

We're now entering the last section of the letter, chapters 10-13.

**In this section Paul challenged the rebels in the church—**

- Those questioning his apostolic ministry.

In these 4 chapters Paul refers to directly to his accusers and answers their false charges.

**He doesn't hide the fact that the Judaizers in the church**

- were ministers of Satan
- who wanted to destroy the work of God.

**The Judaizers didn't need to identify with the cross.**

- They were more concerned for their safety
- than their salvation.

**Because of issues withing the church, Paul had 4 things in mind when he wrote 2nd Corinthians.**

- 1) Explain why he didn't visit them sooner.
- 2) Encourage the church to receive the repentant incestuous man.
- 3) Enlist the church to help the Jerusalem church.
- 4) Establish his apostleship in the church.

Some in the church accused Paul of being bold while away but timid in their presence.

Paul faced continuous opposition because of his boldness.

**Believers today will face similar opposition.**

**Jn 15:20, if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.**

**Paul opens chapter 10 with meekness and gentleness:**

**2 Cor 10:1-2**

**1** Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ — who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. **2** But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

**Two types of people:**

- troublemakers
- peace makers

**When Jesus said, "He who is not with me is against me," He was letting the Pharisees know there was no neutral position with Him.**

Jesus also said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called the sons of God.”

Jesus’ ministry was marked by humility as was Paul’s, and so should ours be as well.

**Jesus said to the impenitent:**

**Matt 11:29,**

**29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**Gentle is the same as (meek) - it implies balanced.**

- Jesus carries and allows us to carry the right amount of a load.

He gives us exactly what we need when we need it. He doesn’t give us too much so that we think we did this on our own, or so that we abuse it,

nor does He give too little

- so that we would lose hope and give up!

He’s gentle and He’s meek, He’s balanced!

**He can’t share our burdens**

- **if we don’t put on His yoke.**

**The Pharisees burdened people with yokes too heavy to bare,**

- **yet Jesus is willing to bare your load completely.**

**Unfortunately, people interpreted Paul’s meekness for weakness.**

Being meek is far from being weak.

**To be meek is to be (powerful but under control)**

- **It’s derived from the Greek word “Prautēs”**

**The word was often used to describe a stallion that was powerful, yet tamed.**

**The idea here in verse 1 is that Paul,**

- **although having the power of God**
- **was under the control**

**You and I can have that same control from Christ,**

**2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.**

Paul was requesting in advance that when he arrived,

- they wouldn't force him
- to engage in confrontation.

**For example:**

While in Paphos he and others encountered a sorcerer whose name was Bar-Jesus, translated it was Elymas the sorcerer.

The proconsul Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer stood in the way.

Acts 13:9-11

9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him  
10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."

So Paul was meek yet he was stern when need be.

**In verse two Paul said that**

some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

Then he responds, "though we walk in the flesh" He's saying, "yes, we are flesh and blood" but we don't minister according to carnal methods.

2 Cor 10:3

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

Rom 8:5

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Col 3:1

1 If then you were raised (revived - to be delivered from spiritual death) with Christ, seek those things which are above,

Col 2:11-12

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised (revived - to deliver from spiritual death) with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised (raised Him physically) Him from the dead.

Don't dig your heels in too deep in this world, there is nothing here that is worth keeping in exchange for your soul.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words will by no means pass away is what Jesus said.

**Moses said:**

Num 23:19

19 "God is not a man, that He should lie,  
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.  
Has He said, and will He not do?  
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Every promise that God has made for the believer is true and has either happened or is yet to happen.

For example:

- God promised to bless Abraham, his descendants and the whole world Gen 12:2-3

He promises protection for His children, Ps 121.

1 Chron 16:34

34 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.

**Romans 1:16-17** - the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

To "believe" isn't to simply say, I believe, even the demons believe and tremble.  
James 2:19

"To believe" - "to trust in, to rely on."

Romans 8:28,

All things work together for good to those who love the Lord, those who are the called according to His purpose.

Israel had the promise of physical blessings, you and I have the promise of spiritual blessings

1 Peter 1:4 - our inheritance is reserved for us in heaven.

2 Cor 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down

strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

We cannot see the spiritual from a physical perspective, so we don't always think of battles as such.

**Eph 6:12**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Our weapons as believers are not of the fleshy nature.

The world fights their battles in the flesh,

Our weapons are of the spiritual nature.

One of the greatest weapons we have access to is the word of God.

**Heb 4:12**

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Notice** the word of God is living (it's alive) and powerful (energizing)

**When Satan came against Jesus:**

- three times Jesus told him, "It is written, It is written, It is written!"
- The devil finally had to flee because he knew Jesus was right.
- It is written in the word of God!

**John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**Ps 119:105** lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

**Isaiah 40:8** but the word of our God endures forever.

**Psalms 18:30** The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

**WE HAVE TO BE IN THE WORD!**

Hebrews says that the word is sharper than a two edged sword:

The sword is mentioned again in Rev 19:15, 21 when speaking of Christ winning

- the greatest battle in the history of the world
- when He conquers the enemies of God
- by the power of His spoken word.

There is coming a final battle at a place called Armageddon,

Isaiah 34:3 tells us that the mountains will be “soaked with blood” from that battle:

Isaiah 34:3

3 Also their slain shall be thrown out;  
Their stench shall rise from their corpses,  
And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

“Every nation that fight against Jerusalem” will be destroyed,

Zech 14:12-13

12 And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,  
Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,  
And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

13 It shall come to pass in that day

That a great panic from the Lord will be among them.  
Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor,  
And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand;

Jesus will ultimately cast the beast and the False Prophet into the lake of fire,  
(Revelation 19:11-20).<sup>1</sup>

2 Cor 10:4

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

One weapon for the believers is the word of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Hindson, E. (2020). [Signs of the Times](#). In E. Hindson, M. Hitchcock, & T. LaHaye (Eds.), *The Harvest Handbook of Bible Prophecy* (p. 399). Harvest House Publishers.

Paul had other weapons that he didn't often use. **Reminder:** Elymas the sorcerer stood in the way when the proconsul Sergius Paulus, wanted to hear the word of God. Paul told Elymas that the hand of the Lord was upon him, and he'd be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."

**Prayer is another spiritual weapon:** 2 Cor 10:4 - the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

**Eph 6:18**

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Prayer, Power of**

Prayer moves the hand that moves the world!

Prayer is the only omnipotence God grants to us.

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer" (John Wesley).

**Matt 6:6**

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

The Lord hears our prayers the moment we pray!

**2 Cor 10:5**

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

**Phil 4:8**

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.

**Col 3:1-3**

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

**How Is the Christian Different?**

The Christian sees through kinder eyes—like Jesus. He gives from a bigger heart—like God. He speaks with a purer tongue—like Christ. He serves with more willing

hands—like Jesus. He walks with a greater faith—like his Lord. He loves with agape love—like the Father in heaven. He thinks with a spiritual mind—like Christ. He sees the needs of others with a compassionate view—like Jesus. He heals the wounds of others with love—like the Master. The Christian is different only when Jesus rules his life.