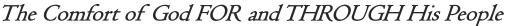


CORINTHIANS





Part 33—"Confidence in Christ & Not Comparisons"— 21 July 2024

Introduction: Looking Only at Ourselves & Others

"In the conversations I have with students, they tend to describe school—and life—in one of two ways: either as a series of audiences to impress or as an adversarial environment full of potential enemies and allies, where failure must be avoided at all cost."

—David Zahl, Low Anthropology

In the latter chapters of 2 Corinthians, Paul changes his tone and directly addresses those he considers a threat to the Corinthian church. These opponents were characterized by arrogance and pride which revealed that they not actually servants of Christ but were false teachers. Because of their criticisms, he finds it necessary to offer a detailed defense of his ministry and authority while also critiquing them in order that the Corinthian church might be protected from their influence.

Ma		in Chi to challeng		ourselves in o	our vocations, specifically how we
Ex	position		2 Corinthians I0	:7-12	
I.	-	Corinthians to	the situation that is be	efore them. (10:7a)	
			sp. close attention to someth., to n	` '	
	⇒ The phrase is literally, "What is before your face, look (at it)!" Paul is telling them to "look at the things that are in front of them" or to "look at the obvious facts."				
		between the false teache through Paul among the		d only to look at the	of God that has been
	<u>Key I</u>	oint: God gives to His	people the	and	to judge rightly.
	capab	ole of leading a church as	onsibility to make judgments; bu tray by sheer energy and will of t Christian maturity."—D.A. Car	their personal attractivene	e based, not on powerful personalitie ess, but by more objective criteria, by
2.	Criticism #1 —	nself against his Paul isn't 'of Christ' in the ism seems to have sometl		s claiming to belong to C	hrist is some special sense.
	"it has so servant or	omething to do with a sp apostle."	ecial relationship to Christ that —David Garland	bestows some kind of dis	tinctive authority as Christ's
	Response: I am 2 Cor. 10:7b— I	•	nt he is Christ's, let him remind l	himself that just as he is (Christ's, so also are we.
		•	vinced or certain. The phrase is lit	,	
			ve careful thought to a matter, this		-
	⇒ Paul is not defending the fact that he is a believer in Jesus Christ. Rather, it is related to the entrusted to him by Christ as an apostle.				
	2 Cor. 10:8-9—8 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. 9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters.				
	⇒ Paul's autl good of b	hority as an apostle came elievers like the Corinthia	from the Lord	Jesus Himself (Acts 22:0	6-I0; Gal. I:I5-I6) and was for the
	(+) To _	them up!	(—) Not to _	then	n!
	⇒ Paul there	fore refuses to be	because to boast (of his authority is really to	o boast of the authority of Christ.