

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 40

TITLE: TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

INTRODUCTION: (1) FITTINGLY, THE APOSTLE PAUL IN OUR TEXT TODAY, USES A WARFARE ILLUSTRATION.

\* AND I SAY FITTINGLY BECAUSE PAUL USES MILITARY METAPHORS TO TALK ABOUT AND DEPICT THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE FREQUENTLY IN HIS INSPIRED WRITINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

\*\* FOR EXAMPLE, IN I CORINTHIANS 9:7, IN DEFENDING HIS RIGHT TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PAUL REMINDED THE CORINTHIANS, "**WHO AT ANY TIME SERVES AS A SOLDIER AT HIS OWN EXPENSE?**"

\*\*\* AND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS **WHAT? NO ONE. WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE** SERVING OUR COUNTRY TODAY IN THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF OUR MILITARY TRYING TO RAISE THEIR OWN SUPPORT, THAT WOULD BE LUDICROUS. THEY DESERVE TO BE PAID AS THEY DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

\*\*\*\* THEN, IN II TIMOTHY 2:3&4 PAUL EXHORTED TIMOTHY WITH THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM)

(2) THEN PAUL ALSO TOLD TIMOTHY TO **"FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH," IN I TIMOTHY 1:18** AND I TIMOTHY 6:12.

\* NOW BEYOND TIMOTHY, PAUL CALLED A MAN NAMED ARCHIPPUS HIS FELLOW SOLDIER IN PHILEMON V. 2, AND EPAPHRODITUS HIS FELLOW SOLDIER IN PHILIPPIANS 2:25.

\*\* THEN, FACING HIS OWN IMMINENT DEATH, PAUL WROTE WITH GREAT TRIUMPH IN II TIMOTHY 4:7, THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM)

\*\*\* AND THEN IN EPHESIANS 6:10-18 HE ADMONISHED ALL BELIEVERS TO PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD TO FIGHT IN THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE WE ARE IN, QUOTE EPHESIANS 6:10-12.

\*\*\*\* NOW FOR PAUL, FROM HIS CONVERSION ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD UNTIL HIS DEATH IN **ROME, PAUL'S LIFE WAS WAR, FOR HE BATTLED** THE FORCES OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS, BOTH DEMONIC AND HUMAN.

(3) AND MY POINT FROM SETTING THESE WARFARE ANALOGIES BEFORE YOU TODAY IS TO REMIND YOU, THAT IF YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, EVERYDAY IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE BATTLE IS RAGING.

\* AND AS WE PROGRESS IN OUR STUDY OF OUR TEXT TODAY, WE WILL SEE ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL OF MILITARY METAPHORS.

\*\* SPECIFICALLY IN V. 3 HE USES THE WORD WAR, IN V. 4 HE USES THE WORDS WEAPONS, WARFARE, AND DESTRUCTION OF FORTRESSES, AND THEN IN V. 5 **PAUL USES THE PHRASE "WE ARE DESTROYING SPECULATIONS."**

\*\*\* AND TODAY IN OUR TEXT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

\*\*\*\* AND OUR WARFARE IS NOT US GOING HEAD TO HEAD WITH DEMONS, RATHER WE ARE IN A WARFARE WHERE OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO CHANGE HOW PEOPLE THINK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

(4) WE ARE TO ASSAULT AND THROWN DOWN THE FORTRESSES OF FALSE RELIGIONS, OPINIONS, LIES, BELIEFS AND PHILOSOPHIES.

\* AND TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT THIS SPIRITUAL WAR REQUIRES WEAPONS FROM A HEAVENLY ARSENAL.

\*\* IT IS TO SAY, A SPIRITUAL WAR CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT WITH FLESHLY HUMAN WEAPONS, LIKE GUNS, TANKS OR SMART BOMBS.

\*\*\* AND WE WILL SEE THAT THE FORTRESSES IN VIEW IN OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY ARE NOT DEMONS, BUT IDEOLOGIES.

\*\*\*\* IN FACT, THE NOTION THAT SPIRITUAL WARFARE INVOLVES DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH DEMONS IS FOREIGN TO SCRIPTURE.

(5) WE ARE NOT CALLED TO CONVERT DEMONS BUT SINNERS IN NEED OF A SAVIOR.

\* AND TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A BATTLE AGAINST FALSE IDEOLOGIES THAT DEMONS PROPAGATE.

**\*\* THEREFORE I'VE TITLED MY SERMON TODAY,  
"TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE."**

**\*\*\* AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3  
MAIN POINTS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH  
II CORINTHIANS 10:1-6.**

(6) NO. 1 THE APPEAL BY PAUL TO THE  
CORINTHIANS, V. 1A; NO. 2 THE ACCUSATIONS  
ABOUT PAUL BY HIS ENEMIES, VV. 1B AND V. 2;  
AND NO. 3 THE ANSWER BY PAUL TO THESE  
ACCUSATIONS, VV. 3-6.

\* AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS TO HANG OUR  
THOUGHTS ON, LOOK AT V. 1A PLEASE WHERE  
**WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE APPEAL OF  
PAUL.**

I. THE APPEAL, (READ V. 1A)

A. NOW IN THE NAU, THE NKJV AND THE KJV,  
**THE FIRST WORD IN V. 1 IS "NOW."**

\* AND THE WORD NOW APPROPRIATELY MARKS **PAUL'S TRANSITION TO THE FINAL SECTION OF** THIS LETTER COVERING CHAPTERS 10-13.

\*\* BUT BEFORE PAUL BEGINS HIS ASSAULT ON HIS ENEMIES THE FALSE APOSTLES, THE FALSE TEACHERS, BASICALLY JUDAIZERS, HE EXPRESSES AN UNWILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN COMBAT.

\*\*\* **PAUL'S SPIRIT, HIS ATTITUDE WAS THAT HE** DID NOT WANT TO GO TO WAR, HE DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT.

\*\*\*\* THE REASON BEING GOOD SOLDIERS TAKE NO PLEASURE IN USING FORCE AND DO SO WITH RELUCTANCE AND WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION.

1. SO HE BEGINS HERE IN V. 1 BY IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AND SAYS, I, PAUL, MYSELF, AND MOVES IN THE FIRST VERSE AND PART OF V. 2, FROM THE WE, WHICH INCLUDED HIS CO-LABORERS, TO A PERSONAL APPEAL AND A MEEK PERSONAL DEFENSE OF SELF AND ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT AGAINST HIM.

\* AND HE MANIFESTS COMPASSION TO BEGIN WITH, FOR HE MAKES AN APPEAL TO THE MINORITY AT CORINTH WHO ARE TRYING TO SUPPLANT HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY AND TEACHINGS.

\*\* AND HIS APPEAL IS I URGE YOU, I PLEAD WITH YOU, I BESEECH YOU, I ENTREAT YOU BY, BY, THE MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS OF CHRIST TO END THEIR REBELLION AND BE RECONCILED TO THE TRUTHS HE HAS BEEN INSPIRED AND LED TO TEACH AS AN APOSTLE AND SERVANT OF CHRIST.



\*\*\* AND THE APPEAL IS MADE IN MEEKNESS, **NOT PRIDE. PAUL DOESN'T BEGIN BY** NUKING THEM AS HIS FIRST STRIKE IN THIS WAR FOR THE TRUTH, NO, HE COMES BY THE MEEKNESS OF CHRIST.

2. AND THE GREEK WORD MEEKNESS LIT. MEANS GENTLENESS, MILDNESS AND IT REFERS TO A HUMBLE AND GENTLE SPIRIT THAT RESULTS IN THE PATIENT ENDURANCE OF OFFENSES.

\* A MEEK PERSON IS THROUGH WITH SELF, BEING FREE OF VENGEANCE AND BEING DEFENSIVE OVER SELF. THAT PERSON DOES NOT YIELD TO BITTERNESS, VENGEANCE, UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER AND HATRED.

\*\* THERE IS POWER UNDER CONTROL, LIKE BRIDLING THE POWER OF A HORSE WITH A BRIDLE. AND A TRAINED HORSE IS POWERFUL, NOT WILD, NOT OUT OF CONTROL. HORSES ARE NOT WEAK, AND MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS, BUT AGAIN POWER UNDER CONTROL.

\*\*\* MOVING ON, THE NEXT WORD PAUL USES IS GENTLENESS. AND IT LIT. MEANS KINDNESS. AND THIS WORD WHEN APPLIED TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY MEANS LENIENCY AND PORTRAYS THOSE WHOM GRACIOUSLY REFUSE TO INSIST ON THE FULL MEASURE OF THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS.

\*\*\*\* SO GENTLENESS IS GRACIOUSNESS, LENIENCY AND FAIRNESS.

3. AND PUTTING TOGETHER THESE TWO WORDS PAINT US A PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST. FOR WHO WAS THE EPITOMY OF MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS? OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE WAS PERFECT POWER UNDER CONTROL AND GENTLE, ABSOLUTELY HUMBLE THAT DEALT JUSTLY AND HONESTLY, AND AS A PERFECT SERVANT WHO WAS DOING THE WILL OF HIS FATHER.

\* WELL, PAUL BEGINS WITH THIS APPEAL AS A MAN WHO WAS MEEK AND GENTLE AND LIKE HIS SAVIOR. PAUL BEGS HIS ENEMIES TO BEGIN **WITH, HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO WAR, HE WILL, BUT THAT'S NOT HIS HEART, HIS DESIRE.**

\*\* AND AFTER THIS HUMBLE APPEAL, PAUL WILL COMMUNICATE TWO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM BY HIS ENEMIES. LOOK BACK AT V. 1 **PLEASE AS WE START TO LOOK AT OUR 2'D** POINT TODAY.

## II. THE ACCUSATIONS, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW AT THE END OF V. 1, WHEN PAUL SAYS, I WHO AM MEEK WHEN FACE TO FACE WITH YOU, BUT BOLD TOWARD YOU WHEN I AM ABSENT, PAUL WAS QUOTING HIS ENEMIES IN WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT HIM.

\* PAUL IS JUST QUOTING ONE OF THE CHARGES FROM HIS ENEMIES, PUTTING A NEGATIVE SPIN ON HIS MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS.

\*\* FOR IN ESSENCE THEY WERE SAYING PAUL WHEN FACE TO FACE WAS A COWARD, TIMID, WEAK, A WIMP, BUT PUT PAUL A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY, HE WAS BOLD AS A LION.

\*\*\* THEY WERE SAYING PAUL WAS A LAMB FACE TO FACE AND A LION WHEN HE COULD SPEAK FROM AFAR THROUGH A LETTER OR SOMEONE LIKE TITUS, AT A SAFE DISTANCE.

\*\*\*\* BELOVED, HERE'S THEIR M.O. OF PAUL, HE HAD NO STOMACH FOR A FIGHT IN PERSON, HE WAS A WEAKLING, BUT WHEN AWAY HE WAS A DIFFERENT MAN, BRAVE FROM LONG RANGE.

1. HIS BARK WAS LOUD FROM AFAR, BUT HIS BITE IN PERSON LACKED TEETH.

\* AND THAT THIS IS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE END OF V. 1 IS CONFIRMED IN V. 10 OF THIS CHAPTER WHICH SAYS: **FOR THEY SAY, "HIS LETTERS ARE WEIGHTY AND STRONG, BUT HIS PERSONAL PRESENCE IS UNIMPRESSIVE AND HIS SPEECH CONTEMPTIBLE."**

\*\* AND BELOVED, THE FIRST ACCUSATION ABOUT PAUL BY HIS ENEMIES WAS HE WAS BOLD WHEN ABSENT BUT WEAK WHEN PRESENT, HE WAS TWO FACED, INCONSISTENT, A WEAK LEADER AND NOT WORTHY OF EMULATION BY ANYONE, A WEAK WARRIOR, A **WIMP, A WEAKLING. AND THAT'S HIS ENEMIES** FIRST ACCUSATION. THEN A SECOND ONE IS FOUND IN V. 2. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW THE SECOND ACCUSATION **MADE BY PAUL'S ENEMIES WAS THAT** HE WALKED ACCORDING TO THE FLESH AT THE END OF V. 2, AND BEFORE I TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS, LET ME BACK UP TO THE FIRST PART OF V. 2.

\* AND IN THE BEGINNING OF V. 2, PAUL REMINDS THE REBELLIOUS MINORITY AT CORINTH, HIS ENEMIES THAT HE IS GOING TO BE COMING BACK TO CORINTH TO MAKE ANOTHER VISIT, WHICH HE WILL REPEAT THIS IN THESE FINAL 4 CHAPTERS IN CHAPTERS 10-13.

**\*\* AND BECAUSE OF PAUL'S LOVE AND HIS**  
COMPASSIONATE DESIRE TO SPARE THESE  
REBELS, PAUL IN ESSENCE CALLS ON THEM TO  
REPENT.

**\*\*\*** AND IF THEY DID, WHEN HE WAS PRESENT  
WITH THEM ON HIS NEXT VISIT, HE WOULD NOT  
NEED TO BE BOLD WITH THE CONFIDENCE HE  
HAD IN HIS AUTHORITY AS AN APOSTLE.

**\*\*\*\*** PAUL DID NOT LACK COURAGE AS A SOLDIER  
OF HIS COMMANDER AND CHIEF JESUS CHRIST.

1. AND IF HE NEEDED TO REBUKE THEM FACE  
TO FACE, THE **"SOME"** IN V. 2 WHO WERE  
REBELLING AGAINST PAUL, HE WOULD. BUT HIS  
RATHER WAS THAT THEY MIGHT REPENT.

\* FOR THE **"SOME"** THAT PAUL IS TALKING  
ABOUT, THE MINORITY OF REBELS AND FALSE  
TEACHERS, WERE ACCUSING HIM AT THE END OF  
V. 2 OF WALKING ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.

\*\* MEANING PAUL WAS ACTING IN A WORLDLY FALLEN WAY, THAT PAUL WAS NOT LED BY THE SPIRIT, BUT BY THE FLESH, WITH WORLDLY MOTIVES, DESIRES, PRIDE AND INCONSISTENCY.

\*\*\* AND BASICALLY THEY WERE SAYING PAUL WAS NOT A SPIRITUAL MAN, BUT A FLESH DRIVEN WORLDLY MAN DRIVEN BY BASE APPETITES OF SELF-INTEREST WRONG DESIRES AND PURSUIT OF MONEY, ETC. PAUL WAS FLESH DRIVEN.

2. WELL PAUL WILL ANSWER THESE ACCUSATIONS IN VV. 3-6 **WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 3'D POINT TODAY, THE ANSWER TO THESE ACCUSATIONS.** LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

III. THE ANSWER, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW IN V. 3 THE PHRASE THAT IS USED IS A PLAY ON WORDS.

\* AND PAUL ADMITS IN THIS PLAY ON WORDS THAT HE DID WALK IN THE FLESH IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE; THAT HE WAS A MAN, HE LIVED IN A FLESH AND BLOOD BODY, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE REALITY OF HIS HUMANITY.

\*\* SO PAUL READILY ADMITS THAT HE LIVES IN THE WORLD AS A HUMAN BEING, BUT, HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE **WORLD'S STANDARDS.**

\*\*\* TO PUT IT IN ANOTHER WAY, THOUGH PAUL WALKED IN THE FLESH IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE, HE WAS A MAN, BUT IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, HE DID NOT USE FLESHLY METHODS OR MOTIVES TO FIGHT THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE.

\*\*\*\* HE DID NOT USE FLESHLY WEAPONS IN THE SPIRITUAL WAR HE WAS IN, THIS WAR IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD AND PAUL DID NOT FIGHT WITH FLESHLY METHODS AND TECHNIQUES, FOR TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD DO



NOT CARRY OUT THEIR MINISTRIES ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.

**1. PAUL'S METHOD OF WARFARE WAS NOT CONVENTIONAL, FLESHLY OR NATURAL BUT IN A SUPERNATURAL WAY. AND YOU CANNOT FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES WITH CARNAL FLESHLY WEAPONS.**

\* AND PAUL WILL ELABORATE ON THIS IN V. 4. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 4. NOW THE POINT IN V. 4 IS, A SPIRITUAL WAR CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT WITH FLESHLY WEAPONS.

**\* THE WEAPONS OF THE CHRISTIAN'S WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL OR FLESHLY FOR THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GOD'S FORCES AND THOSE OF SATAN IS SPIRITUAL AND MUST BE FOUGHT WITH SPIRITUAL WEAPONS.**

\*\* BELOVED, **THE WEAPONS IN PAUL'S ARSENAL** WERE NOT HUMAN WISDOM, HUMAN INGENUITY OR HUMAN METHODS.

\*\*\* FOR THE **CONFLICT BETWEEN GOD'S FORCES** AND THOSE OF SATAN IS SPIRITUAL AND MUST BE FOUGHT WITH SPIRITUAL WEAPONS.

\*\*\*\* BUT TOO MANY CHRISTIANS ARE TRYING TO USE FLESHLY WEAPONS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

1. LET ME ILLUSTRATE. JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS SAID AND I QUOTE: **"HUMAN REASON, WISDOM, PLANS, STRATEGIES, ORGANIZATIONS, SKILL, ELOQUENCE, MARKETING, RELIGIOUS SHOWMANSHIP, PHILOSOPHICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL SPECULATIONS, RITUALISM, PRAGMATISM OR MYSTICISM ARE ALL INEFFECTIVE WEAPONS AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS."**

\* HE WENT ON TO SAY, **"THEY CANNOT RESCUE SINNERS FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS OR TRANSFORM BELIEVERS INTO CHRIST'S LIKENESS. SUCH WEAPONS GAIN ONLY SUPERFICIAL, TEMPORARY AND DECEPTIVE VICTORIES AT BEST."** (END QUOTE)

\*\* NOW THAT QUOTE LEADS ME TO ASK A **QUESTION, IF FLESHLY WEAPONS DON'T WORK** IN TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE, THEN WHICH ONES DO?

\*\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER STARTS AT THE END OF V. 4, WEAPONS THAT ARE **"DIVINELY POWERFUL FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FORTRESSES."**

\*\*\*\* WHICH MEANS ONLY DIVINELY POWERFUL, **HEAVEN'S WEAPONS, GOD'S WEAPONS ARE** SUITED FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENEMIES FORTRESSES.

2. AND THE WORD FORTRESSES HERE LIT. MEANS STRONGHOLDS, CASTLES, FORTIFIED PLACES INTO WHICH PEOPLE COULD RETREAT WHEN ATTACKED.

\* THEY WERE STRONGHOLDS OR FORTRESSES IN BATTLE THAT WERE MADE TO BE IMPREGNABLE, TO WHICH PEOPLE WOULD FLEE TO BE PROTECTED.

\*\* NOW THE FORTRESSES THAT PEOPLE FLEE TO TODAY ARE NOT PHYSICAL FORTRESSES, CASTLES, FORTIFIED PLACES, AN ACROPOLIS OR A CITADEL. SO WHAT ARE THEY?

\*\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN V. 5. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 5. NOW IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE **TODAY, SINNERS DON'T FLEE TO PHYSICAL** FORTRESSES. THEREFORE FLESHLY WEAPONS CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY ASSAULT THE FORMIDABLE STRONGHOLDS IN WHICH SINNERS HAVE ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES.

\* AND SUCH IMPOTENT WEAPONS CANNOT BRING THE DESTRUCTION OF THOSE FORTRESSES WHICH PAUL IN V. 5 DEFINES CLEARLY AS SPECULATIONS, WHICH ARE IDEOLOGIES, WRONG WAYS OF THINKING, FALSE BELIEFS, LIES, SINFUL WORLDVIEWS, VALUE SYSTEMS, PROUD CASTLES OF THE MIND.

\*\* AND I WANT THIS TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR. THE FORTRESSES IN VIEW HERE ARE NOT DEMONS, BUT IDEOLOGIES.

\*\*\* BELOVED OUR BATTLE IS AGAINST FALSE IDEOLOGIES THAT THE WORLD BELIEVES PROPAGATED BY DEMONS THROUGH HUMAN BEINGS - IDEOLOGIES OF FALSE RELIGION, LIVE FOR THE NOW, MATERIALISM, NATURALISM, ECUMENISM, RELATIVISM, PLURALISM, WORSHIP MOTHER EARTH, EVOLUTIONISM, ETC.

\*\*\*\* AND UNDERSTAND DOOMED SOULS, LOST SOULS ARE INSIDE THESE FORTRESSES OF IDEAS AND PHILOSOPHIES AND WRONG BELIEFS WHICH BECOME PRISONS FOR LOST PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DECEIVED INTO WRONG THINKING.

1. AND THEY ARE NOT ONLY PRISONS, BUT EVENTUALLY BECOME TOMBS, UNLESS THEY ARE DELIVERED FROM THEM BY BELIEF IN THE TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE.

\* BUT MOVING ON IN V. 5, NOTICE THAT PAUL FURTHER DEFINES STRONGHOLDS OF IDEAS AND BELIEFS AS EVERY LOFTY THING THAT IS RAISED UP AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

\*\* AND THIS STRONGHOLD IS ANY UNBIBLICAL SYSTEM OF BELIEF OR THOUGHT EXALTED AS TRUTH - RAISED UP AGAINST, AGAINST THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WHICH COMES THROUGH HIS WORD THE BIBLE.

\*\*\* THEREFORE, TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS NOT A BATTLE WITH DEMONS. IT IS A BATTLE FOR THE MINDS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPTIVE TO LIES THAT ARE LIFTED UP IN OPPOSITION TO SCRIPTURE.

\*\*\*\* HENCE ALL UNBELIEVERS HAVE A FORTRESS IN WHICH THEY ATTEMPT TO HIDE FROM THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

2. AND THOSE FORTRESSES ARE WORLDLY PHILOSOPHIES, PSYCHOLOGIES, WORLD RELIGIONS, APOSTATE FORMS OF CHRISTIANITY CULTS, EVOLUTIONISM, RELATIVISM, AND ALL KINDS OF ISMS.

\* AND NATURALISM IS ONE OF THE BIG ONES TODAY, THAT NATURE IS ULTIMATE REALITY WITH ITS EVOLUTIONARY ROOTS.

\*\* AND WHAT WE ARE SEEING AT THE END OF 2012 IN AMERICA TODAY IS THE IDEOLOGY OF NATURALISM THAT REARS ITS UGLY HEAD BY ATTEMPTING TO SHUT GOD OUT OF PUBLIC LIFE, THE COURTS, SCHOOLS, SOCIAL POLICY AND ATTEMPTING TO ELIMINATE ALL BIBLICAL INFLUENCE IN MORALITY AND ETHICS.

\*\*\* AND THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO SECULARIZE EVERYTHING. AND EVEN TO THE PLACE THAT SOME HUMANIST SECULARISTS THINK THAT CHRISTIANS ARE OUT OF LINE COMMUNICATING **THAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CHRIST'S** BIRTH. HOW COULD WE HAVE THE AUDACITY TO DO **THAT? WE'RE ALWAYS PUSHING OUR CRUTCH** BELIEFS ON PEOPLE.

\*\*\*\* WITH THAT SAID, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WELL TWO THINGS. V. 5A, WE MUST DESTROY SPECULATIONS AND LIES.



3. AND THE WORD DESTROY MEANS TO SMASH DOWN, TO TAKE DOWN, TO PULL DOWN THESE WRONG WAYS OF THINKING WITH THE TRUTH **OF GOD'S WORD.**

\* WE AGGRESSIVELY AND LOVINGLY LIFT UP THE TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHO HE IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE, WHAT HE WILL DO, AND HOW HE IS THE ONLY SAVIOR, THE GOD MAN, THE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH, THE GREAT I AM, THE PROMISED SEED THAT HAS BRUISED THE **SERPENT'S HEAD**, HE IS IMMANUEL, THE DOOR, THE TRUE VINE, THE WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE, THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE JUDGE, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, THE ONE WHO WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN, WHO DIED, WAS BURIED AND ROSE AGAIN, THE ONE WHOM CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

\*\* AND WE USE THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE TO LIFT HIM UP AND PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIM AS THE EXALTED CHRIST AND THAT THEY MUST BOW THE KNEE TO HIM.

\*\*\* AND WE HAVE TO SMASH DOWN LIES ABOUT HIM AND LIES ABOUT THE BIBLE SKILLFULLY USING THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, OUR ONLY OFFENSIVE WEAPON IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, EPHESIANS 6:17, (QUOTE IT).

\*\*\*\* BUT, NEXT IN WHAT WE DO, WE FIND AT THE END OF V. 5, WE ARE TO "TAKE EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST."

4. AND THAT MEANS THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR **WARFARE IS THROUGH USING GOD'S TRUTH, GOD'S WORD, WE CHANGE HOW PEOPLE THINK,** THAT THEIR MINDS WHICH HAVE BEEN BLINDED ARE NO LONGER CAPTIVE TO DAMNING IDEOLOGIES AND WAYS OF THINKING.

\* AND TO DO SO AGAIN, WE MUST ASSAULT, SMASH DOWN THE FORTRESSES OF FALSE RELIGIONS, BELIEFS, OPINIONS, PHILOSOPHIES AND BELIEFS, AND ONLY ONE WEAPON CAN DO THAT, THE TRUTH.

\*\* AND THAT IS SO OBVIOUS THAT PAUL **DOESN'T EVEN MENTION IT HERE. FOR ONLY** ONE THING EXPOSES AND CORRECTS LIES – THE TRUTH.

\*\*\* HENCE TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT, FOUGHT IN THE MIND BY ASSAULTING AND SMASHING DOWN THE PROUD FORTRESSES OF IDEAS THAT SINNERS ERECT AGAINST THE TRUTH.

\*\*\*\* WE MUST TAKE CAPTIVE WHICH LIT. MEANS TO TAKE CAPTIVE WITH A SPEAR, USING THE **SWORD OF GOD'S TRUTH AND SMASH ENEMY FORTRESSES TO THE GROUND AND BY GOD'S** GRACE IN HIS SOVEREIGN WORK, MARCH THE PRISONERS OUT AND BRING THEM INTO SUBJECTION (LIT. OBEDIENCE) TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

5. FOR THE TERM THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST IS LIT. A SYNONYM FOR SALVATION, QUOTE ACTS 6:7.

\* AND WE LIFT UP THE TRUTH IN A WORLD OF LIES TO GLORIFY GOD AND TO SEE HIS PEOPLE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS. WHAT A GLORIOUS PURPOSE AFTER WE COME TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

**\*\* BUT QUICKLY LOOK AT V. 6 AND WE'LL CLOSE.**

D. READ V. 6. NOW AS KIND OF A CONCLUSION TO THIS PARAGRAPH, TO THIS OPENING SECTION OF II CORINTHIANS 10, PAUL WANTED HIS READERS TO KNOW THAT HE WAS EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT MATTERS.

\* HE HAD THE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS FROM CHRIST HIS LORD. AND IN EXERCISE OF HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY HE WAS NOT TIMID TO DEAL WITH DISOBEDIENCE AND REBELLION AND FALSE TEACHING BY THE REBELLIOUS MINORITY.

\*\* AND AT HIS NEXT VISIT TO CORINTH, HE WAS READY TO PUNISH, TO DEAL HEAD ON WITH ANY REMAINING DISOBEDIENCE TO THE TRUTH OF **GOD'S WORD** BY THOSE PROPAGATING LIES AND ERROR.

\*\*\* PAUL WOULD SMASH DOWN WRONG IDEOLOGIES.

\*\*\*\* AND THE LAST PHRASE OF V. 6, "WHENEVER YOUR OBEDIENCE IS COMPLETE" IS A **REFERENCE TO PAUL'S EXPECTATION THAT THE MAJORITY, THAT THE CHURCH ON THE WHOLE WOULD COMPLY WITH HIS APPEAL AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

1. PAUL HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH THAT THEY WOULD FOLLOW THROUGH SO THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED, NO UNPLEASANTNESS WOULD MAR THE JOY OF THEIR REUNION.

\* HOWEVER, HE WAS PREPARED TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH THE FEW WHO WERE STILL REBELLIOUS. HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE FALSE TEACHERS TO DESTROY THAT CHURCH.

\*\* PAUL DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN THE MANY WHO WERE FAITHFUL AND THE FEW WHO WERE NOT.

IN WRAP UP AND APPLICATION: (1) THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE DOOR OF BEING VICTORIOUS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS BECOMING PROFICIENT, BECOMING COMPETENT, SKILLED AT USING THE SWORD OF THE BIBLE AGAINST THE LIES PEOPLE BELIEVE.

\*\* IT IS TO SAY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT ERROR WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUTH.

\*\*\* AND JUST AS SOLDIERS TRAIN REGULARLY IN THE USE OF THEIR WEAPONS, SO ALSO MUST CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS WORK AT BEING PROFICIENT IN USING THE **SWORD OF GOD'S** WORD AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

\*\*\*\* AND **ONLY THE POWER OF GOD'S TRUTH** CAN SMASH THE LIES OF OUR WORLD SPAWNED BY WRONG IDEOLOGIES FROM OUR ENEMY – THE DEVIL.

(2) AND BELOVED, IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER WE FIGHT THE SPIRITUAL WAR FOR THE TRUTH AGAINST LIES, FOR THE BATTLE IS UNAVOIDABLE, WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF LIES PROPAGATED THROUGH TV, MUSIC, THE INTERNET AND ALL KINDS OF OUTLETS.

\* SO BELIEVE THE TRUTH, KNOW AND STUDY THE TRUTH, PROCLAIM THE TRUTH TO SMASH DOWN THE IDEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE LIES.

\*\* AND IN THE PROCESS YOU WILL BE SANCTIFIED. FOR AS YOU STUDY THE TRUTH AND APPLY THE TRUTH, YOU WILL LEARN TO THINK RIGHT AND YIELD TO THE TRUTH AND NOT TO LIES. (QUOTE JOHN 17:17 AND PRAY)