

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 10

Lesson 11

2 Corinthians 10 answers three questions which challenged the church in Corinth. (1.) How do I wage spiritual warfare? (2.) What is the proper way to use spiritual authority? (3.) What is the proper way to measure a ministry? Paul intended that the application of the answers promote increased faith among the believers in Corinth. May it have that same effect on us.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 10

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. The tenth chapter of 2 Corinthians has been divided into three paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-11

Verses 12-18

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the tenth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, Paul

New to this lesson: *boast(ing), commend(s)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 10. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Choose one of the key words above and make a list of what the text reveals about it.

Challenge: Choose, mark, and make a list of another key word.

4. Paul uses the contrasting word *but* several times in this chapter. Mark the word each time it is used. Choose one of the verses and record what was being contrasted.

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-2

1. As Paul challenges those in the church who opposed him, we find him *pleading by the meekness and gentleness of Christ*. Jesus was never a “pushover”, yet He was *meek and gentle*. Define *meekness* and *gentleness* as you understand it to be applied by Christ.
2. These people who opposed Paul were not directly challenging him, but talking behind his back. We all have experienced this. What does it feel like?
3. Paul had been accused of being courageous and bold at a distance, shooting his sharp arrows in his letters but subservient and weak-kneed when personally present, feebly voicing his demands. What did Paul say about this in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5?
 - a. *I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world* (2 Corinthians 10:2 NIV). Paul chose *meekness* over *boldness*. However, when *boldness* was necessary, he would not shirk from using it. How would you define the *boldness* Paul felt might be necessary?
 - b. Describe *boldness* as it is expressed in love.

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

1. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3, *though we walk in the flesh*, what do we *not* do?
 - a. ...*we do not wage war as the world does* (NIV). How does the *world* wage war?

2. Read Ephesians 6:12. Who are we fighting?
 - a. Why are *weapons of the flesh* ineffective against these foes?

 - b. What *weapons* have been made available to the believer? Ephesians 6:13-18

 - c. What is the promised result of using these *weapons*? Ephesians 6:13,16

3. What does 2 Corinthians 10:4 say about *the weapons of our warfare*?

Challenge: Define *strongholds*.

4. In addition to *pulling down strongholds*, what else are we able to do when we use spiritual *weapons of warfare*? 2 Corinthians 10:5
 - a. The believer *casts down imaginations*: thoughts and imaginations that are uncontrolled, wild, evil, lustful, immoral, unjust, wrong, untrue, devilish, and set against God. In what ways can the believer be plagued by these things?

 - b. How does the application of the Ephesians 6 armor *cast down* (demolish, destroy) these kinds of thoughts?

5. What does the last part of 2 Corinthians 10:5 tell us we are to do?
 - a. Relate the conflict and the victory Paul wrote of in Romans 7:23-25.
 - b. Describe, as you would to someone who is struggling with their thoughts, how to Biblically gain victory over them.

6. *And we will punish those who remained disobedient after the rest of you became loyal and obedient.* (2 Corinthians 10:6 NLT) . Only a few in the church had remained disobedient. What did Paul say he would do with them?
 - a. John, the apostle of love, also had trouble with some in the church. What did he say he would do with Diotrephes in 3 John 1:9-10?
 - b. Why are there times when this kind of behavior must be confronted with *boldness* rather than ignored?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 10:7-11

1. The first verses of 2 Corinthians 10 teach us how to wage spiritual warfare. This next section teaches us how to use spiritual authority. To what were the Corinthians looking as proof of God's calling? verse 7
 - a. What does God look at? 1 Samuel 16:7
 - b. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees in Luke 16:15?
 - c. Why do you think man is prone to judge by *outward appearance*?

2. Record the command of John 7:24.
 - a. Since man cannot see another man's heart, how do we judge with *righteous judgment*?

3. According to 2 Corinthians 10:8, why did Paul seemingly *boast about his authority*?
 - a. Why has God called some to be *apostles, teachers, or pastors*? Ephesians 4:11-12
 - b. In what ways have you been *built up* by a *teacher* or *pastor*?
4. Paul has tried to follow the example set forth by Jesus. Using Philippians 2:5-8, describe His example.

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

1. We often wonder, how do you measure the effectiveness of a ministry? According to 2 Corinthians 10:12, what is not a *wise* way to measure a ministry?
2. *But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you* (2 Corinthians 10:13 NLT). Read Romans 15:15-20 and summarize God's plan for Paul.
3. Paul believed he was called to minister to the believers in Corinth. It was through Paul that they had received the gospel. Yet, he believed his work among them did not stop there. The NIV translates the latter part of 2 Corinthians 10:15 and all of 16 as *Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory*. What was Paul's *hope*?
 - a. Paul welcomed another man's *watering* of what he had *planted*. See 1 Corinthians 3:6,10. What he opposed was taking credit where credit was not due and its effect of tearing down rather than building up other believers. According to verse 17, Who is to get the *glory*?
 - 1.) What does Galatians 6:14 say about this?
 - 2.) How does *glorifying* God rather than man promote unity?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 10

1. How do we practically put on the armor of God?
2. How can we determine when to use *meekness* and *gentleness* and when to be *bold*?
3. What have you learned in this lesson about the proper use of spiritual authority?
4. There are many good things we can do as Christians. Yet, we are not called to do them all. What have you learned about ministering in the areas God has specifically called you to?
5. In what way has this lesson challenged you?

*For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved,
but the one whom the Lord commends.*

- 2 Corinthians 10:18 NIV