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Boasting **2Corinthians 10:7-18**

Paul defending his ministry against false teachers who have come into the church looking for a following so they put Paul down to build themselves up. Paul is harsh in his letters toward them but gentle when he is w/ the church. They Accuse Paul of doing what they are doing 'walking in the flesh' :3 **projection** (projecting own misdeeds on others). He says yes we do live this life in a body of flesh but we war w/ our enemies in the spirit w/ divine weaponry to destroy all that raises itself against God. He says to the Corinthian church we will deal w/ false accusers when you get on board and are willing to do the same.

7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

You judge from appearances--surface, outward then only guess, speculate, not seeing true nature of things. You don't see the heart—you don't look deeper. If you were a spiritual person, one w/ honest evaluation, you'd come to the conclusion, account us belong to Christ as much as you. Evidence we are Christ is our ministry that you came to rip off.

8 For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame,

Reason for my somewhat, excessive boasting, I've got a stake in the ministry to build up which I did for 18 months and is evident in you, why they want to steal you. So I boast in the scope God has given me to build you up as architect design and complete structure. Not demo crew

9 for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.

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Paul feels bad that what he wrote was misunderstood, had a negative affect on wrong people. Purpose of my strong letter was not to terrify you, frighten away but a strong response to those critical of our ministry and authority

10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive, and his speech contemptible.”

My critics ‘*who shoot in the dark at the upright in heart*’ *Ps 11:2*, these false brethren who focus on style not substance, outward not inward, how it said not what is said.

Letters weighty--heavy, oppressive *Romain* strong, forceful—Paul’s presence unimpressive--sick—weak. His speaking is of no account as nothing. Don’t like the letter how about the content, what’s is say, is there truth? Don’t like the style of the person, too heavy, weighty so ignore value in what’s said. Want to be entertained not convicted of sin.

11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.

11 this kind of person, this critic who is not a deep thinker—such a person w/ this kind of moral make up--let them think a little deeper and reckon, calculate that I’m not a phony, two faced—my strong letter & personal appearance they say is weak, inimpressive—these adversaries will see who I’m--as strong in person as in letter if need be. We are not like them appearance, style more important than content of character and truths spoken—substance not style.

12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

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We don't stoop to the level of comparison. Ministry is not popularity contest—we bigger & better than you--more followers, bigger budget, nicer facilities, greater influence. To compare shows ignorance in spiritual things--reveals carnality & walking in the flesh. It is what the world does w/ their ratings, likes, followers, subscribers.

We don't dare compare ourselves and try to look as good or better than those who commend & compare themselves then--pat selves on back saying how good they are. When they do that, they have no understanding of ministry—It's servanthood--greatest is servant of all. They see greatest as those who rise to top-rule over-dominate –w/o understanding Ignorant about Christ

13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.

We will only take credit where credit is do, in sphere of influence God has given us & not for what someone else had done. Sad those so starved for attention they invent honor, boast in things not earned. 16 years ago 12/6/06 President George W Bush broadened law addressing unauthorized wear, manufacture, or sale of military decorations and medals, a federal misdemeanor to falsely represent yourself as receiving any U.S. military decoration or medal you have not earned'—called Stolen Valor-**storytellers**

Paul says we will not boast or take credit beyond what we have actually accomplished in our field of influence, ministry God has given us-***Dt 1:15***“***So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them heads over you, leaders of thousands, and of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, and officers for your tribes.***

Boasting

2Corinthians 10:7-18

14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;

For us to boast about you is not a stretch because we were the first to reach you w/ the gospel we are not overstepping or going beyond what God assigned us when we boast in what God has done thru us---it's not too much to say that you are included in our boast because we were first to come to you w/ gospel.

15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we shall be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you,

We don't boast where we shouldn't--in what another has done—And we have confidence as your faith grows it enlarges our share of boasting. Going faith, enlarges ministry giving us reason to boast in the Lord. Chuck was enlarged **2000 CC** always saying *Glory be to God great things He has done*

16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another.

As growth takes place we rejoice even more—*Japan, PI*. Ongoing ministry in Corinthian--fruit reflects our ministry w/ you in beginnings—mission expansion--we share the joy & fruit- Some boast yet stolen sheep-Paul's & claimed their own

17 But HE WHO BOASTS, LET HIM BOAST IN THE LORD. 18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

We boast in what God has done 2x's *Jer 9:24* **but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. 1Cor 1:31** *ust as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."*

Not self promotion making a list accomplishments checking it twice but God is the one who chooses us-some plant, water, God causes the increase.

Some of us feel like the *fertilizer* for God harvest. *Jn4:38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*