

Carry the Light

2 Cor. 10:3-5



2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down
of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing
that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and
bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience
of Christ;



Review

Our theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.” We have considered many various aspects of what it means to carry the light, from the aspect of worldwide evangelism to personal responsibility in our daily lives.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation.

We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.



“But once war is forced upon us, there is no other alternative than to apply every available means to bring it to a swift end. War's very object is victory, not prolonged indecision. In war there is no substitute for victory.”

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, *Farewell Address to Congress*, delivered 19 April 1951

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/douglasmacarthurfarewelladdress.htm>

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. The Clarification of the War, 10:3

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:



1. The way we walk – “...after the flesh...”

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war** against the soul;

2. The way we war – “...not after flesh...”

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.



19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

- The declaration of war is an alert of impending danger and destruction.
- The distinction of warfare is necessary in order to determine the battlefield and fight the enemy.



D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones put it this way:

“Not to realize that you are in a conflict means one thing only, and it is that you are so hopelessly defeated and so “knocked out” as it were, that you do not even know it --- you are completely defeated by the devil. Anyone who is not aware of a fight and a conflict in a spiritual sense is in a drugged and hazardous condition.”

The Christian Warfare, pp. 41-42.

B. The Classification of our Weaponry, 10:4

2 Cor. 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)



1. What they are not – “...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal...”

- Note that we are armed – “...the weapons...”

Original Word: ὄπλον

Transliteration: hoplon

Definition: an instrument; plur: arms, armour, weapons.

hóplon – properly, an implement (normally used for *warfare*). In the NT, *hóplon* ("instrument") is always in the *plural* ("*weapons* to wage war").

hóplon ("instruments to make war") **underlines that God always gives *all* the resources we need to prevail in every form of spiritual warfare – as we live in faith** ("His *inbirthed persuasion*," 2 Cor 6:7, 10:4).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3696.htm>



Rom. 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand:
let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and
let us put on the armour of light.

- Note the inclusive pronoun – “...our...”
- Note the terminology – “...warfare...”
- Note the character – “...not carnal...”

2. What they are – “...but mighty through God...”

- The warfare is spiritual, and our power to fight is also spiritual.



Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For **we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness** in high *places*.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**



3. What they do – “...to the pulling down of strong holds;”

- We are to enter the warfare and engage the enemy with expectations to overcome our adversary!
- Not only are we commanded to engage the enemy, but destroy his strong holds!

Heb. 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, **waxed valiant in fight**, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.



1 Ch 19:13 Be of good courage, and **let us behave ourselves valiantly** for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do *that which is good* in his sight.

Psa. 60:12 **Through God we shall do valiantly**: for **he** *it is that shall tread down our enemies.* (Psa. 108:13)

C. The Certification of our Warfare, 10:5

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;



1. The discernment of the attacks – “...the imaginations...”

Original Word: λογισμός

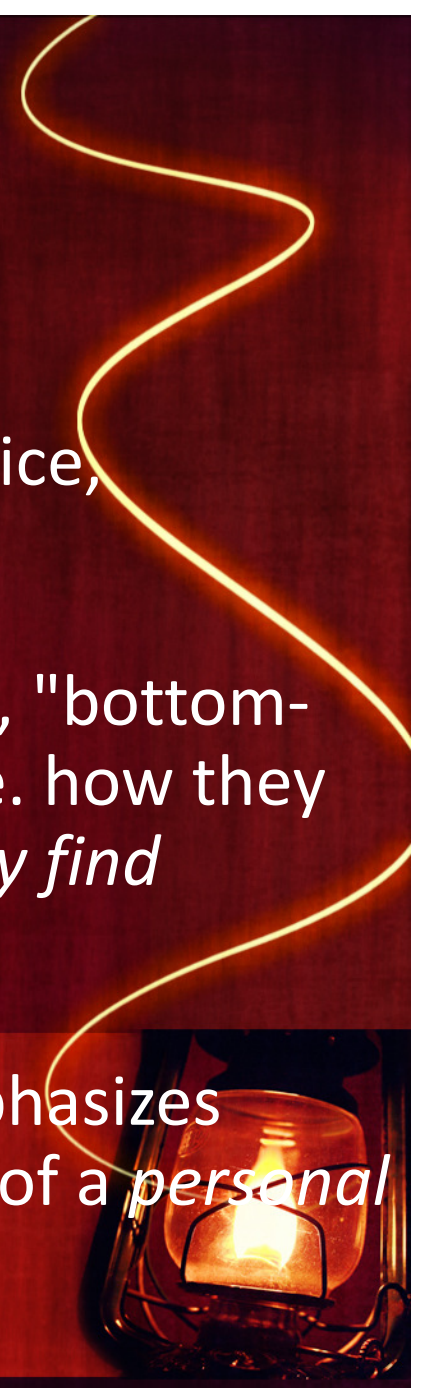
Transliteration: logismos

Definition: reasoning, thinking; a conception, device, thought, or imagination

logismós (from *logízomai*, "to reckon") – properly, "bottom-line" reasoning that reflects someone's values, i.e. how they *personally* assign *weight* in determining what *they find reasonable*.

logismós ("calculated arguments, thoughts") emphasizes *reaching a personal opinion*, i.e. what comes out of a *personal reckoning*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3053.htm>



- The battlefield is the mind.

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

2. The destruction of the attacker –
“...bringing into captivity...”

- Developing the discipline to conquer the enemy of the soul.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things.**



Conclusion

THE MAN IN THE ARENA

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

Excerpt from the speech "Citizenship In A Republic"

delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910

<http://www.theodore-roosevelt.com/trsorbonnespeech.html>



1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

2 Tim. 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, **as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

4 **No man that warreth** entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**



Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

