**Taking Every Thought Captive**

*2 Corinthians 10:5*

1. “The weapons of our warfare” (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)
2. Paul’s authority was being questioned. (10:1, 10; 11:5-11)

* 10:1-2 – His opposition took his gentleness as weakness. They were likely claiming he had no power from the HS (remember – 1 Corinthians 2:1-3 – When Paul came to them all he did was preach!)
  + 10:10-11 – They accused him of being inconsistent. However, Paul assured them that whatever he wrote, if need be, he would back it up via action (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:21 – come with a rod, or gentleness?)
    - His deeds in person were determined by their reaction to his letters!

1. Paul’s opposition deceived the people. (11:1-4)

* 11:1-4 – Paul is concerned about their spiritual purity. They were putting up with the gospel of the false apostles (cf. 11:12-15).
  + This is why Paul made clear the nature of the war he was waging, and the weapons he was using. 🡪

1. “The weapons of our warfare” (10:2-6)

* The misunderstanding by his opposition was that he walked according to the flesh (v. 2).
* Paul said he doesn’t (v. 3).
* The weapons are spiritual (v. 4-6)!
  + They are *“mighty in God.”* – 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16 (Anything Paul can do of himself is not sufficient!)
  + Ephesians 6:10-13 – Spiritual armor/weapons = truth, righteousness, prep. Of the gospel, faith, salvation, word of God.
    - Nothing is physical!
  + These weapons seem weak to the world. Especially, in context, to Paul’s opposition!
    - But they are capable of great things! (10:4-6)
      * Capable of destroying the disputer’s strategies.
      * Capable of pulling down arguments of sophistication, etc.
      * Capable of taking captive every thought of the honest heart.
      * Capable of punishing God’s enemies. Destroying them!
      * These spiritual weapons, contrary to the heretic’s perception, accomplish exactly what they are made to accomplish!
    - Focus on *“bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* 🡪

1. Having our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ.
2. What this means for the deceivers.

* Any angle they take at believers will be crushed by God’s truth (cf. Isaiah 55:9).
  + An honest heart sees the power in God’s word, and trusts it rather than man’s word (cf. Jeremiah 10:23).
  + Any carnal tactic used by a false teacher will be exposed by the truth, and rendered inferior in a spiritual warfare.

1. What this means for us.

* If our thoughts are captive to obedience to Christ, we are obeying God rather than men (cf. Acts 5:29).
* Our decisions should not be motivated by opinion, but by truth (cf. John 8:31-32).
  + Personal decisions – Matthew 28:20
  + Church decisions – Ephesians 1:22-23
* It is not us who live, but Christ lives in us (cf. Galatians 2:20).
  + This is what it means to bring ever thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
  + We willingly submit ourselves to God and allow Him to think for us. All other thoughts, opinions, etc. are set aside.
  + In other words, we call on the name of the Lord (cf. Romans 10:13).
    - Will you render yourself subservient to the Lord’s terms?