

II Corinthians 10

A Review: II Corinthians divides easily into 3 parts: chs. 1-7-- his movements and his ministry wrt to assembly. The parenthesis from 2:14--7:4 deal more with his ministry, the Gk. word being mentioned 7 times therein (12 times in the epistle).

Ch. 7:4 ends with: I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation. Ch. 7:16, the end of the section, says: I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

So Paul is able to rejoice overall in his relationship with the assembly there.

Chs. 8-9 treat of the grace of giving.

Chs. 10-13 deal with his more personal relationship with the assembly.

A review of some instructive verses:

1:3-4.... The God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them that in any trouble.....

2:14-16...Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ.....

3:14ff:... But their minds were blinded, for until this day remains the same veil untaken away.....

3:18....But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror.....

4:3,4... But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost....

4:6...For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness.....

4:10....always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus,....

4:16,17.... For this cause we faint not; but though the outward man perish.....

5:17-18 Therefore if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature (creation):...

5:21...For He has made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin.....

6:2...Now is the accepted time.....

6:14...be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.....

7:10...godly sorrow works repentance unregrettable.....

9:15.....thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.....

Ch.10

v.1 I Paul myself- OH--real identification and intensity.

Beseech- parakaleo-to call aside, appeal to. Based on the Person of Christ

The meekness and gentleness of the Christ. Cf. Matt. 11:29.

The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit 1 Peter 3. God places great value on it as it is rare, valuable, and displays the character of His Son

Meekness--character; as cf assertiveness; accepting God's dealing with me as good. No malice or desire for revenge wrt others tx. Of us..

Gentleness-- manner; as cf. harshness. Forbearance. A humble patient steadfastness which is able to submit to injustice, and maltreatment sans hatred or malice.

It is implied that Paul's accusers said he was base (humble) among them and therefore could be ignored. Cf. v.11.

Bold- confident, courageous. Denotes confidence in one's own powers, and refers to character.

v.2. Beseech-- deomai- ask, beg, request.

2a. Bold - as v.1

2b:

Bold against some-- daring, bold . Boldness in undertaking , in reference to manifestation.

Paul reckons to be bold v. some; they reckon he walks acc. to the flesh.

v.3- note two uses of flesh; the physical and the ethical .

Flesh. cf. Mark 7:21,22; Gal. 5:19,20. The war is spiritual, not fleshly.

v.4-- the weapons not fleshly; all is done through God.

Pulling down strongholds- in the mind; the realm of thought and ideas;

Wrong ideas about God--He is unjust; He does not care about me; He does not exist; more than one way to God; WoG is wrong/written by men; etc. Could be strongholds of sin, rebellion, immorality.

v.5--Pulling down reasonings and every high thing that exalts itself v. knowledge of God.

bringing into captivity every thought.....

The obedience of the Christ: reminds us of His submission to the Father's will: I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will...

If you love Me keep my commandments-- Obedience is a test of love.

Motive: it provides us with power; not simply slavish subjection to a set of rules, walking in fellowship with a living Person, with whom we have warm relationship, we are enable to obey; the closer we are to Christ, the easier it is to obey him as we seke to maintain His fellowship. Enoch walked with God.....

The enemy tries to: 1) weaken my hold on the truth, 2) interrupt my fellowship with Christ 3) hinder my enjoyment of His love. 4) dim my apprehension of His glory 5) ensnare me with present things, lawful and unlawful.

The way to victory is to hold fast to the truth, and walk in the light as He is in the light.

cf, v.8 not for your destruction (pulling down).

The weapons of our warfare: Ephesians 6:10--18.

1. The loins girt about with the truth;

The loins: the chief seat of strength, when girded: "gird up the loins of your mind"-- the thoughts, desires and affections, the motive power of the soul.

Girding-- the application of truth to the soul, the dealing of the WoG with the will.

The truth- - a line of truth which is best suited to the position we are called to occupy. To act upon our conscience, bring it into God's presence and deal with our inmost thoughts, feelings motives and desires and affections.

Eg Christ in the temptations.

2. The breastplate of righteousness: the righteousness of God, imparted to me, and my resting in that; then, practical righteousness, blameless conduct, a holy walk before God. R, is the due attention to what we owe God and man. Holiness is that which repels evil- instinctively repelling that which is contrary to God.

To lose a good conscience is to be robbed of strength in the day of evil.

3. Feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace. Refers to the believer's walk; the warrior is to be a peacemaker. The salvation of the lost and the happiness of the saved become his chief concerns. Able to speak a word in season....

4. The shield of faith: God for us, the darts of doubt and despair and disbelief quenched, by the knowledge of His unchangeable favour. Being at home and happy in the presence of God is the surest way to raise the shield of faith.

5. The helmet of salvation: known salvation, not the Lord's coming.

6. The Sword of the Spirit: a saying from God for the occasion of the battle; eg the Lord in the wilderness temptations, using specific vv. from Deuteronomy.

7. Praying in the Spirit: led by the Spirit into a spirit of dependency on God;

staying alert (watching) with all perseverance and supplication for all saints--a joint effort in self-defence, spiritual warfare, and protection, from the onslaughts of Satan.

Satan: 3 times in II Corinthians. 2:11-- we are not ignorant of his devices; 11:14: transformed into an angel of light; 12:3: the messenger of Satan to buffet me.

Verse 7: looking at things acc/ to face: cf v.1. in face he was base (humble); they judged him acc. to

that; occupied with externals.

Paul occupies the place they claim.

Verse 8: Boasting: vv. 13, 15, 16, 17, 17. Paul is not ashamed of boasting of his God-given authority, to be used for building them up, not for their overthrow.

Verses 9–11: He is not trying to terrify them by his epistles; his epistles weighty and powerful, unlike his bodily presence and his speech. But as he was in his writings, so would he be when he came and dealt with the situation at hand.

Verse 12: He dares not class, or compare, himself, with those that commend themselves, have no measure of comparison but themselves. Such have no understanding. Note: Measure.

Verse 13: Paul will not boast immeasurably, but acc. to the measure of the area of authority which the God of measure has apportioned to him, which reached as far as them.

Verse 14: He did not overstretch himself as if he did not reach them; which he did with the gospel of Christ.

Verse 15, 16: He does not boast beyond measure, immeasurably, immoderately, in what other men had worked. Rather his hope was that as their faith increased, he would be magnified by them, acc. to his area of service, in abundance. I.e. as their faith increased, he would be able to preach the gospel in the regions beyond them, and not to boast in another man's area of service that had already been done, as if prepared for him

Verse 17: Cf. I Cor. 1:31. Boasting not in service, but in the Lord. In I Cor., the boasting is more linked with salvation; here, with service.

Cf Jer. 9: 23, 24. The wise, the mighty, and the rich are to boast that they understand and know the LORD, who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; "for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

Verse 18: The commendation from the Lord and not man: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21.

"Then shall every man have praise of God." I Cor. 4:5.