

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 16, 2011

The Criteria Upon Which Apostolic Boasting Rests
2 Corinthians 10:13-16

Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:12-18 sought to communicate to the unrepentant, as well as to those who held sway over them, the criteria upon which true apostolic boasting rests.

Those possessing true apostolic authority will not boast improperly (2 Corinthians 10:12).

Those possessing true apostolic authority rather than boasting improperly will boast properly (2 Corinthians 10:13-18).

Proper boasting will be characterized by boasting within the measure of the sphere which God has apportioned to the one boasting (2 Corinthians 10:13).

The word “sphere” (KANON) in this context does not refer to what was measured but rather to the measure that was used to do the measuring.

The “sphere” that God had apportioned to Paul as a measure was the work that He had purposed for Paul to accomplish among the Gentiles through the preaching of the gospel.

The unexpressed premise of Paul’s argument is that the founding function of establishing churches was the only appropriate and divinely instituted “canon” for apostolic authority within a particular church.

2 Corinthians 10:14 served as a reminder to the Corinthians that he alone as the founder of the church was the only one who measured up to the divinely instituted canon for identifying apostolic authority.

When Paul’s opponents declared that they were the true apostles and that Paul was the false apostle, they had arrogantly claimed for themselves the credit that belonged only to him as if they, rather than Paul, had brought the gospel to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 10:15).

May God give us the grace when boasting to boast properly within the measure of the sphere that we have been apportioned by God as a measure.