

“God’s Way!”
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Introduction:

1. Let’s Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To 2 Corinthians 10:
 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Been Dealing With Another Problem:
 - In The Corinthian Church!
 - The Problem Of False Apostles & Teachers Who Had Infiltrated The Church!
 - And Paul - In The Final Chapters Of This Letter:
 - Is Encouraging The Members Of The Church:
 - To Deal With This Problem:
 - Before His Next Visit!
2. One Of The Reasons:
 - Why Those False Leaders Had Such An Easy Time:
 - Getting Followers From Within The Church:
 - We Saw Last Week:
 - In 10:7 - When He Called Them Out - “You Are Looking On Things After The Outward Appearance!”
 - According To The “Outward Appearance” - Those False Leaders:
 - Were Very Impressive:
 - And Very Persuasive!
 - **IE:** They **Looked** Like Leaders! They **Sounded** Like Leaders! They **Seemed** To Be Very Successful!
 - But Instead Of “Looking On The Outward Appearance” - The Church Needed To Look Deeper!
 - The Needed To Learn To Look At Things The Way God Does!
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 - “The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”
3. And So - To Help Them Learn How To Do This:
 - In The Rest Of Chapter 10:
 - Paul Lays Out Some Of The Differences:
 - Between Himself:
 - As A True Apostle & Minister:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - And Those Other:
 - False Leaders!
 - 10:12-18 - “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. / 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. / For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: / 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. / But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. / For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth!”
 - We Can See From These Verses:
 - That There Is A Very Clear Difference Between:
 - The World’s Way Of Doing Things:
 - And God’s Way!
 - And As A Christian:
 - We Need To **Pursue After:**
 - And **Be Faithful To – God’s Way!**

* Because - There Is A Difference - First Of All - In:

1. Your Position As God’s Servant!

- See This In 10:12 - “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not

wise!”

- One Of The Accusations That Was Made Against Paul:
 - Was That He Was **Not** A True:
 - Apostle Of Jesus Christ!
 - And So - He Wanted To Show The Difference Between:
 - A True Apostle & A False Apostle!
 - And Between The World's Way & God's Way!
- The World's Way:
 - According To This Verse:
 - Is To Do Things:
 - “To Be Seen Of Men!”
 - Paul Puts It This Way In 10:12:
 - They Would “Measure Themselves By Themselves!”
 - This Means That:
 - They Were In It For Themselves!
 - Each One “Esteemed” Himself Better Than The Other!
 - And What Was The Standard They Used?
 - “Themselves!”
 - A Subjective & Ever Changing Standard! Their Own Personalities, Their Own Preferences, Their Own Potential! **IE:** Making Their Own Rules As They Go Along!
 - But Even Worse:
 - They Would “Compare Themselves Among Themselves!”
 - This Meant That There Was A Constant Rivalry:
 - Even Between Those False Leaders!
 - They Were Always Trying To Outdo Each Other:
 - And There Was No Unity & No Peace!
 - And The False Leaders In The Corinthian Church:
 - Were Still Trying To Govern Their Lives & So-Called Ministries:
 - According To:
 - Man's Way!
 - That Is:
 - “According To The Flesh” & “After The Outward Appearance” Of Things!
 - And How Does Paul Sum Them Up?
 - 10:12 - **“They . . . Are Not Wise!”**
 - They Are Without True Understanding!
 - They Are Living Their Lives As Ignorant Fools!
 - But A True Apostle:
 - And Really - A True Christian & A Faithful Servant Of Jesus Christ:
 - Will Pursue After **God's Way!**
 - Because - As Paul Describes:
- Christian Service Is Not About Competition!
 - Paul Writes:
 - “For We Dare Not Make Ourselves Of The Number!” (10:12)
 - He Wants Us To Know:
 - That He Was Not **One Of** Those:
 - False Leaders!
 - And - He Would Never Even **Dare** To Try:
 - And Become Part Of That Group Of Rivals! But Also:
- Christian Service Is Not About Comparison!
 - Paul Writes:
 - “Or Compare Ourselves!” (10:12)
 - He Wants Us To Know:
 - That He Was Not **Even Like:**
 - Those False Leaders!
 - He & His Ministry Was Held:
 - To A Much Higher Standard!
 - But Also:

- Christian Service Is Not About Commendation!
 - “With Some That Commend Themselves!” (10:12)
 - This Was All The False Leaders Were After!
 - Their **Own** Approval!
- And So - When It Comes To **Your** Position:
 - As A Christian & As A Servant Of Christ:
 - There Is A Big Difference Between:
 - Man’s Way Of Doing Things:
 - And God’s Way Of Doing Things!
 - Man’s Way Is:
 - Superficial & All To Often Just:
 - An “Empty Show!”
 - But God’s Way Is Different!
 - God’s Way Is:
 - Not About Silly Competition!
 - Not About Superficial Comparison!
 - Not About Self Commendation!
 - Because If This Is All You Pursue After:
 - In Your Life - You Too:
 - “Are Not Wise!”
 - Instead - God’s Way:
 - For Your Life As His Child:
 - Is About Something Much Greater & Much Higher!
 - It’s About:

2. ***Your Privilege As God’s Servant!***

- As The Hymn Goes:
 - “I am resolved no longer to linger, Charmed by the world’s delight, Things that are higher, things that are nobler, These have allured my sight!”
 - For Paul - The Christian Life & Ministry:
 - Was Not Something He **Took**:
 - But Something He Was **Given!**
 - 10:13-14 - “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. / For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ!”
 - Paul Understood That The Reason He Was Saved:
 - Was To Serve!
 - Not To Be Served!
 - And This Was A Great Privilege!
 - And So - Paul Sought To Be:
 - Faithful To A Godly Standard!
 - In 10:13 - When Paul Writes:
 - “But We Will Not Boast Of Things Without Our Measure!”
 - He Means That - Unlike The False Leaders, Who Only “Measure Themselves By Themselves!”
 - He Has A True Standard! An Objective Standard! A Divine Standard!
 - And Any “Boasting” Or “Rejoicing” He Does As A Christian:
 - Will Be Based Upon That Godly Standard!
 - He Goes On In 10:13 To Say:
 - “According to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you!”
 - Paul Wants Us To Picture His Life & Ministry Here:
 - As A Race - Which Would Have Been A Very Familiar Thing:
 - For The Corinthians!
 - **IE**: Every Two Years - Athletes Would Converge On The City Of Corinth In Order To Complete In The “Isthmian Games!” - A Competition Whose Main Rival Was The Ancient “Olympian Games!” Many Of The Races Were Done In The Main Stadium - Where Each Runner Was Given A Lane Marked Out By A

- White, Chalk Line!
 - Paul Wants Us To Know That He Is Like One Of Those Runners - And The Race He Is Running Is:
 - “According To The Measure Of The Rule / Line / Boundary Which God Distributed / Gave To Him!”
 - In Other Words - Paul Would Only Serve:
 - According To The “Rule” Given To Him By God!
 - In This Case - God’s “Rule” Or Boundary Line For Him Extended Throughout The Gentile World, Including Corinth!
 - And This Is Still True For Us As Well!
 - There Are Still “Boundary Lines” Given To Us By God!
 - And If You Want To Be A Faithful In Your Service To The Lord:
 - You Must Not Compromise & You Must Not Cross Those Lines!
 - John Calvin - We Must - “Keep Within The Limits That Have Been Marked Out For Us By The Lord!”
 - In The Christian Life:
 - The **Means** Are Just As Important:
 - As The **End!**
 - And We Must Pursue After **God’s Will:**
 - In **God’s Way:**
 - By Being Faithful To His Standards!
 - But We Must Also Be:
 - Faithful With A Godly Spirit!
 - In 10:14 - Paul Continues - “For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ!”
 - Paul Was Content:
 - With The Course Given To Him:
 - By God!
 - He Would Only **Go:**
 - Where **God** Wanted Him To **Go!**
 - And He Would Only **Do:**
 - What **God** Wanted Him To **Do!**
 - **And He Would Go No Further!**
 - “For We Stretch Not Ourselves Beyond Our Measure!”
 - He Would Not Go Out-Of Bounds:
 - Or Step Over Those Divinely-Ordered Lines!
 - In Fact - There Were Times When:
 - God Expressly Forbid Paul To Travel To Some Locations:
 - Where He Himself Wanted To Go!
 - Acts 16:6-8 - “Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, / After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. / And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas!”
 - Paul Was Not Willing:
 - To Get Ahead Of God!
 - And Neither Must You!
 - God Still Has A “Rule” For You And Your Life!
 - And Standards & Boundaries To Follow!
 - And Even Though, At Times, You May Not Feel Like Following After **Where** God Wants You To Serve, Or **When** God Wants You To Serve, Or Even **How** God Wants You To Serve:
 - Remember That You Too Are Still In A Race!
 - And As Hebrews 12:1-2 Reminds Us:
 - “Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!”
 - And So - When It Comes To **Your** Privilege:
 - To Live & Serve As A Christian:
 - There Is A Big Difference Between:

- Man's Way Of Doing Things:
 - And God's Way Of Doing Things!
- Man's Way Is:
 - About Pride And Presumption!
 - But God's Way Is Different!
- God's Way Is:
 - About Faithfulness!
 - Faithfulness To God's Standards!
 - But We Also See From These Verses:

3. ***Your Priority As God's Servant!***

- 10:15-16 - "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!"
 - Here - Paul Explains Another Key Difference:
 - Between His Ministry:
 - And The So-Called Ministry Of The False Apostles!
 - Paul's Main Priority:
 - Was The Propagation Of The Gospel:
 - As A Pioneer Missionary!
 - Romans 15:20 - "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation!"
 - This Is Why He Did Not Want To "Boast" In:
 - "Other Men's Labors!"
 - Which Is Exactly What The False Leaders Had Done!
 - After Paul Brought The Gospel:
 - To Corinth - And Established The Very First:
 - Christian Congregation:
 - Not Long After He Left - Those False Leaders Swept In To Steal The Spiritual Fruit!
 - And This Problem Now:
 - Got In The Way Of:
 - Not Only The Priority:
 - Of His Ministry!
 - But Of The Priority:
 - Of The Ministry Of The Church As Well!
 - The Priority Of Spreading The Gospel:
 - Further And Further And Further!
 - John Gill - "The Weakness Of Their Faith, And The Disorders And Divisions That Were Among Them, Were A Hindrance To The Spread Of The Gospel!" And:
- The Gospel Was Paul's Ambition!
 - 10:16 - "To Preach The Gospel In The Regions Beyond You!" - And Especially In Places:
 - Where No Other Gospel Witness Had Been!
 - Again - Back In Romans 15 - Paul Even Set His Sights On Spain - "Whensoever I take my journey into Spain!" (15:20)
 - Paul Believed That:
 - The Course God Had Laid Out For Him:
 - Would Take Him All The Way To ***Spain!***
 - Not For A Vacation Or For Sight-Seeing!
 - But For Sharing The Gospel! And So:
- The Gospel Was Paul's Anticipation - As Well!
 - 10:15 - Paul Was "Having Hope" That:
 - As The Corinthians Grew As A Church:
 - In Their Faith - And In Their Faithfulness To The Lord:
 - The Gospel Would Become More & More Of A Priority To Them!
 - They Would Become Partners With Paul:
 - In Getting The Good News Of Jesus Christ:
 - "Unto The Uttermost Part Of The Earth!" (Acts 1:8)

- And So - What Is **Your** Priority?
 - As A Christian:
 - God's Way & God's Priority:
 - Is To Be Your Priority!
 - The Sharing & The Spreading Of The Gospel - Being Faithful To The Standards **God** Has Provided!
 - But We Also See:

4. **Your Purpose As God's Servant!**

- In 10:17-18 - Paul Quotes From The Old Testament:
 - To Show That There Is Also A Clear Difference In Purpose:
 - In The Life Of A Christian! (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
 - "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. / For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth!"
- The World's Way:
 - Is To Seek The Commendation:
 - And The Approval Of Others:
 - And Even Yourself!
 - But - According To 10:18:
 - "**Not** He That Commendeth Himself Is Approved!"
 - Because - If You Seek After Your Own Approval Or The Approval Of Others:
 - You Are Measuring Yourself By The Wrong Standard!
 - You Are "Measuring Yourself By Yourself!"
 - And That Is Not Wise!
 - But For The Christian:
- God's Way & God's Purpose For Your Life:
 - Is Different!
 - It Is To Pursue & To Seek After:
 - The Commendation & Approval:
 - Of The Lord!
 - 10:18 - "For Not He That Commendeth Himself Is Approved, But Whom The **Lord** Commendeth!"
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Is Your Master!
 - And He Is A "Good Master!"
 - And The Purpose Of Your Life:
 - Is Now To Please Him!
 - 10:17 - "He That Glorieth, Let Him Glory In The Lord!"
 - It Will Be **More Than** Satisfying:
 - For You To Hear With Your Own Ears:
 - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter thou into the joy of thy lord!" (Matthew 25:21)
 - Is This Your **Purpose** Today?
 - Are You Finding Your Glory:
 - In The Lord?
 - Jeremiah 9:23-24 - From Which Paul Quotes:
 - Tells Us This - "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: / But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD!"
 - This Is Where It All Must Start!
 - Can You Glory In The Fact That:
 - You "Understand & Know" The Lord?
 - If You Do Not Know Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Lord And Savior:
 - Then - You Will Never Be Able To Pursue After God's Way!
 - But The Way Of The World:
 - And Your Own Way:

- Is A “Broad Way” That “Leadeth To Destruction!”
- Don’t Continue Down That Path!
- Instead Turn To & Trust In:
 - The Way Of Jesus Christ - And The Work He Accomplished To Save You!
 - So You Can Follow God’s Way, “Which Leadeth Unto Life!”

Conclusion:

1. Because - As We Have Just Read:
 - There Is A Clear Difference Between:
 - The World’s Way:
 - And God’s Way!
 - And And The Key:
 - To Following God’s Way:
 - Is Faith & Faithfulness!
 - Faith In & Faithfulness To The Standards He Has Given Us!
2. Whose Way Are You Pursuing:
 - In Your Life Today?
 - The World’s Way? Your Own Way?
 - Or God’s Way?
 - Be Faithful:
 - In Your Position:
 - As God’s Servant!
 - You Are Here To “Please Him Who Hath Chosen [You] To Be [His] Soldier!”
 - Be Faithful:
 - With Your Privilege:
 - As God’s Servant!
 - God Has Marked Out A Path For You!
 - So “Run With Patience The Race That Is Set Before [You]!”
 - Be Faithful:
 - To Your Priority:
 - As God’s Servant!
 - Keep Living Out The Great Commission!
 - You Are God’s Own “Witness – Unto The Uttermost Part Of The Earth!”
 - Be Faithful:
 - To Your Purpose:
 - As God’s Servant!
 - To Please & To Glorify The Lord:
 - “Whether Therefore Ye Eat, Or Drink, Or Whatsoever Ye Do, Do All To The Glory Of God!”
3. By God’s Grace - And Through His Strength:
 - Be Faithful:
 - To God’s Way!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com