



# “Boasting”



## Who are you ?

- Meeting a new person at a party...
  - “Hello, I’m David, I’m ...”
- Describe yourself in 10 words or less
  - complex, iconoclast, purple, integrity, puma, 100%, futurist, effective, poplar-tree, relational
- Your ambitions?
  - “When I grow up I want to be...”
- Your achievements (so far)?

## Life goals



- What do people boast about (value)?

- Intelligence    Brains            Mind
- Strength        Brawn/Beauty    Muscle
- Wealth          Brass                Money

3

## Common factors

- Sources of **power** and **influence**
- Temporary, imperfect, relative
- Ecclesiastes 9:11
  - “...the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.”

4

## Limits to intelligence



- Einstein: *“Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them.”*
- Rumsfeld: *“As we know, there are **known knowns**; there are things we know we know. We also know there are **known unknowns**; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also **unknown unknowns** - the ones we don't know we don't know.”*
- Anon: *“Power corrupts. Knowledge is power. So study hard and be evil.”*

5

## Limits to strength/beauty



Charles Gilbert, 1893-1929)

6

## Limits to wealth



- Rockefeller: *“How much money is enough? Always a little more.”*
- Overheard at a funeral:  
*“How much did he leave?”*  
Answer: *“All of it.”*



7

## Anything better?

- If not intellect, strength/beauty or wealth, then what?
- Jeremiah 9:23-24:
  - *“Let not the wise man boast about his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast about his might, let not the rich man boast about his riches. But let him who boasts boast about this...”*

[ WHAT??? ]

8

## Worth boasting about

- "... *that he **understands** and **knows** me...*"
- Is it possible to understand and know God?
- Not about comprehension or analysis (head)
  - "**understands**" [sakal] = have insight, perceive, dawns on you
  - "**knows**" [yada] = personal experience, recognise a friend

## Revelation and Relationship

9

## Worth boasting about

- What does he want us to understand and know about him?
  - "... *that I am the Lord who **practices** steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth; for in these things **I delight.***"
  - What he does each day
  - What gives him intense pleasure
- What is that ... ???

10

## Worth boasting about

- **Steadfast love** [*chesed*] = goodness, kindness
- **Justice** [*mishpat*] = deciding between right & wrong
- **Righteousness** [*tsedekah*] = doing right thing in right way at right time for right reason
- God is always good & kind, knows the best way, and does the right thing
- We can know this by **revelation** and **relationship**

11

## Are you clever, strong/beautiful, rich?

- Probably not – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31:
  - “Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, or powerful, or of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish ... weak ... low & despised in the world ... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore as it is written ‘*Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.*’ ”

12

Not this !



Three card brag.

13

But this ...



- Do you know and understand God?
  - growing insights and personal experience of his character and actions
  - his kindness, justice & righteousness
  - through **revelation** and **relationship**
- Are you boasting about it?
  - Telling others
  - Making it your aim and goal in life

14