

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 - TITLE: "Putting It All Out There"

>>> Foolish Boasting (verses 16 - 21)

- V. 18 - Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast - Is this really what it's come to?
- V. 17 - I speak not according to the Lord, but... foolishly - This is not the best way to do ministry, friends
- V. 19 - For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise - Some serious sarcasm here!
- V. 20 - If one brings you into... (**five foolish allowances**)
- **Bondage** - **Doctrines of Legalism...** (robbing you of your freedom in Christ)
 - **Devours** you - **Ripping you off...** (exploiting you, financially)
 - **Takes** from you - **Instead of serving you...** (they've got you in their clutches)
 - **Exalts** himself - **Instead of exalting Jesus...** (arrogant, pompous display of ministry)
 - **Strikes** you - **Slaps you in the face...** (could refer to physical attack or regular, verbal insult)
- ***"Since you're willing to put up with all that, put up with me a little as I talk about my ministry..."
- V. 16 - Receive me as a fool, that I may boast a little - Boasting in one's self is foolish. Paul knows it.
- V. 21 - But in whatever anyone is bold...foolishly... I am bold also - I'll be foolishly bold for a moment

>>> Who do you think you are, bro? (verses 22 - 23(a))

- V. 22 - **Hebrews? ...Israelites? ...Seed of Abraham?**
- So am I... (**Hebrew of Hebrews**)
- V. 23 - **Ministers of Christ?**
- I am more... (**Proof is in the pudding**)
 - I speak as a fool... (**MADMAN**) (**An insane way of showing it!**)

>>> Here's my Resume (verses 23(b) - 27)

Difficulties

- V. 23 - Labors... prisons... death... (**Hardships**)
- Vv. 23-25 - Stripes... rods... stoned... (**Persecutions**)
- Vv. 25-26 - Journeys... shipwrecked... in the deep... (**Circumstances**)

Dangers

- V. 26 - Rivers... cities... wilderness... sea... (**Places**)
- V. 26 - Robbers... Jews... Gentiles... false brethren... (**People**)

Decisions

(self-willed volitional issues in ministry - basic comforts were knowingly neglected)

- V. 27 - Weariness (and toil)... sleeplessness nights... (**Sleep**)
- V. 27 - Thirst... Hunger (without food)... (**Substance**)
- V. 27 - Cold... nakedness (without clothing)... (**Shelter**)

>>> The Deeper Struggle (verses 28-29)

- V. 28 - Besides the other things (**Faithful Servant**)
- V. 28 - **Daily...** my deep concern for all the churches (**Caring Father**)
- V. 29 - Weak... and I am not? Made to stumble and I do not burn with indignation? (**Serious Shepherd**)

>>> The Peak of Weakness (verses 30-33)

- V. 30 - If I must boast I will boast in my infirmity (weaknesses) - This is the way I boast, if forced to do it.
- V. 31 - God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... knows that I am not lying - shocking story? **It's true!**
- Vv. 32-33 - In Damascus... desired to arrest me... but I was let down in a basket - Not impressive, man.