

the surface. For You see me as weak and powerless (II Corinthians 10:7 LB).

2. In II Corinthians 10:8, Paul says it may seem that he is boasting more than he should of his authority over them.

(a) Who does Paul claim gave him this authority? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What does Paul say in explanation of why this authority was given to him and his fellow laborers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Paul say those criticizing him are saying about his letters and himself personally? II Corinthians 10:10? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) Who does Paul say is not wise in II Corinthians 10:12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(b) What do you think he means? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

*For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth (II Corinthians 10:17,18).*

## TENTH STUDY

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PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY  
THE WEAPONS OF OUR WAREFARE (II Corinthians 10:1-6)

There was a false apostle or teacher, moving about among the Corinthian believers accusing Paul of being a boaster who walks in the flesh (II Corinthians 10:2).

In Paul's position, he has to be forceful at times but always considers his motives as being in line with the *meekness* and *gentleness of Christ*. He is being accused of being one way (*base* or *lowly*) when he is with them face to face; and another way (*bold*) when he is absent (II Corinthians 10:1).

Paul denies the charges.

1. In Paul's denial of the charges against him: accusing him of walking in the flesh (II Corinthians 10:3):

(a) Does he deny it? \_\_\_\_

(b) What is Paul's argument in this same verse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul, like all Christians, although living in this world, is not under the power or control of human weaknesses. *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds:* (II Corinthians 10:4; ref. Ephesians 6:11-18; John 18:36).

Strong holds begin as a seed on a word from the enemy. If he can control the seed stage, he can destroy the harvest.

Thoughts are reasonings of our mind . A thought starts out as a seed and becomes imagination, then a stronghold.

#### 4 great conquests of spiritual weapons:

1 Destruction of strong holds - We destroy reasonings of pagan philosophers and Jewish rabbis and their dogmas (creeds or doctrines) that nullify the Word of God and the facts of the Gospel. These fortifications we pull down and demolish. We put to flight the demon powers and alien armies, raising the banner of the cross high on the field of battle (v4).

2 Casting down imaginations - We demolish all theories, reasoning, and any high system of ethics, religion, mythology, metaphysics, sublime (uplifting) doctrines, or philosophy set forth to defy the knowledge of God (v5). All the boasted gods, lords, sacrificial and mediatorial systems fell before the Gospel. The high-sounding phrases of Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and even Judaism fell before the preaching of the crucified and risen Christ. Heathenism shrank before the Gospel and called on secular powers to defend it.

3 Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ - We take every thought prisoner and lead it into captivity to obey Christ (v5).

Lascivious, vain and evil thoughts of all kinds are brought down and made obedient to His laws. That includes any thinking which is contrary to virtue, purity and righteousness. See Mt. 15:19; Mk. 7:21-22; 1Cor. 13:5; Gal. 5:19; Phil. 4:8; Gen. 6:5; Prov. 15:26; Isa. 55:7; 59:7; Jer. 4:14.

4 Having in readiness to avenge all disobedience - We stand at all times ready, so to speak, to court-martial any opposing the Gospel of Christ, after separating ourselves from them (v6). The whole picture here is that of a strong fortified city where the enemy makes his last stand; entrenching himself about the walls; raising towers and preparing engines of defense and offence upon the walls to insure victory. The fortifications, walls, towers, and castles are taken by the Gospel and the whole opposition is destroyed and taken captive. <sup>1</sup>

Paul is saying in II Corinthians 10:6 LB:

*I will use these weapons against every rebel who remains after I have first used them on you yourselves, and you surrender to Christ.*

PAULS AUTHORITY CONSISTENT (II Corinthians 10:7-18)

1. Paul asks the Corinthian Church a question in II Corinthians 10:7. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul is telling them they are not looking beneath \_\_\_\_\_

1. Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, II Corinthians 10:4 note o., p. 197.