



Today's Message

Date: August 4, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Band of Brothers***

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:1–6 (ESV)

¹I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—²I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. ³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Introduction: Paul renewed the defense of his ministry and message in this passage. This defense will occupy the rest of the letter. Several important themes appear in this text and throughout the remaining chapters. A significant element of the text often gets overlooked in popular preaching from this passage. Contrary to popular belief, this is not “how to” advice about dealing with personal struggles. The battleground in this conflict is the local church. In Paul’s worldview, everything hinged on the wellbeing of the assembly. Therefore, he stood poised to “do battle royal” to protect the local church he planted in Corinth from those who would do it harm.

Today's take-home truth: God's people must stand together in spiritual battle for the wellbeing of the church.

I. Faithful leaders stand ready to engage in battle. 1-2

- A. They are willing to fight . . . 1
- B. even though they do not desire it. 2

II. The battles they fight are spiritual. 3-6a

- A. God's truth gives the only battle plan. 3
- B. God's power is the only weapon. 4
- C. God's victory is the only goal: 5-6a
 - 1. Destroy opposition to God. 5a
 - 2. Take captives for Christ's service. 5b
 - 3. Punish those who resist. 6a

III. Victory in battle depends on mutual esprit de corps. 6b