

# Be Encouraged

## Who's The Greatest?

5/27/2001

Reading: [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 10:7-18](#)

### Introduction:

1. "I'm the greatest batter in the world!" "I'm the greatest pitcher..."\*
2. "Don't be too proud: somebody better, bigger, smarter will appear."
3. How do we determine who is greatest?
  - a. Appearance?
  - b. Abilities?
  - c. Attitudes?
4. [2 Corinthians 10:7-18](#)
  - a. Obviously some in Corinth challenged Paul as an Apostle
  - b. Moses was challenged as God's messenger [Numbers 16](#)
  - c. [Jude 11](#)—Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
5. You would think we would know better, but it happens over and over!
6. Paul's answers are similar to Moses

## #1 Boasting in the Lord

### A. What is boasting?

1. Bragging, sinful Pride is unwise [v. 12](#)
2. [Proverbs 16:18](#)—Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.
3. Boasting asks the question, "who is the greater of us?"
  - a. Who has the greatest abilities?
  - b. Who has the most intellect?
  - c. Who is most popular?
4. There is nothing wrong with competition until it hinders our attitudes toward each other.

### B. Boasting in the Lord

1. Some in Corinth wanted the glory and the authority.
2. [3 John 9](#) names Diotrophes with this problem.
3. God, however, deserves the glory
4. [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#)—Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

## #2 Comparing to the Lord

### A. Comparing to others is not wise

1. That's what the Pharisee did—[Luke 18:9-14](#)
2. That's what the elder brother did—[Luke 15:29-30](#)
3. That's what the laborers did—[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

### B. Compare ourselves to the Lord

1. [Philippians 2:5](#)—Let *this mind* be in you which was *also in Christ* ...
2. [Matthew 11:29](#)—"Take My yoke upon you and *learn from Me*,"
3. [Matthew 20:25-28](#)—But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—*just as the Son of Man* did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

## #3 Commended by the Lord

### A. "For not he who commends himself is approved,

1. Sometimes we really think we're something!
2. [Luke 14:7-11](#)—A parable noting how they chose the best places
3. Wouldn't that be embarrassing?

### B. but whom the Lord commends." [v. 18](#)

1. It is the LORD's choice!
2. [2 Timothy 2:15](#)—Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...
3. [2 Corinthians 5:9](#)—Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
4. God is really the only one that matters!
5. [Hebrews 13:6](#)—So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

## Conclusion:

1. If you are not pleasing the Lord, start now!
  - a. Obey the gospel!
  - b. Renew your Faith.
2. Come to Jesus as we sing!

\*I first read of this story in the comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes." Kenny Rogers also sang a song based on this story. In the comic strip version, Calvin picked up the ball and the bat, and claimed, "I'm the greatest batter in the world." Having spoken, he tossed the ball and swung the bat with all his might, but missed the ball. He went through the process two more times. Having swung 3 times without hitting the ball decided, "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"