



LIVING IN A WORLD OF CRITICS

LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S COMMENDATION

2 CORINTHIANS 10:13-18

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • April 11 & 12, 2026 • 2 Corinthians, week 44 • Msg. 26-14

When Criticized...

1. Think _____ (vv.13-15a)

When Criticized...

2. Recommit _____ (vv.15b-16)

When Criticized...

3. Aim _____ (vv.17-18)

2 Cor. 10:13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. **15** We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, **16** so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. **17** "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." **18** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** and **Romans 14:10**. How should the reality that you are a steward accountable to Christ reshape the way you interpret, internalize, and respond to criticism from others?
2. Read **Romans 12:3-5**. In what areas are you most tempted to compare your influence or productivity with others, and how should this passage reshape that instinct?
3. Read **John 12:42-43**. How does Jesus' diagnosis of the Pharisees expose the danger of divided allegiance between God's glory and human praise in your own life, and what would it look like to address that in your heart?
4. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:3-6**. Where are you most tempted to adjust your words, tone, or actions to gain approval, and how do Paul's commitments challenge you in that area?
5. Read **Philippians 3:13-14**. What would it practically look like for you to "forget what lies behind" and pursue Christ's calling with renewed focus this week?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 17-16 – **Loving God's Challenging Work**
Msg. 21-10 – **The Pushback Against the Messengers**
Msg. 22-08 – **Whatever Comes Next**
Msg. 19-27 – **Serious About Our Assignment**
Msg. 21-19 – **Showing Up for Divine Appointments**
Msg. 21-05 – **The Preparation of Moses**
Msg. 19-30 – **Unfazed by Sovereign Challenges**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

April 12th 1Sam.10-12 & Lk.13:22-35
April 13th 1Sam.13-14 & Lk.14:1-24
April 14th 1Sam.15-16 & Lk.14:25-35
April 15th 1Sam.17-18 & Lk.15:1-10
April 16th 1Sam.19-21 & Lk.15:11-32
April 17th 1Sam.22-24 & Lk.16:1-18
April 18th 1Sam.25-26 & Lk.16:19-31
April 19th 1Sam.27-29 & Lk.17:1-19

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Archer, Clint. **The Preacher's Payday: How Faithfulness Echoes in Eternity**. Day One Publications, 2012.
Challies, Tim. **Do More Better: A Practical Guide to Productivity**. Cruciform Press, 2015.
Guinness, Os. **The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life**. Word Publishing, 1998.
Henry, Carl F. H. **"The Christian View of Work" in Aspects of Christian Social Ethics**. Eerdmans, 1964.
Kroll, Woodrow. **Facing Your Final Job Review: The Judgment Seat of Christ**. Crossway, 2008.
Mack, Wayne. **Courage: Fighting Fear with Fear**. P & R Publishing, 2014.
Pink, A. W. **The Sovereignty of God**. Banner of Truth, 2009.
Sanders, J. Oswald. **Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer**. Moody Press, 1994.
Sherman, Doug, and William Hendricks. **Your Work Matters to God**. NavPress, 1987.
Swindoll, Charles R. **Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication**. Thomas Nelson, 2009.
Thomas, Derek W. H. **What Is Providence?** P&R Publishing, 2008.
Welch, Edward T. **When People Are Big and God Is Small**. P&R Publishing, 1997.
Wiersbe, Warren. **Living with the Giants: The Lives of Great Men of the Faith**. Baker Books, 1993.