

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



The Second Corinthian Letter Chapter 10

2 CORINTHIANS 10

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!

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. ³ For though we

walk in the flesh, we do not war

according to the flesh, ⁴ for the

weapons of our warfare are not of the

flesh, but divinely powerful for the

destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are

destroying speculations and every lofty

thing raised up against the knowledge

PAUL "GOES TO WAR" WITH HIS OPPONENTS

☼ According to vss. 1 & 2, what does it seem that Paul's opponents were saying about him?

☼ What is the meaning of "Meekness"?

☼ What is the meaning of "Gentleness"?

☼ Are these bad things?

☼ Do you think that there was some truth to what his opponents were saying?

☼ If so, why would Paul be meek and gentle when with the Corinthians?

☼ What was Paul's intention in dealing with his critics when he arrived in Corinth?

☼ What does Paul mean in this context as he speaks of walking "according to the flesh"?

☼ What are the usual weapons of warfare?

☼ What were Paul's weapons of warfare?

☼ What fortresses is Paul talking about destroying?

☼ How does one destroy speculations?

☼ How does one destroy "every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God"?

☼ How does one take "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"?

of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

⁷ You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. ⁸ For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame, ⁹ for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. ¹⁰ For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." ¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.

- ☼ How do you think Paul intended to "punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete"?
- ☼ What does "whenever your obedience is complete" mean?

PAUL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☼ What kind of recommendations were the Corinthians seeing and giving credit to?
- ☼ What do you think Paul had in mind when he said, "If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's"?
- ☼ Do people sometimes assume great spirituality on the basis of outward credentials?
- ☼ What examples could we find today like this?
- ☼ Did Paul's lack of outward credentials mean that he wasn't in Christ?
- ☼ What application does that have today?
- ☼ How did Paul want to use the authority the Lord gave him?
- ☼ Why was Paul "boasting"?
- ☼ What were Paul's critics saying about his ministry?
- ☼ His letters are **weighty** and **strong** (what does this mean?)
- ☼ His personal presence is **unimpressive** and his speech **contemptible**?
- ☼ What was Paul's promised threat upon his return?

12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, 16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. 17 But HE WHO

- ☼ What was flawed or invalid about the "boasting" of Paul's opponents?
- ☼ Do people still do this today? If so, how?
- ☼ What is a truly valid measure of greatness?
- ☼ What is Paul talking about in v.13, when he talks about boasting "beyond measure" and then "but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned"?
- ☼ How far did Paul's "sphere" go? (see the latter phrase of v. 13)
- ☼ Looking at v. 14 what exactly is Paul boasting about?
- ☼ What did Paul's valid claim that he had brought the Gospel to the Corinthians imply about his authority in the church there?
- ☼ So, since Paul said that his opponents were boasting "beyond measure" what was the "pay off" for the boasting of Paul's opponents?
- ☼ What application does this have to the church in general?
- ☼ Do interlopers still come into churches sometimes and attempt commandeer a church that they had no part in starting or growing the the Gospel to take it off in another doctrinal direction?
- ☼ How or in what way was Paul hoping that his "sphere" of boasting would grow? (vv. 15, 16)
- ☼ Where did Paul want to preach?

BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.

☀ What does it mean to “boast in the Lord”?

¹⁸ For it is not he who commends

himself that is approved, but he whom

the Lord commends.

☀ In the final analysis, whose recommendations will truly matter?