

Sermon Notes: Boasting in Christ

Series: 2 Corinthians: Against the Grain

Main Text: [2 Corinthians 1:12](#)

Date: April 5, 2026

I. Context: The Purpose of Boasting

- Defending Integrity: Paul defends his behavior and conduct, specifically his sincerity and simplicity among the Corinthians.
- Redefining a Term: While typically seen as prideful or self-centered, "boasting" in this context describes the placing of one's confidence and joy.
- Godly Confidence: Paul's boast is rooted in the testimony of his conscience and the grace of God rather than worldly wisdom.
 - Verses: [2 Corinthians 1:12](#)

II. Boastful Adversaries

- Cultural Conflict: Boasting was central to Corinthian culture, where "polished" philosophers sought followers based on outward appearances and perceived wisdom.
- The Foolishness of the Cross: Paul chose not to use worldly "words of wisdom," preaching instead a crucified Christ to ensure faith rested in God's power.
- Boasting in Weakness: Rather than masking his afflictions, Paul used his weaknesses to highlight the sufficiency and power of Christ.
 - Verses: [2 Corinthians 5:11](#); [2 Corinthians 12:9](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1](#)

III. The Cost of Discipleship

- Counting the Cost: Jesus made it clear that following Him involves sacrifice, suffering, and enduring the types of afflictions Paul faced.
- Temporary Peace: Though modern settings may provide unique seasons of peace, this is often not the typical experience for Christians throughout history.
- The Question of "Why": Many worldviews are "good" (loving others, leaving a legacy), but they fail to answer the ultimate problem of death.
 - Verses: [Luke 14:25](#)

IV. Jesus Conquered Death

- The Pivotal Event: The Resurrection is a public, historical event that serves as the foundation for all Christian hope and interpretative lens for life.
- A Superior Hope: Unlike other religious leaders who died
- Our Shared Victory: Because Jesus rose, we have the promise that His resurrection becomes our own, providing a basis for hope that humanity cannot build for itself.

- Verses: [Luke 24:1](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3](#); [Acts 1:1](#); [1 Corinthians 15:54](#); [John 11:25](#); [1 Corinthians 15:12](#); [1 Corinthians 15:19](#)

V. Where is Our Confidence?

- Eternal Perspective: Affliction is seen as "light and momentary" when compared to the eternal weight of glory awaiting those in Christ.
- The Day of the Lord: On that day, the authentic purposes of the heart will be disclosed, and believers will boast in one another.
- The Gospel Message: Our rescue is not based on our merit, but on the perfect sacrifice of Christ who paid for all sins and abolished death.
 - Verses: [2 Corinthians 4:16](#); [1 Corinthians 4:4](#); [2 Corinthians 1:13](#); [1 Corinthians 9:1](#); [2 Timothy 1:8](#); [Isaiah 53:1](#) (Call to Worship); [Romans 10:9](#) (Benediction)