

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"The Real Thing"
2 Corinthians 10:7-18
Study-16

Paul must defend the authenticity of his apostleship before friends.

2 Corinthians 10-13 Paul's Authority. Paul's apostleship was being challenged by the false teachers. **(Self-appointed)**

Why is Paul's Apostleship so important?

If Paul is not a called messenger from God, then his message is not from God either.

Paul now switches to **"The Real Thing in Authority."**

Thought Of Our Passage: "When Under Attack, Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus And Seek To Honor God Where He Has Placed You."

- 1. Verses 7-11 Keep Your Eyes On Jesus:**
- 2. Verses 12-16 Accept Your Position Of Service:**
- 3. Verses 17-18 Seek Only His Glory:**

1. Verses 7-11 Keep Your Eyes On Jesus:

2 Corinthians 10:7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly.

Context – Paul was clear that believers do not use the weapons of the world. (Intimidation, threats, lies, etc.) Our weapons are spiritual, that being the Word of God and prayer. Its obedience to God's Word, which is true obedience.

2 Corinthians 10:6

Worldly Judgment Versus Spiritual Judgment:

You are looking at things as they are outwardly.

Literally, *"the things that are according to face."* It is what can be seen and heard. **(Human trait)**

The problem with these believers is they were carnal; they were dwelling on the externals. (Not Spiritual)

1 Samuel 16:6-7

2 Corinthians 10:2 who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

What is our focus? Is it outward only? Then the problem is us!

A mark of the "Real Thing" is the minister who is in Christ and preaches Christ!

let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. The argument is, "are you a child of God," and we say, "we are too!"

**Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven,
Galatians 1:1**

2 Corinthians 10:8 For even if I boast somewhat further

Paul uses the term **Boast**, or **Glory 20 times**

He is not boasting in himself but in the Lord.

1 Timothy 1:12-14

about our authority, which the Lord gave

That authority is God-given.

(To be in authority, we must be under authority)

for building you up "*build a building, to build character.*"

Paul was called! What is the evidence of this authority?

Are lives being changed, built up? Is character like that of Jesus?

and not for destroying you, "*to tear down, to level*" (Quickly)

I will not be put to shame,

When you check me out, you will find that I will not be ashamed of my ministry.

2 Corinthians 10:9 My letters were not to tear down or attempt to control you.

Fear is a powerful emotion. Matthew 10:28

2 Corinthians 10:10 For they say,

"The Judaizers" *Their major emphasis was that salvation was by faith in Christ plus the keeping of the Law. They also taught that the believer is perfected in his faith by obeying the Law of Moses.*

"His letters are weighty "*burdensome, severe, stern, cruel,*" **and strong,**
"powerful."

but his personal presence is unimpressive, "*weak, feeble,*" **and his speech contemptible.**" "*to give no thought or attention.*"

What should be the measuring stick is asking, "Is the minister **preaching the doctrines of the apostles?** "

2 Corinthians 10:11 Let such a person consider this,

Know this, and take it to thought!

that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present. Our words and our actions line up!

2. Verses 12-16 Accept Your Position Of Service:

2 Corinthians 10:12

Verse-12 Faulty Comparison: For we are not bold "We dare not" to class or compare ourselves (Self-Appointed Standard of Measurement)

Competition: with some of those who commend themselves;

Select someone inferior, and it makes us look good.

but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, When the standard is self, how could it be accurate in judgment?

they are without understanding. Not Wise!

2 Corinthians 10:13 But – Paul says we do not merely use introspection or compare ourselves to ourselves. This is wrong

Verses-13-16 We Welcome Evaluation: But we will not boast beyond our measure, note that man has a limit! That each one of us as believers are given a place by God.

but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, Paul had to measure himself by the standard that applied to him personally.

It is like the sprinter who is racing against his own record, not others.

to reach even as far as you.

Paul refers to the ministry and his opportunity to minister to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 10:14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, what a great thing to know what our boundaries are.

for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; We were the ones that brought the gospel, not the others making these claims.

2 Corinthians 10:15 that as your faith grows

When you mature, or when you grow up!

we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you,

That you will appreciate us! That you will appreciate the labor among you.

2 Corinthians 10:16 and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. Paul never moved in on another man's ministry.
Romans 15:20

3. Verses 17-18 Seek Only His Glory:

2 Corinthians 10:17 IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.

What God has done **for us** – His death, burial, and resurrection.

What God has done **in me** – Changed my heart, filled me with His love, given discernment.

What God has done **through me** – Disciple, instructed, challenged.

Proverbs 27:2

2 Corinthians 10:18 It matters not what people think but what God knows and approves.

Romans 15:17-18

Application:

1. Don't Judge, Or Be Influenced By Merely Physical Matters. As A Child Of God, We Have Accesses To The Spiritual In Examining.
2. The Most Lasting Work Is Done When We Use Spiritual Weapons And Tools.
3. Don't Judge Before The Time. Let God Do The Commending. Live For His Approval, And Your Life And Ministry Will Be Blessed.