

2 CORINTHIANS 10 vs 1

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Dr. Dallas Willard, USC philosophy professor said, Indisputably, Jesus was a good teacher. Without Him western culture would not have risen to its scope and stature. He also said: if Jesus talked like most people talk today, that same result would not be true.

So, can we agree? as a master Teacher, Jesus chose words His students understood, and expected them to respond: starting with the first word we hear Him say: μετανοεω, the Greek verb: **rethink**, or **reconsider**-- good words, for the one going to school. Jesus expected His first-grade students to be lifelong learners and have many: METANOIA: moments to **change your mind**, found on almost every page of scripture...



¹ Now I, Paul, myself appeal you,

by the meekness and gentle restraint of Christ / Paul was a student of the risen Lord Jesus, the Messiah; and he had a request, he was going to appeal to the good sense of the Corinthians. This word speaks of personal mental power, **inner strength**... **tamed** and restrained; frequently used to describe a powerful bridled horse; and a second word dealing with others, **what fits best**;

I who indeed appear humble among you,

but when absent, I am bold toward you / Paul is dealing with religious faultfinders who question him; he seems to quote some clown who criticizes him; and we all know those people:

² but I beg you; Spare me! / and is he using their drama, playing his role of: an inferior spineless coward... and then in tones **not** of a weakling says...**get real!**

although I may not be bold when present, trust me, be confident, I think / logizomai... I **calculate**, I do the numbers... Paul wagers: and this word is in the middle voice, so for his own benefit,

I wager to dare against some, who think we walk according to the flesh / of those religious hypocrites who are condemning Paul; who accuse us of operating with worldly standards.

³ For though we walk in the flesh,

we do not war after the flesh / even if their criticism is correct, and weak and worldly we may be; that is **not** how we fight our battles. Paul often uses this word! So they knew what he is talking about. He already said: we know no one after the flesh. Even though we have known Christ after the flesh; but no longer. After Jesus died for the world and rose again... the people of God had a METANOIA moment to: **change their mind** about the Lord, and about one another.

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Just an aside: **we know no one after the flesh** = simply means, after worldly standards and distinctions, after things like: origin of birth, country of birth, relatives, friends, ancestry; wealth, class, rank, office, title, all incredibly important to the world; **all extremely irrelevant to eternity**.

we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal / from Barnes Notes: the means by which we hope to achieve our victory. Paul does not specify the weapons here; but, that there is no mistake, he just spoke in detail: in purity, in knowledge, in longsuffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love; in the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness -- 2 Corinthians 6.

He speaks at length of our battle gear; and military munitions and firepower -- Ephesians 6.

but possible through God, to the complete demolition of strong holds / to the **complete demolition**; to the total destruction; Paul writes: our assault weapons for our daily battles, and our special operations are adequate, they are powerful enough to get the job done. Isaiah told the house of Israel: no weapon formed against you will prosper.

⁵ throwing down imaginations / demolishing misleading, erroneous or fallacious thoughts,

and every lofty thing / ____ and fill in the blank: whatever worldly standard or distinction, always used to divide... but elevating some over others: the haves... over the have not's.

Paul knows what any military strategists have known for the centuries. One of the decisive battles of the United States Civil War was fought at Little Round Top, where Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain again and again distinguished himself on the battlefield. It was on Little Round Top overlooking Gettysburg, where he received his order: **Hold that ground at all hazards!** He did! After days of battle; running short on supplies, finally Chamberlain ordered: **Bayonets!** The second order: **Forward!** And 200 soldiers – the Maine's 20th Regiment heaved headfirst, catching up to Chamberlain already leading the charge downhill shouting. The effort startled approaching forces, causing enemy lines to fail as soldiers fled; a rout for the confederate lines; a significant turning point in the war.

At 36 years old, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain was the distinguished officer at Appomattox Courthouse who saluted even the defeated general Robert E. Lee. He never forgot the distinct honor afforded him by God to play a role in history. Chamberlain was fluent in 9 languages and a prolific author; he wrote:

I say Laws are God's ways seen by men, while Principles are God's thoughts to himself. Now the knowledge of these Laws I would call Science, and the apprehension of Principles I would call Philosophy, and our men of science may be quite right in their science and altogether wrong in their philosophy. So, I do not fear the advance of science, for real discovery can rest in no other theory than truth, and no other goal than God.

He also wrote: God alone knows the heart, and he alone can judge men's motives... the best of feelings is sometimes enlisted in the worst of causes, and the worst of feelings in the best of causes. You cannot always judge the moral value of an act merely from its surface, nor can you judge it merely from its motive.

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But men are responsible for their motives which they have allowed to control them, and for their use of the light they might have had if they would open their eyes to it. Chamberlain's personal wartime account is in his book: [The Passing of the Armies](#).

Paul wrote...

throwing down, imaginations, and every lofty thing that exalts itself,

against the knowledge of God / against knowing God; everything that promotes, and elevates, and applauds, and praises itself; starting with: MYSELF instead of God who is spirit, and must be worshiped in spirit and truth,

capturing every thought to the obedience of Christ / **captivated by God**, to rethink what we know. His word has the power to do that when we learn the lessons He taught. He promised to honor what He said, because what He said is: GOOD News. moving toward the voice of the Teacher. Who is the wisdom and word of God, so there is NO confusion. There is only one **Messiah** who came with the word of His Father, one **Christ**; no other substitute for Christ is needed;

⁶ and prepared to deal with all disobedience, when your obedience is complete / he is prepared to deal with those who do not hear well, which too often, includes me and maybe you; Paul knows most people need to practice listening skills; and he is ready to deal with the hard-of-hearing clowns; after the Corinthian assembly is adequately instructed; and taking to heart the words of God in Christ.

⁷ Do you look on things after their outward appearance? if anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, let him consider this himself, that just as he belongs to Christ, so do we.

⁸ For if I boast too much about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for tearing you down, I will not be shamed,

⁹ for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.

¹⁰ For it is said, his letters are weighty and powerful; but his personal presence is weak, and his public speaking is terrible.

¹¹ Let each person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, the same we are also in deed when present.

¹² For we do not dare classify or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But in measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves to themselves, they are not wise / they lack understanding.

¹³ However, we will not boast beyond measure, but within the measure of the area that God has assigned to us, which reaches even to you.

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¹⁴ For we do not over extend ourselves, as if we did not reach to you: since we were the first to come to you preaching the gospel of Christ.

¹⁵ We are not boasting beyond measure, that is to say, about the labor of others. On the contrary we have the hope, that as your faith increases, our area of ministry will be greatly enlarged,

¹⁶ so as to preach the gospel to regions beyond you; not boasting about what has been done in the area of another.

¹⁷ **But the one who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.**

¹⁸ For it is not the one commending himself who is approved, but the one the Lord commends.

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