



A Letter of Grace 2 Corinthians

Fighting Pirates
(10:7-18)

1

A Call to See the Obvious (v.7)

Look at what is before your eyes.

*If anyone is confident that he is Christ's,
let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's,
so also are we.*

2

Boasting and Authority (vv.8-11)

*For even if I boast a little too much of our **authority**,
which the Lord gave for **building** you up
and not for **destroying** you,
I will not be ashamed.*

*I do not want to appear to be **frightening** you with my letters.
For they say, “His **letters** are weighty and strong,
but his bodily **presence** is weak,
and his speech of no account.”*

*Let such a person understand
that what we say by letter when absent,
we do when **present**.*

3

Classifying, Comparing, Commending, Measuring, and

*Not that we dare to **classify** or **compare** ourselves
with some of those who are **commending** themselves.
But when they **measure** themselves by one another
and compare themselves with one another,
they are **without understanding**.*

*But we will not boast beyond limits,
but will boast only with regard to the **area of influence**
God **assigned** to us,
to reach even to you.*

*For we are not **overextending** ourselves,
as though we did not reach you.*

*For we were the **first** to come all the way to you with the **gospel of Christ**.
We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others.*

4

The Hopeful Outcome (vv.15b-16)

*But our **hope** is that as your faith increases,
our area of influence **among** you may be **greatly enlarged**,
so that we may preach the gospel in lands **beyond** you,
without boasting of work already done
in another's area of influence.*

5

Proper Boasting and Commendation (vv.17-18)

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

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

6

Application

- A warning that when we are not spiritually healthy, we can miss the obvious things that God is doing.
- Authority in the church is for building up, not destroying.
- It is folly to compare and measure ourselves to other, other churches, other pastors or ministries.
- We should beware of teachers who attempt to hijack the work of local churches.
- Our own personal spiritual health is intimately connected with the spread of the Gospel.
- Our boasting should be ultimately in the Lord.
- Our primary aim is not to seek the commendation of others, but the Lord's affirmation.