



guide:

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

for reflection & discussion:

(NT Wright, Moyer V. Hubbard, Others)

[Remember: Group compassion work!, group celebrations: birthdays, life-events. Aim for meeting three times a month, at least. Ask who is missing and follow up!]

Many people today find Paul's boldness worrying. They don't like thinking of a Christian teacher being so confrontational. But we can't have it both ways. Paul has been accused of being weak and insignificant. He boldly shows how they are mistaken (44).

1. How can boldness and humility appropriately be combined in our relationships and ministry?
2. We meet the same problem in 10.12 as earlier: the question of people who "commend" or recommend themselves. How do Paul's standards of measurement differ from those of the people recommending themselves?
3. What does Paul say is the standard and the commission that he received from God by which he is to be measured?
4. What it all comes down to is the true nature of Christian "boast": anyone who boasts should boast in the Lord! Paul has already quoted Jer. 9.23-24 in the first letter to Corinth and now he quotes it again. What does it look like to "boast in the Lord?"
5. For what specific things can you "boast in the Lord" right now?
6. How does this practice help in the battle for our thoughts?

prayer: Thank God for the ways you can boast in him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern which thoughts and ideas are getting in the way of people coming to know the true God, and to enable you to capture them so that they can serve Christ instead.

JANUARY 8, 2023

SECOND CORINTHIANS SERIES

with Shel Boese

HOLY FOOLERY

PART 1: COMPARISON AND ASSUMPTIONS

2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Comparisons and assumptions are dangerous ways to miss God's work and the Spirit happening now in the people around us. This reduces us to consumerist judges. Can we discern quality from only the surface finish or a performance but miss the most important part—players centred on Jesus? There is a reason the judgement of God is coming on the shiny show church in North America.

OPENING TALE

BACK STORY (PAUL'S CONTEXT)

- Paul was being compared to who he will name as "super-apostles" soon. He was being judged as "less than".



connect

- need prayer?
- ask questions
- get information
- make comments
- meet with pastor Shel or Josh
- sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- join a Home Church



OUR STORIES (OUR CONTEXT)

- We are also tempted to make these comparisons...

BIG IDEA (THE DIFFERENCE IT CAN MAKE):

- The wrong kind of Comparison robs us of vision to see our own fruit in the past, the present, and vision for our part of God's harvest in the future.

The trouble with the people Paul is now talking about is that they've reached a snap judgement, based on a faulty way of measuring themselves and other people. -NT Wright, 109:

RESTATEMENT

SLOW WALK THROUGH THE PASSAGE

1. We don't engage in carnal comparisons (outline: Baker Exegetical)

2 Cor 10.12 For we would not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who recommend themselves. But when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.
V.12>

2. We don't overstep ministry boundaries

13 But we will not boast beyond certain limits, but will confine our boasting according to the limits of the work to which God has appointed us, that reaches even as far as you. 14 For we were not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach as far as you, because we were the first to reach as far as you with the gospel about Christ. 15a Nor do we boast beyond certain limits in the work done by others,
V.13-15a>

3. We hope to extend the mission

15b but we hope that as your faith continues to grow, our work may be greatly expanded among you according to our limits, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in the regions that lie beyond you, and not boast of work already done in another person's area.
V.15b-16>

4. We boast in the Lord

17 But the one who boasts must boast in the Lord. 18 For it is not the person who commends himself who is approved, but the person the Lord commends.
V.14-18>

FINAL WORD