

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 23, 2011

The Criteria Upon Which Apostolic Boasting Rests
2 Corinthians 10:17-18

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 in 2 Corinthians 10:13 is that the founding function of establishing churches was the only appropriate and divinely instituted “canon” for apostolic authority within a particular church.

Proper boasting will be characterized by boasting in the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:17-18).

The admonition “to boast in the Lord” in 2 Corinthians 10:17 is Paul’s succinct summation of Jeremiah’s admonishment in Jeremiah 9:23-24.

Based on Jeremiah 9:23-24, when Paul admonished the Corinthians “to boast in the Lord” he was admonishing them to acknowledge God’s provision and gracious acts on their behalf and on the behalf of others.

God commends His servants by working in and through their lives in accordance with the claims being made.

Those who are commended by the Lord will boast in the Lord for boasting in the Lord is the human counterpart to being commended by the Lord and hence “approved” by Him (2 Corinthians 10:18).

May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that His commendation of us and His approval of us would be evident in the way we boast.