

II Corinthians

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II Corinthians 10
“A Warning to Recognize Paul’s Authority”

--Request for Complete Obedience :1-6

--A Reminder of His Sufficient Authority :7-11

--The Proper Sphere of Commendation :12-18

(Robert Hughes, II Corinthians)

II Corinthians 10-13: Background/Setting False Accusations

The false teachers had accused Paul of:

1. cowardly weakness and lack of effectiveness.
2. not possessing a full knowledge of Christ and so of the true gospel.
3. accepting no salary because conscious that he was an impostor.

Therefore, the main portion of Paul's defense answers these charges in order:

(Charles Erdman, The Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians)

II Corinthians 10-13: Background/Setting

Paul's Defense

1. He claims divine power, which he will exercise if necessary, and which is to be measured not by empty boasts but by actual achievement.
(Chapter 10)

2. He defends the pure gospel which he is proclaiming. (11:1-6)

3. He gives his reason for refusing any remuneration for his missionary labors. (11:7-15)

Paul then states the grounds on which he might boast and by which his apostolic authority is vindicated. Then, after expressions of personal love, he ends his defense by warning both the guilty members of the church and the false teachers. (11:16-13:10)

(Erdman)

II Corinthians 10

Request for Complete Obedience :1-6

“Let me avoid punishment for you.” :1-2

“I can fight with divine weapons.” :3-6

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A Reminder of His Sufficient Authority :7-11

- “Looking only on the outward appearance” :7

- “Authority which the Lord gave” :8

- “Authority for edification, not destruction” :8

- Powerful letters, weak body, contemptible speech
:10

- Simplicity, authenticity, consistency :11

II Corinthians 10
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The Proper Sphere of Commendation :12-18

- not according to human measure :12

- according to God’s measure :13

- the bounds: not overextending :14

- the growth: ever extending :15-16

- the foundation: boast in the Lord :17-18