

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 23RD, 2024 // 2 CORINTHIANS

WARFARE (2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6) APPEAL BY MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS

Paul had planted the church in Corinth to glorify Christ. He reminds them that being like Christ has always been his standard. The false prophets and some Believers had confused his meekness for weakness. Paul is about to reveal an inner strength that is controlled by gentleness.

HUMBLE AND BOLD

Paul addresses another accusation with the truth. The false teachers said that Paul was two-faced and too weak to say what he had written to their faces. The opposite was true: Paul was honest and straightforward enough to speak the truth in love, and he's about to bring it again!

- **Are we gentle when we share the truth?**

CONFIDENCE

Paul knew who he had been before Christ. He still had weaknesses and sometimes felt unworthy. His humility was real and it was one of his greatest strengths. He wouldn't enter the battle with pride in himself, he would speak with confidence in Christ.

- **Agressive is not the same as confident.**

ACCORDING TO THE FLESH

The false teachers had accused Paul of being what they were: fake. They may have claimed that he wasn't even a Christian. Paul admits to being human but won't engage in a culture war or conflict of personalities; he knows that theological ignorance, error, and everything opposed to the gospel is on the front lines of this battle.

WEAPONS AND STRONGHOLDS

Paul's spiritual weapons of warfare are the truth of the gospel, wielded prayerfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul had confidence in the supernatural power of God to demolish arguments and proud opinions that rebelled against God.

- **The weapons are God's, and the strongholds are in us.**

TAKING CAPTIVES

Paul talks about taking captives, but captives can only be taken after the battle. He had surrendered his thoughts and weakness, and now he would share the truth with a clear conscience as he addressed the sin that remained in Corinth.

- **The words we share will be more effective when we say them to ourselves first.**

AUTHORITY (2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-12)

OBVIOUS

In response to being called an unbeliever, Paul said "Look, I was there. I shared the gospel with you. I disciplined you with the authority that Christ gave me for the purpose of building you up."

- **Are we using our authority to build up His church or ourselves? We must be careful who we follow.**

THE STANDARD

Paul was called out because he wasn't throwing his weight around. He didn't look the part, and his public speaking was "weak." But he wouldn't be compared to others because it wasn't about him. His message wouldn't change because of the culture; he would bring a culture-changing message.

- **Are we looking for appropriate appearance or surrendered lives? How can we tell?**

MEASUREMENT (2 CORINTHIANS 10:13-18)

LIMITS

Paul says he will not go beyond what God has called him to do. He knows that his maximum impact will be within the will of God.

- **Are we working within the will of God? Do we have our eyes and hearts on things outside of what He has called us to do?**

FOCUS AND VISION

Paul understood that his mission was to disciple Corinth. He was focused on them and the other cities God had sent him. He was focused and still had vision.

- **We have a mission in our homes, church, and community. Are we focused on discipleship? Can we see beyond ourselves?**

BOAST IN THE LORD

Paul shares that a sign of proper ministry will be boasting in the Lord and not commending ourselves.

- **A ministry that God commends is not rooted in our strengths, even compared to others. We must reflect a true understanding and knowledge of God.**

WAR

- Battles are a part of life.
- **Spiritual battles may be the most important ones we fight.**
- **We have to surrender to win. Our thoughts and desires must align with God's Word. Then, we can have confidence in the message He has for us to share with others.**

RIGHT

- It's best to be on the right side in war.
- **God is right. Are we on His side?**
- **We can become distracted by so many real problems that we walk away from the war. Pleasure and false peace can look like victory, but how is our relationship with God?**

VICTORY

- We like it when the right side wins.
- **God wins.**
- **Victory was won at the cross. Victory is knowing that we follow Christ. Are we done? Are we taking thoughts captive and living in that victory? Do we want others to have victory? The battle continues. Will we pray and share truth?**