

# Embracing Weakness

## II Corinthians 11:16-33

- **Foolish Boasting** (vs. 16-21a)
- **Perfect Pedigree** (vs. 21b-22)
- **Impressive Résumé** (vs. 23-29)
- **A Parable of Weakness** (vs. 30-33)

## Bringing The Text to Light

- Foolish Boasting (vs. 16-21a)
  - Desperate Circumstances—Desperate Measures  
See I Cor 1:18-25; 3:1
  - Boasting: ‘to take pride in,’ ‘make much of,’ or to ‘revel or glory’ in something.  
The world’s way – make much of ourselves  
The Lord’s way – make much of Him!

## Bringing The Text to Light

- Foolish Boasting (vs. 16-21a)
- Perfect Pedigree (vs. 21b-22)
  - Pedigree: proof of ‘good breeding’
    - *Hebrew* – ethnic purity
    - *Israelite* – religious pedigree (see Phil 3:5,8)
    - *Of Abraham* – the elect remnant of God’s covenant people (see Rom 11:1,5)

## Bringing The Text to Light

- Foolish Boasting (vs. 16-21a)
- Perfect Pedigree (vs. 21b-22)
- Impressive Résumé (vs. 23-29)
  - See I Cor 1:18-25
    - the wisdom of world = foolishness of God
    - the foolishness of world = wisdom of God
  - The cultural norm: *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*  
i.e. the 'Résumé of the Divine Augustus'!
  - What Paul *'should have'* said...  
What Paul *actually did* say: vs. 23-29.

## Bringing The Text to Light

- Foolish Boasting (vs. 16-21a)
- Perfect Pedigree (vs. 21b-22)
- Impressive Résumé (vs. 23-29)
  - 40 lashes minus 1
  - 3x beaten with rods
  - 1x stoned
  - Danger... Danger... Danger... Hardship and Toil... Suffering... Pressure... Anxiety
  - See Heb 11:32-38!

## Bringing The Text to Light

- Foolish Boasting (vs. 16-21a)
- Perfect Pedigree (vs. 21b-22)
- Impressive Résumé (vs. 23-29)
- A Parable of Weakness (vs. 23-29)
  - From a proud Pharisee to a Christ-follower ‘lowered like a catch of dead fish in a basket whose smelly cargo he had displaced’!
  - *His power is made perfect in weakness – therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness so that the power of Christ may rest upon me... (12:9)*

## Bringing The Text to Light

## Applying The Text to Life

- *What would you put on your “résumé”?  
To what do you turn for a sense of personal value and affirmation and worth?*
- *Is there truly a place in your understanding of God, the Gospel and the Christian life for valuing, affirming, and embracing weakness and affliction and suffering?*