

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns supporting a stone entablature. A tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the left. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant hills.

“Take Captive Every Thought”

2 Corinthians 10:1-11:15

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Broad outline of 2 Corinthians :

- ❖ 1:1 – 7:1 = Paul's defense of his ministry
- ❖ 7:1 – 9:15 = Application to the repentant at Corinth
- ❖ 10:1 – 13:10 = Application to the unrepentant at Corinth

What will we learn?

- ❖ God's approval > everyone else's approval
- ❖ Substance > style
- ❖ Satan and his team are liars.
- ❖ Bonus:
 - ❖ What is meekness?
 - ❖ How do we take captive every thought?



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

Illyricum

Moesia

BLACK SEA

Spain (Tarshish?)

Italy

• ROME

Thrace

Pontus

Armenia

Roman Empire

Furthest extent in years 8 to 115 A.D.

Macedonia

Cappadocia

Africa

Asia Minor

Galatia

SYRIAN ANTIIOCH

Euphrates River

Achia

Syria

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea (Arabia)

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nile River

RED SEA

Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.



2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- ❖ Suffering brings comfort from God.
- ❖ Suffering produces “patient endurance.”
- ❖ Suffering and comfort equip us for ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:12 – 2:14

- ❖ Salvation starts with God, and it includes every person of the Trinity.
- ❖ God's people should be faithful.
- ❖ Disciples of Jesus should lead like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:12 – 4:6

- ❖ God is sovereign over all.
 - ❖ Including our salvation.
 - ❖ Including our suffering.
 - ❖ Including our ministry.
- ❖ God is the source and supply of our lives.

2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

- ❖ The gospel message is all important, the messengers not so much.
- ❖ Everything in this life is fleeting, but the blessings of heaven are eternal.
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is already / not yet here.

2 Corinthians 5:11 – 7:1

- ❖ At the cross, Jesus claimed us completely.
- ❖ Jesus has commissioned us as his ambassadors.
- ❖ We persevere through challenges and serve his way.

2 Corinthians 7:2 – 8:15

- ❖ God comforts the downcast.
- ❖ Godly sorrow differs from worldly sorrow.
- ❖ Our response to correction can either prove or disprove our faith.
- ❖ Christ's followers are called to be generous.

2 Corinthians 8:16 – 9:15

- ❖ We should be careful to guard our reputation.
- ❖ The principle of sowing and reaping applies to financial decisions.
- ❖ A generous life is empowered by God, it enriches both the giver and the receiver, and it glorifies God.

2 Corinthians 10:1-2

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you — I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

Humility + gentleness = meekness

- ❖ It was modeled by Jesus.
- ❖ It is not weak, but patient.
- ❖ It subordinates my interests to the interests of others.
- ❖ It boldly defends the church.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Weapons of the world:

- ❖ Money
- ❖ Power
- ❖ Credentials
- ❖ Rhetoric

2 Corinthians 10:5

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.



Scott J. Hafemann:

“To take captive every thought to Christ is to evaluate every teaching concerning who Jesus is and what it means to follow him in order to ensure that whatever is said and thought conforms to the character and purposes of Christ himself.”

2 Corinthians 10:6

And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:7-8

You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

Building up the church:

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 10:8; 12:19; 13:10
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:9-14; 14:3-5
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- ❖ Ephesians 4:11-13; 4:29

Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

2 Corinthians 10:9-10

I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."



2 Corinthians 10:11

Such people should realize that what we are
in our letters when we are absent, we will be
in our actions when we are present.

Paul's presence / absence:

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 10:1; 10:11
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 13:2; 13:10

2 Corinthians 10:12

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.



False apostles:

- ❖ Their self-awareness was inaccurate.
- ❖ They overstepped their bounds.
- ❖ They exaggerated their success.



2 Corinthians 10:13

We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.



Galatians 2:8

For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 10:14

**We are not going too far in our boasting,
as would be the case if we had not come
to you, for we did get as far as you
with the gospel of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 10:15-16

Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory.

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

But, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23-24). For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 11:1-2

I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness.
Yes, please put up with me! I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.



2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:5-6

I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.” I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

2 Corinthians 11:7-8

Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.

2 Corinthians 11:9

And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo in Side, Turkey. It features several tall, weathered stone columns standing in a row, with some arches visible above them. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear sky in the background.

2 Corinthians 11:10-11

As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

2 Corinthians 11:12-13

And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

What have we learned?

- ❖ God's approval > everyone else's approval
- ❖ Substance > style
- ❖ Satan and his team are liars.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Benefits of generosity:

- ❖ Reap generously
- ❖ Abundant blessings
- ❖ Having all you need
- ❖ Abound in every good work
- ❖ Supply and increase
- ❖ Enlarge the harvest
- ❖ Enriched in every way
- ❖ Thanksgiving to God
- ❖ Others will praise God
- ❖ Receivers will pray for you

Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal