



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12, 17-18

LESSON: SPIRITUAL WEAPONS — May 22, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

2nd Corinthians 9:1-7 deals the eagerness of the Corinthians wanting to give to help the poor. **As Paul had boast on them to the Macedonians, he wanted them to be ready when he comes to receive it**, so he's sending Titus and some others to complete the arrangements for the generous gift that they had promised. **He wants them to be ready in their giving**, thereby showing them why they give. **"You give because you want to. You do not give because you have to."** **When they come to receive it, it won't be a forced giving.** It reminds me of the old saying **"Don't put off for tomorrow, what you can do today."** **If God has put it on your heart and in your hand to give, then release it and watch it come back to you.** ¹Perhaps **some** Christians at Corinth were not very willing to share things or willing to give to other people. **Verse 6 deals with sowing: Paul reminds them about a farmer who sows seeds. The more he sows, the greater his harvest will be. Verse 7 deals with a cheerful purpose: Someone who gives to God is like that farmer. Verse 8 deals with God being the blesser: God will reward the giver. The motives for giving generously and sacrificially are laid out in 2 Corinthians 9:8-15:**

1. Motive 1—to be enriched more and more by God (9:8-11).
2. Motive 2—to meet needs and bring praise to God (9:12).
3. Motive 3—to prove one's loyalty to Christ (9:13).
4. Motive 4—to enhance prayer, love, and fellowship (9:14)
5. Motive 5—to praise God for His unspeakable gift (9:15).

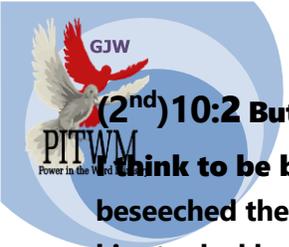
Paul gives thanks to God for his gift of Jesus Christ. **This gift was much greater than any gift that we may give.** In fact, it was so great that Paul could not describe it in words. Now Paul in chapter 10 steers the conversation to how some people see him, so he defends himself in ministry against his critics and false teachers who had crept into the church and its followers.

LESSON: I. GENTLE AND BOLD IN CHRIST 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

(2nd)10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:— Paul himself appeals to the Corinthians. **Some were saying that Paul was a coward among them**, that he was bold in his instructions, that is he rebuked the church when he was writing to them, but he was a coward when it came to speaking face to face with them. He speaks with the meekness (humility; strength under control) and the gentleness (kindness) of Christ Himself in their presence. **Jesus Christ was his example in dealing with people, that is the reason he was meek and gentle when preaching and confronting people face to face.** Christ was meek and gentle when handling the insults, attacks, rumors, lies, wrong, and evil done to Him. **Paul was saying that He was not base and lowly because he was a coward, but because Jesus Christ demonstrated how people are to be handled, even people who are evil and are in error. So, he was humble when face to face with them, yet so bold dealing with them at a distance.**

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/2corinthians-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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(2nd) 10:2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. Twice Paul beseeched them; begged them (vv.1-2). This is not the time to drive him to show his boldness; don't force him to deal boldly with them when he comes. He has the confidence, that is, the inner strength and boldness to confront them. Paul says that he will confront these critics when he arrives in Corinth for some were saying that Paul was carnal; that he walked after the flesh. This meant that...

- Paul was unregenerate, that is, not really saved. This meant that...
- Paul was preaching and ministering in the flesh; he was not really called of God. This meant that...
- Paul was living in the flesh; he was an ungodly and immoral man seeking only to please and live for himself. This meant that...
- Paul was only ministering in the flesh; he was only after a personal following—only seeking to sell his own ideas and position—only interested in lining his own pockets and in securing personal recognition and honor.

(2nd) 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:— Paul says we are in these fleshly (weak) bodies, but are not to war and fight against or toward the flesh, nor in human strength. There are evil spirtual advances, not fleshly advances that come against God's vessels to kill, steal and destroy. Our fight is against the evil forces revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, and is to be fought with God's divine forces.

(2nd) 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;— Paul says our weapons of warfare are not carnal (fleshly), but divinely potent through God to the pulling down, demolishing strongholds because the believer is in a spirtual warfare. ²In this context, pulling down strongholds refers to demolishing walls of resistance in people's minds, particularly how the rebellious Corinthians were thinking about Paul and the nature of his apostleship. The war is not waged against flesh and blood, not against physical and material beings, but against spirtual forces. Ephesians 6:12 says "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darknewss of this world, against spirtual wickedness in high places." Therefore, the believer fights the spirtual battles of this life with spirtual weapons, weapons that are **of God** and are made **mighty and powerful by God**—. The believer uses spirtual weapons to pull down strongholds. ³The Bible names several weapons for pulling down strongholds and waging spirtual warfare. They include Prayer, the Word of God, Praise, Worship, Singing, and Faith, demonstrations of Love and Humility, the Whole Armor of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the believers to start with the. But the most important key, as Paul demonstrated to the Corinthians, is relying on God's divine power and not our own.

(2nd) 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;— Paul acted on the assumption that any devices brought against him in the setup of men would fall before the power of God and the wisdom of God. The believer is to cast down thoughts and vain imaginations, and every high thing; every barrier of pride that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Speculations, untrues, and false teaching cannot go against the knowledge of God which is found in the Scripture, but every thought must be brought into captivity and surrendered to the obedience and authority of Christ.

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/pulling-down-strongholds.html>

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/pulling-down-strongholds.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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(2nd)10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Paul says first we have to be obedient before we can challenge someone else's disobedience. It doesn't matter how ready we may be to punish someone else's disobedience, our obedience has to be in check.

Matthew 7:5 says *"Remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye."* The Corinthians who were willing to submit to the truth had to come forward first. This meant that **the church has to step forward in obedience. Every means of repentance and correction has to be exhausted; disobedience has to have every conceivable chance to repent through appeal and action** of the church.

II. CONFIDENT IN CHRIST 2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-12

(2nd)10:7 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? if any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's. This is where we make some of **our biggest mistakes—judging outwardly.** Paul here says, ***"Do you look at the outward appearance of things?"*** Because this is what happen to Paul. Some could always look back and think about the old Paul (Saul): what he did, and leaving a devastating outlook. The troublemakers and critics of Paul felt that Paul ranked less than other ministers. **They said that Paul did not measure up as a minister, that he was not as called or gifted as other ministers of God, therefore, he did not belong in the pulpit of Corinth, nor should his authority be accepted at Corinth. But Paul's claim was that all ministers are equal.** So, Paul is forceful in his rebuke: ***"Why do you look upon and judge by outward appearance?" "If any man claims that he belongs to Christ and that Christ has called him, I too make the same claim. Think about it, and think it over again. One man's personal claim is as good as another man's."*** The trouble was that they looked at Paul and he seemed weak and powerless, but **they didn't look beneath the surface.** Yet if anyone could claim the power and authority of Christ, Paul certainly could.

(2nd)10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:— Paul goes on to say that even if he should boast of the authority God gives, he will not be ashamed, for Paul declares that Christ has called him to build up (edify) people, not destroy them.

(2nd)10:9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. Paul says that **he doesn't want them to think that he's trying to scare them in his letters.**

(2nd)10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Paul does not want to give any cause for them to point the finger again. He tells them that **some (his critics) say that his letters are said to be weighty (demanding) and powerful (forceful), but his presence is weak, and his speech "contemptible",** meaning of no account, unimpressive, a waste of time, and as a speaker he amounts to nothing.

(2nd)10:11 Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present. This criticism was hurtful to Paul. We are to build up, not tear down. He said **let them think this,** that such as we are in word by letters (the words we write) while absent; we also will be in deed when we are present, meaning ***"What you see on paper is who I am in person."***

(2nd)10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that





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commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. Paul does not measure or compare his credentials as his enemies do. He says that this sort of approach is not wise. Those that are comparing and measuring themselves are doing it by their own standards, not God's standards. We may feel proud because we think we're better, but when we measure ourselves against God's standards, it becomes obvious that we're not nearly good enough. God's standard is the only standard that counts.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 13-16

(2nd)10:13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. Paul does not boast about things done outside their area of authority. But he's only proud about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given him and his companions, which includes their working with Corinth. He conforms himself to Jesus Christ. That should be our goal—measuring up to God's plan He has given us.

(2nd)10:14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:— Paul says that he didn't go beyond his reach, for Corinth was the one God had deemed him and his companions to go give the gospel of Christ to. Paul's critics were not responsible for finding the church at Corinth, he was the first to go to Corinth. Credit is due where credit is due and to whom it is due.

(2nd)10:15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,— Paul was not trying to claim credit for the work someone else has done, he was not riding upon another's coattails. but having hope that as the Corinthian's faith grows, increases, then the ministry can expand into new areas.

(2nd)10:16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. Paul desires to preach the gospel in regions beyond Corinth, and not boast in himself for the work another man had already prepared and accomplished.

III. BOASTING IN CHRIST 2 CORINTHIANS 10:17-18

(2nd)10:17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. But let the man that boasts, boast in the Lord.

(2nd)10:18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. A man is not approved because he commends (praises and applauds) himself, but It is the Lord who approves the man. We can approve a person when the Lord thinks well about him. We cannot approve someone who thinks well about himself.

SUMMARY:

1Paul makes an appeal to you by the gentleness and kindness of Christ. When he's with them, they suppose him to be weak. When he's away, they suppose him to be severe. 2He begs them that when he comes, don't force him to be severe. He can be severe towards some people. They think that he and his companions



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live by the standards of the world. 3It is true that he and his companions live in the world. But they do not fight in the same way as the world does. 4The weapons that they fight with are not the weapons of the world. In fact, their weapons have God's power to destroy things that offer security. 5They destroy wrong arguments. They destroy every proud idea that is against the knowledge of God. They control the thoughts, like prisoners. They make each thought obey Christ. 6They are ready to punish every act of disobedience after they have completely obeyed (10:1-6) EEB.

7Paul says they were only looking on the outside of things. Some people were sure that they belong to Christ. They should think again. Paul is saying the same thing: *"We belong to Christ quite as much as they do."* 8Perhaps he had been proud about the authority that Christ has given him. This was to encourage them, not to upset them. He was not ashamed. 9He does not want to frighten them with his letters. 10Some say this: *'His letters are severe and strong. When he is with them, he is weak. His words achieve nothing.'* 11Such people should realize that there is no difference. He writes things in their letters when they are away. And when they are present, they shall do the same things. 12He does not want to compare themselves with those who recommend themselves. And they do not want to join them. They are fools. They measure themselves by themselves. And they compare themselves with themselves (10:7-12) EEB.

17The Bible says, *'Whoever wants to be proud must be proud about the Lord.'* 18We can approve a person when the Lord thinks well about him. We cannot approve someone who thinks well about himself (10:17-18) EEB.