

# 2 Corinthians 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

## Analysis

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**But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us** (ἡμεῖς δὲ οὐκ εἰς τὰ ἄμετρα καυχησόμεθα, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τοῦ κανόνος οὗ ἐμέρισεν ἡμῖν ὁ θεὸς μέτρον)—Ametra (ἄμετρα, "unmeasured/boundless things") contrasts with metron (μέτρον, "measure") and kanon (κανὼν, "rule/standard"). Kanōn originally denoted a measuring rod or boundary marker. Paul's "sphere" (the Gentile mission, Gal 2:7-9) was divinely assigned, not self-assumed. He boasts only within God's assigned field of labor.

**A measure to reach even unto you** (ἐφικέσθαι ἄχρι καὶ ὑμῶν)—Corinth fell within Paul's divinely-appointed sphere. Ephikesthai (ἐφικέσθαι, "to reach/arrive at") proves Paul's legitimate authority over the Corinthian church—he founded it (1 Cor 3:6, 10, 4:15), unlike the false teachers who invaded another's field (v. 15-16).

## Historical Context

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Roman surveying established clear property boundaries using measuring rods (kanōn). Trespassing violated law and honor. Paul applies this: God assigned spheres of ministry, and invading another's field demonstrates covetousness and lack of divine calling. The Jerusalem council confirmed Paul's Gentile mission (Acts 15, Gal 2:7-9), establishing his legitimate authority over Gentile churches like Corinth.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How can you discern God's specific calling for your life versus attempting ministries outside your gifting or sphere of influence?
2. What does Paul's respect for divinely-assigned boundaries teach about avoiding comparison, competition, or encroachment on others' ministries?
3. When have you been tempted to 'boast of things without measure'—taking credit for work you didn't do or authority you don't possess?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡμεῖς	δὲ	οὐχὶ	εἰς	τὰ	ἄμετρα	καυχησόμεθα	
<b>we</b>	<b>But</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>of things without</b>	G3588	<b>our measure</b>	<b>boast</b>	
G2249	G1161	G3780	G1519		G280	G2744	
ἀλλὰ	κατὰ	τὸ	μέτρου	τοῦ	κανόνος	οὗ	ἐμέρισεν
<b>but</b>	<b>according</b>	G3588	<b>a measure</b>	G3588	<b>of the rule</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>hath distributed</b>
G235	G2596		G3358		G2583	G3739	G3307
ἡμῖν	ὁ	θεὸς	μέτρου	ἐφικέσθαι	ἄχρι	καὶ	ὑμῶν
<b>to us</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>a measure</b>	<b>to reach</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>even</b>	<b>you</b>
G2254		G2316	G3358	G2185	G891	G2532	G5216

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 12:6** (Parallel theme): Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

**Romans 15:20** (Parallel theme): Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

**Ephesians 4:7** (Parallel theme): But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

**1 Peter 4:10** (References God): As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**Romans 12:3** (References God): For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**1 Corinthians 12:11** (Parallel theme): But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

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