

## **LESSON 16: 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-11:16**

### **Paul Defends His Ministry**

1. In your mind, what qualities are characteristic of successful people? What were seen to be Paul's disadvantages in comparison to his "successful" opponents (see especially vv. 1 and 10)?
2. Paul will not wage war as the world does (v. 3). What are the weapons of the world, and what is Paul's strategy in this spiritual warfare (vv. 4-6)? What do you think Paul means when he speaks of demolishing strongholds? How does this help you in your stand against the world? What are your weapons?
3. How might we follow Paul's example and "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (v. 5)? What might this look like in our lives? And what is he talking about in verse 6?
4. What are the arguments of Paul's opponents in verses 7-10? How are the Corinthians "looking only on the surface of things"? What point do you think Paul is making in these verses?
5. What kinds of comparisons are being made in Corinth? What does Paul say about comparisons (vv. 12-18)? What measuring stick is being used by the false apostles (v. 12)? What measuring stick did Paul use to evaluate himself (v. 13)? What apportioned limits have been set for you? Are they different from those set for others? How does this help you?
6. Note how many times is the word "boast" used in these verses. What is wrong with the boasting of Paul's opponents? What is proper boasting for the Christian? What, finally, is the proper measure of *your* ministry?

## Paul Against the “Super-Apostles”

1. What do you learn about Paul in verses 1-2? What is meant by a godly or divine jealousy?
2. What are the false apostles doing (vv. 3-4) and to what does Paul compare the threat they represent in doing so? Do we have to be careful of this today? Can you name examples? What makes our church different?
3. We very often defer to others rather than call attention to ourselves. How is Paul different in verses 5 and 6? As a true believer, would you present yourself as assertively in behalf of Jesus Christ in the work place or to your neighbors?
4. Why was Paul’s decision to preach free of charge so important to his ministry (vv. 7ff.)? What had his opponents been charging?
5. How does Paul identify his opponents and to whom do they really belong (vv. 13-15)? Is the church today willing to make such charges? Are you? How do these opponents appear to people? How subtle are Satan and his followers? How careful has the church been, how careful does the church have to be?
6. What is the ultimate destiny of these opponents (v. 15)? What hope does this offer to you in living in this world?