

2 Corinthians 10

6/24/2020

Wednesday Night

1. Paul has talked about giving – now he comes to the final section of the book
2. Paul will be defending himself as he teaches thru the remaining chapters
 - a. Paul isn't worried about his own reputation – they are attacking him b/c of his message
 - b. He was concerned about the message
3. I believe this next topic is one of the least understood in Scripture
 - a. If you don't know the principles aligned here, you will not be able to understand a lot of the happenings in your life
4. If these truths aren't real to you there will be a lot of frustration / discouragement

V.1 Now *I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!*

V.2 *I ask that when I am present I need not be bold* with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

1. "I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ"
 - a. Meekness is not weakness
 - b. Meekness is controlled power – Moses was the meekest man on earth in his day
 - c. The only attributes Christ gave to Himself were meekness & humility

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
 - i. Yet He made a whip out of chords & drove the money changers out of the Temple area
2. "I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent"
 - a. Paul is defending himself
 - i. His enemies said, "He sounds good on paper but personally he isn't much".

ii. Listen to verse 10

V.10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

3. "I ask that when I am present I need not be bold"

a. Paul didn't want to be hard on them when he came in person

i. But he had apostolic power

Acts 13:5 When they reached Salamis, they *began* to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

⁹ But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,

¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

¹¹ "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

V.3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

1. "For though we walk in the flesh"

a. We walk in the flesh – "flesh" is σάρξ

b. It has three meaning in Scripture

i. #1. It refers to the "old sin nature"

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

i. The "old sin nature" is made up of our mind – will – emotions

ii. #2. The word "flesh" also simply speaks of simply being human

2 Corinthians 3:2 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

iii. #3. The "flesh" refers to our body

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1. "For though we walk in the flesh"

a. He is talking about his body

b. You are not made up of your body

i. You are, an eternal soul/spirit (soul & spirit used interchangeably at times – but not always)

ii. You have a body

iii. The body is where your soul resides

iv. It is your means of transportation at the moment

v. Your body has 2 major functions

01. It is where your soul & spirit reside now & will thru eternity

02. It is also the sanctuary where the Holy Spirit dwells

vi. The Holy Spirit & your spirit are supposed to commune in the sanctuary, i.e. "your body"

vii. That is why, what you do w/ your body is so important

c. When Moses was given the instructions for building the Tabernacle God gave very specific details

d. First because God was going to dwell there – meet w/ man there

Exodus 25:8 "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.

⁹ "According to all that I am going to show you, *as* the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, **just so** you shall construct *it*."

- i. That is why sexual sin such a big deal
- i. You are sinning against the Sanctuary where God resides

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

- b. The second reason God told Moses to be careful was that it is a copy of the real Tabernacle in heaven

Exodus 25:40 "See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

Hebrews 8:5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE, "(be very careful) He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

i.

V.3 For though we walk in the flesh, *we do not war according to the flesh,*

1. "For though we walk in the flesh"
 - a. We move in bodies of flesh
2. "we do not war according to the flesh"
 - a. We walk on earth in a body of flesh
 - b. Our bodies require a lot of attention
 - i. You must feed them, hydrate, clean it, rest it, be careful w/ your body, defend it from harm, etc.
 - ii. A lot of thought goes into its wellbeing (creature comforts)

- c. So, the natural response when we are engaged in a hostile scenario (minor or major) – we automatically use our body & brain to deal w/ the scenario
- d. You are a soul w/ body – any engagement requires the body & the mind, will & emotions – the “old sin nature”
- e. But you cannot win a spiritual battle w/ your body, mind, will & emotions
- f. Human wars are fought on that level – but not spiritual battles
- g. You must use spiritual weapons **V.4**

V.4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

- 1. “the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh”
 - a. Unless a believer knows how to use spiritual weapons he should stay out of battle, right?
 - b. The problem is – he can’t!
 - c. Being in the spiritual war isn't an option!

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- i. It didn’t say, “If you get into the struggle...”. You are in it!
- d. Everyone is on one of two sides – God’s side or Satan’s side
- e. This is never more clear than when Paul is talking to King Agrippa about why God called Paul to be an apostle
 - Acts 26:18** to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'
 - i. All men are in one dominion or the other
- f. Many believers don’t know when they are in a spiritual battle
- g. You have an enemy who is always after you
 - i. Christ told us to pray for protection from him

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

h. We are to never fear Satan b/c God protects us from him & will

i. Job is a good example

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?

¹⁰ "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

i. Job didn't have the Holy Spirit living in him as we do

i. The Holy Spirit always protects us

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

j. But Satan is always looking to defeat your walk

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

i. That passage is the short version of the spiritual war we are in

k. Satan has a huge army

i. In the rebellion he took 1/3 of the angels w/ him

ii. Their job is to: #1. keep the world from believing in Christ
#2. Destroy the walk of believers

- I. I believe you have at least one demon assigned to you whose job it is to always be looking for a way to defeat you!
 - i. Understand – you can't get out of the battle in this life

V.4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, *but divinely powerful* for *the destruction of fortresses*.

2. "but divinely powerful"

- a. The weapons of our warfare are described in other Scripture
 - i. Ephesians 6 is comprehensive

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

- b. This war is serious business – life isn't a game – it is a war of life & death
- c. Listen to Paul (knowing he is about to die) talking to Timothy

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

V.4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for *the destruction of fortresses*.

3. "the destruction of fortresses"

a. There are 2 major things you must understand to live properly

i. #1. Recognize when you are under attack

ii. #2. Recognize the strongholds Satan has already established in your life

01. Picture of Cilician pirate forts made of stone

b. When you are under attack & resist Satan – the short version is to resist (there is much more)

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

c. Ask God to show you the strongholds Satan has created in your mind

i. Then attack those w/ spiritual weapons

ii. Literally – pull them down – picture of Romans using "harpax" (catapult) shot a grapnel (hook) over a wall to pull it down

1. Every believer is in a spiritual war

a. If you didn't know that it is b/c you are a prisoner of war already

2. Everyone has strongholds that need to be torn down

a. Ask God to help you tear down what doesn't need to be in your mind