

2 CORINTHIANS

The Benefit of Inadequacy

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

“Boast in the Lord”

What kind of boast are we impressed by?

“Boast in the Lord”

1. Power (divine not human) – 10:1-6
“... not of the flesh but have divine power...”
2. Authority (God-given not achieved) – 10:7-12
“... our authority which the Lord gave for ...”
3. Influence (assigned not overreach) – 10:12-18
“... the area of Influence God assigned to us ...”

“Boast in the Lord”

1. Power (divine not human) – 10:1-6

“... not of the flesh but have divine power...”

“humble” or “bold” – two types of confidence

“Christ’s” – the reason for confidence

“All church power, whether exercised by the body in general, or by representation, is only ministerial and declarative since the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and practice. No church judicatory may make laws to bind the conscience.”

– PCA Book of Church Order

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm...

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

— Ephesians 6:10-18

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*“building” not “destroying” – purpose of authority
And not for self-comparison or self-commendation*

“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice.”

– Philippians 1:14-18

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Limits – basis for influence

Enlarging – basics of influence

“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.”

– Jeremiah 9:23-24

*“For it is not the one who
commends himself who is approved,
but the one whom the Lord commends.”*

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord”