

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 10:7-18)

1. What reminder did those who thought they were in Christ need from Paul?

That he too is in Christ: *“Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's”* (II Corinthians 10:7).

- They [we too] should not judge on outward appearance (**John 7:24, Romans 2:28-29, and II Corinthians 5:12**; cf. **I Samuel 16:7**).
- Some people just care about how things look outwardly (**Matthew 23:5** and **Luke 16:15**).
- Paul reasoned with them that as they are in Christ, so is he (**Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, and II Timothy 1:1**; cf. **I John 4:6**).

2. How were the Apostles supposed to use their authority?

For the edification of the saints: *“For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed”* (II Corinthians 10:8).

- Paul had authority that he could have boasted of (**I Corinthians 14:37, II Corinthians 5:20, Galatians 1:1, Ephesians 6:20, and Jude 17**).
- Paul's goal is not to lift up himself (**II Corinthians 13:8**).
- The work of the Lord is for edification of the saints (**Romans 14:19, II Corinthians 12:19, II Corinthians 13:10, and Ephesians 4:11-12**).

3. What did the Corinthians think about Paul's bodily presence?

Weaker than his writing: *“(9) That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. (10) For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible”* (II Corinthians 10:9-10).

- The church in Corinth was “impressed” by all the wrong things (**II Corinthians 11:19-20**).
- Paul's goal, rightly so, was not to be impressive (**I Corinthians 1:17, I Corinthians 2:1, and II Corinthians 11:6**).

4. Was Paul going to come to them in a different way than how he wrote?

No: *“Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present”* (II Corinthians 10:11).

- **I Corinthians 2:4, I Corinthians 4:19-21, and II Corinthians 13:2-3**.

5. Is it wise to measure yourself as though you are the standard to be measured by?
 No: *“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” (II Corinthians 10:12).*
- Self-promotion is not good (**Proverbs 25:27** and **Proverbs 27:2**).
 - We cannot measure ourselves by others either. The standard to measure ourselves by is the word of God (**Luke 4:4**, **II Timothy 3:15-17**, and **James 1:21-25**).
6. Did Paul and Timothy try to appear greater than what God had made them to be?
 No: *“(13) 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. (14) 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” (II Corinthians 10:13-14).*
- Paul and Timothy realized the abilities they had were God-given (**Ephesians 4:7** and **I Peter 4:10-11**).
 - They did not stretch themselves beyond what they were (**Romans 15:18-19** and **II Corinthians 3:1-2**).
 - The power was the gospel (**Romans 1:16**).
7. Were Paul and Timothy going to take credit for the work others did in the Gospel?
 No: *“(15) 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, (16) 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” (II Corinthians 10:15-16).*
- **Romans 15:20**; cf. **I Corinthians 3:4-6**.
8. In whom should Christians glory?
 In the Lord: *“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (II Corinthians 10:17).*
- **Psalms 105:3**, **Jeremiah 9:23-24**, **I Corinthians 1:31**, and **I Corinthians 10:31**.
9. Whose commendation should we seek?
 The Lord's, not our own: *“For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth” (II Corinthians 10:18).*
- Self-commendation is not a good thing (**Luke 16:15** and **Luke 18:10-14**).
 - It should be the Lord's commendation we seek (**John 5:42-44**).