

"Getting Your Head On Straight" (II Corinthians 10)
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I. THE TEXT

v.6 We can confront those who need to be confronted, once you "get your head on straight."

v.10 These statements are in keeping with the culture of the Corinthians, as well as the thoughts of Jewish rabbis. They were more concerned with externals such as social status, physical appearance, impressive oratory, etc. We have a ficticious physical description of Paul from a second century document called "The Acts of Paul & Thecla which states "small of stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat crooked." Though ficticious, many believe this could well come close to what Paul looked like.

The Corinthians, like typical citizens of any Greco-Roman city in this era, had been fed a rich diet of oratory from birth. One person said this about them: "You are devoted to oratory and you tolerate as speakers only those who are very clever."

v.12 Books written, degrees achieved, references obtained none of these things mean anything to the Lord, nor do they show God's approval of a person's ministry.

* What is the proof of Paul's ministry? (See vv.13-14).

vv.15b-17 Paul hoped that his ministry would expand "among" the Corinthians. But the doctrinal damage & the strained relationship between him and the church threatened the potential of reaching more people in that area with the truth. These self-commending false teachers were "seducing" and deceiving the church. This church was not thinking correctly. They needed to get their thinking back on track

II. LESSONS IN THE TEXT

A. "Strongholds" That Need To Be Demolished

* NIV = "arguments" KJV = "imaginations" 053. logismos, log-is-mos'; from G3049; computation, i.e. (fig.) reasoning (conscience, conceit):--imagination, thought.

- * NIV = "pretension" KJV = "high thing" 5313. hupsoma, hoop'-so-mah; from G5312; an elevated place or thing, i.e. (abstr.) altitude, or (by impl.) a barrier (fig.):--height, high thing.
- * A stronghold is anything that has a strong hold on a person, and literally it has to do with an argument, imagination, or thought that has taken an elevated place and become a barrier in one's life.
- * The strongholds referred to in the context were the fruit of these false teachers that had come into the church. The strongholds they built were first doctrinal, and second personal
- * The first stronghold had to do with the truth of the gospel (See I Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6-9; Acts 15:1ff).
- * The second had to do with the Corinthians thoughts and actions toward the apostle Paul (II Cor.10:10; 11:6; 12:11).
- * Satan is looking to derail us from the track of truth, & he will any method or any man he can in order to do so.
 - B. The Difference Between A Stronghold & Demonic Possession
 - 1. The words used for possession are different
- * 1139. daimonizomai, dahee-mon-id'-zom-ahee; mid. from G1142; to be exercised by a daemon:--have a (be vexed with, be possessed with) devil (-s).
- * 2192. echo, ekh'-o; (includ. an alt. form scheo, skheh'-o; used in certain tenses only); a prim. verb; to hold (used in very various applications, lit. or fig., direct or remote; such as possession, ability, contiguity, relation or condition. "He had a demon."
 - 2. No Bible verses of a Christian who is possessed
 - * Note: I do not believe that a Christian can be demon-possessed. But I am convinced that a Christian can have a stronghold. I also believe that a non-Christian who allows Satan to have a stronghold in their life leaves an avenue for Satan to potentially possess them.
 - C. Some Examples Of Strongholds
 - * Eph.4:6
 - * My stronghold with Tammy
 - D. Demolishing Strongholds
 - 1. Divine weapons are mandatory
 - 2. Different thinking is essential

E. A Closer Look At How This Works

- 1. The number one divine weapon: The Word of God
- * Eph.6 certainly gives us an itemized list of divine weapons for the spiritual battle we face. but I believe the context here suggests that the primary weapon Paul is referring to is the Word of God.
 - * See Jeremiah 23:28-30
- * Once I have the truth of God's Word, the second thing in our text is necessary
 - 2. The second necessary element: Taking captive every thought
- * The connection between the heart and the head; We say someone may have a head knowledge but not a heart knowledge of God, and I understand what we mean by that. But the truth is the heart and the head are inseparably (and mysteriously) linked.
 - * Gen.6: 5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.
 - * Matthew 15: 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.
 - * Matthew 9: 2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?
- * Luke 2: 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,
- 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
 - * II Cor.11: 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
 - Eve began to think wrongly about God (his character, goodness, holiness).
 - * Eph.2: 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

- * II Peter 3:1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.
 - * Prov.4: 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
- * A heart problem is a head problem, and a head problem is a heart problem.
 - 3. A third essential: Making my thoughts obedient to Christ (truth).
- * See Rom.1:18-21; If I hear/know the truth but refuse to humble my heart, I give place to the devil (See Eph.4:26).
 - * See James 1:19-22

F. What I Need To Do

- 1. Separate myself from ungodly influences
- * Matthew 15: 14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."
 - 2. Saturate my life with the Word of God
 - * Heb.4:12; Psalm 119:11
 - 3. Set my mind of what the Spirit desires
 - * Rom.7:21-25; 8:5-8; Col.1:1-10; Phil 4:8
 - * Movies, TV, what I read, etc.
- * Psalm 19: 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.
 - 4. Submit my will to the work of the Spirit
 - * Rom.12:1-2

CONCLUSION

* On June 6, 1944, General Dwight David Eisenhower made a pivotal decision. At 4 a.m. in the morning, he gave the command that sent 155,000 troops across the English Channel in the greatest military invasion in world history. They landed on the beaches of France that were code named Utah, Sword, Juneau, Gold, & the most famous, Omaha. Though the enemy resisted greatly, the soldiers just kept coming, wave after wave. It was a bloody, brutal battle, especially on Omaha Beach. Finally, the Nazi strongholds were taken, and the victory was won. Though Hitler and the boys in Berlin knew they had lost, they continued to fight right to the bitter end. The

outcome of the war was determined on June 6, but more blood was shed in the year following the victory at Normandy than at any other time.

Satan knows he has lost the war, but he continues to fight, and he will do so til the bitter end. The challenge for us is to not let him build a stronghold in territory now belonging to Jesus Christ. And if he has been able to build one, to let the Spirit of God through the Word of God tear it down!

- * Our tendency is to be deceived Our tendency is to deceive ourselves
- * Satan is looking to do anything he can to derail truth in your life and/or to cause disharmony/disunity between you and any godly influence Are you thinking correctly? Any strongholds that need to be demolished in your life?