**2 Corinthians 10**

*He points out that the warfare we engage in is not physical, but spiritual. As a spiritual warrior and apostle, Paul discusses the nature and limits of his authority. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Authority VS False Apostles **(10:1-13:10)**
2. Authority Through the Gospel **(10:1-6)**
   1. Paul pleads with meekness and gentleness **(vv. 1-2).**
      1. He is pleading with meekness and gentleness of Christ **(v. 1a).**
      2. He is lowly in presence, but bold in absence **(v. 1b).**
      3. He begs that he will not have to be bold against some who think he walks according to the flesh **(v. 2).**
   2. Paul’s spiritual warfare **(vv. 3-6).**
      1. He walks in the flesh (human being), but does not war according to the flesh **(v. 3).**
      2. His weapons are not of a carnal nature, but are mighty in God **(v. 4a).**
      3. These spiritual weapons, mighty in God **(vv. 4b-6):**
         1. Pull down strongholds.
         2. Cast down arguments and every high thing exalting itself against the knowledge of God.
         3. Brings every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
         4. Is ready to punish all disobedience when their obedience is fulfilled.
3. Nature and Limit of Authority **(10:7-18)**
   1. To those who judge outwardly **(vv. 7-11):**
      1. Regardless of how it appears to them, Paul is Christ’s **(v. 7).**
      2. If it is necessary that Paul boast about his authority in Christ, he will not be ashamed **(v. 8).**
      3. Some thought Paul hid behind his writing, and that his letters and presence were inconsistent with each other **(vv. 9-10).**
      4. Paul assures that if need be, he will come to them in presence with the boldness they have experienced in his letters **(v. 11).**
   2. To those who boast of their accomplishments **(vv. 12-18):**
      1. Paul thinks it unwise to compare himself with those who commend themselves, and compare themselves with themselves **(v. 12).**
      2. If Paul boasted, it would only be in the sphere which God gave him – which included the Corinthians **(vv. 13-14).**
      3. He does not boast in another’s accomplishments **(v. 15a).**
      4. He hopes his sphere will be enlarged by the Corinthians in their increase of faith to take the gospel even beyond them, where the gospel has not yet reached **(vv. 15b-16a).**
      5. In this way, Paul would not boast in another’s accomplishments, but in the Lord **(vv. 16b-17).**
      6. The only one approved is the one commended by God **(v. 18).**

**Questions**

1. How should we approach the defense of the gospel, and how will such an approach instill in us the confidence needed to stand against the most intimidating of foes **(vv. 3-6)?**
2. How does Paul’s understanding of the intended purpose of his authority as an apostle compare to the intended purpose of our authority wielding the gospel in approach to those caught in trespasses **(v. 8; cf. Galatians 6:1-2)?**
3. Why is it unwise to measure ourselves by ourselves, and compare ourselves among each other **(vv. 12-13, 17-18)?**