

## A Study in II Corinthians

### Strength in Weakness

#### Chapter Ten - Lesson Ten

**The Provoking Paul (1-6):** As has been proven throughout both epistles to the Corinthians, that they had continually judged the motives of Paul and his brethren. It is their continual accusations against Paul that push him into a corner sort of speak to respond both by defense and glory of his ministry and apostleship. Within the Corinthian church there are those who point the finger at Paul and his brethren of Macedonia that they walked after the flesh. It is this charge against Paul that compels him to “glory” in all that the Lord has done through him. This glorying and boasting by Paul will last through chapter 12 and is something that Paul would choose not to do, in fact it is downright grievous for him to do so but Paul is being forced by the Corinthians because of certain deceitful workers.

The charge against Paul is that he and his companions are walking according to the flesh (2). It is most ironic and very true that those who often accuse us of something are themselves often guilty of the thing whereof they accuse us.

Paul did not walk according to the flesh, i.e. his own desires (3). For Paul understood that the warfare he is involved in is spiritual and as is our weapons (4-5).

**The Measure of Boasting (7-17):** Paul throughout the remainder of this chapter emphasizes the criteria or measure for boasting. Notice the following verses that show this emphasis:

For though I should **boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification**, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: (2 Corinthians 10:8)

But we will **not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us**, a measure to reach even unto you. (2 Corinthians 10:13)

**Not boasting of things without our measure**, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our

rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. (2 Corinthians 10:15-16)

Paul starts out this lengthy portion with “if any man trust to himself that he is Christ’s ... that as he is Christ’s, even so are we Christ’s (7). Yes, if these Corinthians think they are Christ’s then Paul certainly is for it is to this end he underscores for three chapters.

**First**, this authority that Paul uses to correct the fleshly wrong doings within the church, the Lord had given to Paul for their edification (8). Paul has the authority to do so because he is an approved Apostle of Christ. And **secondly**, Paul is who God has made him to be in Christ. He is not a phony; he is not going to stretch himself beyond the measure that Christ has made him to be, nor minister in a region that God has not called him to (9-14). In other words, Paul is not going to boast in another’s work. Paul will push to the regions beyond Corinth to preach the gospel, the measure that the Lord gave Paul was to preach to **all** the Gentles (15-16).

Paul throughout all his forced boasting will only do so to glory in the Lord, what the Lord has done through him. After all, it is not those that commend themselves but whom the Lord commends, that is approved of Him.