

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 10:1-6**.
- B. We are to imitate Paul as he imitates (follows) X. To look at the good things in the life of this apostle we see how we can follow after X.
- C. Of the many good qualities that Paul possessed, he was definitely a man of courage.
- D. In becoming an apostle (called out of due season) he had many hurdles to overcome. With great courage following after X, he did just that.
- E. This morning, from 2Cor. 10 we look at the following:
 1. The courage to plead and beg.
 2. The courage to submit to X.
 3. The courage to face issues.
 4. The courage to not walk after the flesh.

I. THE COURAGE TO PLEAD AND BEG.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 10:1-2.
- B. Notice that Paul says that he is pleading or urging the Corinthians.
- C. Sometimes we feel that it is not proper to beg or urge someone to do what is right. Yet, this can be done in the name of X.
- D. Paul learned to pay the price of being an apostle and of pleading others to obey X (1Cor. 4:10-13).
- E. In 2Cor. 5, Paul discusses how God is making His plea through the apostles. Paul is begging that men be reconciled to God (2Cor. 5:20).
- F. Helping someone turn from sin and to JC is the most important thing a person can do. A little begging and pleading is good.

II. THE COURAGE TO SUBMIT TO CHRIST.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 10:1,5.
- B. The latter part of v1, Paul says that he urges by the meekness and gentleness of X. Meekness is strength under control, and gentleness is always effective in persuading others.
- C. Yet, many today frown upon meekness and gentleness as characteristic of a good life. It takes courage on our part to exhibit the qualities around people who don't.
- D. Paul speaks of "bringing every thought captive to the obedience of X" in v5 and this means that he is trying with great effort to shun all evil.
- E. Courage means not being ashamed. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16).
- F. Unfortunately many of us are very cowardly in our living and preaching of the word (Rev. 21:8).

III. THE COURAGE TO FACE ISSUES.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 10:2,6.
- B. Many times we are faced with problems and issues that we must decide upon. The courage to do right is badly needed in times of crisis.
- C. Joshua said that in all times he and his household would serve Jehovah (Jo. 24:15).
- D. Some at Corinth, had accused Paul of living according to the flesh. Paul was not going to side-step this issue, but met it head-on and worked to resolve the problem.
- E. It has been said that the best way to get rid of a fear is to face it. Problem solving is the same way. We must have courage to go forth with the truth and work at resolving disputes and crisis situations.

IV. THE COURAGE TO NOT WALK AFTER THE FLESH.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 10:3.

- B. Notice: the big difference in walking in the flesh and not walking after the flesh.
- C. We are fleshly beings and must live in this material, temporal world. But we do not walk after the sinful pleasures of this world that come from the improper use of the flesh.
- D. Again, this takes strength and courage. Courage that Paul had. Courage that we need (1Cor. 9:27).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. It is not easy to live the Xian life. Satan wants us to sin and will use all his influence and temptations on us; to get us to fall away from God.
- B. We must take courage in our fight against Satan. Follow the example of the apostle Paul and keep on struggling until Jesus comes again.
- C. The gospel is what saves men from sin.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.