

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 10:1-6)

1. In what manner did Paul beseech [invoke] the church in Corinth?

By the meekness and gentleness of Christ: *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you”* (II Corinthians 10:1).

- Beseeching someone or a group of people is about trying to move them in a direction (Exodus 3:18, Romans 12:1, Romans 15:30, I Corinthians 4:16, and I Peter 2:11).
- One should not conclude that beseeching is the same as rebuking. You can see this in that people did beseech the Lord (Numbers 12:13, II Kings 20:3, and I Chronicles 21:8).
- Jesus was meek (Matthew 11:29 and Matthew 21:5).
- Jesus, being our chief Shepherd (I Peter 5:4), was certainly gentle (Isaiah 40:11).
- We are to be meek and gentle (I Timothy 6:11 and Galatians 5:22-23).
 - That does NOT mean we are to be soft in regard to dealing with sin, false teachers, etc. (Matthew 16:21-23, Matthew 23:13-15, Matthew 23:24-26, Acts 17:22-30, Galatians 3:1-3, Ephesians 6:19-20, Titus 1:13, Titus 2:15, and Revelation 2:6).
 - When Paul taught the brethren in Thessalonica he taught them with gentleness (I Thessalonians 2:7). Yet, he never used flattery (I Thessalonians 2:5).
- Like through infirmities (II Corinthians 11:30 and Galatians 4:13), Paul was base when he was among them (I Corinthians 2:3)
- He had a purpose in writing boldly now that he is not among them (II Corinthians 3:12).
- That being said, if he comes again to Corinth with them doing wrong, he will not lack boldness (II Corinthians 13:1-3).
- Because of this, some in Corinth spoke evil of Paul (II Corinthians 10:10).

2. Did some in Corinth think that Paul was carnal in his ways?

Yes: *“But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh”* (II Corinthians 10:2).

- Paul wanted them to change so that he could come with boldness and confidence rather than in some doubts he has concerning them (II Corinthians 12:20).
- Being charged as walking after the flesh is not a good thing (Romans 8:1-8, Galatians 5:16-21, and Ephesians 2:1-3).
- Paul often had those who slandered him (Romans 3:8).
- This is sad for, you can see through his fruits (Matthew 7:20) that, he was not out for his self but to serve others (II Corinthians 12:15 and I Thessalonians 2:8-11).

3. What type of warfare are we involved in?

Spiritual, not carnal: *“(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”* (**II Corinthians 10:3-4**).

- You cannot escape the fact that we live in a carnal world, but that does not mean we have to be of this carnal world (**John 17:14-16**).
- We are in a spiritual battle (**I Timothy 1:18, I Timothy 6:12, II Timothy 2:3-4, and Jude 3-4**).
- Our mighty weapons are spiritual in nature, not carnal (**Ephesians 6:10-18**).

4. What should we bring into captivity to the obedience of Christ?

Every thought: *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* (**II Corinthians 10:5**).

- Casting down that which exalts oneself against the knowledge of God (**I Corinthians 1:26-31** and **I Corinthians 3:18-20**).
- Worldly, sinful thinking is not a good thing (**Proverbs 15:26** and **Proverbs 24:9**).
- Thus, we have to learn to think differently (**Isaiah 55:7-9, Jeremiah 4:14, and Ephesians 4:22-24**).
- To think toward obedience (**Hebrews 5:8-9**) rather than self-will (**Matthew 16:24-27**).

5. Was there a need to deal with the disobedient in Corinth when the others submitted themselves to obedience?

Yes: *“And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled”* (**II Corinthians 10:6**).

- As the context bears out, this is not a carnal revenge. Rather, a readiness to deal with sin in the congregation when everything else was straightened out (**I Corinthians 5:1-13** and **II Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15**).