

## The Weapons of our Warfare

2 Cor 10:3-5; Col 3:16

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### I. Responding to the Enemies of God (2 Chr 20:1-30)

<sup>20</sup>So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." <sup>21</sup>And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." <sup>22</sup>Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

As Christians, we are all called to "*fight the good fight of faith*" (1 Tim 6:12), to "*be good soldiers of Christ Jesus*" (2 Tim 2:3-4), and to "*put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*" (Eph 6:11). It is imperative, therefore, that we know how to fight well.

### II. The Weapons of our Warfare (2 Cor 10:3-6)

<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup>and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

A. As though we walked according to the flesh...

We are summoned to serve the Triune God faithfully in ways that don't seem outwardly impressive but that will eventually *turn the world upside down* (cf. Acts 17:6).

B. Nature of our weapons (cf. Heb 4:12)

While our weapons *are not carnal*, this doesn't mean they are without power. No! They are \_\_\_\_\_ *in God*. Hence, they often accomplish astonishing things.

C. Power of our weapons

1. Pulling down strongholds – destroying fortresses (4b)

First, these weapons are *mighty in God for pulling down strongholds* (4b). *Strongholds* are places where the enemy has entrenched himself and from which he sallies forth to attack God's people.

2. Casting down arguments & ideas – undermining ideologies (5a)

Second, our weapons are *mighty in God* for "*casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God*" (5). Our weapons are capable of overthrowing arguments and ideas that parade about as wisdom but are in fact folly. As Solomon declares in Proverbs 21:30, "*there is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the \_\_\_\_\_.*"

### 3. Bringing every thought captive – equipping God’s people (5b)

Third, the *weapons of our warfare* are *mighty in God* for “*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (5b). Our weapons not only destroy, they \_\_\_\_\_ . They enable us to consecrate every area of life to Christ’s service. As Abraham Kuyper, the Dutch Reformed theologian of the 19<sup>th</sup> century declared, “*There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, \_\_\_\_\_!*”

### 4. Preserving the integrity of the troops – protecting the flock (6)

Finally, the *weapons of our warfare* are *mighty in God* for “*being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled*” (6). The weapons entrusted to the Church enable us to preserve the peace and purity of the Church.

## III. The Singing of the Psalms in our Arsenal

One of the chief weapons of our warfare is the singing of the psalms.

- Eph 5:17-22 - <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- Col 3:16 - <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- Heb 13:15 - <sup>15</sup>Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

A. Untrained on the battlefield

B. Worldly Solutions

C. Psalm Singing Solution

1. Power of Music

2. Emotive Variety

## IV. Conclusion