

# ***Paul's Defense of His Ministry, Part 1***

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

**I. Paul's appeal to the church,** 2 Corinthians 10:1-2

**II. Paul's approach to spiritual warfare,** 2 Cor. 9:6-9

**III. Paul's defense to his opposition,** 2 Cor. 10:7-11

**VI. Paul's words to his enemies,** 2 Cor. 10:12-18

# ***Paul's Defense of His Ministry, Part 1***

2 Corinthians 10:1-11:4

## **I. Paul's appeal to the church, 2 Corinthians 10:1-2**

### **A. A personal plea to prepare for his visit, v. 1**

**Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you, v. 1**

- with Christlike humility,**
- when present - lowly, cast down, base**
- when absent - bold toward you, confident**

# ***Paul's Defense of His Ministry, Part 1***

## **I. Paul's appeal to the church, Cont. 2 Corinthians 10:1-2**

### **B. Who is the "you", v. 1 Those who:**

- Think of us as though we walked according to the flesh. v. 2b**
- look at things according to outward appearance.**
- who measure themselves by themselves, v. 12**
- who commend himself, v. 18**
- who are open to false teaching, 11:4**
- who are false apostles, deceitful, ... 11:13**
- who are ministers of Satan, 11:15**

# ***Paul's Defense of His Ministry, Part 1***

## **I. Paul's appeal to the church, cont. 2 Cor. 10:1-2**

### **C. Paul's reason for this discourse, v. 2**

**1. To prepare them for his upcoming visit, v. 2a**

**2. To address those who *"Think of us as though we walked according to the flesh."* v. 2b**

# ***Paul's Defense of His Ministry, Part 1***

## **II. Paul's approach to spiritual warfare, 2 Cor. 10:3-6**

**The accusation: *Walking according to the flesh.* v. 2b**

**The defense: *“Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.”* v. 3**

**1. Their weapons were of the Spirit and not carnal. v. 4a**

**2. Their weapons are *“mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”* v. 4b**

## **II. Paul's approach to spiritual warfare, 2 Cor.**

10:3-6

**The *“mighty in God”* weapons: (Eph. 6:14-18)**

**The *waist girded with the Truth.* v. 14a**

**Wearing the breastplate of righteousness. v. 14b**

**Feet shod with the gospel of peace. v. 15**

**Bearing the shield of faith. v. 16**

**Wearing the helmet of salvation. v. 17a**

**Carry the sword of the Spirit. v. 17b**

***“Praying always with all prayers ...”* v. 18**

## **II. Paul's approach to spiritual warfare, 2 Cor.**

10:3-6

### **Strongholds to be pulled down: v. 5**

**1. "Casting Down *arguments*,"** v. 5a

**2. "Casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the *knowledge of God*."** v. 5b

**3. "Bringing every thought into captivity & obedience"**

v. 5b

**4. "Being ready to avenge all disobedience."** v. 6

# **III. Paul's defense to the opposition, 2 Cor. 10:7-11**

## **A. The question: v. 7**

***“Do you look at things according to outward appearance only?”*** 2 Cor. 10:7

## **B. Paul's boast about his authority, 2 Cor. 10:8-10**

**His authority was:**

**1. From the Lord, *“which the Lord gave us.”*** v. 8

**2. For edification and not destruction,** v. 8b

**3. It was restrained.** vv. 9-1-10

**Therefore it will be what you see is what you get.** v. 11



## **IV. Paul's words to the enemies, 2 Cor. 10:12-18**

### **A. A God-appointed sphere of authority, vv. 12-13**

**1. The “*not wise*” comparison, vv. 12-13**

**2. They were within their sphere, v. 14**

**3. He was not boasting of  
“*other men's labors.*” v. 15**

**4. Paul's desire was to, “*preach  
the gospel in the regions beyond you,*” v. 16**

## **IV. Paul's words to the enemies, cont. 2 Cor. 10:12-18**

### **B. A caution:**

***“But he who glories, let him glory in the Lord”***

2 Cor. 10:17

***“For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.”*** v. 18

**The final analysis is the Lord's commendation.**