

18 – PAUL'S CREDIBILITY (2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-18)

I. The Call for Obedience (2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

A. The Call to Action (2 Corinthians 10:1-2)

1. The Manner of the Exhortation (2 Corinthians 10:1)

- Paul is meek and gentle in his approach as he calls them to action.

2. The Exhortation (2 Corinthians 10:2)

- Paul wishes that they deal with the issue or he will when he comes.

B. The Description of His Ministry (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

1. The Manner of Ministry (2 Corinthians 10:3)

- Though Paul lives in the physical realm, he does not live according to it.

2. The Tools of Ministry (2 Corinthians 10:4)

- He did not use the world's methods in ministry, but God's power and strength.

3. The Nature of Ministry (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- The gospel was proclaimed against false arguments to bring everyone to Christ.

C. Ready to Punish (2 Corinthians 10:6)

- Paul was ready to punish any disobedience, so that they might be obedient.

II. A Response to Critics (2 Corinthians 10:7-11)

A. Move Beyond the Surface (2 Corinthians 10:7)

- Paul encouraged the Corinthians to look beyond the surface.
- Paul points out that he is just as much a teacher of Christ as others.

B. God Given Authority (2 Corinthians 10:8)

- Paul points out that his authority for ministry was given to him by the Lord Himself.

C. The Nature of the Last Letter (2 Corinthians 10:9)

- Paul points out that his last letter was not a strong-arm tactic to terrify them.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

D. The Critic's Assessment (2 Corinthians 10:10)

- Paul's critics judged his speaking abilities and appearance as not being significant.

E. Paul's Response (2 Corinthians 10:11)

- His critics need to recognize that he will exercise his authority in person as in the letter.

III. Intruders in Their Midst (2 Corinthians 10:12-18)

A. Their Inadequate Standard (2 Corinthians 10:12)

- Paul's critics attracted attention by comparing themselves with others.

B. Forced to Boast (2 Corinthians 10:13)

- They were forcing Paul to boast in order to silence his critics.
- Paul would only boast in God and the tasks that He had assigned him.

C. Paul's Authority (2 Corinthians 10:14)

- Paul points out that they were a part of his authority.
- This was because Paul was the first to bring them the gospel.

D. Paul's Boasting (2 Corinthians 10:15-17)

- Paul refused to boast in the labors of others.
- Paul hoped that his influence among them would grow as they matured spiritually.
- Paul wanted them to grow so that he could turn his attention to sharing Christ elsewhere.
- True Christian boasting is found in the privilege of knowing God Himself.

E. True Commendation (2 Corinthians 10:18)

- Paul states that it matters little what an individual says about himself.
- True commendation only comes from God Himself.