

# Boasters, Proud, Blasphemers

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Purpose: to describe what is meant by these three and to warn against the subtlety of this error of our day.

In this series we are looking at the characteristics of people in these last days and so far, we have already considered two:

...men will be lovers of themselves...  
...lovers of money...

The next three are very similar and in some ways almost connected:

**2Ti 3:2** - For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, **boasters, proud, blasphemers**, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

How are they different?

## **Boasters –**

Greek: *alazōn* – an empty pretender (Thayer). Primarily signifies “a wanderer about the country” (from *ale*, "wandering"), "a vagabond", hence, "an impostor. Valuing themselves beyond all others.

Those who claim to themselves what they do not possess, and glory on it. This is closely connected with pride. A man who has an excessive self-conceit, will not be slow to proclaim his own merits to those around him. (Albert Barnes)

What is meant here by boasters is that there will be people that make a big deal or a show of things that they don't have. A good example would be those who buy designer clothes or hire expensive cars, yet have little or no money at home. They boast of that which they really do not possess. This will happen more and more in the last days.

## **Proud**

Greek: *huoperephanos* - signifies "showing oneself above others, preeminent" (huper, "above," *phainomai*, "to appear, be manifest"); it is always used in Scripture in the bad sense of "arrogant, disdainful, proud,"

Having inordinate self-esteem; possessing a high or unreasonable conceit of one's own excellence, either of body or mind. (Webster)

This is saying that there will be those who think of themselves more highly than they ought to think. They will consider themselves better than others when they really are not. They will think that they can do more than they actually are able to do. Boasting is to do with an outward show, but pride is to do with the thoughts of the heart.

## **Blasphemers**

Greek: *blasphēmos* - speaking evil, slanderous, reproachful (fault-finding), railing, abusive

Blasphemy has two implications:

- To blaspheme against men is to speak evil of anyone, to injure by words, or to blame unjustly. This is an increasing trait among people today.
- To blaspheme against God means to speak of him unjustly, to ascribe to him acts and attributes which he does not possess or to speak irreverently, flippantly, or profanely. It also means to say or do anything by which his name or honour is insulted, or to attempt to do or say a thing which belongs to him alone, or which he only can do. (Barnes)

Boasting is to do with an outward show, pride is to do with the thoughts of the heart, blasphemy is to do with what comes out of the mouth.

Put the three together and what do you get?

“...They will boast of great things as they strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right.” (*The Passion Translation*)

But who are the boastful, the proud, and the blasphemers?

The wicked:

**Psa 10:3** - For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire;  
He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the LORD.

**Psa 94:3** - LORD, how long will the wicked,  
How long will the wicked triumph?

**Psa 94:4** - They utter speech, *and* speak insolent things;  
All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.

**Isa 47:10** - "For you have trusted in your wickedness;  
You have said, 'No one sees me';  
Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you;  
And you have said in your heart,  
'I am, and *there is* no one else besides me.'

**Pro 25:14** - Whoever falsely boasts of giving  
*Is like* clouds and wind without rain.

The wealthy:

**Psa 49:6** - Those who trust in their wealth  
And boast in the multitude of their riches,

**Psa 49:7** - None *of them* can by any means redeem *his* brother,  
Nor give to God a ransom for him—

The mighty:

**Psa 52:1** -

Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?

The goodness of God *endures* continually.

**Psa 52:2** - Your tongue devises destruction,  
Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

**Psa 52:3** - You love evil more than good,  
Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah

**Psa 52:4** - You love all devouring words,  
*You* deceitful tongue.

**Psa 52:5** - God shall likewise destroy you forever;  
He shall take you away, and pluck you out of *your* dwelling place,  
And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

**Psa 52:6** - The righteous also shall see and fear,  
And shall laugh at him, *saying*,

**Psa 52:7** - "Here is the man *who* did not make God his strength,  
But trusted in the abundance of his riches,  
*And* strengthened himself in his wickedness."

The self-righteous:

**Rom 2:17** - Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,

**Rom 2:18** - and know *His* will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law,

**Rom 2:19** - and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

**Rom 2:20** - an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

**Rom 2:21** - You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

**Rom 2:22** - You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

**Rom 2:23** - You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

**1Co 4:7** - For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

**1Co 4:8** - You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

- Pastors and ministers boast about their great ministries or of how many people they have saved.
- Christians often think that they are better than others, or that they have a higher gifting than another.

This should not be! Notice the humility that is encouraged in scripture:

Paul would not speak of himself, even though he heard inexpressible words from heaven:

**2Co 12:1** - It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

**2Co 12:2** - I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

**2Co 12:3** - And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

**2Co:12 4** - how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

**2Co12:5** - Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

John spoke of himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”, but would not even mention his own name:

**Jon 21:20** - Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

**Jon 20:21** - Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?"

**Jon 20:22** - Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me."

**Jon 20:23** - Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?"

**Jon 20:24** - This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

Remember:

- The opposite of boastful is to outwardly show that we value others and boast of God
- The opposite of pride is to humble ourselves from the heart
- The opposite of blasphemy is sound and wholesome speech from the mouth

Conclusion:

- Don't be surprised when you see people of this age as boasters, who make a big show of things that they don't have.
- Don't be surprised when you have to deal with people who think of themselves more highly than they ought to think.
- Don't be surprised when people speak evil of others and are hurtful with their words, especially towards God.
- Most of all, don't let it happen to you!