

Via President Agent - Governor's Conference
Chicago 7 Labeled Oddballs - Turn courts into Carnivals.
Extremists - incite riots -
Social Misfits.

sv. Nay - W. & R. I. P. M.
Mar. 1, 70.

THE INCORRIGIBLE MINORITY

2 Cor. 10:1-18

First ten chapters are addressed to the working majority in the church.

Last chapter refers to the incorrigible minority. The object is to defend the Gospel and his apostleship from the charges made by a small group.

This small group had no doubt endeavored to wreck his work.

A close reading of this chapter will infer certain charges. Paul does not list these, but simply gives his defense. It is not easy to expose a rascal nor is it a pleasure. If men had not preferred these charges, we never would have had the statements given in this chapter. These are of impishable value to the world.

I have outlined the charges:

1. Misjudged His Conduct - V. 1-6.
2. Misjudged His Authority - V. 7-11.
3. Misjudged His Labours - V. 12-18.

As I have stated you have to read Paul's reply to discover that he is making a defense of their charges.

I. Misjudged His Conduct - V. 1-6.

Appears from the defense they accused him of walking according to the flesh.

That he had low motives such as monetary gain by the offerings - you understand, preaching for the money!

That when he is present he is humble and when absent very bold.

V. 1 - Paul will vigorously defend himself against this accusation of the stubborn minority in Corinth.

Speaks under compulsion - spoke of the character of Jesus - he claimed meekness, sweet reasonableness - a man who did not press for the last farthing of his rights.

These words stung Paul that he was humble of conduct while with them and showed boldness when away.

This was easy for them to misrepresent. ~~It~~ stung Paul to the quick.

V. (2) - I beg to differ - does not want to assume this boldness - Paul did not use his position to build up himself. There is no get-even spirit.

When he returns his speech and presence will be as full of energy and courage.

~~Charged~~ that he walked among the flesh.

Flesh - used meaning physical...body.

" " " Carnal disposition.

V. (3) - I do live in a physical body, but I am not waging this war in accordance with physical standards.

Paul says he is an ordinary weak human being but he does not use human plans and methods to win battles.

V. (4) - The weapons of warfare are not carnal.

Paul said his conduct is not dependent upon the flesh. They had accused him of trickery, mighty before God pulling down strong holds.

From these physical figures he applies to Spiritual matters.

Jesus told his disciples this Matt. 5:10-12. I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. "Ye shall be hated of men for my sake"- 10:16-22.

Jesus, spoke further about this in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares. Matt. 13:24-30. They look alike in it's early growth. No mistake they were different. Now let them alone until the harvest time.

Jesus said if ye were of the world the world would like you - my yoke is easy, my yoke fits and is light don't be afraid of it.

This is the kind of life, I'm calling you to live. He spoke of a strange battle, result of faith.

Paul defending the contention and dispute over his conduct by pointing to

their carnality.

The church is a wonderful body, composed of a group of people who have received Jesus Christ as Saviour.

(Imaginations) - Process of the mind, way of reasoning the method of logic, the understanding of things which a man adopted in his unconverted days and projected into the fellowship of the church.

Everything that exalthe itself against God.

Controversial issues - in some circles if you are Orthodox you are out of date! Paul was out of date. Paul said these are some of the high things against the knowledge of God.

This is a form of carnality in the church which stems from the corruption of the mind.

The mind which insists in submitting the word of God to its own criticism and only accept that which the human intellect can understand and believe.

The corruption of mind leads to carnality in the church.

(Weapons) not carnal - Eph. 6:13-18.

(How) much time we give to the life as it appears before men.

(How) little do we give to the life that appears before God.

Imaginations - somebody says an unkind word about you, or you are accused falsely of something you have not done, or somebody is spiteful in his comments and critical in his attitude.

You begin to think about it, you repeat it to yourself over and over again with increased indignation, and because it begins to fill your mind, you tell your friends (with additions of course) until at last, by frequent repetition, you have been insulted twenty times instead of one.

You have decided to retaliate, to answer back, to vindicate yourself and to prove that they are wrong and you are right. This is carnality in the life which has happened because of corruption in the mind.

How does Paul face this?

When the thought comes that the person has reported to have said - carnality says counterattack! Humble self in Christ Jesus and recognize that nothing that any person could ever say about you is really one hundredth part as bad as the truth if he only knew it.

Good reason to forget.

Bring all into obedience to Christ.

Paul aims to pull down the top most perch of audacity in their reasonings against the knowledge of God.

We need this skill and courage today.

Bring every thought into captivity.

He is a daring thinker, but he lays all his thoughts at the feet of Jesus.

Obedience to Christ.

V. 6 - Refusal to heed those who are obstinate. Paul expects the whole church will soon become obedient to Christ.

The incorrigible minority is invited to become obedient.

II. Misjudged His Authority - V. 7-11.

The incorrigible minority questioned Paul's authority. They questioned him as an apostle.

Their problem stated - "Look on things after the outward appearance!"

You judge by your eyes!

Paul said you need to look deeper. Apparently you claim to be a part of Christ's party - look below the surface - look to Christ.

I too am a Christian - I too, have seen the Lord. I Cor. 9:2.

Paul said you need to have another thought about yourself - you say you belong to the Lord, now look to the Lord - their saying that Paul was not a God called preacher did not exclude him from that position.

V. 8 - Paul said my authority was given me to build up and not to tear down!

Sharp way of answering - this incorrigible minority had set about to destroy not build up.

Paul said he would never be ashamed of what he was doing, because every effort was in the interest of edification - building up the house not tearing them down.

They can not put him to shame as a braggart or imposter.

He is a true minister of the Gospel, not a pretentious boaster.

V. 9 - Paul tosses in a little spice.

"Now, I don't want to seem to be frightening you with my letters".

Not appear to terrify them with his letters - refers to I Cor. and this present letter.

Means to make this fear intensive.

His is dishing out the truth, we would say.

V. 10-11 Reminds his opponents that as his letters so will be his deeds when he arrives in Corinth.

Presence of body.

He will act as he writes.

It seems clear Paul did not have a commanding appearance like Barnabas. He had physical defects of the eyes - pictured as short, bow-legged with eye brows knit together, bald headed, hook-nosed.

However, that may have been why his accusers sneered at his personal appearance weak and questioned him as an apostle.

Biting criticism of Pauls looks and his speech! The incorrigible minority really took Paul apart!

✓ III. Misjudged His Labours - V. 12-18.

This little minority didn't leave a stone unturned. Paul wrote about the collection - they said why should we take up money for some one away off yonder,

the money into his own hands? They even said Paul sent

Titus to take the collection for him - being crafty.

They questioned his sincerity.

V. 12 - They made a mistake of using the wrong standard of measurement.

This is a fine text to preach from.

Paul did not stoop to compare or contrast himself with them.

He needs no self-recommendation.

These men do not see their own picture (which is obvious to others)

Eph. 5:17; I Tim. 1:7.

Masterful statement.

They by themselves, themselves keep on measuring (estimating) and comparing (matching by comparing with something else) themselves by themselves are not sensible".

They set themselves up as a standard of measure.

When they gauged themselves by that standard, behold, they were perfect!

Paul says that such a practice is nonsense.

V. 13 - He will not boast as they did, of things which are not a standard.

Measuring rod or rule.

The measuring rod of God - one standard, this standard reaches even them, God applies this standard in Corinth!

Did you ever use a fallible standard?

Read of a man who decided to put up a picket fence. He sawed off one the right length. He measured the second by the first and so on.

When he put up the fence, there was a variation of from an inch to 1/2 on up. Because each variation in the standard magnifies itself.

We must have one fixed standard everytime we saw a picket. God has given one standard.

V. 14 - A preacher did not stretch himself out beyond his rights.

God has called him. Gospel my objective.

V. 15 - He boast about the planting of the church at Corinth.

He wanted no easy task.

His hope is that as the faith keeps on growing in the church that this minority will be caught up in the overflow. Lord will work through you.

V. 16 - Foreign Missions - "Regions beyond you". Indeed this challenge to the minority is tremendous. I have this hope that the church at Corinth will become a missionary church and reach the regions beyond, establish other churches.

This one law of the Kingdom - it was not the goal of frustrating and embarrassing preacher Paul - get in the church and work - let all go to work.

Paul gives a summary reply to the incorrigible minority in the last two verses.

First - V. 17 Glory in the Lord.

Quotes this from Proverbs 27:2.

Second - V. 18 - The Approval Every Man Needs.

Not self approval.

The Lord's recommendation.

The real test, the final test, is not the ones who commend themselves but whom the Lord commends. *President of Country - get all behind his program, struggle in every church to harness all the power for good.*
Paul made a big pull for the minority of -- go all the way for God.

I can illustrate this with the story of the Fantastic Basketball Championship in 1954. West End High School Blue Jays in March 1954 had gone through a mediocre season. Few of their friends gave them a chance to win the district games and even smaller number thought they would last through the Regional Tournament.

The players thought different. Small in size - hearts of giants. What could be the secret.

At the close of 1954 school term the beloved superintendent of West High, Dr. W. H. Yarborough was to retire.

Because of admiration and devotion - this little group of athletes banded

together determined to deliver to their leader a fourth state championship.

They chose as their slogan "All the way for Doc". At the beginning of each game they came on the playing floor through an archway, over which appeared this slogan.

The cheering section shouted the slogan. They just would not be denied victory.

Think of the record - astounding figures. Sudden death finishes.

District games.

West High	71	Opponents	44
	47		36
	36		34 (Overtime)

Regional games.

	52		50 (Overtime)
	42		41 "
	62		45

State Finals

	51		43
	46		42 (Overtime)
	42		40

The Blue Jays had been behind in the last game and seem fortune would desert.

Behind 6 points in last quarter. Some one slipped out and phoned the aging superintendent and he rushed to the Vanderbilt gymnasium to assure the boys of his every good wish for them.

The appearance of Doc sent a flame of desire and determination into the Jays. They came back magnificiently to beat their bewildered opponents.

Grabbing the lead with less than a minute to play and then freezing the ball they did the seemingly impossible and went "all the way for Doc".

Thrilling - fantastic story is valuable as a lesson for ourselves - our slogan "All the way for God".

Paul - pharisee with the trouble making minority to pull together with the whole church - all the way for God -

The very nature of God's work ~~is~~ demands 100% enlistment - in country church - city church - why be a sore thumb when your help is needed in pulling the rope for God -

The oddballs + misfits will never build a better country -
Only solid, steady work -