

WAGE PEACE

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-11

guide:

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

for reflection & discussion: NT Wright, and Adapted

[Remember: Group compassion work!, group celebrations: birthdays, life-events, holiday season! Aim for three times a month+meeting, ask who is missing - follow up!]

1. What ideas, arguments, philosophies, movements and religious teachings have wide influence today? What makes them appealing? (Go beyond debates around sexuality, think more broadly)
2. Read the 10:1-11 text. What kind of strategy do you see in the battle for the mind in 1-6?
3. V. 5 is key in Paul's strategy. What does it look like in daily life to "take every thought prisoner"?
4. Do you have a routine of self-reflection? Do you analyze why you might be thinking what you are thinking at any given moment? Why might this be helpful?
5. How can we work through our questions constructively?
6. The battle for the mind has to be fought not only outside the church but inside as well. Paul is beginning once more to do this in 1-11. He knows they are now mostly leaning towards him, but some are still inclined to reject his teaching about Jesus. How does 7-11 fit with 1-6 in showing Paul's response?
7. "Many people today find Paul's boldness worrying. They don't like thinking of a Christian teacher being so confrontational, but we can't have it both ways. Paul has been accused of being weak and insignificant. He boldly shows that they are mistaken. How can boldness and humility be combined appropriately in our relationships and ministry?"
8. Paul is calling them to the life and ways of Jesus, of wholeness, of peace, yet he uses military imagery - what dangers does that cause for us?

pray

NT Wright notes, "There is no insight, no vision of truth, so noble and lofty that it cannot be perverted and made an instrument of human pride. Likewise, there is no small glimmer of light, no faint echo of reality, so small or corrupt that it cannot be taken into the service of the world's creator and rightful Lord...All truth is God's truth."
The Peace Jesus brings is not passive—it calls us into action and satisfies our hearts' longings. But we do wage a battle with various ideologies wanting to claim us vs. the way of Jesus. How do we fight these battles? Paul gives us some insights we will learn this Sunday.

PRE FLIGHT STORY

- NT Wright game of capture....

OUTLINE:

Guthrie

- IV. Paul Confronts the Malignant Ministry of His Opponents 10:1-13:13
 - A. Present of Absent, Paul's Authority is the Same 10:1-11
 1. Meekness not weakness 10:1-2
 2. Spiritual warfare according to God's standards 10:3-7a
 3. The apostle's claim to authority 10:7b-11
 - B. Proper and Improper Boasting 10:12-18



connect

- need prayer?
- ask questions
- get information
- make comments
- meet with pastor Shel or Josh
- sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- join a Home Church

THE FLIGHT THROUGH THE PASSAGE

1. Meekness not weakness 10:1-2 *Now I, Paul, appeal to you personally by the meekness and gentleness of Christ (I who am meek when present among you, but am full of courage toward you when away!)-² now I ask that when I am present I may not have to be bold with the confidence that (I expect) I will dare to use against some who consider us to be behaving according to human standards.*

▫ **2 Corinthians 10:1**

- The first words in chapter 10 shift of tone and strategy.

Garland, "He is defending his authority, explaining theological significance of his weakness, and warning of his power and willingness to discipline the disobedient vigorously when he comes" (Guthrie, 466).

▫ **2 Corinthians 10:2**

2. Spiritual warfare according to God's standards 10:3-7a ³ *For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards,* ⁴ *for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments* ⁵ *and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ.* ⁶ *We are also ready to punish every act of disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.* ^{7a} *You are looking at outward appearances.*

- **2 Corinthians 10:3** Roman soldiers, the power-over of on-the-ground the Roman empire were everywhere. Philosophers and professional speakers used military word pictures, Keener writes, to describe battling against rival ideologies or false opinions.
- **2 Corinthians 10:4a-b** He describes the weapons, and then 4c-5 the effectiveness of the weapons
 - **12:10** "for when I am weak, then I am powerful/strong!"
- **2 Corinthians 10:4c-5** "tearing down the enemies walls, capturing enemy soldiers, and prosecuting those soldiers."
 - 1) thoughts, calculations, reasonings, reflections AKA arguments.
 - 2) every rampart raised against knowledge of God
 - Paul sees our mind as a battleground. The teachings and life of Jesus give us a grid for self-reflection.

2 Corinthians 10:6-7a

3) Captured soldiers must be prosecuted

3. The apostle's claim to authority 10:7b-11 ^{7b} *If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should reflect on this again: Just as he himself belongs to Christ, so too do we.* ⁸ *For if I boast somewhat more about our authority that the Lord gave us for building you up and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of doing so.* ⁹ *I do not want to seem as though I am trying to terrify you with my letters,* ¹⁰ *because some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is of no account."* ¹¹ *Let such a person consider this: What we say by letters when we are absent, we also are in actions when we are present.*

Three primary thoughts in the last verses 2 Corinthians 10:7b-11 today...

▫ **2 Corinthians 10:7b-11b-8**

▫ **2 Corinthians 10:9-11**

LANDING AND ARRIVAL