

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 10, 2012

Paul's Foolish Boasting
2 Corinthians 12:11-13

Based on the concluding thoughts of Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:11-13, how did Paul highlight for the Corinthians the gravity of their failure toward him?

Paul highlighted the gravity of the Corinthians' failure toward him by speaking to them about their failure to commend him even though he was commendable (2 Corinthians 12:11).

When Paul said that he had become "foolish," he meant that he had performed the actions of a fool when he boasted of his credentials and supernatural revelations.

The Corinthians compelled Paul to engage in foolish boasting, because they had failed to commend him when he came under personal attack thus exposing the church to danger and therefore forcing Paul to do what he did.

When Paul referred to "the most eminent apostles," he was referring sarcastically to that group of false apostles in Corinth who had been attacking him and seeking to undermine his apostleship.

Paul highlighted the gravity of the Corinthians' failure toward him by speaking of their failure to commend him, even though he had performed the signs of a true apostle among them (2 Corinthians 2:12).

The signs of a true apostle are the outpouring of the Spirit and its attendant circumstances, especially conversion and gifting of the believers (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:15; 15:1-15; 2 Corinthians 2:17-3:3).

In addition to the outpouring of the Spirit and its attendant circumstances, especially conversion and the gifting of believers, another accompanying sign of true apostleship was miraculous activity (2 Corinthians 12:12).

Though this miraculous activity might have been a secondary apostolic sign in this text, it was a necessary and critical part of apostolic ministry (Acts 2:22; 4:30; 5:12; 16:18; 19:11-12; 28:3-6).

Paul highlighted to the Corinthians the gravity of their failure toward him by speaking to them about how they had failed to commend him even though he had given them special consideration (2 Corinthians 12:13).

May God give us the grace to not only identify faithful ministers but to give us the courage to commend them if they come under attack, especially if those faithful ministers happen to be the elders of our church.

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