

***RISKING ALL FOR LOVE*****A Life Shaped by Christ****2 Corinthians 10:1–18**

*“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Cor. 10:5*

**Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 10:1–2.**

1. Paul knows that the validity of his ministry cannot be separated from the validity of his message—if one is discredited, so is the other. This chapter and those to follow comprise a defense of his ministry; they are also a defense of his message. What passionate concern lies at the heart of Paul’s defense? (Peek ahead to 11:2–3.)
2. As chapter 10 opens, there’s a shift in the tone of Paul’s writing. How would you characterize his tone here? (vss. 1–2)
3. Paul identifies with the meekness of Christ but rejects the label of “timid” that others have given him. What’s the difference between meekness and timidity? (See Matt. 5:5 and 2 Tim. 1:7; also, go to a dictionary if you wish.)

**Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 10:1–18.**

4. In this chapter Paul addresses the false rumors that have been circulating about him. Fill in details of each rumor and the defense that Paul presents.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Rumor</b>	<b>Defense</b>
The world’s standards	vs. 2:	vss. 2–5:
Boasting	vs. 8:	vss. 8, 13–17:
Belonging to Christ	vs. 7:	vs. 7:
Boldness vs. cowardice	vss. 1, 10:	vss. 1, 2, 6, 11:

**Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 10:2–5.**

5. How does a life look that is lived by “the standards of the world” (vs. 2)? (Consider 12b.)

6. In verses 3–5 Paul uses a warfare metaphor. In this particular battle Paul is facing off against the false teachers in Corinth. This battle is part of a larger war. What are the opposing sides in this war? (Eph. 6:12) With what weapons do they fight? (2 Cor. 4:2)
7. Compare the goals of the opposing sides. (vs. 5; 11:3)

**Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 10:5.**

8. Give an example of an “argument” or “pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” (vs. 5a) that Paul encountered. (See Rom. 1:18–23 and 1 Cor. 2:13–14.) Can you think of examples that you have encountered?
9. Is “tak[ing] captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” only another way of saying that when you become a Christian you “check your brains at the door?” (See Acts 17:2–3, scan 16ff)
10. If every thought is obedient to Christ (vs. 5b), then how much of self is left that doesn’t belong to him?

**Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 10:7–18.**

11. What is the authority (vs. 8) that the Lord has given Paul? What did Paul consider his mission field to be? (vss. 13–15; Gal. 2:7)
12. What does Paul mean by “building you up rather than pulling you down” (vs. 8)? (vs. 15b; Eph. 4:11–13)
13. What constitutes Paul’s major objection to his opponents? (vs. 12)
14. Paul’s opponents are known for self-confident boasting. In verses 13–18 Paul boasts too. But how is his boast different from that of his opponents? (See especially vs. 17.)
15. With what very basic principle does this chapter end? Consider prayerfully which is more important to you—“the approval of men, or of God” (Gal. 1:10).