

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 31, 2011

“Paul’s Warfare on Behalf of His Apostolic Authority”
2 Corinthians 10:1-2

How did Paul go about defending his apostolic authority to the unrepentant within the Corinthian Church?

Paul began the defense of his apostolic authority to the unrepentant within the Corinthian Church by focusing on his activities (2 Corinthians 10:1-6).

Paul, in focusing on his activities, initially sought to address questions involving his demeanor (2 Corinthians 10:1-2).

Paul began his defense by declaring that his demeanor was characterized by the qualities of Christ.

The first quality that Paul highlighted as characterizing his demeanor was the quality of humility (2 Corinthians 10:1).

The word “now” transitions us from what Paul has been saying to the repentant in 2 Corinthians 8-9 to what he is about to say to the unrepentant in 2 Corinthians 10-13.

Paul’s apostolic authority was reaffirmed through the repentance of the majority, and Paul was seeking to draw attention to that reaffirmed authority when he referred to himself as, “I Paul, myself...”

Meekness (PRAUTES) is mild and gentle friendliness that patiently endures mistreatment.

Gentleness (EPIEIKEIA), when applied to someone in authority, such as Paul, refers to leniency.

Typically the word “meek” (TAPEINOS) would be translated “humble” but here in this context it would be best translated “timid” as it is in the NIV translation.

The second quality of Christ that Paul highlighted as characterizing his demeanor was the quality of boldness (2 Corinthians 10:2).

The word “bold” (THARREO) literally means courageous.

May God give us the grace to persevere in manifesting the humility of Christ even when being attacked and the discernment to know when it must yield to the confrontational boldness of Christ.

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