



## PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. 9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." 11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. 12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. 15 We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. 17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18

## SUMMARY

Our boast in who we are and what we do is shaped by who Jesus is and what He has uniquely done for us. The problem for us is that our enemy and our sinful hearts lead us to boast in ourselves rather than Christ. This, in turn, leads us on the unsatisfying chase of a self-satisfied life rather than a Spirit-led pursuit of Jesus and His calling on our lives. Keep Jesus and His work for you the boast of your life, and therein, you will find His satisfaction and yours.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul warned the Corinthians not to judge others by their outward appearance (as is common in our world today). What steps can we take to avoid the shallowness of looking only to the surface of things? How can we hope to judge others with the right judgment?? Refer to the following verses and others you know: John 7:24; Matt 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-3; Eph. 4:29.
2. When others look at you, do they see confidence in Christ? How is this confidence portrayed in your life?
3. Paul does not seek to enhance himself, but uses his authority which is given by the Lord to build up the Corinthians. Do we as Christians have this same authority? Explain.
4. Read verse 8. In what ways can we "destroy" others? In what ways can we build each other up?
5. Comparison can be dangerous and possibly steal our joy. What are some ways we compare ourselves to others? How does this rob our understanding and security of who we are in Christ?
6. How can boasting and inflated pride become an enemy in your life?
7. Paul's desire is to grow the Corinthians' faith, expand their activity, and preach the gospel beyond their territory. Does this mission sound familiar? What connection do you make?

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