

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 18, 2012

Paul's Foolish Boasting
2 Corinthians 11:30-33

What did Paul's foolish boasting focus on in 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:13?

Paul's foolish boasting focused on his heritage (2 Corinthians 11:21-22).

Paul's foolish boasting focused on his sufferings as a servant of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23-33).

Paul believed that the mark of a true servant of Christ was the willingness to suffer for those he was sent to reach as a representative of the crucified Christ.

Paul's reference to his "weakness" referred to his sufferings on behalf of others as a representative of the crucified Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23-29, 32-33).

Paul used an oath in 2 Corinthians 11:31 to verify the details of what he had said about his sufferings as well as the importance he assigned to boasting of those sufferings.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 11:32-33, continued to focus on his sufferings, but this time rather than listing a specific suffering, he chose to narrate an event that involved suffering (Acts 9:8-25).

The most likely reason for Paul to use that particular event to conclude this section was because it was the initial and foundational example of his newly granted weakness as a servant of Christ.

If we profess to be servants of Christ, may we by the grace of God be willing to suffer in order to serve those to whom we have been sent, so that we might, through our willingness to suffer, prove that we are in fact servants of Christ.