



2ND CORINTHIANS



The image features a background of ancient stone ruins with intricate carvings. Overlaid on this is a large, white, serif font text '2ND CORINTHIANS'. The text is centered and framed by two decorative, symmetrical geometric patterns made of white lines, one above and one below the text. The patterns consist of interlocking arches and lines, resembling a stylized architectural motif.

The Measure of Ministry

2nd Corinthians 10:12-18

Recap:

- Worldly
- Unimpressed With Paul
- Confused about ministry and purpose

2 Corinthians = A Call to be a
Counter-Cultural-Cruciform Community

Five Accusations Against Paul [Fisher]

(1) Bully and Coward (10:1, 9, 10)

(2) Worldly (10:2; 11:11; 12:16)

(3) Bragger (10:8)

(4) Inferior apostle (11:5; 12:11; 13:3)

(5) Unskilled and Ugly (11:6; 10:10)

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

[1] Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ--who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

[2] But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

[4] For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

[5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

[6] and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[7] Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[8] For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—

[9] lest I seem to terrify you by letters.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[10] "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[11] Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[12] For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[13] We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us--a sphere which especially includes you.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[14] For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[15] not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere,

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[16] to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.

2 Corinthians 10:7-18 NKJV

[17] But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

[18] For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

v.1 - Christ's Example

Humble and Meek (Matt. 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; John 1:29; Ps. 45:4; Isa. 40:11; 42:3; 53:7; Zech. 9:9)

Bold and Direct (Matt. 15:1–2; 23:13–33; Mark 11:15–17; John 2:13–16)

v.7 - Outward vs Inward

Dauids Anointing - 1 Samuel 16:7

(Mat. 3:8; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9-15;
2 Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9)

v.8-11 - Spiritual Authority

Lord over or Please people (Mark
10:35–45)

“Gifting” and “Success” (1 Kings 19:11)

Legalism / self-centeredness (Matt. 6:2,
15–16; 23:5–7)

v.12 - Measuring Themselves

Legalism, pride, and Wisdom (1 Cor. 1:19-2:13; Gal. 6:3)

“Gifting” and “Success” (1 Kings 19:11)

Legalism / self-centeredness (Matt. 6:2, 15–16; 23:5–7)

“Oh, pray to be preserved from this perilous pinnacle of self-exaltation. Look into the perfect law of liberty, and draw nigh to God. The nearer we come to God, the more rottenness we find in our bones.” (Trapp)

v.13-15 - Limits/Spheres

Pauls limits/assignment (Acts 9; Rom 15:17–28; 1 Cor 3:6, 7; Gal. 1-2; Eph 3)

What calling/ work/ assignment has God given you? (Eph. 2:10)

Dont look around, look up!

v.16 - in regions beyond...

First get their own house in order

(**2 Cor. 10:6**),

Then partner with him in prayer (**Eph. 6:19–20**) and financial support (**1 Cor. 16:6; Phil. 4:15–17**) to take the gospel farther out (**Rom. 15:23–24**).

v.17-18 - OT ~~vibin'~~ boastin'

that they understand and know me...

(Jer. 9:23-24, also in 1 Cor 1:31)

Not things you don't know or control

(Prov. 27:1-2; Luke 12:19-21; James

4:13-16; 2 Cor. 1:12-14)

v.18 - approve by testing

- The metal metaphor (Jer. 6:30; Rom. 16:10; 1 Cor. 11:19), the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10), and Master's approval (Luke 19:17).

- Self-commendation and the praise of men (Matt. 6:2, 6, 16) will count for nothing (Rom. 2:29; 1 Cor. 4:5).



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Resources/ bibliography

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