



Boasting

By Jeff Bedwell on May 5, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 11

As we noted in yesterday's devotion, the tone of 2 Corinthians 10-13 sets this section off from the rest of the book. Critics were undermining Paul's authority and the truth of the gospel in Corinth. Paul had to decide how to address this situation. If he did nothing, he might lose the confidence of the church and their trust in the gospel. If he pointed to his credentials, it would seem as if he was engaging in the same type of "boasting" that his opponents displayed and delighted in. He had just written, "*Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 10:17, ESV).

Because the issue was so serious, to protect the integrity of the gospel and the health of the church, Paul decided to enter into "foolish boasting" to defend his apostleship. He admits that he is not following Christ's example in this action (vs. 17), but he knows his "boasting" will glorify Christ because all that he has endured has been for Christ's glory. Paul boasts over three matters:

- His jealousy over the church (vv. 1-6)
- His generosity to the church (vv. 7-21)
- His sufferings for the church (vv. 22-33)

Paul turns convention on its head and argues for the authenticity and superiority of his apostolic service from his weaknesses, not from his strengths. He operated from an entirely different value system than the "super-apostles," who opposed Paul and the gospel message. As he wrote, "*If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness*" (2 Corinthians 11:30, ESV).

As you read this chapter today, spend some time reflecting on who or what you most naturally "boast" in. What do you truly value in life? Would you ask God to so move in your heart and life that you are willing to live by an entirely different value system than the world around you? Would you ask God to give you a renewed passion for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom through the gospel of Jesus Christ?

PRAYER: Father, help me to increasingly value what You value. Give me a renewed passion for Your glory, Your kingdom and the advancement of Your gospel. Help me be willing to suffer or appear weak and foolish for the sake of the gospel.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 12

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