

Exceeding What is Written

I. Introduction—1st Cor. 4:6

A. The Word of God is written for our instruction (1st Cor. 10:11).

B. Living examples are essential for students of God's Word to not "go beyond" what has been written (1st Cor. 4:6).

1. μάθητε Aor.act.subj. μανθάνω #3129: *to learn*. You might learn.
2. Μὴ ὑπὲρ #5228: *above, beyond, over*.
3. ἃ γέγραπται perf.pass.ind. γράφω #1125: *to write*.

II. Development—Boasting

A. Failure to learn from what has been written, and failure to learn from the Godly example our leaders have set, produces a comparative arrogance (1st Cor. 4:6).

1. φουσιόω #5448: *to inflate, blow up, puff up, make proud*.
2. This arrogance compares believer against believer and contemplates eternal standing before God (1st Cor. 4:6-8; cf. Matt. 20:21-23).

B. Three rhetorical questions illustrate the folly of the Corinthians' boasting (1st Cor. 4:7).

1. Who regards you as superior? Is this human opinion, or God's final judgment?
2. What do you have that you did not receive? (Jn. 3:27; Jms. 1:17)
3. Assuming that everything you have you received from God: Why do you boast as if you had not received it? (Eph. 2:9)

C. The Corinthians were convinced that they were ready to enter into eternity with full reward (1st Cor. 4:8).

1. Filled. κορέννυμι #2880: *to satiate, sate, satisfy* (Acts 27:38; 1st Cor. 4:8).
2. Rich. πλουτέω #4147: *to be rich, have abundance* (cf. Rev. 3:17).
3. Kings. βασιλεύω #936: *to be king, to reign*. cf. συμβασιλεύω #4821 1st Cor. 4:8 & 2nd Tim. 2:12.

III. Conclusion (Phil. 3:12-15)

A. No believer ought to consider that he has "earned" any reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

B. Every believer ought to have the mental attitude that continues to reach forward.

1. This was Paul's example.
2. This was Christ's example.
3. This is "the standard to which we have attained."