

# The Weapons of Our Warfare

2 Cor. 10:1-6

## Introduction:

- A. We are at war - as individual Christians and as the church.
  - 1. Our warfare is not carnal, it is a spiritual war. (v. 3; cf. Eph. 6:11,12).
  - 2. Our objective is to bring every thought into captivity for Christ. (v. 5)
    - a. To war after the flesh is to compete for these minds by fleshly means.
    - b. To war after the flesh to seek to win converts by fleshly enticement.
    - c. To war after the flesh is to try to compete with the world on its level.
    - d. To war after the flesh is to try to confront human religion on its level.
- B. We are at war - but all is not fair in this war.
  - 1. We are not allowed the same tactics that the enemy uses.
  - 2. We are given weapons far more powerful than the world uses.
  - 3. We are reminded of two important facts about the weapons of our warfare.

## Discussion:

- I. **The Weapons Of Our Warfare Are Mighty In God.** (v. 4)
  - A. Carnal weapons are too weak for the enemy we face. (vs. 4-6; cf. Eph. 6:10-13)
  - B. Christians armed with "whole armor of God" are a powerful force. (Eph. 6:14-20)
  - C. Spiritual weapons seem weak to others - but Christians know better. (1 Cor. 1:18-25)
    - 1. The gospel is the power of God to salvation. (Rom. 1:16).
    - 2. The truth of the gospel is the only thing that can bring men into obedience to Christ.
- II. **The Weapons Of Our Warfare Are Not Carnal.** (vs. 3,4)
  - A. Paul had rather leave carnal weapons to those who war after the flesh.
  - B. Paul discusses carnal weapons used by some in 2 Cor. 10-12.
    - 1. *Appealing to Fleshly Talent and Strength.* (10:7-10)
      - a. Apollos was eloquent, but his power was in Scripture. (Acts 18:24,28; cf 1 Cor. 1:5)
      - b. Paul was neither eloquent or strong in appearance. (10:10)
      - c. There are brethren who are outstanding a variety secular fields.
        - (1) As faithful Christians they are assets to the Cause.
        - (2) But to use their fleshly status as a weapon in our warfare is to war after the flesh and defeats God's purpose (cf. 1 Cor. 1:27-31; 2 Cor. 10:17)
    - d. *Resorting to Fleshly Competition* (10:12-18)
    - e. Paul was not about to get into a P.R. contest with false teachers.
      - (1) It was not wise.
      - (2) It would accomplish nothing for the Lord. (v. 18)
    - f. Brethren need to learn that we cannot compete with other religions on purely fleshly grounds.
      - (1) A false teacher and his people may be more, less or just as friendly as we are.
      - (2) A false teacher and his church may minister to the physical needs of others as well as, less than or even better than we are able to.
      - (3) A local denomination and its ministers may be as educated, less educated, or more educated and/or polished than we are.
    - g. *Boasting of Fleshly Genealogy.* (11:16-33)
    - h. Paul match the false teachers in this area - but it meant nothing.
    - i. "Who's Who List" on membership roles really mean nothing - use such to draw people to the church is to war after the flesh.
    - j. *Boasting of Fleshly Wisdom.* (12:1-10)

- k. Paul had rather boast of revelations.
- l. Paul had rather boast of being made weak physically for Christ's sake.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us not resort to warring after the fleshly regardless to the temptation.
- B. Let us understand that the gospel will save without the aid of fleshly weapons.