

7/27/2025

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Left off – see [2Cor 11: 16 Again...](#) above v 18-21 and note on theologian

Here he starts in with establishing superiority by baselining the comparison:

[2Cor11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.
²³ Are they servants of Christ?--I speak as if insane--I more so;](#)

Here, we're ready for him to let them have it. If you had to do this, what kinds of things would you say?
What kinds of accomplishments would you refer to?
You have to give them your resume, what would be on it?

Well, you know...

- I was raised in a Gentile environment;
- I'm a Roman citizen from birth
- I'm multilingual.
- I am a Jew;
- I am a Pharisee – was a Pharisee.
- I know the law of Israel forwards and backwards.
- I sat at the feet of Gamaliel, the leading Jewish teacher.
- I am a student of theology;
- I have been profoundly and well trained,
- I'm a man of the world.
- I've lived in the Gentile community.
- I've lived in the Jewish community.
- I was a man with great authority.
- I had the authority of the Jewish establishment to go about and persecute people who named the name of Jesus Christ.
- I carried papers from the authorities."

Who could possibly stand up to that?

He should have had their attention then!

BUT that's not what he said... he said NONE of that!!

A truly humble man would look not at the things he says are 'dung' but at what makes him most like Christ

[Jeremiah 9: ²³ Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.](#)

- In this passage, where does the 'big I' get to shine through?

- What about me?

What does Paul's resume look like, if not 'student of Gamaliel', Pharisee of Pharisees?

What did Paul put forth for superiority?

- 2Cor11:23b in far more labors,
- in far more imprisonments,
- beaten times without number,
- often in danger of death.
- ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.
- ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods,
- once I was stoned,
- three times I was shipwrecked,
- a night and a day I have spent in the deep.
- ²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;
- ²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
- ²⁸ Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.
- ²⁹ Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?
 - 'who is weak w/out my being weak?'
 - Speaks of compassion, lives in the dirty part of Christianity
 - Christ is described as: Heb 4: 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.
- ³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

Why this story??

Let's go back...

How did Paul get saved? what was he doing?

Headed to Damascus to kill Christians.

Who laid hands on him and what did he do after that? – Ananias,

- Gal 1, 2, went away to Arabia: Nabatean, Arabia, south of Damascus, somewhere between the Red Sea and the Euphrates River
- No N.T. theology seminary training, nobody with him, just him and Jesus, went!
 - Galatians 1: 11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- No doubt preaching the gospel all over Arabia those three years he was there
- Acts 9 comes back to Damascus & preaches after 3 years, Jews have synagogue there, furious, plotting death
- ALSO in Damascus is colony of Nabatean Arabs! Big enough to have an "ethnarch" (Governor, :32)
 - Ethnarch (governor) was 'under Aretas' – that's not a name but a title: lit. "an Arabian king"
 - like Pharaoh!
 - so he's surrounded by Arabs
- So the gospel msg in Arabia was just as caustic to man as it is everywhere, so now the Arabs are trying to get him too (jews and arabs)