

# Studies in

# 2 Corinthians



Lesson XVIII

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 10:12-11:6 (NIV)

**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. **13** We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.<sup>[a]</sup> **14** We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. **15** Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others.<sup>[b]</sup> Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, **16** so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory. **17** But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."<sup>[c]</sup> **18** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

**11:1** I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. **2** I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. **3** But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. **4** For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. **5** But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." **6** I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

## Footnotes

[a] A textual variant of verse 13 reads: "We, however, will not boast about things that cannot be measured, but we will boast according to the standard of measurement that the God of measure has assigned us—a measurement that relates even to you."

[b] A textual variant of verses 14-15 reads: "Neither do we boast about things that cannot be measured in regard to the work done by others."

[c] A reference to Jer. 9:24

# Discussion Questions

1. The critics of Paul, were trying to undermine his apostolic authority by making judgments based on his appearance (10:7-11), which were based on worldly standards of comparison. Why is comparing ourselves with others “not wise” (10:12)? Whose standard should we use as our measurement?
2. In chapter 10, verses 13-18 Paul addresses boasting—good and bad. As humans, we tend to brag about what we have (possessions, earning power, credentials) or what we can do (physical feats of strength, talents). What would Paul say is appropriate to boast about, and what is inappropriate? (cf. 1 John 2:16)
3. Reflect for a moment on the things that bring you joy. Where would you say your relationship with God ranks on that list? (vs. 17)
4. The New King James Version renders chapter 11, verse 1 this way: “Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.” Does God expect us to have patience with each other—even with the faults, failings, and flaws of our brothers and sisters in Christ? (cf. Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13)
5. Just as there is godly boasting, there is godly jealousy (11:2). How would you define it? What illustration does Paul give to help the Corinthians understand his godly jealousy?
6. How do modern Christians get away from the “simplicity” (11:3, NKVJ) that is found in Christ? Why is a simple faith better than the bells and whistles of showbiz religion?
7. What was the sign that the believers in Corinth lacked spiritual discernment? (11:4)
8. What is the most important thing to consider when evaluating a teacher or preacher of the Word? (11:5-6)