

Striving with God's Strength

1 Corinthians 15:10b-11

Main Idea: God's people strive with all of God's strength, therefore to God alone be the glory.

But by the grace of God I am what I am

1.) God's grace is effective.

- Paul is referring to the grace given by God that made him an apostle.

"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace..."
Galatians 1:15

"...of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ"
Ephesians 3:7-8

"...Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"
Acts 9:15

- God's grace is effective because it is grounded in the person and work of Christ.

"but I labored even more than all of them"

2.) God's grace produces Gospel labor.

"But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, 16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. 17 But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 10:13-17

- Paul, by the grace of God, was getting a large sphere of ministry.

- The rejection of Paul's gospel is the rejection of the only Gospel.

"yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

3.) God's grace empowers Gospel labor.

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God."

2 Corinthians 3:5

"For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me"

Colossians 1:29

"Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed."

4.) There is one Gospel and this is the gospel you have believed.