

↓ **THIS WAY UP** ↓  
*(2 Corinthians)*

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
Mark Floyd – 2010 Mar 14  
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## **BOASTING ABOUT WEAKNESS**

(2 Corinthians 11:16-33)

- The Corinthians had tolerated the foolish boasting of false apostles who put Paul down (10:10,12; 11:3-4,13-20)
- Paul would defend his apostleship with some “foolish boasting” of his own (16-19)
  - not for the sake of his own reputation
  - to defend the truth & for their well-being
- False teachers put Corinth under bondage of law (20)
  - they exploited, abused and insulted believers (21)
  - Paul conceded that, in these things, his detractors were far superior to him (21)
- They boasted of their Jewish heritage – Paul was equal (22)
- **Were they true servants of Christ? (23)**
  - **they were no match for Paul...**
- He endured unrivalled tribulation for the sake of Christ:
  - hard labour, beatings and imprisonment (23-25)
  - extraordinary peril (25-26, 32-33)
  - weariness, toil, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, fastings (27)
  - exposure to the elements (27)
  - on-going concern for the churches (28)
- Paul’s boasting was not like that of his detractors (30-31)
  - they were deceivers that boasted of self-proclaimed knowledge and worldly ability for selfish gain
  - he boasted of the infirmities he had endured for the sake of the gospel and the Corinthians’ well-being

Why had Paul been subjected to such trouble?

Why do Christians suffer?

What purpose does it serve?

1. Ordained/foretold by God (Acts 9:16; Php 1:29-30)
2. Authenticates our ministry by identifying us with Christ (1 Peter 4:13)
  - commends us as genuine servants of Christ (2 Cor 6:4-10; 11:23)
  - we are destined to be like Him...He was perfected and learned obedience through suffering (Heb 2:10; 5:8-9)...so it is with us
3. Necessary for the power of Christ to be revealed in us (2 Cor 4:8-11,17; 12:9-10)
  - the flesh (natural man) must be weakened in order for the Spirit to rule in us (Gal 5:17)
  - suffering in the flesh arrests & judges the power of sin, so that we can do the will of God (1 Pet 4:1-2,17)
  - produces humility and abhorrence of the flesh (2 Cor 12:7; Job 42:6)