

***2 Corinthians 10:12-18 (NASB)***

***12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.***

***13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.***

***14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;***

***15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you,***

***16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another.***

***17 But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.***

***18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.***

***<sup>12</sup> For we are not bold to class or **compare** ourselves with some of those who **commend** themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.***

**We dare not, we are not bold enough to **classify** or to **judge** ourselves by their standards.**

**Commend - “to meet with approval from others in their group.”  
To present themselves for approval to the others in their group who have established the standard for success.**

<sup>12</sup>“*We dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but **they are measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not [intelligent].***”

Not a good idea or as the Greek says **they couldn't bring or couldn't get it together.**

## **WHY?**

- When they did this, they got no higher than themselves.
- It was all of self. *John 5:43-44*

If we make ourselves the standard, then we always meet the standard. Clergy always set their own standard so they can be met.

**Who is the standard in any comparison, is it God or man?**

***13 But we will not boast beyond our **measure**, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.***

***But as for us we will not boast without a proper **standard** of measurement.***

Wuest New Testament

**Boast- kauchaomai- to boast or brag or to glory**

**Measure- Metron- measurement by a standard.**

**What or Who is the standard?**

The standard is “the **measure** (*of the stature of the fullness of Christ*)”

the standard of spiritual stature being the fullness which is essentially Christ.

***13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which **God appportioned** to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.***

**Apportion-merizō.-**to divide into parts, to distribute, divide out, deal out to. Vine's Expository Dictionary **to distribute or allocate proportionally**

The saving grace of God widely as it goes forth, even to all, **falls nevertheless under the ordering hand of God** who has His will about the sphere as well as the character of His service. Kelly

Paul thoroughly discards the bragging of these false apostles, by the great truth **that God apportions the scope of labor and qualifies the laborer.** *"He said to me, My strength is sufficient, for it is only by means of conscious weakness that perfect power is developed"* ([2 Cor. 12:9](#), Wms.).

This was a new language to the self-exalting men of Corinth, who are jealous of the power and authority of Paul.

**Power belongs to God**, but He loves to use it in and by those who walk by faith; and now was the fitting time and place to make known the secret to the saints.

It was <sup>13b</sup>*according to the measure of the **rule** which God dealt to us, a measure to reach as far even as you.* *KJV Kelly*

**Rule** might be translated “**canon.**” Canon law is the principle or rule by which churches are governed.

Paul seems to say, *“This is the canon that God has given me, a measure to reach even unto you, and that is, that we should preach the gospel in the regions beyond.”*

***14 For we are not **overextending ourselves**, as if we did not reach to you, **for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;*****

“We are not **stretching ourselves** (or **going beyond our standard** or measured assignment from the Lord)”

***6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.***

There was no overreaching in Paul’s words or his work, as though not getting to the Corinthians;

***14 we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;*** Nobody could deny this.

<sup>15</sup> *not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you,*

**Romans 15:20 (NASB)** <sup>20</sup> *And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation.*

**It is not wrong** to build on other men's foundations. I stand here today, and what am I doing? Well, the best I can do is to build on other men's foundations. But Paul recognizes that. He says, ***"I have laid the foundation, and another [man] builds thereon."*** Ironside

**2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> *We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.*



***16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another.***

**Paul sought to lead souls out of darkness, who had never heard the message of light before.**

**Paul's mode of operation.**

- **He had preached at Corinth, and away he went.**
- **Other men could come now and build them up,**
- **but he must carry the gospel to the ends of the earth.**

***17 But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.***

***Jeremiah 9:24 (NASB) <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.***

**But we believers have a just ground of boasting. There is One in whom we may and ought to boast, not self, but the Lord Jesus.**

Whether one is building on another man's foundation or seeking to tell men and women in distant lands of Christ, it is all the same: "***He that glories, let him glory in the Lord.***"

**Ironside**

***18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.***

***Romans 2:29 (NASB) 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.***

Admirably, Paul rises above the pettiness of human conceit or pride in divine things, nowhere more offensive than here.

This is the character of Christian ministry — we are linked with those unchanging principles which give us a power that nothing can withstand.

