

“Growing Through Criticism”
Real Ministry in a Dot.Com World • pt. 22
2 Corinthians 10:7-18

INTRODUCTION

- reality of criticism

- general comments about criticism:
 1. there will never be a shortage of critics

“Where there is light, there are bugs.” – Harry Ironside
 2. don’t run from criticism; benefit from it
Prov. 1:5; 9:9; 12:15; 19:20

“What people say about us is never quite true; but it is never quite false, either; they always miss the bull’s-eye, but they rarely fail to hit the target.” – Sydney Harris
 3. whatever remains of the criticism, throw away

1. How the critics handled Paul

- accused of hypocrisy (10:1, 9-10)

- accused of being power hungry (10:6, 8)

- accused of being a lousy preacher (10:10)

- accused of being an ecclesiastical thief (10:13-15)

2. How Paul handled the critics

- a. set things in _____. (10:7)
1 Sam. 16:7

- b. clarify your _____. (10:8, 12, 18)
 - purpose of his office as apostle:

 - focus of his office as apostle:
Mt. 25:21

- c. review the _____. (10:11, 14-16)

CONCLUSION

growth from handling criticism in a godly manner:

- God-confidence (v. 8)
- consistency and integrity (v. 11)
- humility (v. 12)
- judging self rightly (v. 13)
- faith (v. 15-16)

“The highest reward for man’s toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it.”
– John Ruskin