

2 Corinthians 10:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Analysis

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (ο δὲ καυχώμενος ἐν κυρίῳ καυχάσθω)—Paul quotes Jeremiah 9:23-24, the same text cited in 1 Corinthians 1:31. Kauchōmenos (καυχώμενος, "boasting/glorying") is inevitable—humans will boast in something. The question is object: self (wisdom, strength, riches) or God (grace, calling, power). En kyriō (ἐν κυρίῳ, "in the Lord") locates legitimate boasting—not in personal achievements but in what God has accomplished through weak, dependent servants.

This verse anchors all of Paul's defensive "boasting" in chapters 10-12. He will extensively catalog his sufferings, revelations, and apostolic labors—but always to demonstrate God's power perfected in weakness (12:9), never self-commendation. Boasting "in the Lord" means glorying in divine grace that uses foolish, weak, despised instruments to accomplish mighty purposes (1 Cor 1:26-29).

Historical Context

Jeremiah 9:23-24 critiqued Israel's tendency to trust human wisdom, military might, or material wealth instead of knowing Yahweh. Paul applies this prophetic critique to the Corinthian infatuation with eloquent teachers, impressive credentials, and worldly status. True wisdom glories in knowing God through Christ crucified (1 Cor 2:2), not human achievement.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What do you habitually boast in—accomplishments, possessions, relationships, intelligence—revealing where you find your deepest security and identity?
2. How does boasting 'in the Lord' differ from religious talk that name-drops God while actually glorying in personal spirituality?
3. What would change in your self-presentation if you genuinely boasted only in God's grace rather than personal merit?

Interlinear Text

'Ο	δὲ	καυχάσθω·	ἐν	κυρίῳ	καυχάσθω·
G3588	But	he that glorieth	in	the Lord	he that glorieth
G1161		G2744	G1722	G2962	G2744

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:31 (Glory): That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Isaiah 65:16 (Parallel theme): That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.

Psalms 105:3 (Glory): Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Jeremiah 4:2 (Glory): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

1 Corinthians 1:29 (Glory): That no flesh should glory in his presence.

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