

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10:1-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

S.W.A.T.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 1

**SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship**

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 10:1-6

In our introduction to 2 Corinthians, I told you that this epistle

was by far the most personal of the Apostle Paul's writings. It's in this letter that he bares his heart and soul to the church in Greece.

It's Paul's Most Transparent Letter Written.

This can only be done by a man who has been torn down and rebuilt by God. Paul knows who he is and who he is not. He knows what he is and what he is not. - - He knows what must be done.

He Must Defend the Gospel, Not Himself !

2 Cor. 10:1-6

Now I, Paul, myself am **pleading** with you by the **meekness** and **gentleness** of **Christ** - who in presence am **lowly** among you, but being absent am **bold** toward you. **2** But I **beg** you that when I am present I may not be **bold** with that **confidence** by which I intend to be **bold against** some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war** according to the flesh. **4** For the **weapons** of our **warfare** are not **carnal** but **mighty** in God for **(1) pulling down strongholds**, **5 (2) casting down argu-ments** and **(3) every high thing** that exalts itself **against** the knowledge of God, **(4) bringing every thought** into **captivity** to the **obedience** of Christ, **6** and **(5) being ready to punish** all **disobedience** when your **obedience** is **fulfilled**.

the word of encouragement is - *to the battle !*

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

1.) Is not predicated upon you

v. 1-2

**OUR SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS
Are Not Predicated Upon Us**

1a.) We are not empowered by us

v. 1

Now I, Paul, myself am **pleading with you** by the **meekness** and **gentleness** of **Christ** – who in presence am **lowly among you**, but being absent am **bold toward you**.

Paul was being attacked by the Judaizers. They were a cult group that spun off from Judaism to “become Christians” but they didn’t leave their manmade Judaism behind, rather they brought it into their created version of Christianity, a salvation by works, an earned salvation - - and they hated Paul and the Gospel.

So, like what every loser does when they have no argument - they attack a man’s person, his personal weakness;

And the target was pretty obvious - - Paul was physically little and unattractive and soft spoken. – **not your Bill O’Reilly type**
“this **meekness** and **gentleness** of **Christ**”

>> Hey Corinthians, Remember

Jesus was a Carpenter and worked with His own hands in a Woodshop. <<

Meekness

πραότης praiotes, *prah-ot'-ace*; a decided humility, to be genteel or mild: **Aristotle** said that:
“*This word is a perfect action. It speaks of a man who is always angry at the right time about the right thing and never angry at the wrong time about the wrong thing.*”

Gentleness

ἐπιείκεια epieikeia, *ep-ee-i'-ki-ah*; pure equity, the Greeks would say that this word meant that there is the use of “*Justice that is better than Justice*”

There is a Justice that can only be Executed Perfectly
When Love governs the Heart of the Judge. – *The spirit of the Law of Love.*

Paul’s Manly Heart for The Believer Sounds Like This...

1 Thes. 2:7-8

But we were **gentle** among you, just as a **nursing mother cherishes** her **own children**. **8** So, **affectionately** longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also **our own lives**, because you had become dear to us.

Paul’s Manly Heart Exposes and Warns About False Christians

Phil. 3:2-3

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, **beware of the mutilation!** **3** For we are the circumcision, (*of the heart*) who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, **and have no confidence in the flesh**,

Paul’s Manly Heart is Deadly Serious

Gal. 5:11-12

And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. **12** I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

OUR SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS Are Not Predicated Upon Us

1b.) We are not in this for ourselves

v. 2a

But I **beg you** that when I am present I may not be **bold** with that **confidence** by which I intend to be **bold against** some,

“I have counted the cost of being a Christian”.

I surrendered a long time ago the desire to win a popularity contest.

Gal. 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Phil. 3:7-10

But **what things were gain to me**, these I have counted loss for Christ. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have **suffered the loss of all things**, and count them as rubbish, **that I may gain Christ** **9** and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;** **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

OUR SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS Are Not Predicated Upon Us

1c.) We are not **under our own authority** v. 2b

...who **think of us** as if we **walked** according to the **flesh(y)**

walked

περιπατέω peripateo, *per-ee-pat-eh'-o*; to tread all about, to walk at large, to transport oneself or export oneself, to be preoccupied with self interests.

2 Tim. 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this **seal**: (*stamp, embossment, mark*)
"The Lord knows those who are His,"

2 Tim. 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless (*it's no big deal*) I am not ashamed, for I **know** whom I **have believed** and I am **persuaded** that He is **able** to **keep** what I **have committed to Him** until that **Day**.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<

————— *End of Study* —————

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