

THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN
II COR. 10:7-18,12-14

Introduction:

- A. Paul writes of being measured. v12 & 14
 - 1. measure = metron - a measure or rule, a standard.
 - 2. He has reference to those in the church at Corinth who are judging him and his work.

- B. It is true that we are all being measured.
 - 1. By our God.
 - 2. By our fellow man.

- c. The problem is that we may use a wrong standard or rule in our measuring.
 - 1. How should we measure a man?
 - 2. What are the true measures of a man?

I. IT IS NOT BY THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE. v7a, 10b.

- A. "Do you look on things after the outward appearance."
 - 1. appearance = prosopon - one's looks, that which is presented to the eye, the face only.
 - 2. This is the world's way of judging.

- B. "his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."
 - 1. weak = feeble, sick, infirm.
 - 2. contemptible = to count as nothing.

II. IT IS NOT BY SELF-PROCLAIMED SPIRITUALITY. v7b

- A. There were some who boasted of a special relationship to Jesus.
 - 1. "I am of Christ,"
 - 2. No respect to any man.

- B. Beware of men who speak of their dedication and their sacrifices made to the Lord.
 - 1. Some constantly flaunt a special relationship with God. Jesus spoke to me, did He you?
 - 2. The Publican and Pharisee. Luke 18:9.

III. WE SHOULD NOT USE A PERSON'S AUTHORITY. V8,9

- A. Paul would not use his Apostolic power to relieve his embarrassment.
 - 1. Authority = eksousia - delegated authority.
 - 2. edification = oikodome - the act or process of building a house.
 - 3. destruction = kathairesis - a taking down, a pulling down, demolition.
- B. The possession of power is not a measure of greatness but how one uses it.
 - 1. Paul did not want to terrorize them.
 - 2. v9.

IV. NOT BY WHAT, "THEY SAY." V10.11

- A. What did they say about Paul?
 - 1. His letters are weighty and powerful.
 - 2. weighty = barus - heavy, as in weight.
 - 3. powerful = ischuros - physically strong, mighty.
 - 4. weak = asthenes - feeble, weak, sick.
 - 5. contemptible = to despise, to count as nothing.
- B. Paul would prove them wrong. v11
 - 1. He would be the same in their presence as he was in his letters.

V. IT IS NOT BY COMPARING MAN WITH MAN. V12

- A. Some were over-estimating themselves and then making comparisons that favored them.

1. "some that commend themselves."
2. commend = sunistemi - to give favorable notice.

B. They used a faulty measure, themselves.

1. measure = metreo - to measure, length, breadth, height, volume.
2. compare = sugkrino - to estimate by comparison.
[I look good - compared to a mule!]

VI. IT IS NOT BY THE OVERSTATING OF ONE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
V13-15a

A. Paul did not boast of things he did not do. v13

1. "according to the measure of the rule."
 - a. measure = metron.
 - b. rule = kanon = a reed, a staff, a rod.
 - c. distributed = merikso - to part, to divide.

B. He stayed inside the boundary. v14

1. "we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure."
2. "We are not overstretching our commission, as we should be if it did not extend to you, for we were the first to reach Corinth in preaching the gospel of Christ.": NEB

VII. IT IS NOT BY PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS ONLY. V15

A. Paul wanted to continue the Lord's work among them and with their help reach others for Christ.

1. "We are not trying to claim credit for the work someone else has done among you." TAY

B. He did not feel his work was done.

1. "but we entertain the hope that, as your faith grows, our field of activity among you may be enlarged till it goes beyond you." WEY
2. "so that before long we shall be preaching the gospel in districts beyond you. v16

VIII. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN? v17,18

- A. What is the object of his glorying? v17
 - 1. Is it in himself?
 - 2. Is it in his work?
 - 3. It should be in the Lord.
 - a. "But let the man who boasts, boast about the Lord." GSPD

- B. Who commends the man? v18
 - 1. Is he commended by himself?
 - 2. Is he commended by others?
 - 3. Only the Lord's commendation is authentic.
 - a. "It is not self-commendation that matters; it is winning the approval of God." Phi

IX. WE ARE MEASURING AND BEING MEASURED.

- A. How do you measure a person?
 - 1. Matt. 7:1-5.

- B. How would you like to be measured?
 - 1. Measure others by the same stick.