

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Lesson 27-Spiritual Battles and Divine Favor!!

- **Paul begins to deal with a few issues regarding “some” of the Corinthians which still existed (v.1-3)**
 - After having many positive things to say in regard to the majority in Corinth (chapters 1-9), Paul now has to deal with a several negative issues which still existed among “some” (v.2) of the Corinthians.
 - (v.1-3) Paul preached like a Lion, but he was hoping to visit like a lamb in the “meekness” of Christ. “I beg you...” he said, “that I won’t have to be bold with you guys when I come to you” [paraphrasing the general idea here]. Some were thinking of Paul and his other helpers as mere sinful men “...according to the flesh.” Though we are men, Paul was saying back, we do not war by the sinful methods of this world (v.3).
- **The weapons of our warfare and the captivity of every sinful thought (v.4,5)**
 - (v.4) **The mighty “weapons of our warfare”** (Prayer, the word of God, etc.-Ephesians 6:10,16-20). **Mighty “...to the pulling down of strongholds”** (compare to Eph. 6:12)—Victory can be ours through the strength of God alone working in us and through us. For we “can do nothing” without Him (John 15:5).
 - (v.5) **Our thoughts must be captive to Christ!! “...every thought to the obedience of Christ.” “...as he [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).** (Your thoughts will shape your character). **“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...” (Isaiah 55:7).** Let the Lord have your mind. It should not be allowed to roam upon any old subject!! Otherwise, our thoughts would be dangerous. **There is a pathway that flows out from our thoughts:** “From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Thoughts lead to words, Words lead to actions, actions form character, and character points us to death or life. **We should only allow our minds to dwell upon pure and holy themes (Philippians 4:8).** Christ warns about and condemns sinful or lustful thinking of any kind (ref. Matthew 5:27-30).
- **A few words between Paul and the Corinthians about how they should look at matters (v.6-9)**

In essence, he’s saying, “We are Christ’s and could boast of more things than many, but we don’t” (v.8).
- **Answering the charges made against him by some (v.10-12)**
 - Paul quotes their charges against him (v.10), and then he deals directly with it!
 - **A bad measuring Rod: “...measuring themselves by themselves” (v.12).** We must have Christ, the un-erring pattern for us in all things—1 Peter 2:21, “...leaving us an example...”. Christ knew no sin, and this is His desire for us to follow after. **“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2).** We cannot just say, “O,

*I'm a little better than the world...so I must be okay." **Imagine two scuba divers** floating out in the sea. You look the same distance from each other, as if you're not moving. But, how deep are you? Where are you going? Are you dropping down together into some dark Abyss? How can you know? **You need an un-erring standard!** Your faithful depth gauge! (and so do we need Christ!). Jesus says, "**You follow me....**" (John 21:21,22). (Matthew 14:28-31) **Jesus bids us to walk on the water to him.** But, we must keep our eyes on Him and trust in faith to be victorious. Should you have lost your hold on Christ for even a moment, cry out, "Lord, save me..." and the Lord will hear and save us. Always keep your eyes on Him.*

- **Paul explains how he's not boasting anything of himself, nor trying to take another man's work, but only doing faithfully the task which God has given to him (v.13-18)**
 - (v.13-15) *They were laboring to save souls. We "have come as far as unto you..." Paul says (v.14). (v.16-18)—they would like to preach "beyond" but do not desire to take upon them another man's work in another place. "...not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends" (v.18).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to keep your eyes on Jesus Christ, to be faithful to him, and to help your thoughts to be pure through Him? _____