

# 2 Corinthians 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

## Analysis

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**To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you** (εἰς τὰ ὑπερέκεινα ὑμῶν εὐαγγελίσασθαι)—Hyperekeina (ὑπερέκεινα, "beyond") reflects Paul's pioneering missionary vision. He consistently sought unreached regions (Rom 15:20, 23), driven by the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). Corinth, properly matured, could launch Paul's mission to Spain (Rom 15:24, 28) and other western regions. Euangelisasthai (εὐαγγελίσασθαι, "to preach the gospel") defines apostolic purpose—proclamation to those who've never heard.

**And not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand** (οὐκ ἐν ἀλλοτρίῳ κανόνι εἰς τὰ ἔτοιμα καυχῆσασθαι)—Allotriō kanoni (ἀλλοτρίῳ κανόνι, "another's sphere/field") reiterates the boundary principle. Hetoima (ἔτοιμα, "things prepared/ready-made") critiques those who harvest where others planted. Paul's opponents built on his foundation (1 Cor 3:10), claiming credit for his labor. Paul rejects this parasitic model—true apostolic ministry pioneers new ground, not exploits existing work.

## Historical Context

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The false teachers likely arrived with impressive credentials, claiming superior apostleship. They built their influence in an established church (Corinth), avoiding the hardship of pioneer evangelism. This contrasts Paul's pattern: enduring shipwreck, beatings, deprivation to reach unreached peoples (11:23-28). Their

comfort-seeking exposes false calling; genuine apostleship embraces suffering to advance the gospel.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's commitment to pioneer evangelism 'beyond' existing work challenge comfortable Christianity that harvests where others planted?
2. What unreached peoples or regions has God positioned you to reach with the gospel through your unique gifts, resources, or relationships?
3. How can you avoid the temptation to build your reputation on 'ready-made' work (established ministries, existing disciples) rather than pioneering new gospel work?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰς τὰ ὑπὲρ ἑκείνα ὑμῶν εὐαγγελίσασθαι οὐκ ἐν  
**in** G3588 **the regions beyond** G5238 **you** G5216 **To preach the gospel** G2097 **and not** G3756 **in** G1722

ἄλλοτρίῳ κανόνι εἰς τὰ ἑτοιμα  
**another man's** G245 **line** G2583 **in** G1519 G3588 **things made ready to our hand** G2092

καυχήσασθαι  
**to boast** G2744