

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 4, 2011

“The Purpose of Apostolic Authority”
2 Corinthians 10:7-8

Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:7-11 drew a contrast between the way his apostolic authority expressed itself and the way his opponents’ so-called apostolic authority expressed itself.

Paul’s expression of apostolic authority was consistent with its God given purpose and his opponents’ expression of their so-called apostolic authority was not consistent with that purpose.

2 Corinthians 10:7-8 will spell out for us the specific purpose of apostolic authority.

The words “you are looking” (BLEPETE) would be better translated as a command “look!”

When Paul’s opponents claimed to be “Christ’s,” they were claiming that they, unlike Paul, were Christ’s true authoritative apostles.

Paul, rather than choosing to immediately deny his opponents’ assertion that they were the apostles of Christ, chose rather to inform his opponents that he could make the very same claim about himself.

Paul began 2 Corinthians 10:8 by reluctantly boasting about the authority that he had been given by the Lord.

Paul declared that the purpose for him having been given this apostolic authority by the Lord was for their building up and not their destruction.

When Paul used the words “for building you up and not for destroying you,” he connected what he was doing among the Corinthians with the ministry of the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:28).

The new covenant was given to provide a basis of salvation that had nothing to do with us but rather had everything to do with God and what He was prepared to do on our behalf (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

When Christ gave up His life and shed His blood on the cross of Calvary, He ratified “the new covenant” promised to the nation of Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-33 (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

May God give us the grace as a minister of the new covenant to live our lives in such a way that the facts of our gospel would be confirmed by the way we live.

Valley Bible Church
3347 West Avenue J
Lancaster, California 93536
www.valleybible.net