

2 Corinthians 10

12-12-12

God's Weapons or Worldly Weapons!

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Christmas Eve Services: 7pm & 11pm.
- B. Gifts For Eternity:

II. **Intro:**

- A. **Slide#2** I've always loved **Weapons**. I remember as a kid visiting Olivera Street & getting my 1st **pop-gun**. I remember my first **Daisy BB-gun**. I remember shooting my 1st *real* gun with my dad, a *High Standard Duramatic* 22 pistol. Then finally his 12 gauge **SHOTGUN!** **What Power!**
 1. I never went back to the Pop-Gun again!
 2. Interesting as Christians though, we taste of **heavens mighty weapons...**but then revert back to our human...**popguns, paint-guns, & pee shooters.**
 - a) I was like a kid last night receiving my very 1st **Marshmallow gun**. [demonstrate]
 - (1) **See how easy it is to revert back? :)**
 3. **We'll read, God has given us an arsenal, a collection of heavenly weapons.** To revert back is as foolish as grabbing for our earthly pop-guns, in a real war.
- B. **Slide#3 Title:** *God's Weapons or Worldly Weapons!*
- C. **Outline:** Pop-Gun Warfare; X-Ray Vision; Seek One Commendation.

III. Slide#4 **POP-GUN WARFARE! (1-6)**

- A. (1) The old adage is true here, "*you can't win for losin*"!
 1. **Paul you're too harsh & you're too soft!** [you're softy in person; a bully in letters!]
 2. So he starts with that combo in Christ "**meekness & gentleness**".
 - a) **Meekness** = *Power under control* + **Gentleness** = *thoughtful & considerate* (used of a person who looks for a way to make peace in a calm, decent way).
 - (1) So, if you see **weakness** in me...it is really **meekness** that Christ taught us!
 - b) **Just because he didn't use carnal methods but spiritual one's, he was seen as weak???**
- B. (2) Paul must again **defend & vindicate** his apostleship office, in these last 4 chapters.
 1. The attacks are coming from these self acclaimed "**super-apostles**" (11:5) in which he later identifies as "**false apostles**"(11:13).
- C. (3-6) We, like Paul, all **walk in the flesh** (i.e. we all have the weakness of the flesh) **but** he did not war after the flesh by depending on "**fleshly wisdom, human abilities, nor physical prowess.**"
 1. Moses had to learn that God's weapons are **spiritual!**
 - a) **Remember** Moses 1st warred after the flesh & "**struck down the Egyptian**".

b) **Later**, God showed him how to *war after the spirit* & he watch Gods hand move against the heart of Pharaoh & the nation of Egypt, w/God's signs & wonders...**not Moses'**!

- D. There is **no truce** in Satan's invisible war. There are *daily clashes* with him & his cohorts, especially the battle with & for **your mind!**
1. That **bloodless battle** is fought where no one can see...**on the battle field of their mind.**
 2. **Slide#5** In C.S.Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, it is an imaginary correspondence between an older devil, **Screwtape** & his ambitious young nephew, **Wormwood**. Lewis lifts the veil on the inner workings of Satan's dark hierarchy.
 - a) You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.
- E. **Slide#6a** Satan loves to **blind** minds to God's light! (2 Cor.4:4)
1. **Whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
- F. **Slide#6b** Satan loves to **fortify** minds against God's truth! (vss.1-6)
- G. **Slide#6c** Satan loves to **corrupt** minds against God's Son! (2 Cor.11:3)
1. **As the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, so your minds may be **corrupted** from the **simplicity(purity)** that is in Christ.
- H. **Slide#7blank** Paul gives great advice here to ensure a **victory** in *spiritual warfare*.
1. The only way to wage successful spiritual warfare is by **abandoning worldly ways & worldly attitudes**.
 2. **How do you war?...According to the flesh?** - Do you **buckle on the belt** of verbal abuse? Strap on your **breastplate** of **self-righteousness**? Put on your **shoes** of fake-quick-peace? Place on your **helmet** of heartache? Slays others w/**the sword** of your tongue? **Praying always**...“Lord, fix them!”? Is **watchful**...“of all their mistakes”? And **persevere** till you win the argument, **or** till the other party is exhausted & forfeits the win to you?
 3. **Why won't we fight fair with the weapons of warfare** God gave us?
 - a) “Truthfulness, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, His Word, Prayer, being watchful, & persevering.”

b) How will that type of fighting help your **marriage**? Help your **employee** issues? Help your **coworker** issues? [speaking truth,...etc]

- I. (4) **Pulling down strongholds** – Maybe Paul was thinking of **Joshua** & the victory of *Jericho's walls*?
1. Our **victory** comes when we **count on God!** (see, **in God**)
 2. Maybe Paul was thinking of Prov.21:22 **A wise man scales the city of the mighty, And brings down the trusted stronghold.**
 3. **Slide#8** That's why it was important for **Nehemiah** to get to Israel to **rebuild** the wall! **And** that's why the strategy of **Joshua** against Jericho was to 1st get it walls **to fall!**
- J. (5) **Captivity** – (LKGNT) “to take one captive w/a spear, to bring into captivity, to bring into subjection.” [also it's **pres. tense**, which points to the *continual struggle & warfare*]
1. **Slide#9,10 Let's get the picture.** To protect against attacks a few **high towers** were constructed within the wall of a city. During a siege, military intelligence would give commands from these **observation towers** to those on the wall itself.
 - a) In Neh.3:1 the **Tower of the Hundred & the Tower of Hananel**, later came to be the **Antonia fortress**.
 2. God wants us to **take every thought captive**. He wants us to **scale** those lofty observation towers **& overcome** the military strategists that occupy them.
 - a) This actually sounds like we/with His help can do this? **Bring every thought into captivity!**
 3. F. B. Meyer, “Christ counts evil thoughts as traitors not only to **us**, but also to **Him**. Like the psalmist, you may say, ‘I hate vain thoughts; not only because of the curse they bring to my heart, but for the grief they give to my King.’ Their intrusion is forbidden by the **double barrier** of our own choice and the keeping power of Jesus.
“Let the peace of God keep the door of your heart and mind, scrutinizing each intruder and turning back the unfit. Let the Holy Spirit bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. **Let** the faithful Savior have the keeping of the soul entrusted to Him, that He may watch every menacing thought which lurks in the shadow or steals up the glen.
He is well able to keep what is committed to Him. He will not fail the supplicant whose lips are familiar with the prayer: ‘Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name.’”
- K. **The weapons of the world can be:** intellectualism(not intelligence); personal influence; impressive credentials; rhetorical polish; *and the like*. These things Paul had **discounted** and **discarded**. He did not wage war as the world does or use their weapons. BKC
1. The weapons Paul used were **the proclaimed Word of God** and **prayer**, weapons with divine power.
 2. In dependence on God these weapons, *frail by worldly standards*, are able to **demolish**(pulling down) the **arguments** **and** every **claim** of the gospel's foes.

L. Slide#11 **X-RAY VISION! (7-11)**

1. Slide#12,13 Remember on the back of the old comic books you could actually purchase a pair of glasses, w/concentric circles painted on the lenses, which had small holes to look through, & you could actually have **X-Ray vision** & see through things...**“guaranteed!”**
 - a) The Lord wants us to use **His X-Ray vision glasses** if we are to look at other believers lives.
2. (7) **“The person who judges by appearance always lives to give a good appearance.”** (www)
 - a) Paul lived to **please God** & never tried to be a man-pleaser.
 - b) He was **confident** in his calling & his credentials *from the Lord*.
 - c) **Are you confident in your calling & your credentials from the Lord?**
 - (1) Do your best to be *settled* in that, **because** that’s one of *Satan’s favorite tools*.
3. (8) The **spiritual leaders authority** (whether in the church, or home) is given for a purpose... **building up not tearing down!** [edification/destruction]
 - a) **A leader** is not to try to **“control behavior”** but instead **“influence response”**.
And like **giving** in the last 2 chapters...**never grudgingly or of necessity** (9:7).
4. Slide#14 (10) They even rip on Paul’s physical appearance!
 - a) **“Paul doesn’t have the physical stamina of Peter”** one might say.
Another says, **“He sure isn’t an orator like that Apollos is he?”**
 - (1) On those days you just want to say...**“I’m going back to tent making**. Tents don’t **complain**, they don’t **sin**, & they can’t **criticize!**”
 - b) An **Asian Presbyter** during the 2nd century said of Paul, **“Paul was a man small of stature, w/a bald head & crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting & nose somewhat hooked.”**
 - c) Carnal Christians are **“preacher judges”** & like to compare one servant of God w/ another.
5. (11) Paul warns that his next visit would be as **powerful** as his letters!

IV. Slide#15 **SEEK ONE COMMENDATION! (12-18)**

- A. What has been your **highest honor of commendation** thus far in your life?
 1. **Being in the electrical trade** only 1 year & being advanced to **journeyman’s pay** in the company I worked for when I moved out here.
 2. **Becoming an elder** in this church back in 1986.
 3. **Becoming your pastor** at age 29!
 - a) Slide#16 **But** no matter how long your list of **acclamations & commendations, achievements & accomplishments, trophy’s & ribbons**; **the only real commendation worth its salt** will be **THE LORD’S** commendation to us... **Well done thou good & faithful servant...enter into the joy of your lord!**

b) We need to learn to live for **HIS** approval!

4. Of course you really don't know where your **success** lies.

a) You may **seem like a failure** in your eyes & the eyes of others; **but** God may see you & your work as **a great success** for His Glory.

B. (12) Every Christian soldier has **a place** to fill in His kingdom! (i.e. Nehemiah's wall)

1. What is the problem w/comparing ourselves w/others?

a) We can do better than *the other person*, & still **fall short** of what **God** wants for us!

2. These guys were **card-carrying members** of the "*mutual admiration society*", **comparing themselves w/themselves!**

C. (16) Paul wanted their assistance in taking the gospel to the *regions beyond*. [i.e. **Spain**]

D. **Slide#17,18** (17,18) Paul quotes **Jeremiah 9:24** to remind us where the **glory** belongs. [**Read**]

E. **Slide#19**blank