

The Christian Warrior

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Introduction: We are fighting an invisible war.

- A. Every Christian is to be a soldier. **(2 Tim 2:3-4)**
 - 1. Our commander is Jesus Christ.
 - 2. We must have a focus and discipline within us to be effective.
- B. We are fighting in a raging war. **(Eph 6:12-13)**
 - 1. The foes are invisible, and so is the battleground. **(Lk 17:20-21)**
 - 2. The consequences are real, both in this life as well as in eternity.
 - 3. If a mighty enemy invaded our land would you continue to live life as usual?
- C. In this chapter Paul is turning his attention to battle false teachers among the Corinthians.
 - 1. These men were under the control of Satan. **(2 Cor 11:12-15)**
 - 2. A very real battle was being fought within the church at Corinth. Whose side would they choose?

I. His Mighty Weapons (10:1-6)

- A. Paul had a heart that was filled with the mind of Christ. **(10:1-3)**
 - 1. This mind is the strength of the Christian. **(Phil 2:5-9)**
 - a. Is meekness and gentleness a sign of weakness or strength?
 - b. **Meekness** - "gentleness of attitude and behavior, in contrast with harshness in one's dealings with others - gentleness, meekness, mildness." **(Mt 5:5; Col 3:12; 1 Pt 3:15)**
 - c. **Gentleness** - "the quality of gracious forbearing - gentleness, graciousness, forbearance." **(2 Tim 2:24-26)**
 - d. You cannot be Christ's warrior without these qualities.
 - 2. This mind does not judge by outward appearance. **(Jn 7:24)**
 - a. Paul's enemies took confidence in appearance. They mistook lowliness as weakness!
 - b. These men attacked Paul because of a lack of "flashiness."
 - 3. This mind follows the spirit. **(Rom 8:5-8)**
 - a. There is no harmony between these two ways of life.
 - b. These same men judged Paul on the same fleshly basis they lived their lives. They were going to be in for a surprise! This was not going to be the way Paul would deal with them. **(10:2-3)**
 - c. These evil men are described as "some" in this text.
- B. God's weapons will accomplish their purpose.
 - 1. The worldly mind would not choose these weapons because he does not think they will work! (Ex. Those who use arguments that "work" but are false.)**(10:4)**
 - 2. God's way will always work! **(Isa 55:8-11)**
 - 3. God wants every thought and imagination under His control. **(10:5)**
 - a. Am I conforming my mind? **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 - b. Are my imaginations under His control? **(Gen 6:5, 8:21)**
 - 4. There are also punishments God has commanded. **(10:6; 2 Cor 2:6)**

II. His Mighty Vision (10:7-11)

- A. Our vision must be based on how God sees things. **(10:7)**
 - 1. What will happen when we see things as God does? **(1 Cor 1:10)**
 - 2. There are those who may be in the church who do not have this mind. **(1 Jn 4:1,4-6)**
- B. Our vision is based upon the authority of God. **(10:8)**
 - 1. This will cause us to put God above the wishes of men. **(Gal 1:10)**
 - 2. This authority is for the good of others and not for one's selfish interest. **(Rom 15:1-3)**
 - 3. When a man serves himself he wants the attention of others.
- C. Our vision will bring a consistency of life. **(10:9-11)**
 - 1. The false teacher has no principle and will seek the advantage of the moment. **(Rom 16:18; 1 Thess 2:5; Jude 16)**
 - 2. The Christian will be consistent! **(Mt 5:37)**

III. His Mighty Victory (10:12-18)

- A. We desire the praise of God! **(Jn 12:43, Rom 2:19)**
 - 1. Many seek the short cut of seeking men to praise them. **(2 Cor 10:12,18)**
 - 2. If we do this we will have a shallow reward. **(Mt 6:2)**
 - 3. When we seek the praise of men we will "compete" for it. This will lead to lies and gossip to cripple the "competition."
- B. When we know our limits we will be blessed! **(10:13-16)**
 - 1. There is a realm where we "ought to think." **(Rom 12:3)**
 - 2. The Corinthians were living proof of the work of God through Paul! What did these "others" do?
 - 3. What made Paul fulfilled? When the work of God was accomplished in others. These are the kinds of men we should be following. **(10:15; Phil 2:17; 3 Jn 4)**
- C. Nothing can compare to the praise of God. **(10:17-18)**

Conclusion: Whose battles are you fighting?

- A. God's battles are costly but we are sure to win! **(1 Cor 9:25-26)**
- B. Will you receive the praise of God? **(2 Tim 4:7; 1 Tim 1:18-19)**

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