

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 14, 2011

“Paul’s Warfare on Behalf of His Apostolic Authority”
2 Corinthians 10:4-6

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, in focusing on his activities, also sought to address questions involving his methods (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

When Paul said, “we do not war according to the flesh” he simply meant that he and his associates did not war according to flesh driven expediency or impulse.

Because Paul and his associates’ war with his opponents was not being driven by fleshly expediency or impulse, the clear implication is that their war was being driven and empowered by God’s Spirit.

The followers of Christ get access to “divinely powerful” weapons as soon as they surrender themselves completely to God’s will and thus are filled with the Spirit.

Some of the divinely powerful weapons made available to us when filled with the Spirit are listed out for us in Ephesians 6:14-18.

Paul’s reference in 2 Corinthians 10:4, “for the destruction of fortresses (OCHYROMA)” likely looks back to Proverbs 21:22, where the wise man is said to destroy the strongholds in which the ungodly trust.

The fortresses erected by his opponents that Paul specifically had in mind were most likely the fortresses of self-confidence and self-examination that they erected in opposition to the progress of the gospel (cf. 10:12, 17-18; 11:4).

The “speculations” and “every lofty thing” were the objections raised by his opponents against his apostolic authority (2 Corinthians 10:2).

The “knowledge of God” was a reference to what Paul himself revealed about God through His own preaching and suffering (cf. 2:14-17; 4:4-6; 8:7; 11:6; 13:8).

Taking every thought captive to Christ means to evaluate every teaching concerning who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him, to ensure that whatever is said and thought conforms to the character and purposes of Christ Himself.

Paul was prepared to punish all within the Corinthian church who did not repent, but Paul would not do so until those who professed repentance had the opportunity to show themselves as repentant (2 Corinthians 10:6).

May God give us the grace to boldly proclaim the gospel in the power of the Spirit with the weapons of the Spirit so that we as God's army have the privilege of seeing the forces of darkness flee and their fortresses destroyed.