



2 Corinthians Ch 10

Aug 4, 2024

Module 5, Room 1



Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *July 14, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 7*
- ✓ *July 21, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 8*
- ✓ *July 28, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 9*
- ✓ *Aug 4, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 10*
- *Aug 11, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 11*
- *Aug 18, 2004. - 2 Cor Ch 12*
- *Aug 25, 2005. - 2 Cor Ch 13 & wrap*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *Israel has eliminated 3 top Hamas and Hezbollah leaders (only claimed 2)*
- *Two in Lebanon and one in Tehran*
- *Iran has promised a retaliatory attack this weekend. **Expect bigger than last time.***
- *Israel and the US are moving forces in anticipation. Prayerfully they are prepared with God's intervention and plan*

US/World

- *The Olympics mocking of Christians and God shows the extent of Evil in the World*
- *Hostage exchange between the West and Russia*
- *The terms are not clear yet, but a major Russian assassin is included*
- *Election rhetoric back up*
- *Kamala Harris wins advanced vote before convention to be nominee, no VP pick yet*
- *About 90 days until election, Early voting starts 3 weeks earlier*
- *Pray for Truth to be evident and for evil to be at bay*
- *But understand that God is in Control, and no person or party will save us, only faith in Jesus Christ.*

Overall Outline of 2nd Corinthians

The Comfort of God Ch 1-7

- Introduction – Ch 1:1,2
- Comfort for Life's Plans - Ch 1:3-24
- Comfort in the restoration of sinning saint – Ch 2
- Comfort in the glorious ministry of Christ – Ch 3
- Comfort in the ministry of suffering for Christ – Ch 4
- Comfort in the ministry of martyrdom for Christ – Ch 5
- Comfort in all circumstances – Ch 6
- Comfort in the Heart of Paul – Ch 7

Christian Giving – Ch 8-9

- Examples, Exhortation, *Explanation, and Encouragement*

The Calling of the Apostle Paul – Ch 10-13

✓ ***Spiritual War, Man of God – Ch 10***

- Loyalty and Apostleship– Ch11
- Apostles, Pastors, Uniqueness – Ch 12
- Pattern of Sanctification – Ch 13:1-10
- Benediction – Ch 13:12-14

2 Cor Ch 10 Picture of where Paul is going

Today we continue our study of 2 Corinthians, but we get a dramatic change of focus and tone in the letter

- Some commentators view these 4 chapters as part of the “severe letter” that has been earlier referenced.*
- Others believe this is a separate letter not identified before*
- Still, others believe this is not the Severe letter, but just a change of tone and subject, as is common to Paul in other letters*

A brief discussion of Corinth's background and why Paul is writing this part of the letter

- Founding the church, establishing elders, deacons, and “pastors”*
- Witnessing the conversion and change in life of its members*
- Coming from a very Pagan society, mostly Gentiles without Jewish roots and understanding of Jewish Faith.*
- Outsiders arrive & sow discord, and turn people away from the Gospel and to themselves*
- Paul responds to those who are sowing discord in these chapters.*

2 Cor Ch 10:1-2 Paul confronts them

10 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 intend to be **courageous** **against some**, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

Discussion of False Teachers, Pastors, Prophets

John MacArthur gives these ideas for us to recognize them

- ***They come from outside the church.*** They came with grandiose claims about themselves which are largely unverifiable. Today we say jokingly “All experts are from out of town”.
- ***They claimed superior authority*** from others – higher apostolic rank and knew “new information”
- ***They were Jews*** – This was particularly important in Paul’s day, but even today it gives a speaker an added boost to be part of God’s chosen people.
- ***Their added knowledge combined some mystic beliefs with Jewish legalism and claimed this was the true way to gain favor with God***
- ***They were charismatic speakers*** and denigrated Paul as a false teacher because he was not strong in the sophistry of the Greeks
- ***In Corinth, they were libertines*** who advocated and supported the evil fruit of impurity, immorality, and sensuality
- ***Their ministries were/are focused on building themselves and their ministries and their wealth, as opposed to building the Kingdom***

2 Cor Ch 10:3-6 Warfare against Evil

³ *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **wage battle** 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 arguments, and all arrogance raised against the knowledge 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.***

2 Cor Ch 10 What are these Divine Weapons?

Our weapons are:

- *Prayer*
- *The Word – Biblical understanding*
- *The Holy Spirit that lives in us, guides us, and empowers us*

With them, we can fight the physical, emotional, and Spiritual warfare that is against us

We can use this divine power to:

- *Demolish strongholds both in us and those against us*
- *Demolish arguments of false teaching and opposition to God and the Gospel*
- *Smash pretentious barriers to the knowledge of the Gospel*
- *Take captive to Him, all those thoughts and actions so that we can focus on Christ*
- *Use discernment to uncover the evil around us and resist it*

2 Cor Ch 10:7-8 Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

⁷ You are judging *by appearances*. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ *just as much as they do*.

⁸ So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than *tearing you down*, I will not be ashamed of it. (NIV)

⁷ You are looking at things as they *are outwardly*. If anyone is confident *in himself* that he is Christ's, have him consider this again *within himself*, that just as he is Christ's, *so too are we*.

⁸ For if I boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for *destroying you*, I will not be put to shame, (NASB)

2 Cor Ch 10:9-11 *Getting Personal*

⁹ I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters.

*¹⁰ For **some** say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.”*

*¹¹ **Such people** should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.*

2 Cor Ch 10:12-13 Contrast and Compare

¹² *We do not dare to classify or **compare ourselves with some who commend themselves.** When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.*

¹³ *We, **however,** will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.*

2 Cor Ch 10:14-16

***14** We are **not going too far in our boasting**, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for **we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ**.*

***15** Neither do we go beyond our limits by **boasting of work done by others**. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand,*

***16** so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory.*

2 Cor Ch 10 *Some Characteristics of a Christian*

Paul blends in some characteristics of Corinthian believers

- *Strong Faith*
- *Willingness to give/share*
- *Acceptance of the Word of God*
- *Intensity of Heart*
- *Conversion-> Changed Life*
- *Witness to others*
- *Continue in the Faith->*
 - *Their Faith Grows->*
 - *expand personal knowledge and go deeper->*
 - *expand outward reach to other not-covered areas of the ministry*

2 Cor Ch 10:17-18 Boasting in the Lord

17 But, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (Jer. 9:24)

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

2 Cor Ch 10 Chapter 10 Key Points

Paul has addressed those who opposed him at Corinth

- *He has determined to forcefully combat them if needed when he comes again (about 2 weeks after the Letter)*
- *He has reiterated his own desires, qualifications, and authority*
- *He knows that they are not gone but underground awaiting him and the battle is physical, emotional, and spiritual and he is determined to use the tools the Father has given him to fight.*

➤ *Prayer, the Word of God, the Holy Spirit*

We know that we all want as our Epitaph that we fought the good fight, ran the race the Lord laid out for us, and finished the race

Well done, my good and faithful servant

Next Week

- *Read 2 Cor Ch 11, and come back to discuss*
- *Pray for God to move in the US, protect Israel, and the leaders*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and friends inside and outside the church.*
Pray for healing for those in grief and recovery
- *Be thankful that God has placed you in this day and time and commit your will to doing His Will.*
- *Praise Him for the blessings He continually bestows on us.*
- *Pray for each of us to take our role seriously in the coming storm*
- *Pray for those who don't know the Lord to come to Him*