



## Today's Message

Date: October 7, 2018  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: ***Let's Boast Together!***

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12–14

<sup>12</sup> For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. <sup>13</sup> For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— <sup>14</sup> just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

Introduction: This brief passage begins the body of the letter. It serves as the “thesis statement” for the entire letter. In it, Paul initiates a defense against his critics by declaring the integrity of his ministry. He begins and ends the passage with statements about boasting. God’s grace accomplished the gospel mission through this weak and unimpressive apostle. For Paul, this was reason for boasting—not in a self-serving way, but to uphold God’s glorious grace. He called on the Corinthians to recognize God’s gracious work and embrace him as God’s minister of the gospel. If they did this, the outcome would be mutual boasting in God when they stand together before the Lord Jesus when he returns.

**Today's take-home truth: God's kind of leaders are men of character who speak truth with clarity for your eternal well-being.**

**I. God's kind of leaders are men of character . . . 12**

- A. They serve with simplicity,
- B. integrity,
- C. and humility.

**II. who speak truth with clarity . . . 13a**

- A. They speak truth with plain words . . .
- B. and obvious meaning.

**III. for your eternal well-being. 13b-14**

- A. They strive for your perseverance . . .
- B. and find joy in mutual commitment to Christ.

Implications:

1. Learn to value substance above show.
2. Formulate judgments based on truth rather than feelings.
3. Allow tomorrow's sure hope to shape choices made today.