

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10:7-18

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-830 MARCH 30, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 10:7-18

2 Cor. 10:7-18

Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's. 8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed - - 9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters. 10 "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible." 11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present. :12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us - - a sphere which especially includes you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, 16 to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment. :17 But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD." 18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

An encouraging word to the saints that what God has begun -
He will finish

MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

1.) We are no longer bound to this world v. 7-11

WE ARE NO LONGER BOUND TO THIS WORLD

1a.) We are bound to Jesus Christ v. 7

Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?

In Paul's day - - the world was fixated on physical beauty.

The Greek/Roman culture held physical beauty as the most needed "form" or "look" for a leader. The physical "appearance" sent a message and that message was - He or she is to us, "the gift of God" or as we say "God's gift to man"

we are suckers for this form of visual influence.

(because our "sight-diet" feeds on what "appearances" make us feel)

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

faith - Is the eyes needed for spiritual comprehension. Why? Because physical sight is so limited. Technically – we can only see well about half of a 24 hour day. The rest of the day is in darkness and a flashlight is needed or night-vision glasses. Notice also that even when we are looking at something very carefully there is at best just a small area that is "In-Focus", roughly about 25%. The rest is foggy, Blurred or opaque to us. Faith in God is what opens the eyes to another world.

7 If anyone is **convinced** (*trusted*) **in himself that he is Christ's**, let him again consider this **in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.**

"Jesus loves me this I know, regardless of my physical woes"

convinced **πεῖθω** **peitho**, *pi'-tho*; "to be in a state of agreeableness" assurance, confidence, persuasion, trust.

Paul (*little one*) **Found his identity** in someone greater than himself (Jesus Christ)

THE FACT IS, THERE'S MORE TO US THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

If anyone is **convinced in himself that he is Christ's** let him again consider this

but also, note this:

**that the assurance of your salvation is to be known, not questionable.
A Christian shouldn't be insecure about his/her relationship with God.**

WE ARE NO LONGER BOUND TO THIS WORLD

1b.) We are bound to Christ's service v.8-10

8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our **authority**, which the Lord gave **us** for **edification** and not for **your destruction**, I shall not be **ashamed** - - 9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters. 10 "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

We are now ministers and servants = priests in His service

1 Pet. 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our **authority**, **which the Lord gave us** for **edification** and not for **your destruction**, I shall not be **ashamed**

Edification – grk: οἰκοδομή **oikodome**, *oy-kod-om-ay'*; feminine (abstract) of a compound of 3624 and the base of 1430; architecture, i.e. (concretely) a structure; figuratively, confirmation: — building, edify(-ication, -ing).

Authority.

Is it from God or Man? - - The Answer is Both. (but in the biblical sense, only God can grant true authority.)

What Kind of Authority

Man's flesh seeks and desires authority. There is "power" in authority and "influence" and "control" with authority.

"one of the saddest things that I see in Christian circles is a believer's inability to handle authority. Its rare if you see a man or woman unaffected by what authority has been given to them."

There's a warning here for us - - Legalist, Counterfeits and Phonies Never lack **self-assumed authority**, self confidence, self centeredness, self aggrandizement. - - self always promotes itself.

Matt. 7:15

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16**
You will know them by their fruits.

and not for **your destruction**

True, God-Sent –Authority Rescues // It Does Not Seek this "**destruction**"

This Destruction is what happens in the end IF you follow **false** teachers and prophets = the led you into a **false** hope, **false** salvation, **false** truth, **false** assurance.)

WE ARE NO LONGER BOUND TO THE PAST

1c.) We are bound to the reality v. 11

11 Let such a person consider this, that **what we are in word by letters** when we are absent, such **we will also be in deed** when we are present.

What is your "reality" today ?

(what does your life consist of? It's purpose, goal, ending ?)

The only truth there is – is the reality of God's word.

Heb. 11:1 NLT

Faith is the **confidence** that what we **hope** for will **actually** happen; it gives us **assurance** about **things** we cannot see.

MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

2.) We are now living for the moment v. 12-15

2a.) Our standard is of Jesus v. 12

WE ARE NOW LIVING FOR THE MOMENT

12 For we dare not **class** ourselves or **compare** ourselves with those who **commend** themselves. But they, **measuring** themselves by themselves, and **comparing** themselves among themselves, **are not wise**.

Matt. 4:19

Then He said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**"
come now and mimic me, copy me, be like me, imitate, me = **imperative**

It's so easy to say "I'm as good as the next guy"

but what a pathetic standard that is. "**I'm better than Joe at playing marbles**" – "**my dad can beat up your dad**". That's really no big deal. One young boy said to his friend "my mom can beat up my dad." Human comparisons are flimsy at best. He goes to church once a month – I go every week = I am better than him."

12 But they, **measuring** themselves by themselves, and **comparing** themselves among themselves, **are not wise**.

If you're attending a church that's dead, you're going to look alive for awhile. If you're in a church that's alive, you're going to be alive with it. If you're in a church that is comforting + challenging + stimulating + upsetting + encouraging + educating + developing + convicting = that's a church to be in.

(I am your pastor – not your mother. I am your teacher – not your buddy)

if you know me – you know that I want you to look to Jesus Christ in everything and at all times

**THE FACT IS, THERE'S MORE TO US
THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE**

Our Standard is not another human being.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

————— *End of Study* —————

Copyright © March 30, 2014 by Jack Hibbs