

Series: Words of Council and Correction

THE WEAPON OF OUR WARFARE

2 CORINTHIANS 10

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:4

2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Introduction:

Now, all of us are fighting a battle of some kind. Some of our battles are serious, and some of our battles are silly.

Some are fighting what we call the battle of the bulge.

Illustration:

You may have heard about the man that was on a diet. He drove past the donut shop and he thought to himself how good a donut and a cup of coffee would be.

He said to himself "I really shouldn't stop."

But he thought maybe I supposed to stop.

He then said if there's a parking place right at the front door I'll know it was meant for me to stop.

And he said, "Sure enough, after I circled the block on the seventh time a spot opened up right in front of the door."

We fight those kinds of battles sometimes.

But there is much more serious battle going on.

It's not a battle between nations; it's not a battle between neighbors; it's not even a battle between men or women.

It's a battle for the hearts, the souls, and minds of men and women; it's a battle between God and Satan.

Note:

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

This is the war we are talking about.

This is a deadly serious war.

That is why Paul instructed Timothy to fight a good fight.

1 Timothy 6:12

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

He also instructed him to endure hardness as a good soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3

³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

I want us to consider three basic things.

We should never be ignorant of the war, because you will be defeated one day.

Note:

1. THE WILES OF OUR FOE

The first thing we consider is the wiles of our foe.

The first thing we consider is the wiles of our foe—the wiles of our foe.

Who is our enemy? In a war, there has to be an adversary.

Who is our foe? Who is our adversary?

Note Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6:11-12

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The word wiles is the same word that we get our word methods from.

Our enemy is organized, systematized, and mobilized.

That is why we must put on the whole armor of God.

We know that there is a hierarchy of invisible, diabolical enemy.

There are under the command of the prince of darkness, the father of lies; and he has a plan.

He has already made plans to sabotage your life—to ruin you, to hurt you, to harm you, to deceive you.

He will methodically destroy your life.

The battle ground is our mind.

Note again verse 4-5:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

*⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)⁵ **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself **against the knowledge of God**, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

The battle is for your minds. Fast-forward over to chapter 11.

2 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The battleground is in the realm of imagination, the realm of knowledge, and the realm of our thought life.

What the devil wants to do is to corrupt our mind.

Why does Satan want your mind?

He wants to make a stronghold out of your mind.

The devil uses your thought life against Almighty God.

His war is with God. You're just simply a tool and a pawn in his strategy. He's methodically using your thought life to war against God. Now, God also wants your mind, because when God wants to change you, God changes you by changing your mind. Repentance means, "a change of mind." And, once you change your mind, the Bible says we now have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We are transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Romans 12:2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Satan wants to either blind your mind, if you're lost, or corrupt your mind, if you're saved.

Note not only the Wile of the Foe but secondly:

2. THE WEAKNESS OF OUR FLESH

2 Corinthians 10:3

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

All of us, in ourselves, are weak.

The bible says:

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 14:38

³⁸ Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Understand our enemy is not flesh and blood.

And, therefore, our weapons cannot be the weapons of flesh and blood.

And, the battle may be within man, but it's not between men.

We need to understand this.

And, a part of our problem is we've been trying to defeat a spiritual enemy with carnal weapons.

There are three carnal weapons the people think are the answers.

The three big carnal weapons: education, legislation, and environment. Everybody thinks those are the answers.

- Education

They think that, if we can just educate people, then we are just going to solve the problem.

Nazi Germany was educated. You take a man and give him an education without letting him know the Lord Jesus Christ, and what do you do?

You make a clever devil.

He just has more ability to be wicked and to be cruel.

Somebody has well said, "Take an ignorant man—he may steal a watermelon from a boxcar.

Give him an education—he'll steal the whole railroad."

He just has more ability to be evil with. I'm not against education, but education is not the answer.

- Legislation

Some believe we need to make more laws, have better government." Government cannot make you better.

All government can do is restrain evil.

Government cannot change hearts.

You cannot be made better by a government.

But, we think, somehow, by legislation, that we can change the hearts and minds of people.

Legislation is not the answer.

- Environment

Everybody says, People often say "Well, if everybody had better jobs, if we could get people out of the slums and so forth, then we could change mankind."

May we be reminded sin came into existence with man in the Garden of Eden a perfect environment.

I'm for better housing, I'm for better environment—safer, cleaner streets, but none of these deal with the heart.

Note Proverbs 23

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

We have considered the Wiles of the Foe and the Weakness of Our Flesh, note lastly:

3. THE WEAPONS OF OUR FIGHT

Satan wants the minds of men and women to blind the minds of the unsaved, to corrupt the mind of the saved.

That is why the weapons of our warfare are not carnal or fleshly.

Think about our war.

The word for warfare there is a word that literally means "campaign."

Paul stated we are at war but the weapons that we are to use are not fleshly weapons.

These weapons are still available for us today.

Consider briefly some of these weapons:

A. Faith In Christ

This may not sound like much of a weapon but note again verse 7.

2 Corinthians 10:7

⁷ Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

Why is that a weapon?

The things that are true about Christ are true about me. I am in Him, and He is in me.

Now this weapon is only available to those who have trusted Christ as their Saviour.

The second weapon we consider is:

B. Our Authority from Christ

2 Corinthians 10:8

⁸ For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

What is authority? Authority is the legally given right to act on behalf of another person. And, every child of God has that authority.

Note:

Luke 10:19-20

¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

²⁰ Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

The Lord commanded us to go and make disciples, and then, He said, "Lo, I am with you. All authority is given unto Me. And lo, I am with you"

The devil hopes that you don't understand this authority. And, the only way that the devil can overcome you and mess with your mind is for you to fail to understand the authority that has already been given you in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another weapon is:

C. Humility Before Christ

Nothing will put an individual more in the devil's trap than pride, and nothing is a greater weapon against the devil than true humility.

The Bible says, of a young preacher, that he must not be "a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil"

1 Timothy 3:6

⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Close:

There's a war going on. There are the wiles of our foe, and the weakness of our flesh.

But, there are the weapons of our warfare; and, it is faith in Christ, authority from Christ, boldness through Christ, and humility before Christ.

You get those things down in your heart and in your life, and you put them into practice, and you're going to live victoriously.

It is God's plan; it is God's will; it is God's way, that God's people be triumphant.

It's time that we started standing up, rather than folding up.