

## **God's Opinion Counts**

### **2 Corinthians 10:7-17**

INTRO:

In this text Paul begins to defend himself against the false apostles. We do not know everything they said about Paul. Yet, we get a glimpse of what they did in this text. The important thing for us is that we also see the obvious truth and apply it to our hearts.

*I. We Are Christ's (v. 7-11)*

*II. Principles (v. 12-16)*

*III. Overarching Principle (v. 17-18)*

*I. We Are Christ's (v. 7-11)*

**2 Corinthians 10:7-11**      *"Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's. For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—lest I seem to terrify you by letters. For his letters, they say, 'are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.' Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present."*

A. The first phrase, **"Look on the obvious things."** could be translated as a command, a statement, or, as it is in our translation, a question. It is the statement which leads to all that follows.

B. The first obvious thing is if these false apostles Pauls and his team are Christ's also.

*"If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's."*

1. Paul adds that he spoke to them the way he did because God invested him with authority to speak as he did.

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Paul introduces a key word in these verses, the word, **"boast."**

2. God's authority and Paul's use of that authority was aimed not at tearing them down but building them up. This contrary to the accusations of the false apostles who claim Paul is a scary-cat. They say he writes bold letters but is a kitten when he is with them. Paul wrote contrary to what they think, I will be bold when I am there.

## ***II. Principles (v. 12-16)***

**2 Corinthians 10:12-16** *“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.”*

A. Paul was still writing about the obvious things to the Corinthians. The first principle was: those who thought themselves great because they compare themselves with one another were not wise. Self-comparison and self-promotions is not wise. It is foolish because ultimately the only opinion that counts is God's.

B. Second, the principle which should count the most to the Corinthians was God's evident call upon Paul's life. God called Paul to go where no one had preached the Gospel before.

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## ***III. Overarching Principle (v. 17-18)***

**2 Corinthians 10:17-18** *“But “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.”*

A. The last principle is the one that rules over everything. First Paul begins with the Old Testament quote from **Jeremiah 9:23-24**. The only one we should boast in is the LORD. We are nothing in ourselves. All we are is what we are as Christ's.

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

This is the obvious application of this principle. If we commend ourselves it makes no difference, we are not ultimately approved. God is the one who has to approve us.

Application:

1. We are not somebody because of our great gifts or talents. We are not great because we have great education or a large salary. We are only great if we are great in God’s sight.

**Hebrews 11:5-6** *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Are we diligently seeking Him?

2. When you assess where you are spiritually, what criteria do you use? A place to start is **2 Peter 1:3-8**.

*“As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**What will God say about each of us?**

Hymn# 394 ***In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified***