



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

# The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

## Chapter 10

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# Introduction

- In Chapter 10, St. Paul returns to his own defense, defending his conduct and authority
- He pleads with them in the meekness to avoid using boldness in their presence against who think he conducts himself according to the flesh (1-2)
- While he admits that he walks in the flesh, he does not war according to the flesh (3-6)
- Some were judging St. Paul because his physical presence was weak



# Introduction

- His authority is real for what he was in word when absent, he could be in deed when present (7-11)
- St. Paul's opponents boast in comparing themselves with others (unwise practice)
- St. Paul had hope that they would assist him in preaching the gospel in regions beyond them
- He admonishes them to boast only in the Lord, because it is not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends (12-18)

# The Spiritual War (10:1-6)



- St. Paul has associated himself with his fellow-laborers (2 Cor 1:1), he has spoken in the plural
- Now he uses the singular, and there will be a tone of severity
- Since the opposition was to him personally, he speaks in person, starting his defense supported by the meekness and gentleness of Christ
- The opponents said that he was very gentle when present, but bold when absent referring to 1 Cor 5

# The Spiritual War (10:1-6)



- He asks that, when he comes, he may not have to exercise that boldness which he fears he will have to use in admonishing some opponents
- They said that he was led by worldly motives
- Although he is in the body, but he does not use fleshly weapons in his warfare
- Since the weapons of our warfare are spiritual, the might was not humanly, but in God who gave us power to overcome all difficulties in repentance

# The Spiritual War (10:1-6)



- Destroying all vain reasoning and every philosophy against the knowledge of God
- Bringing the faculty of the mind into the obedience of Christ (overcoming evil thoughts)
- These spiritual weapons are ready to punish all disobedience at Corinth, when time had been given for all to show their obedience
- I will wait till the faithful give proof of obedience, so I will not punish the innocent with the guilty



# Reality of St. Paul's Authority (10:7–11)

- Does any of you judge of a minister of Christ by his person, or any outward circumstance?
- Let him learn it by himself, before I convince him by a severer method
- If such an one claimed to be Christ's, St. Paul had equal claims
- A comparison of claims to privilege and authority would not put him to shame
- The authority were given to save and edify men



# Reality of St. Paul's Authority (10:7–11)

- I say this lest I should seem to be terrifying you, as children, with empty threats
- Letters: More than one letter containing strong reproofs
- There was no authority in his manner; he was meek, kind and gentle, whereas the false teachers spoke with authoritative language
- Let all who make such statements know that when I come I will in presence do just as I have written



# Limits of St. Paul's Authority (10:12-18)



- I dare not (irony) associate with, or compare myself to, those commend themselves
- Instead of measuring themselves by the public standard, they measure themselves by one made by themselves
- They do not compare themselves with others who excel them, but with those like themselves
- With all their boasted “wisdom”, they are anything but "wise."

# Limits of St. Paul's Authority (10:12-18)



- There is no limit to one's high opinion of himself, so long as he measures himself by himself and does not compare himself with his superiors
- But we will not, like them, boastfully extend ourselves beyond our measure (boundaries, limit)
- St. Paul's "measure" is the apportionment of his sphere of Gospel labors ruled for him by God
- The Judaizers said that St. Paul had exceeded his authority in coming to Corinth

# Limits of St. Paul's Authority (10:12-18)



- When he came to Europe he was sent by the Spirit (Acts 16:9)
- It was St. Paul's way to preach where no one before him had preached the gospel
- His hope was that his success at Corinth and the support of the church there will enable him to carry the gospel beyond
- To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. Where no man has yet preached

# Limits of St. Paul's Authority (10:12-18)



- Quoted from Jer 11:23. It gives the true rule of boasting. Let the Lord be our boast, for we are nothing
- This is in contrast to his opponents' practice of boasting in another's line or sphere
- An advice to every disciple and preacher, let our works and life speak for us, not our lips
- Is approved: can stand the test of the final trial
- The approved is the one, commended by the Lord



# Conclusion

- St. Paul said in verse 3, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.” So how do we fight against the evil?
- How St. Paul described the weapons of our warfare?
- To what, we bring into captivity every thought?
- The authority given to St. Paul is for edification or destruction?
- In whom should we glory?