

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 25, 2012

Paul's Foolish Boasting
2 Corinthians 12:1-6

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 foolish boasting focused on visions and revelations (2 Corinthians 12:1-6).

Paul considered the foolish boasting that he was now engaged in as "not profitable," because it neither established his authority as an apostle nor contributed to the building up of the church.

Six of Paul's visions are recorded for us in Acts 9:12; 16:9-10; 18:9; 22:17-18; 23:11; and 27:23-24, and several of his "revelations" are recorded for us in Galatians 1:12; 2:2; Ephesians 3:3.

We learn that when Paul experienced whatever he experienced, it was fourteen years earlier (2 Corinthians 12:2).

We learn that when Paul experienced whatever he experienced, he did not know whether or not he experienced it "in the body" or "out of the body" (2 Corinthians 12:2-3).

We learn that when Paul experienced whatever he experienced, he found himself "in the third heaven" or in other words "in paradise" (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

We learn that when Paul experienced whatever he experienced, he was forbidden to

speaking about the things that he saw and heard (2 Corinthians 12:4).

Paul believed that his willingness to suffer on behalf of others, as a representative of the crucified Christ, was the essential mark of a true apostle. This is why he was determined to boast only in his weakness (2 Corinthians 12:5).

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.