

MESSAGE NOTES: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Jeremiah 9:23-24 "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD."

2 Corinthians 10:17-18 "But, 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."

1. What is the Problem with Boasting?

A. You will never be fully satisfied

Jeremiah 9:23 "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches...'"

B. Your pursuit of your boast may crush you.

2 Corinthians 10:12 "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

2 Corinthians 10:15 "Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand..."

C.S. Lewis "Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man... It is the comparison that makes you proud, the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone."

C. You will be elevating a good thing to an ultimate thing.

2 Corinthians 10:18 "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."

2. How do we boast in the Lord?

A. Prioritize the attitudes of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 10:1 "By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away!"

B. Change the scale.

2 Corinthians 10:2-4 "I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

2 Corinthians 10:18 "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."

Phillip Keller "It's the very nature of things we soon discover in life that in order to be loved either in a physical or filial dimension we must show ourselves lovable. Somehow we have to demonstrate to others that we are worth loving. We have to prove that we are worthy of their love. And, sad to say, in most cases, the moment we fail to do this we discover that we are being cut off. . . Now, amazing as it may sound, and incredible as it may seem, there is none of this in the love of God. The simple truth is that His love for me does not in any way depend on my worthiness of it. In other words, I do not have to merit His love. I do not, so to speak, have to earn His love. Scripture repeats this theme again and again. For example, in that most poignant of all the stories told by Jesus, the account of the prodigal son, we see clearly portrayed for us what the love of God is like. No doubt the dear old man had died a thousand deaths after his son's departure. Yet his attitude of devotion, affection, and utter selflessness never altered. It mattered not what happened to himself as long as his son could be restored and redeemed and remade. His care and concern for this one's welfare never abated. This is the love of God."

François Fénelon "When the occasion for you to do something great comes, it has its own rewards: the excitement, the respect gained from others, and the pride that will accompany your ability to do such "great" things. To do small things that are right continually, without being noticed, is much more important. These small acts attack your pride, your laziness, your self-centeredness, and your oversensitive nature. It is much more appealing to make great sacrifices to God, however hard they might be, so that you might do whatever you want with the small decisions of life. Faithfulness in the little things better proves your true love for God. It is the slow, plodding path rather than a passing fit of enthusiasm that matters."

C. Change the Narrative.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:18 "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- What was the last thing you boasted about? If you cannot remember, what do you tend to boast about?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 10:1-18**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?

2. How is the way Christ is described in verse 1 different from the most powerful people?

3. What did Paul mean that he was 'timid' when face to face, but 'bold' when away (verse 2)?

4. What does it look like to 'take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ'? Give an example.

5. What does the passage say about comparing ourselves to others? Why is comparing ourselves to others unhealthy?

6. What does it mean to 'boast in the Lord'? How can you genuinely do this?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.