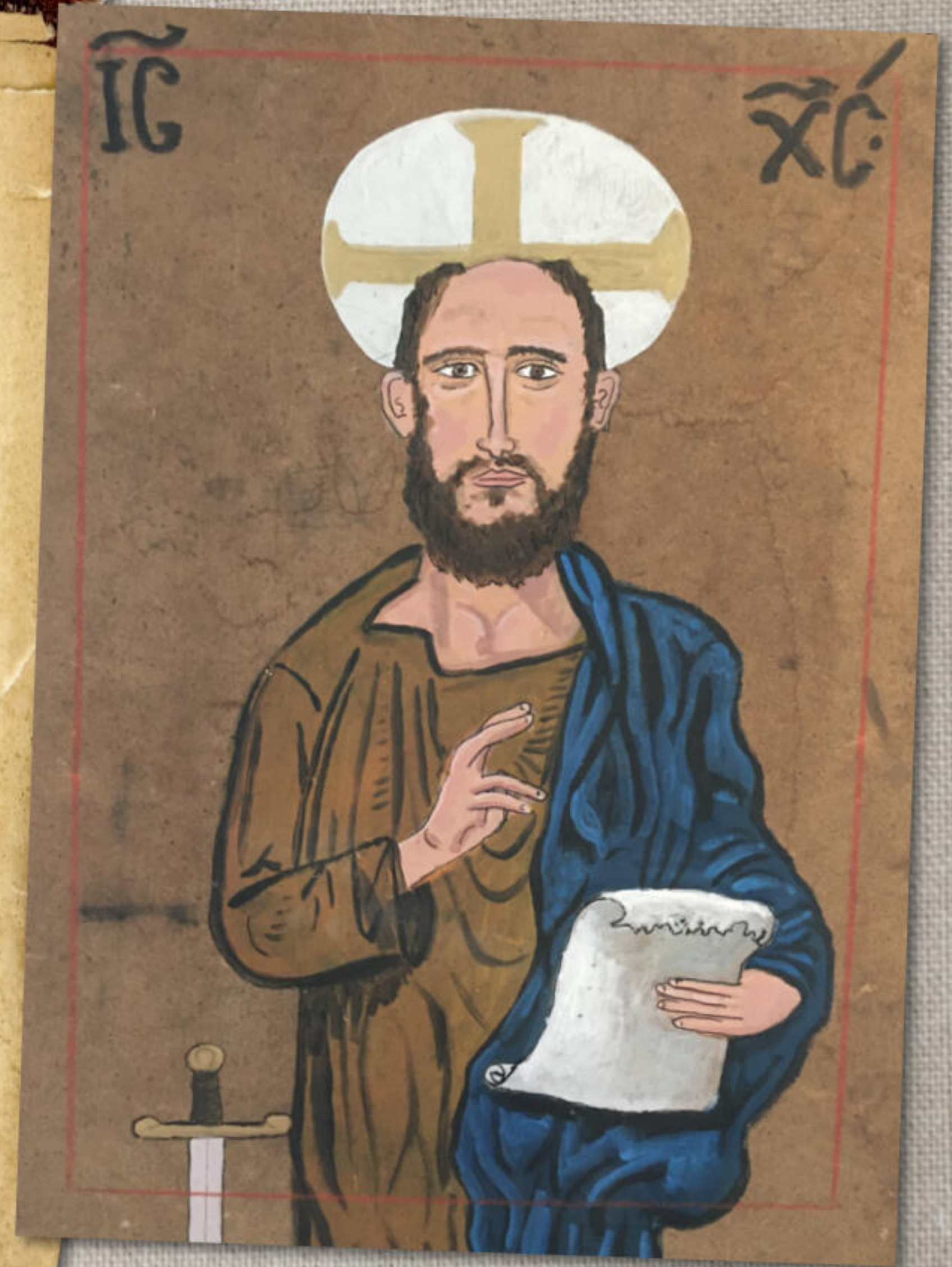
ROMANS 15:14-33

Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—



ROMANS 15:14-33

by the power of signs and wonders,
through the power of the Spirit of
God. So from Jerusalem all the way
around to Illyricum, I have fully
proclaimed the gospel of Christ.



ROMANS 15:14-33

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.



ROMANS 15:14-33

Rather, as it is written: “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.” This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.



PHARISAICAL STRATEGY

CLEANSING THROUGH COERCION

Stay away from sinners
(Judge them)

Drive out Gentiles
(Shame them)

Crack down on heretics
(Expel them)

PAULINE STRATEGY

CLEANSING THROUGH RESTORATION

Live among sinners
(Love them)

Welcome in Gentiles
(Serve them)

Build up believers
(Empower them)

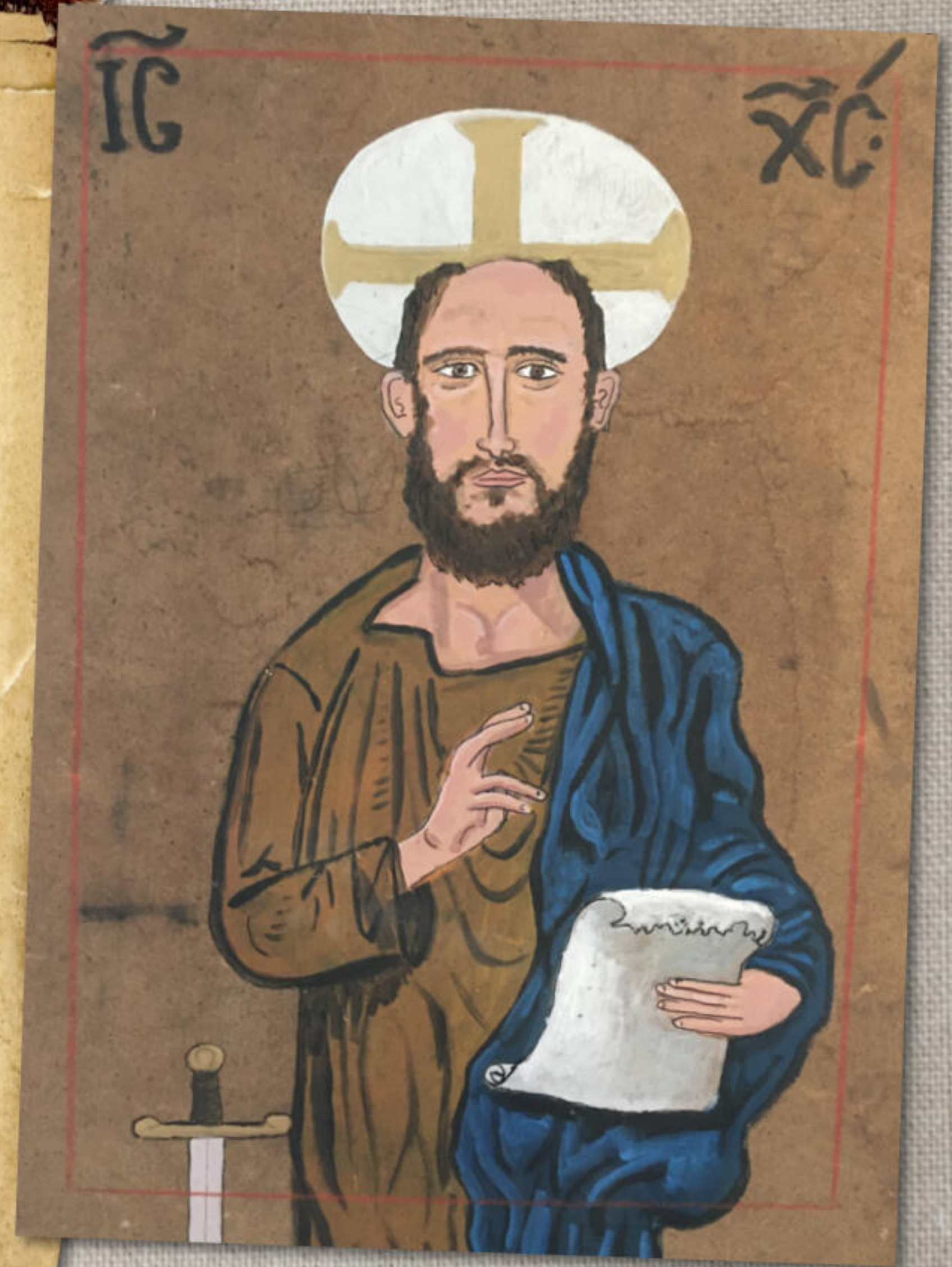
ROMANS 15:14-33

But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain.



ROMANS 15:14-33

I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.



ROMANS 15:14-33

Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.



ROMANS 15:14-33

They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.



ROMANS 15:14-33

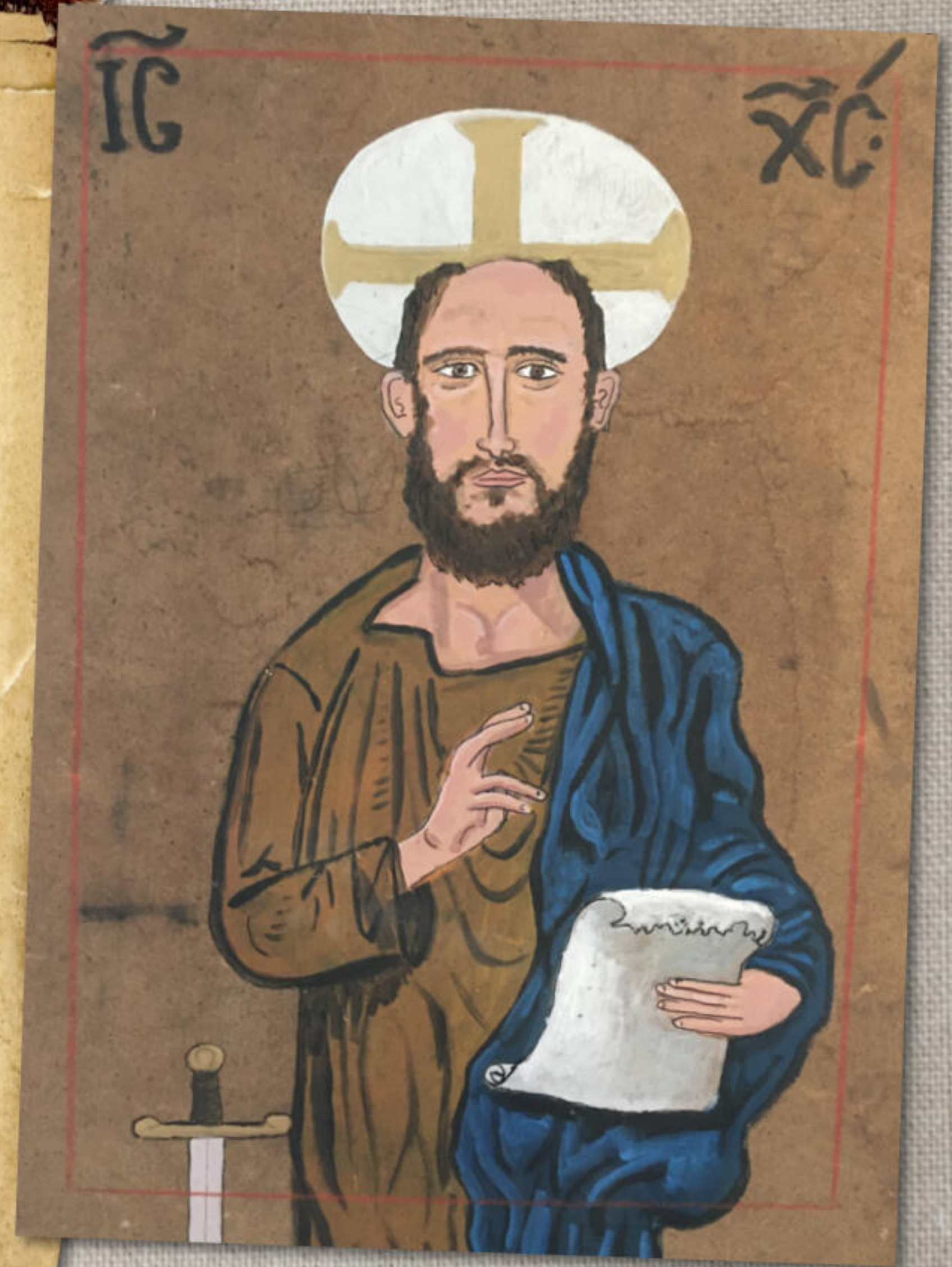
So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.





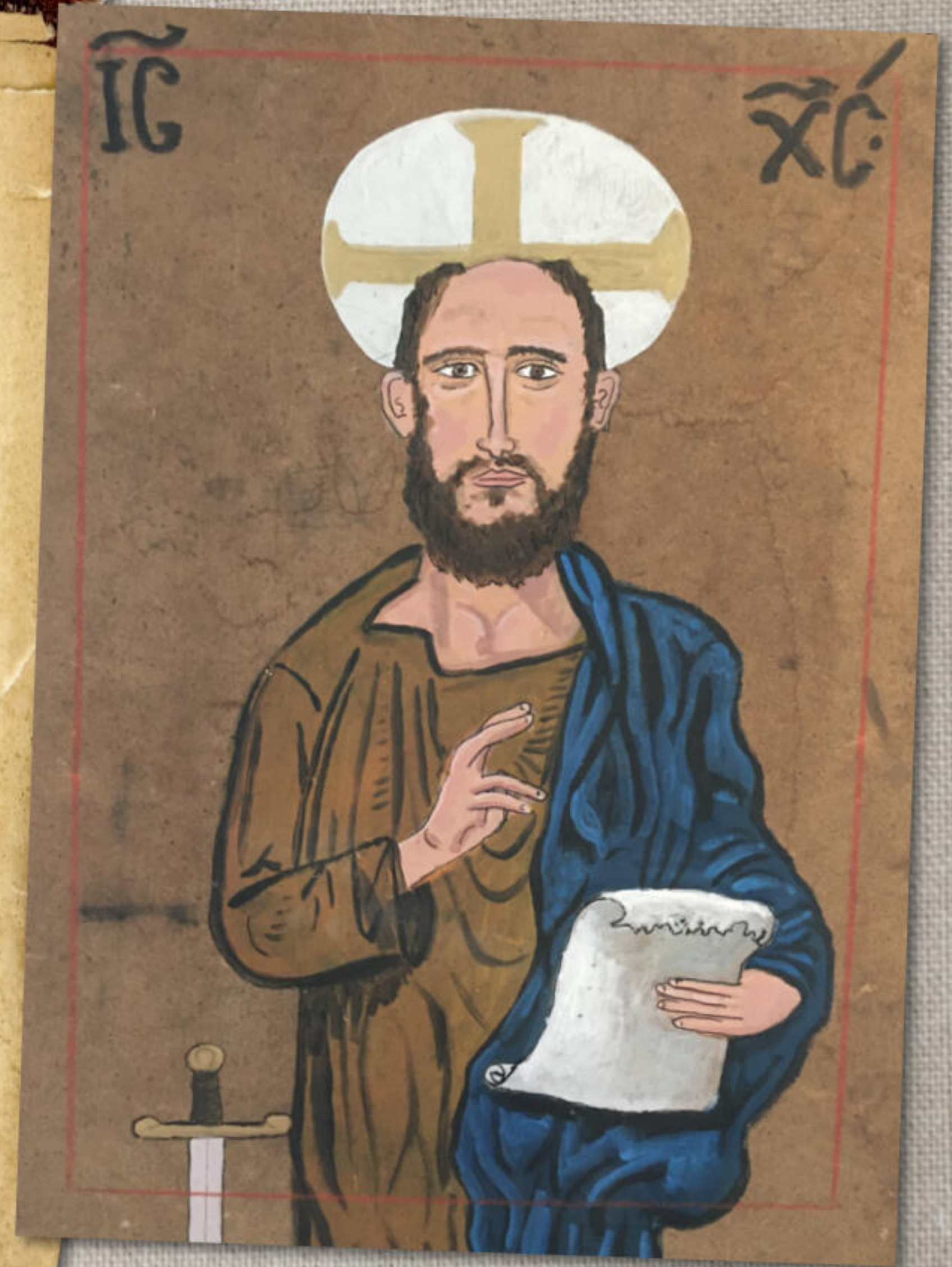
ROMANS 15:14-33

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.



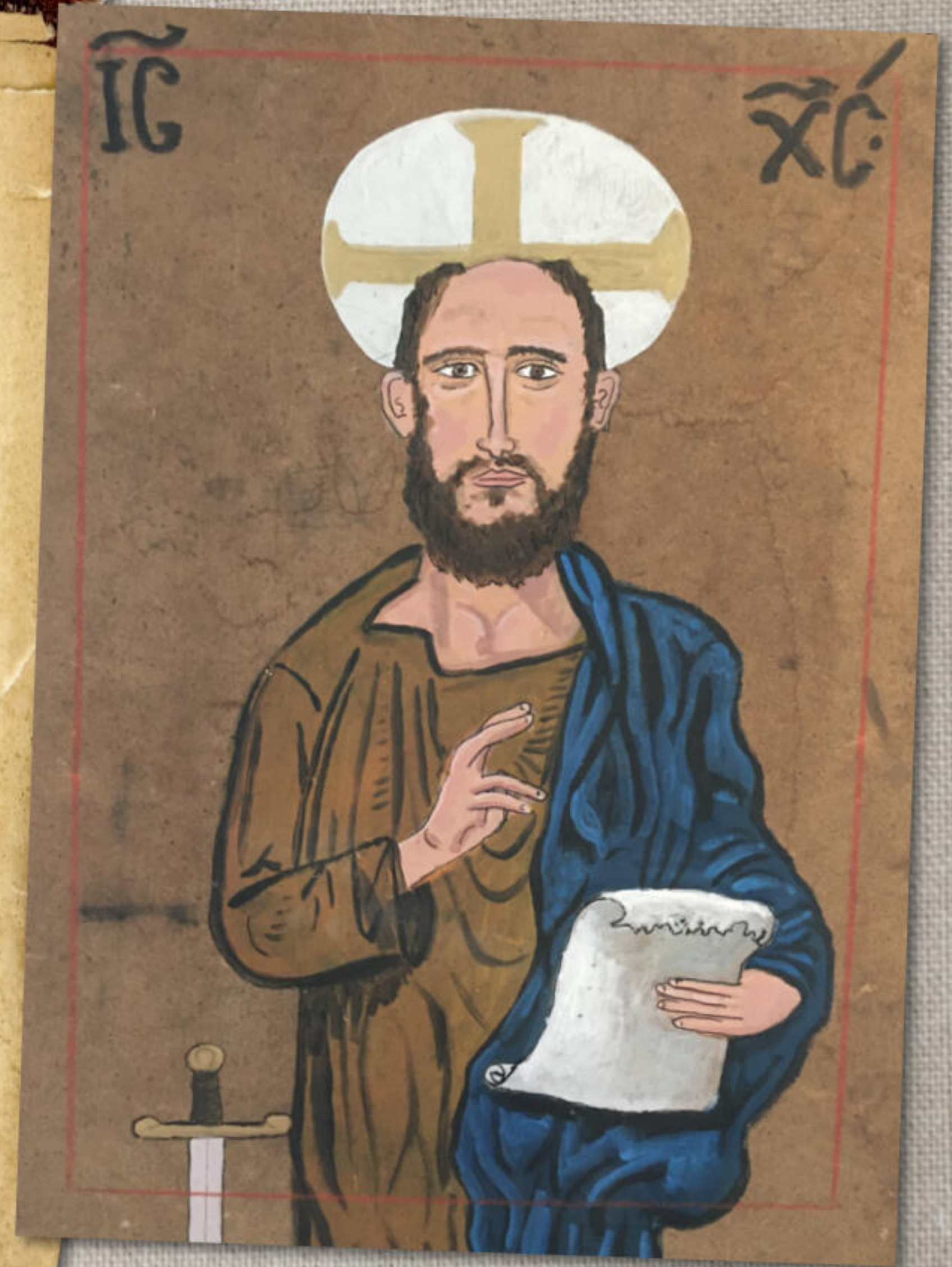
ROMANS 15:14-33

Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there...



ROMANS 15:14-33

... so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.





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a new family of faith in the age of empire