

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

Reestablishing Our Authority

Boasting in the Authority of Jesus

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Second Corinthians

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

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Boast

Καυχάομαι – (kauchaomai)

To express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy

James 3:5 (ESV) — So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

James 4:16 (ESV) — As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV) — Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV) — So that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV) — “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1. REVELATION – Our CONNECTION for Boasting

2 Corinthians 12:1–6 (ESV) — I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

Acts 2:17–18 (ESV) — And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Romans 16:25 (ESV) — Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV) — Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV) — What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:29–30 (ESV) — Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.

Matthew 13:19 (ESV) — When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV) — Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

“paradeisos” - a dwelling place of the righteous dead in a state of blessedness (generally equated with οὐρανός^b ‘heaven,’ 1.11)—‘paradise.’

Luke 23:43 (ESV) — And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:43 (NA28) — ... ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ.

Genesis 2:15 (LXX) ... ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ ...

Revelation 2:7 (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

2. HUMILIATION – Our CORRECTION against Boasting

2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) — So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger

of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS				
YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

Acts 9:29–30 (ESV) — And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11:22–26 (ESV) — The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Acts 14:19–20 (ESV) — But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

Galatians 4:15b (ESV) — ... For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.

Galatians 6:11 (ESV) — 11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

3. CLARIFICATION – Our CONDITION for Boasting

2 Corinthians 12:8–10 (ESV) — Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Mark 14:35–42 (ESV) — And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you

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may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

problems, but continual victory in the midst of our problems!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) — But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

God’s power never need be limited by human weaknesses, but is only limited by human self-sufficiency!

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 (ESV) — But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The greatest testimony of resurrection power in the life of a believer is not continual victory over our

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1. _____ – Our _____ for
Boasting

2. _____ – Our _____ against
Boasting

3. _____ – Our _____ for
Boasting