



“THE UNSATISFYING CHASE OF THE SELF-SATISFIED LIFE. ”

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2 Corinthians 10:7-18

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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 (ESV)

Passage Outline

I. The Unsatisfying Chase of Comparison – 2 Co. 10:7-12

A. Paul is unashamed of his identity in Christ. 2 Co. 10:7-9

B. Paul confronts the chase of comparison. 2 Co. 10:10-12

II. The Unsatisfying Chase of Taking Credit – 2 Co. 10:13-18

A. Paul gives God the credit for his ministry influence. 2 Co. 10:13-14

B. Paul takes no credit for other's ministry influence. 2 Co. 10:15-18

The Unsatisfying Chase of Comparison: Paul is unashamed of his identity in Christ.

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.

2 Corinthians 10:7 (ESV)

How do you belong to Christ?

“30 Then [the Philippian jailer] brought [Paul and Silas] out and said, ‘Sirs, what I must do to be saved?’ 31 And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

Acts 16:30-31 (ESV)

What must we believe about Christ to be saved?

“3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,”

The Unsatisfying Chase of Comparison: Paul is unashamed of his identity in Christ.

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.

2 Corinthians 10:8-9 (ESV)

“Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:18b-21 (ESV)

The Unsatisfying Chase of Comparison: Paul confronts the chase of comparison.

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.

2 Corinthians 10:10-12 (ESV)

The Unsatisfying Chase of Comparison

The Unsatisfying Chase of Credit: Paul takes no credit for other's ministry influence.

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 10:15-18 (ESV)

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:28-31 (ESV)

Our Problem:
We chase what will never satisfy.

Our Solution:
Boast in the Lord.

Remember Whose you are. You are Christ's.

You have godly influence. Live it out, low and slow.