

- I) V1-6 INTRO: Now I Paul myself **am pleading** with you by the *meekness*
In the first three verses of Ch 10, Paul reaffirms his apostolic credentials
He does this because he is addressing a charge lodged against him (17th)
HE BEGINS
- II) V1 Now **I Paul** myself am **pleading** with you
When he says **I Paul**, he is revealing a very strong emotion
This is something that has **very greatly** disturbed him
- III) Later we will see that Titus had reported to him things that had disturbed him
V10 reveals false teachers called him a **paper tiger** who was weak, and boring
FACT
- IV) There are many paper tigers today sitting at keyboards, typing furiously
They spout about global politics, racism, and even give reviews on restaurants
- V) The **Christian keyboard warrior** likes to post things about **theology** and **churches**
This often reminds me of what Paul wrote to Timothy
1 Ti 1:7 They want to be teachers of the law, but **they do not know** what they are
talking about or what they so confidently affirm.
- VI) **In Paul's** case, these false teachers said something about Paul that troubled him
Because it cut so deeply, Paul is moved to respond
- VII) His response is like something the psalmist David wrote
Ps 52:2-4 You who practice deceit, your tongue plots destruction; **it is like a
sharpened razor**. You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the
truth. You love every harmful word.
- VIII) He intends to communicate in a personal way to them, so he writes openly
- IX) By saying **I Paul** he emphasizes his strong emotion to them
Thought: I am personally **begging you** to listen to what I have to say
- X) He speaks as a father concerned that they will be turned away from *the truth*
He is concerned they will listen to the **false teachers** who have infiltrated Corinth
If they listen to the false teachers, their faith in Jesus will be undermined
IMPORTANT
- XI) Christians understand that our faith is founded on the truth of Scripture

- I) **False teachers** bring their opinions and lies to believers, and undermine faith
2 Ti 2:18 (speaks of false teachers) who have strayed concerning the truth,
saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.
TRANSITION
- II) Early in church history false teachers rose up and began infiltrating the church
Jesus warned His men about this
Mk 13:6 Many will come in My name, claiming I am He, and will deceive many
This made it necessary for the writers of the NT to combat the errors creeping in
- III) The NT is broken into four categories: the Gospels, Acts, Letters and Revelation
Out of the 21 letters, Paul wrote no less than 13 (14 if he wrote Hebrews)
- IV) In the NT, the church was often warned concerning the infiltration of false teachers
You see this in the gospels, as Jesus warned that false teachers would arise
You see it in the writings of Peter, Jude, and the Book of Revelation
- V) You especially see this in the writings of Paul
He wrote warnings concerning false teachings to various churches
You read his warnings in Ro, 1 & 2 Co, Gal, Phil, Col, 1 & 2 Th, 1 & 2 Ti, and Titus
- VI) He told the Colossians
Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you **through philosophy** and **empty deceit**,
according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and **not
according to Christ.**
- VII) He told Timothy
1 Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from
the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons
- VIII) He even prophesied concerning what it would be like in the last days
2 Ti 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will
be **lovers of themselves**, **lovers of money**, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their
parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control,
brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure** rather
than lovers of God— having **a form of godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to
do with such people.
What are the two things being promoted today? Health, and wealth

- I) When giving final instructions to the elders of the church of Ephesus, Paul said
Ac 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also **from among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- II) Paul was concerned for the spiritual welfare of the church of Corinth
False apostles had entered the church and were undermining true ministry
Because of this, Paul wrote to them to warn them and to protect them
- III) V1 Paul says he is pleading by the **meekness** and **gentleness** of Christ
He was writing to them with a gentleness and kindness
- IV) They could not see his face or hear his voice, so he let them know **his heart**
He wasn't dominating them, but desired to minister to them with the Spirit's love
- V) It was his hope they would know of his love and receive warnings and heed them
It was his desire that they listen to his directions and follow them, out of love
Pr 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent
- VI) V1 Who **in presence** am **lowly among you** but being absent **am bold** toward you
This is one of the accusations that have been made against him (17th)
- VII) False teachers were accusing him of being courageous only on paper: *Paper Tiger*
In 1 Co, Paul had written with **gentleness** and encouraged them **with humility**
1 Co 2:3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.
- VIII) His opponents had twisted his humility into cowardice
AS IS COMMON
- IX) Paul's **humility** and awareness of his own **inadequacy** was used against him
His utter dependence on the Lord was twisted into accusations of **weakness**
This is because, in that day, humility was considered weakness, not a strength
- X) It is interesting how Jesus described Himself
Mt 11:28-29 Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and **lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls

- I) Paul's humility was not weakness, but spiritual strength
Ro 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you
- II) Because he is being undermined, he wrote with apostolic authority
- III) V2 But **I beg you** that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by This is not a *weak cry* for understanding but is a warning to them
- IV) It is something that he had said in his previous letter
1 Co 4:19-21 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power. What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?
It is more like when a parent warns the child of coming punishment!
- V) Those who are calling his authority into question will experience what it truly is
THE FACT IS
- VI) He desired *them* to correct their problems so that he would not have to
- VII) V2 He is prepared to deal with those who accused him of **walking in the flesh**
Walking in the flesh is living according to the impulses of our sinful nature
- VIII) Paul tells us what the attributes of those who live according to the flesh are
Ro 8:5-8 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God.
IF NECESSITY REQUIRES IT
- IX) Paul will make sure his deeds and words closely line up
He will deal severely with his accusers though he hopes it won't be necessary
- X) Paul is saying severity is the last resort: Yet he is more than up to the task
18TH CHARGE
- XI) V3 For though we **walk in the flesh** we do not war according to the flesh

- I) **Walk In the flesh** speaks of his normal human life: His daily existence
He used the same image when writing to the Galatians
Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and **the life** which I now live **in the flesh** I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- II) V3 For though we walk in the flesh We do not war **according to the flesh**
Though I have a normal life, I do not fight spiritual battles with carnal weapons
- III) He now develops one of his favorite themes: **Spiritual Warfare**
- IV) V4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling
- V) **Our enemy forces** are not flesh and blood, but are in fact, spiritual
We need spiritual weapons with which to fight our enemies
The fact is, they must be suitable for use against a spiritual enemy
- VI) The temptation is to try to fight evil with human wisdom, philosophy, or even force
We cannot defeat Satan and his forces through physical means
Spiritual battles are fought with **spiritual weapons**
- VII) Mark 9 tells the story of a man who brought his demonized son to the apostles
The boy was mute, and was abused by the demon
The demon threw him down, he would foam at the mouth and gnash his teeth
He would often fall into the fire and often into the water
- VIII) The man had brought the child to the apostles, but they could not free the boy
Mk 9:19 Jesus said O faithless generation how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? **Bring him to Me**
- IX) When they brought the child to Jesus, the spirit seized the boy and he convulsed
He appeared dead but Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up
The demon fled, and the boy was delivered by Jesus
- X) I want to share two things about this
FIRST:
- XI) When the father came to Jesus he told Jesus the disciples **could not cast him out**

- I) He then told Jesus **If You can do anything**, have compassion on us and help us!
- II) To this Jesus replied
Mk 9:23 **If you can believe**, all things are possible to him who believes.
- III) Mk 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said *with tears*, “Lord, I believe; **help my unbelief!**”
- IV) **Unbelief** often results in our losing spiritual battles
SECOND
- V) The disciples asked Jesus why they failed to cast the demon out
Mk 9:29 (He said), “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”
THE POINT
- VI) We cannot win spiritual battles with carnal weapons
People are delivered by spiritual weapons, not carnal philosophies or pep talks
1 Co 1:17-18 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God
1 Co 2:4-5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.
- VII) V4 Our weapons are **mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds
Mighty: Spiritually empowered by God
I use spiritual weapons because I am in a spiritual war
TURN TO EPH 6:10-17
- X) In this passage, Paul is instructing the church about spiritual warfare
Eph 6:11 **Put on** the whole **armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil
- XI) **Put on:** Permanently, be in a state of rest, sink into
God's armor is not to be put on and then removed: It is to be worn at all times
- XII) **Why?** You are in a constant state of war against the world, the flesh and Satan
- II) Our premier enemy is the Devil, or Satan, a *fallen angel*

- I) As such, he is less than God, because **he is part of creation**
- II) He and the other angels was created *before* God created the heavens and the earth
38:4 God asked Job, Where were you when **I laid the foundations** of the earth?
V7 God went on to say, When the **morning stars** sang together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?
- III) The term sons of God can be used when speaking of angels
Job 1:6 Now there was a day when **the sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.
- IV) A great host had been created, numbering in the billions
Satan rebelled, and drew away a great number after himself
Rev 12:3-4 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon... And his tail drew **the third part** of the stars of heaven...
- V) The angels that fell make up his system of government (V12 gives 4 levels)
Principalities: Chief ranking demons
Powers: Delegated from chief demons
Rulers (world) perhaps demons who have infiltrated politics
Spiritual hosts: these are demons that provoke vile and wretched immoralities
FACT
- VI) We are at war with a satanically led host of evil devils
How can we possibly have any victory? By faith we wield our spiritual weapons
PAUL LISTS OUR WEAPONS
- VII) **Girded with truth**: Christian doctrine: Be firm in your knowledge of the Word
2 Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth
- VIII) **Breastplate**: Covers neck to abdomen: Protected heart, lungs, abdomen
Let God's righteousness rule your emotions, affections, conscience, desires
Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life
- IX) **Feet shod**: Be on the march and remain firmly grounded on the gospel
Feet provide balance in warfare: Stand strong in the foundation of the gospel
Col 1:23 continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel...

- I) **Shield:** This speaks of the large shield that was used to protect the whole body
It could be planted on the ground, providing cover for individual and group
- II) Be ready for sneak attacks that intend to divide and scatter the fellowship
False teaching, gossip, discouragements that interrupt and bring confusion
- III) **Helmet:** Protect your mind from the deceptive lies of the enemy
Ro 12:2 do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God
- IV) **Prayer:** Receive your direction from the Head: be in constant communion with Him
1 Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing
RETURN TO 2 CO
- V) V4 What do the weapons of our warfare accomplish?
They pull down, or demolish *strongholds*
- VI) **Strongholds:** A fortress (subtle reasoning of an opponent- false teachers)
Know God's word well enough to recognize the error of the false teachers
Attend bible studies, read the Word personally
- VII) V5 Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the
Arguments: A reasoning that is hostile to the Christian faith
Every high thing: An elevated structure, mound of debris or a wall
Exalts: To be lifted up with pride, to exalt oneself
- VIII) V5 Against the knowledge of God
The message of the gospel that brings fellowship with God
THE POINT
- IX) The gospel demolishes man's ingenuity and brings people to salvation
1 Co 1:19-21 For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe
- VI) V5 Bringing every thought (mental perception) into captivity (capture one's mind)
The gospel is to change the way we think, making us willing followers of God

- I) **Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**
An obedience shown in observing the requirements of Christianity
Jn 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments

- II) **Spiritual warfare is intended to set a person's mind free, to faithfully serve God**
The gospel and submission to Christ can set a person completely free
Jn 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave to sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

- III) **V6 AND BEING READY TO PUNISH ALL DISOBEDIENCE**
As a commander in God's army, I will court-martial any who do not submit to Christ, and who obviously remains insubordinate to the King of the Army

- IV) **Their obedience to Christ will protect them, but the insubordinate will be dealt with**