



COMMUNITY CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

January 30, 2021
2 Corinthians 10: No Critical Spirits

It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.

(Theodore Roosevelt - Speech at the Sorbonne, Paris, April 23, 1910)

Read 10:1-18



This is a Spiritual Battle

Commending Yourself by Criticizing Others is not Wise

We got the Gospel to you and now we want to see it go out from you.

1. This is a Spiritual Battle

We need to recognize that our enemy is at work here.

If the devil can't keep the Gospel out, he will try to diminish the carrier of the Gospel.

“Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.” (Daniel 10:12-14)

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Fight with the weapons of the Word, prayer, your testimony and by taking every thought captive to Christ.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

2. Commending Yourself by Criticizing Others is not Wise.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

“God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” (Luke 18:10-13)

3. We got the Gospel TO you all in Corinth, and now we want to see it go out FROM you.

HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 10:

1. Why do you think Paul’s approach to the Corinthians was in humility and gentleness? Read the following Scriptures and explore this question. Why do you think Paul didn’t start with his apostolic authority? What can we learn from this passage about confronting a brother in error or in sin?
 - Matthew 12:20
 - Matthew 11:29
2. What is the difference between “walking in the flesh” and “warring according to the flesh”? Read the following passages and discuss your answer:
 - James 4:1-4
 - Romans 8:1-13
3. How does Paul demonstrate he has been approved by the Lord—where did his weapons come from (10:1-6)? Where did his authority come from (10:7-11)? Where did his area of labor come from (10:12-17)? Where did his approval come from (10:18)?
4. Boldness is also a godly quality. How is boldness balanced with the need to be humble and gentle? Read the following Scriptures and discuss?
 - Acts 4:13
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Ephesians 3:12