

II Corinthians 10 – 22 May 2022

“The Weapons Of Our Warfare”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
- *Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
- *In spite of Paul’s general satisfaction w/ Corinthians, there are still some there that challenge his authority
- *What gives Paul (& us) our authority to influence others toward God? How do we effectively do it?
- *Paul takes chap 10-12 to defend his presentation, not b/c he’s insecure, but to defend the Gospel itself
- *Our Christian life is called a warfare in service to the King – Read II Tim 2:3-4
- *Whether today we’re facing the world, the flesh or the devil, our weapons are the same to defeat the foe!
- *Let’s look at 3 keys to winning our warfare**

1st key to winning our Christian warfare is to know our weapons (Chap 10:1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. Paul's outward charisma was minimal
 - a. Just as Jesus' was minimal – Read Isa 53:2
 - b. Remember these are role-models for us
2. Paul's writing boldly to them “on behalf of” “in the same Spirit as” Jesus
 - a. That spirit is meek & gentle
 - b. Saul chose to become Paul (or little)

Read Vs 2

1. Paul wants to be bold now to “get this out of the way” before he gets there
2. Problem is that some Corinthians still think Paul's living carnally

Read Vs 3

1. We live out the spiritual life thru our physical bodies & minds, but the real battle that needs won is thru the mind into the spirit & that of beliefs

Read Vs 4

1. We're not here to build armies to fight
 - a. Jesus said My kingdom isn't of this world
2. What is our only weapon?
 - a. Read Eph 6:17 – It's the Words of God
 - b. Pray it, preach it, practice it
3. *Your weapons are either not carnal, but mighty OR not mighty, but carnal*
 - a. Exp story of me never having right tools
 - b. You're either preaching the Word of God or man's methods
4. How do our weapons effect people?
 - a. Read Heb 4:12
 - b. They're used to break thru the strongest beliefs and change people

Read Vs 5

1. These are the enemies that Paul fought against, false beliefs
 - a. Use the Word of God to wreck things
 - i. Read Jer 1:10 & 23:28-29

2. We battle in the mind for beliefs
 - a. Read Eph 4:23, Rom 12:2, Rom 7:25, Acts 14:2, Isa 26:3, Lam 3:19-21, Dan 7:25

Read Vs 6

1. Paul's ready to punish any Corinthian Christian that's still living in disobedience and unbelief
2. These weapons are for use against our own flesh but also against the world & worldliness in believers

2nd key to winning our Christian warfare is to use our weapons to help not to hinder (Chap 10:7-11)

Read Vs 7

1. The inward new life is what makes us brothers & sisters in Christ not some outward similarity
2. Be careful not to misread or take personally someone's body language
 - a. Instead consider, their beliefs/words/actions

Read Vs 8-9

1. If Paul was bragging about his authority over them, that was only intended to harm them...that would be gross...*but Paul's authority over them was intended to help & support them*
2. Example of a father
 - a. "I'm your father & do as I say" = gross
 - b. "I'm your father & it's my job to make sure you learn these things & grow" = helpful

Read Vs 10

1. Accusation against Paul: he speaks heavy & bold but he's really weak & says worthless things

Read Vs 11

1. Paul is willing to be bold & heavy when present as well, if needed
 - a. He just doesn't want to be

3rd key to winning our Christian warfare is to measure ourselves by our use of the Word of God (Chap 10:12-18)

Read Vs 12

1. When the majority of Christians are comparing themselves to man-made institutional standards, it can be hard to compare yourself only to the Bible
2. Many can look impressive when compared to worldly or man-made religious standards

Read Vs 13-14

1. *Measuring stick by which Paul judges is the mission he was given - to go give them the Gospel*
 - a. THIS is judging ourselves by Godly standards
 - b. THIS is keeping your eyes on the Lord & His plan
 - c. We don't judge ourselves by worldly standards or even the standards of other Christians missions – CAN'T keep up!

Read Vs 15

1. We don't boast of other Christians labors, but we're hopeful that as those under us grow in their faith, then we can boast in in their growth

Read Vs 16

1. Our goal should be to continue to find even more fertile soil (other people) to pour in Gospel

Read Vs 17-18

1. The only way to get true glory for yourself is to have a life dedication to bringing glory to God
2. Where is our focus?
 - a. Stop focusing on other people
 - b. Live for an audience of one

Conclusion

Even in the reading of this chapter we have a choice. Do we focus on the problem, which is Paul's detractors?

Or do we focus on the solution, which is the Word of God? We have a message to stay focused on giving!!!

1. Let us know our weapons

- a. There is confidence in the fight when your weapons are not temporary opinions but things that are eternally true

2. Let us use our weapons to help & not to hinder

- a. Before opening our mouths ask, "Is what we're about to say designed to help or hurt them?"

3. Let us measure ourselves by our use of the Word of God

- a. Don't be distracted w/ other's opinions of your Christianity, live to please God alone