

Homework #13 - *The Godly Way to Make God Known*

II 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."

--II Corinthians 10:5

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 10:1-18. What are the key words?

Contrasts in Corinthians: What opposites do you notice in this passage?

3. How does Paul appeal to the Corinthians? (10:1)
4. What are the two different presentations that Paul is accused of having? (10:1)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. Read Matthew 11:29 and 21:1-5. Based on what you have read, describe the "meekness and gentleness of Christ":
6. What does Paul not want to be for his next visit? (10:2)
What does this tell you about his leadership style?
7. How do Paul's accusers say we should live? (10:2b)
What do you think this means?
8. Can we clearly present Christ to others without being Christ-like?
Explain your answer:

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Why can "boldness", or self-promotion, actually get in the way of another person knowing Christ?

How can your Christ-like approach help others know Christ better? Is there anyone in your life right now to whom you can show the "meekness and gentleness of Christ"?

Day Two

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. Write down all the words associated with struggle:
2. Describe the "weapons" of the follower of Christ (10:4):
3. How does 10:5 describe the strongholds?

What do the "arguments" and "every pretension" oppose? (10:5a)

What must happen in order to truly know God? (10:5b)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. What do you think it means to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ"? (10:5)
5. In the following passages, write down what you learn about how to win the battle against darkness:

Ephesians 6:10-18

Daniel 10:12-14

Romans 12:21

I Thessalonians 5:8

6. How does this world teach us to fight our battles?

How are God's warfare tactics different than this world's?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Are you facing a battle right now? How can you rely on God's power and weapons to win this struggle?

Do you have any "arguments" or "pretensions" that are resisting God? Spend time in prayer, taking your thoughts captive!

Day Three

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:7-11. How were the Corinthians evaluating people? (10:7)
2. Who gave Paul his authority? (10:8)

How does Paul describe his authority?

3. What does Paul not want to do with his letters (and his authority)? (10:9)
4. What were Paul's accusers saying about his letters versus his physical presence? (10:10)

With what will Paul answer his accusers? (10:11)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. Read John 7:24. What does Jesus say? Why do you think it is a mistake to judge another person based on appearances?

How does I Samuel 16:7 also speak to this passage?

6. Of what is Paul confident? (10:7)

How does belonging to Christ change how we view ourselves and other people?

7. What is the purpose of leadership in Christ? (10:8)

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How does leadership usually act in our world? (10:8)

How does knowing who we are in Christ allow us to encourage other people to grow, rather than shrink or control them?

8. How was Jesus' ministry described in Matthew 12:19-20?

How does this remind you of Paul's public manner (10:10) and leadership?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Read I John 3:1 and meditate on what it means to belong to Christ. Are you confident, like Paul, that you belong to Christ?

Have you ever been threatened by other's strengths or opportunities to serve Christ? How can your confidence in Christ's love give you the freedom to encourage others to grow?

Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-16. What is not wise, according to 10:12?

2. What is Paul's goal for this work in the Corinthians? (10:15-16)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What do you think it means to "measure themselves by themselves"? (10:12)

Why do you think we "classify or compare ourselves" with other people?

What are some areas you sometimes use for comparison?

How can comparison also be a form of boasting?

4. What illustration does Paul use for the ministry God gave him? (10:13)

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Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15. What was God's first job description for people?

How is serving God in a specific ministry similar to tending a garden or field of crops?

5. How does understanding our God-given assignment on earth free us from comparing ourselves to others?
6. Read Romans 12:3-8. How does this passage apply to and explain Paul's words to the Corinthians?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Where is your "field"? Can you describe the garden God has assigned to you?

Who are the people in your garden? Do you need to cultivate any new friendships or mend fences in a broken relationship? (Maybe you need to get out of someone else's garden!)

What tools has God given you to work in His field?

Pray and ask God to help you answer these questions!

Day Five

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-18. To what will Paul limit his boast? (10:13)

Of what will Paul not boast? (10:15, 16)

2. What should be the basis for all boasting? (10:17)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What does Paul mean: "Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others." (10:15a)

Why would we ever want to take the credit for someone else's work?

4. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. How does this passage explain what it means to boast in the Lord?

Why is knowing God the greatest boast of all?

What impact can this have on our tendency to boast or compare ourselves with others? (10:12)

5. Read I Corinthians 4:7 and answer the questions in this passage:

6. Where does my approval come from? (10:18)

How does this relate to our confidence that we belong to Christ? (10:7)

Explain how seeking approval from people is the opposite of boasting in the Lord:

7. Read I Corinthians 4:2-4. What matters most to Paul, according to these verses?

What does God ask of us in 4:2?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Do you want to know God more fully? Do you also want to know and be faithful to His unique calling on your life--to make Him known? Write a prayer asking God to help you to be faithful to your field and to know Him more!