

August 10, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

2 Cor. 10:17-18 *But, let the one who boasts boast in the LORD. For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the LORD commends.* (NIV)

Paul is reminding the church at Corinth of a section of scripture that comes from **Jer. 9:23-24** *This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.*

I think we all find it tempting to boast about things we have done or accomplished. Paul was wise enough to realize that no matter what victory he had seen or mountain he had conquered, it was never really about him, but it was about the LORD. We find a humility in this statement even when it is talking about boasting. Paul was not so concerned with whether or not he was approved by the people; he just wanted to be pleasing in the LORD's sight. Everything we have or have accomplished, ultimately comes from the LORD. He is the One Who enables us, encourages us, provides for us and empowers us to accomplish His plans.

All of the things that the world puts such value in pale in comparison to know the LORD. In his first letter to the church in Philippi, Paul had articulated this in **Phil. 3:10-11**, *I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.* It is amazing what knowing the LORD will do to our selfish nature. It will cause us to want to know Him more and ourselves less. We will take on His love for others. We will begin to see things from His perspective instead of our own.

Dear LORD, please give us the mind of Christ so that we can realize and understand what pleases You most. Crucify our flesh and make us alive in Your hands to accomplish what You would have for us this day. In Jesus Name, Amen