

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for September 11, 2011**

**“The Purpose of Apostolic Authority”**  
**2 Corinthians 10:9-11**

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

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

Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:7-8 began by spelling out for the Corinthians the specific purpose for him having been given apostolic authority.

Paul declared that the purpose for him having been given this apostolic authority by the Lord was to build the Corinthians up and not to destroy them.

Paul, after establishing the fact that he had been given authority for building them up and not for destroying them, used this fact to respond to his opponent’s charge that he was using his letters to make empty threats (2 Corinthians 10:9-11).

The very first word of verse 9 is “for,” indicating that what Paul had just said about having received authority for their “building up” and not for their “destroying,” or in other words for their “salvation,” was now going to be applied to what he was about to say.

Though his opponents would have wanted the Corinthians to believe that Paul’s threats were empty and were simply meant to terrorize them, Paul in verse 9 wanted to make it clear based on what he had just said in verses 7-8 that this was not the case at all.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:10 explained to the Corinthians why his opponents had been saying what they had been saying about his letters.

Paul explained to the Corinthians that his opponents were saying what they were saying about his letters because they found his personal appearance unimpressive and his speech contemptible.

The consistency that Paul’s opponents purported to desire will become a reality when God’s mercy expressed in Paul’s patience gives way to judgment (2 Corinthians 10:11).

May God help our elders, as those who have received authority to oversee our church, to make sure that His gospel is boldly proclaimed and carefully protected.

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