

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

October 5, 2025



trinityreformedct.org

"And he (Jahaziel) said, 'Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.' – 2Chronicles 20:15

“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – 2Corinthians 10:1-6

Leader: *Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—
I who am meek when face to face with you,*

People: **But bold toward you when absent!**

Leader: *I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which
I propose to be courageous against some,*

People: **Who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.**

Leader: *For though we walk in the flesh,*

People: **We do not war according to the flesh,**

Leader: *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,*

People: **But divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.**

Leader: *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the
knowledge of God,*

People: **And we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,**

Leader: *And we are ready to punish all disobedience,*

People: **Whenever your obedience is complete.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Colossians 2:13–15

***Hymn (see below)** – “Rise Up, O Men of God”

Scripture Reading – Revelation 12:1-17

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Nicene Creed (pg#846 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #35A** – “Strive, LORD”

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism, 32.

Leader:	<i>But why art thou called a Christian?</i>	Acts 11:26
People:	Because I am a member of Christ by faith,	1Cor 6:15
Leader:	<i>And thus am partaker of His anointing;</i>	1John 2:27; Acts 2:17
People:	That so I may confess His name,	Matt 10:32; Rom 10:10; Mark 8:38
Leader:	<i>And present myself a living sacrifice</i>	
People:	Of thankfulness to Him:	Rom 12:1; 1Pet 2:5,9; Rev 1:6; 5:8,10
Leader:	<i>And also that with a free and good conscience</i>	1Pet 2:11; Rom 6:12-13; Gal 5:16-17
	<i>I may <u>fight</u> against sin and Satan in this life</i>	Eph 6:11; 1Tim 1:18-19
People:	And afterwards I reign with Him eternally,	2Tim 2:12
	over all creatures.	Matt 24:34

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 4:1-11

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “The Battle”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

Prayer

Scripture – Psalm 23

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #572** – “Onward, Christian Soldiers”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- The **Deacon Fund** (i.e. support for church members in need) is running low, any new donations will be greatly appreciated.
- Dave & Janelle Franceschetti have set up a gofundme page to help with the medical costs for **baby Caleb's** upcoming transplant surgery. You can go to: <https://gofund.me/95103c5b9>
Or search for: “Help Caleb and Family During Transplant”.

- **Communion Policy Update:** We are still planning to go to weekly Communion. However, the elders are still working on the Lord's Supper Policy, which has required more attention than at first realized, since we have become a more focused church. Such points being pondered: The Bible commands closed Communion on some level but how closed? What warning should the pastor give? Is baptism required? Is church membership required? Are classes required? Is grape juice allowable? Leavened or unleavened bread? God is a holy God, however, the Lord's Table is a means of grace, where is the correct weighing of those things? Thank you for your patience.

Upcoming Events

- There will be a joint **Elder & Deacon meeting** to discuss the budget after church on Sunday, October 12th.
- On Saturday, **October 18th**, starting at 11:30 AM, there will be an **Oktoberfest** at the Aldrich's. With choice of select root-beers (we are Calvinists after all) and a bouncy house!
There is a sign-up sheet for food if you could help by bringing a particular dish.
- The **Bolton Conference** is on **October 24th - 25th** (Fri-Sat) at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2025-conference
- **New Ladies Fellowship:** The Ladies of the Church are invited to the Aldrich home on Saturday, **November 1st**, from **12:00 – 2 PM** for a TULIP Party. It will be a casual time of fellowship with a short study. A lunch of soup and sandwiches will be provided.
- The **3rd Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5th**, at 6:30 PM, at the Grange.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on **December 14th**.
- *Regular Studies & Gatherings:*
Sunday School for all ages (9:00 AM).
Tuesday Study (10:30 AM – noon) – Augustine's Sermons.
Wednesday Study (6:30 – 8:00 PM) – Book of Hebrews.
Gen-Alpha Club will return on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.
Friday YADG (6:30 PM) still meets on 1st & 3rd Friday.
Saturday Morning Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage:	TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page:	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel:	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug's	youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels:	youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Sermon Notes

1Samuel 4:1-11

“The Battle”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

October 5, 2025

Introduction

- 1) Scripture frequently uses martial imagery to describe our labors.
 - a) Sometimes very literally, as David (a warrior king) in the Psalms prayed:
*“Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle”* – Psalm 144:1
 - b) This martial imagery is also throughout the New Testament where we are “soldiers” (Phil 2:25; 2Tim 2:3-4; Philem 2), who are to put on our “armor” (Rom 13:12; Eph 6:11-17) and “fight the good fight” (1Tim 1:18; 6:12).
 - c) One of the most famous sections is 2Corinthians 10:3-6 – *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”*
- 2) Today’s sermon text describes a major Old Testament (OT) battle between the OT Church (Israel) and a powerful pagan nation (Philistines).
 - a) How do we, as the NT Church, read this text for us today?
 - i) The NT church is not based on a nation. Matt 28:19-20; John 4:21-24
Acts 1:8; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:11-22
 - ii) The NT church does not have the power of the sword. Matt 5:38-39; 26:52-53; John 18:36
2Cor 10:3-4; Eph 6:12
 - b) First, a little OT background for today’s text.

Background to 1Samuel 4:1ff

- 1) We are in the time of Judges – A time of moral decline in Israel. Judg 2:10-19; 17:6; 21:25
- 2) God’s House, the Tabernacle, is in northern Israel, in the town of Shiloh. 1Sam 1:3,9,24; 3:21
Josh 18:1; Ps 78:60
 - a) The most important part of the Tabernacle is the Holy of Holies. Ex 26:33-34; Lev 16:2
Heb 9:3-5
 - b) The most important thing in the Holy of Holies is the Ark of the Covenant. Ex 25:10-22; 26:33-34
Heb 9:3-5
 - c) The Ark was God’s throne on earth, the covenant chest holding His law, and the symbol of His presence and power with His people. Ex 25:10-22; Num 10:33-36
Deut 10:1-5; Josh 3:3-11
Ps 80:1

- 3) Eli is the high priest and his two evil sons (Hophni & Phinehas) are also priests. 1Sam 1:3; 2:12-17,22-25; 4:4
- 4) God has prophesied that Eli, and his house, will be removed. 1Sam 2:27-36; 3:11-14
- 5) During the time of the Judges, Israel's great earthly enemy are the Philistines.¹ Judg 3:3; 1Sam 4:1ff

1Samuel 4:1-11

- 1) In Samuel 4, Israel goes out to fight the Philistines. 1Sam 4:1
 - a) Israel camps at Ebenezer² a place west of Shiloh.
 - b) Just further to the west, the Philistines are encamped at Aphek, a city on the plain of Sharon.³ Josh 12:18
1Sam 4:1; 29:1
- 2) At the First Battle of Ebenezer, Israel is decisively defeated, with about 4,000 Israelite men killed. 1Sam 4:2
 - a) This is a major battle, similar to the Battle of Antietam (1862) from the American Civil War.
 - b) As defeated Israel returns to their camp the elders asked:
 - i) *"Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines?"* – 1Sam 4:3b
 - This is a critical concept: That God decides who wins or loses.
 - ii) Then they decide to take the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh, so that the Philistines will be defeated. 1Sam 4:3
 - Because the Ark is where God dwelt in a special way. Num 10:33-36
 - And God, through the Ark, had brought victory before. Josh 3:3,6,11,14
Josh 6:6-7
 - iii) As the elders said, that the Ark *"may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies."* – 1Sam 4:3b
- 3) So, the Ark is brought to the battle, with Eli's two sons (the priests, Hophni & Phinehas) with it. 1Sam 4:4
 - a) Israel is very excited to see the Ark arrive at the camp, they shout with great joy. 1Sam 4:5
 - b) The Philistines realize the Ark is in the Israel camp and become terrified. 1Sam 4:6-8
 - i) The Philistines hear the great shout of the Israelites and they understand God has entered into Israel's camp.
 - ii) They have heard how God had struck the Egyptians.
 - c) But then the Philistines tell themselves to man up: *"Take courage and be men . . . therefore, be men and fight."* – 1Samuel 4:9

¹ The Philistines were a warlike, seafaring people who settled on the coastal plain of Canaan. Scripture traces them as descendants of Ham through Mizraim (Egypt), with their migration coming from Caphtor (Crete or the Aegean isles) (Gen. 10:13–14; Deut. 2:23). They displaced earlier peoples and established themselves in the great cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron. Israel first clashed with them in the time of Abraham, and by the days of the Judges they had become Israel's chief enemy (Judg. 3:31). In later centuries, their power was finally broken when they were absorbed and destroyed by the Assyrian conquests.

² An Ebenezer as a stone of commemoration, ("Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"), comes later, in 1Sam 7:12.

³ Be careful, there are many locations in the Bible that have the same name. For example, there are 4 different Apheks in the Bible.

4) Philistines fight and inflict a massive defeat on Israel.

1Sam 4:10

a) And “the slaughter was very great” – 1Samuel 4:10b

i) 30,000 Israelite soldiers are killed.

ii) The USA had 29,000 killed during the Campaign in Normandy (June - August).

b) Eli’s sons, the priests Hophni and Phinehas are killed.

c) Even more shockingly: “*The ark of God was taken*” – 1Sam 4:11b

How to Read Today’s Sermon Text

1) How do we apply this text for the church today?

a) Key questions: Who is Israel today?

b) There are several options.

2) Is it about **modern Israel**?

a) Which was founded in 1948.

b) Those of the theological camp called Premillennial Dispensationalism (think the “Left Behind” books) believe that the nation state of Israel has a major role to play in prophecy.

i) They read the Old Testament back into the New Testament.

ii) Therefore, they are politically very pro modern-day Israel.
(Think of former Pastor Mike Huckabee who is currently
US Ambassador to Israel.)

c) It is true, Romans 11 clearly teaches there is a future hope for national Israel.

d) And, Christians have freedom on their view of Middle East politics.

e) Pastor Doug, and most of Reformed Tradition, rejects Premill-Dispensationalism.

i) To force the OT into the NT is the wrong direction.

Eph 2:11-22; Heb 2:14

ii) The OT is fulfilled in the NT.

John 5:39-40; Acts 3:18

3) Is it about a **Christian nation**?

a) Either about America, or any Christian nation, or even Western Civilization.

b) This is a growing trend among modern day Christian Nationalists.

c) It is true that the Old Testament (the 1st Use of the Law as it is called) is a helpful guide to a state that is Christian.

Deut 4:5-8; Ps 19:7-11

Matt 5:17-19; Rom 13:1-4

d) To read one’s nation as being OT Israel has no biblical warrant.

Matt 21:43; John 18:36; Heb 8:6-13

Rom 2:28-29; 9:6-8; Gal 3:7-9,28-29

e) And the NT commands the organized church not to focus on politics but on Christ’s Kingdom, which is not of this world.

Matt 28:18-20; John 18:36

Acts 1:6-8; Rom 14:17-19

2Cor 10:3-5; Col 3:1-4

4) Is it about the **individual Christian**?

a) To focus on the individual believer engaging in “spiritual warfare.”

b) This is the popular in 20th century Evangelicalism, influenced by Pentecostalism.

c) True, individual Christians should be aware about the schemes of the devil.

2Cor 2:11; Eph 6:11-13; James 4:7

1Pet 5:8-9; 1John 4:1-4; Rev 12:9-11

d) We are called to daily die to sin and live for Christ.

Rom 6:6-14; Gal 2:20; 5:24

e) However, this is not the correct New Testament reading either.

5) Is it about **the church**?

- a) Yes!
- b) That is the correct way one should first read ancient Israel and then make application.
- c) And if you hear the church then you should also hear Christ.

The New Testament Church is the True Israel

- 1) The New Testament is very clear, all the physical things of the OT (Tabernacle, Temple, priests, sacrifices, earthly political kings, an ethno-political state as the people of God, etc.) are but shadows and figures for the spiritual reality of being in the New Covenant.
Col 2:16-17; John 1:17
Rom 2:28-29; 10:4
Gal 3:24-25; 4:21-31
Heb 8:5; 9:9-10,23-24; 10:1
 - a) Who is the true judge, high king of God's people?
Jesus Christ!
Matt 28:18; John 5:22-27; Acts 10:42
Eph 1:20-23; Heb 1:3; Rev 19:16
 - b) Who is the true High Priest of God's people?
Jesus Christ!
Heb 2:17; 4:14-15; 5:5-6
Heb 7:23-28; 8:1
 - c) Who is the true perfect sacrifice that removes God's wrath?
Jesus Christ!
John 1:29; Rom 3:25; 5:9
Heb 9:26; 10:10,14; 1John 2:2
 - d) Hebrews 8:3-6 – *"For every high priest (like Eli) is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He (Christ) were on earth (Jesus is now enthroned in heaven), He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle (which was at Shiloh); for, 'See,' He says, 'that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.' But now He (Christ) has obtained a more excellent ministry (NT>OT), by as much as He (Christ) is also the mediator of a better covenant (NT>OT), which has been enacted on better promises (the works of Christ)."*
- 2) The church is Christ's spiritual body on earth.
Rom 12:4-5; 1Cor 12:12-27
Eph 1:22-23; 4:4,12; Col 1:18
- 3) And thus, the church is the true Israel.
Rom 2:28-29; 9:6-8
Gal 3:7,29; 6:16; Eph 2:11-16; Phil 3:3
- 4) And Christ's Kingdom is not of this world.
John 18:36; Luke 17:20-21
Rom 14:17; Col 1:13; Heb 12:28
 - a) That is why her (the church's) warfare is not with flesh and blood.
 - i) Ephesians 6:12-13 – *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."*
 - ii) Our enemies are not nations or people, but sin, Satan, worldliness and the self.
Rom 7:18-23; 8:7; 1Cor 9:27
Eph 2:1-3; 6:12; James 4:1-4
 - b) Thus, our weapons are not of physical warfare (swords & bows) but the things of the Spirit: the bold word of the Gospel, lives of holiness and having faith, hope, and love – in Christ.
Rom 13:12; 1Cor 13:13
2Cor 6:7; 10:3-4; Eph 6:10-18
Rom 13:12; 1Thes 5:8

5) This is why Christ and His Apostles command that the organized church is called to be apolitical.⁴

- a) Yes, the church should preach and teach the Law to the saints, even if the world finds it political (e.g. abortion is murder, homosexuality is a grave sin, God made man & women different, etc.)
Gen 1:27; Ex 20:13-14
Lev 18:22; Rom 1:26-32
1Cor 6:9-11; 2Tim 4:2-5
- b) Yes, the church should warn the saints about false teaching that affects the church, even if the world finds it political (e.g. wokeism, feminism, cultural Communism, hyper-individualism, materialism, fascism, etc.)
Deut 13:1-5; Is 5:20-21
Matt 7:15-20; Acts 20:28-31
Rom 12:2; 2Cor 10:5; Col 2:8
2Tim 4:2-4; 2Pet 2:1-3
- c) Yes, if given the opportunity, Christians should proclaim the Gospel to everyone, including political leaders.
Matt 28:19-20; Acts 9:15; 24:24-25
Rom 1:16; 1Tim 2:1-4
- d) Yes, Christians should be active, good and respectful citizens in whatever nation they are in.
Jer 29:7; Matt 8:10-13; 22:21
Rom 13:1-7; 1Cor 7:20-21
1Pet 2:13-17
 - i) Yes, a Christian can be active in politics.
 - ii) Yes, a Christian can join the military.
 - iii) Yes, a Christian can work towards a more moral, i.e. biblical state, within that countries laws.
- e) However, and to say it again, the New Covenant commands the organized church not to focus on politics, but on Christ's Kingdom, which is not of this world.
Matt 28:18-20; John 18:36
Acts 1:6-8; Rom 14:17-19
1Cor 1:26-29; 2Cor 10:3-5; Col 3:1-4
1Tim 3:15; 2Tim 2:24-26
 - i) We are to "*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.*" – Matthew 22:21b
 - ii) *ALL* political leaders have been ordained by God and we are commanded to show them respect.
Prov 8:15-16; Dan 2:20-21
John 19:11; Rom 13:1-7
1Tim 2:1-2; 1Pet 2:13-17
 - iii) We are strangers, pilgrims, and aliens in this fallen evil world.
John 17:14-16; Phil 3:20
Heb 11:13; 1Pet 1:1; 2:11
 - iv) Because our true citizenship is not with any earthly kingdom, which is fading away, but in the City of God.
Ps 46:4-5; 87:1-3; Phil 3:20
Heb 11:10,16; 13:14
1John 2:17; Rev 21:1-2
 - v) The Church's calling is the Gospel not politics.
Matt 28:18-20; John 18:36; Acts 1:6-8
1Cor 2:1-5; 2Cor 5:18-20; Phil 3:20
- f) Go read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) or 1Peter, especially 1Peter 2:11-25.

Example of NT Warfare – 2Corinthians 10:1-6

1) Earlier we quoted one of the most famous NT "warfare" texts, 2Corinthians 10:3-5

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh . . ." – 2Corinthians 10:3-4a

⁴ Matt 5:14-16,38-45; 22:15-21; John 17:14-18; 18:36; Acts 5:29; Rom 12:17-21; 13:1-7 (limits and defines civil role); 14:17-18; 2Cor 10:3-5; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 6:10-18; Phil 3:20; Col 3:1-3; 1Thes 4:11-12; 1Tim 2:1-4; 6:13-14; Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-2; Heb 12:14; James 1:27; 1Pet 2:11-17; 3:8-16.

- 2) Modern Evangelicalism makes this about the individual.
 - a) And it has some application for the individual, no doubt about that.
 - b) However, like so many biblical texts, this is an example of Modern Evangelicalism misreading the text because they didn't follow the pronouns.
 - i) Question, who is the "we" in the "*for though we walk . . .*"?
 - ii) It's not individual Christians!
 - iii) It's church leadership!
 - c) Let's read it in context.
- 3) 2Corinthians 10:1-2 – "*Now I, Paul, myself urge you (the church in Corinth) by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! I (Paul) ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we (Paul & leadership) walked according to the flesh.*"
 - a) Clearly the "we" is Paul and his apostolic coworkers, including Timothy, Silvanus, Titus, and others. 2Cor 1:1,19; 2:13; 4:1,5-6
2Cor 5:20; 6:1; 7:6,13;14
2Cor 8:6,16,23; 12:18; 13:4
 - b) Paul's critics accuse him of being a weak person, and only strong on paper. That Paul is being fleshly. 2Cor 10:10
 - c) Paul's opponents misunderstand the apostle, who is actually modeling Christian meekness and gentleness. Matt 11:29; Gal 5:22-23
Eph 4:1-2; Col 3:12
 - d) Meekness is not contrary to true strength or authority. Matt 11:29; 21:5; 2Cor 10:1
Phil 2:5-11; 1Pet 2:23
 - e) Note how this changes the rest of the text!
- 4) 2Corinthians 10:3-5 – "*For though we (apostles, church leaders) walk in the flesh (they have bodies), we (apostles, church leaders) do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We (apostles, church leaders) are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we (apostles, church leaders) are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*"
 - a) So, the focus of this text is not individual believers but the church.
 - b) The "we" is:
 - i) The Apostles authority, which is now found in their writings, the New Testament.
 - ii) And the organized church who has leaders to teach and guide it.
 - c) This warfare is not about the "flesh", i.e. violence, politics, the ways of the world, etc.
 - i) But warring on any false teaching that comes into the church.
 - ii) And that all thinking must be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.
- 5) This is seen by finishing the sentence started in 2Cor 10:5
 - a) 2Corinthians 10:6 – "*and we (apostles, church leaders) are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.*"
 - b) Paul is very much ready to punish any false teacher and those who resist apostolic/biblical authority.
 - i) He will deal with the false teachers, after the majority of the church has shown obedience to Christ and to the gospel.

- ii) In other words, he waits for the faithful to stand firm, then he will deal decisively with the rebellious minority.

6) What is the application of 2Corinthians 10:1-6?

- a) The focus should not be first on your own individual spiritual condition.
 - i) Yes, that is important!
 - ii) Sanctification of the believer is critical!
 - iii) And the church is here to help, encourage and correct you.
 - iv) However, that is not the focus of 2Corinthians 10:1-6
- b) The focus of the text is that “spiritual warfare” is primarily about the church fighting to have correct worship and doctrine.
 - i) That the church must reject worldly flashy leaders, those who only pretend to be strong in a worldly way, or are too weak to deal with false teaching.
 - ii) The church should raise up, support, and encourage humble meek leaders who will savage false teaching and protect the flock.
- c) But this warfare is not just for the leaders but for the congregation.

7) Yet we are fed, in the presence of our enemies,
at the Lord’s Table, because He is victorious
and He nourishes and sustains us.

Deut 8:3; Ps 23:1-5; John 6:35,51,56

1Cor 10:16; 11:23-26; Eph 5:29

Phil 4:19; 1Pet 2:2-3; Rev 3:20; 12:14

- a) Revelation 12:14 – *“But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”*
- b) Ephesians 5:29-30 – *“for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.”*
- c) John 6:55-57 – *“For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.”*