1Thess 108

Disrupting God’s chain of command leads to misery and destruction.

Thank you for your understanding the other day and the kind words. I think I pushed a little too hard in the Florida heat!

I wanted to put information out there for any Bels in Australia. I was recently contacted by a family from Melbourne Australia, they are looking for fellowship and any doctrinal churches or people to make contact with in Australia.

Feel free to contact each other through me at - prbminstry.org, by sending an email or information.

Let us get back on track…in 1Thessalonians chapter five today.

1Thes 5:1 Now as to the periods and times, brothers *and sisters,* you have no need *of anything* to be written to you.

[1Th 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/2/s_1116002) For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night.

These are Bels who have heard the teaching of the end of the CA by the sudden snatching up of the Rapture.

These are Bels that had heard the teaching of resurrection life.

These are Bels who had heard about the coming 7 years of Tribulation, they knew the 2nd Advent of Christ happens after the Tribulation.

Yet several of these Bels had fallen for a counterfeit set of doctrines in relation to Eschatology.

[/1Th 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/3/s_1116003) While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then **sudden destruction will come upon them** like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.\

The basic concept the Apostle Paul is reminding these Bels about is the end of the Church age.

Verse 1 thru 5 is capping off the end period of the CA, just before the Rapture.

And within these verses is a reflection of what will happen at the end of the Tribulation as well.

There is a quick and surprising form of cleansing of the earth at both the Rapture and the end of the 7 years of Tribulation.

Scripture as I have often told you repeatedly, especially prophetic scripture is multi-layered.

[1Th 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/4/s_1116004) But you, brothers *and sisters,* are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief;

[1Th 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/5/s_1116005) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

[1Th 5:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/6/s_1116006) so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.

Jump over to 2Corinthians chapter ten.

We will be in 2Cor 10 the rest of the lesson today.

I believe we are being led on a study of the cancer of negativity and attacks on authority.

Probably a two-part series yet we will see where God the HS will lead us.

/When negativity is allowed room for growth and arrogance is seeping into any situation it can become a ticking time bomb over a period of time. The chain of command can be disrupted, authority is rebelled against and some form of chaos or misery will eventually dominate that situation. This is true in marriage or family life, government, ministry or business. \

/[1Th 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/3/s_1116003) *While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then* ***sudden destruction will come upon them;***

The reason the Bels at Thessalonica were in a state of confusion was they allowed certain individuals to stray from the authority of the teaching they had received.\

The Apostle Paul…followed by pastor Timothy already fed them good solid BD, especially on the subject matter of the Rapture and 2nd coming of Christ.

Paul is now repeating and reminding them the series of events and it is unfortunate but several of these Bels were already in a state of *‘sudden destruction’* within their own spiritual walk.

Remember at the church at Corinth the Apostle Paul had his share of challenges.

Paul had his authority challenged there more than once.

He also had to deal with many emotional Bels who either enjoyed loose living, or simply didn’t apply the WORD and the filling power of the HS precisely.

 Keep in mind almost all the early churches had challenges from false teachers and especially the Gnostics. /2Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by **the meekness and gentleness** of Christ—**I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!**

The Apostle Paul using divine sarcasm, uses the exact words said to criticize him behind his back! \

Contrary to popular belief, Paul was neither attractive or a strong public speaker.

His writing was much more in-depth and powerful.

[2Co 10:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/2/s_1088002) I ask that when I am present I *need* not be bold with the confidence with which I intend to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

The Apostle Paul is writing this very strongly toward a reprimand of the whole congregation for allowing this.

He is getting ready to deal with a few who have now infected many – it is the old analogy of cutting a cancer out before it grows larger!

NIP IT IN TH BUD…is often good advice for leadership who begin to witness negativity and arrogance in their periphery. REPEAT

/[2Co 10:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/3/s_1088003) **For though we walk in the flesh**, we do not wage battle according to the flesh,

The accusation was that Paul and his men were ungodly – we all have to walk or deal with our flesh (temporal), yet the majority of our battles and decisions have to be from the new nature.\

The Apostle Paul is putting a very interesting spin on the accusations thrown at him.

It is an age-old principle that Believers in reversionism react to Bible doctrine.

Unbels and negative Bels often react the same to BD.

This was illustrated in the days of Noah, Moses and also in the days of Jeremiah.

Paul is not approving of walking in the flesh – the statement is said to wake them up that in this temporal battle we are all dealing with a FLESH issue.

/2Cor 10:3 – *Though we walk or live in the temporal (flesh), we do not carry on our life in the flesh, we do not use solutions or weapons of the world – we have more than simply, mere human weaponry!* \

That is a Pastor Rick Bettez translation.

That is closer to what the Apostle Paul was stating in relation to the year of our LORD 2023.

/[2Co 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/4/s_1088004) for the weapons **of our warfare are not of the flesh**, but divinely powerful for **the destruction of fortresses.**

*Ochyrōma-* castles, fortresses, military strongholds -plural! We build strongholds from the OSN. \

ACK-WHO-RAHMA, this is written in the plural meaning we build many castles and fortress over the years.

God has provided in HIS grace plan, divine equipment, spiritual weapons, to demolish the cosmic attacks and influences of Satan.

Only submission to BD will break them down.

[2Co 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/5/s_1088005) *We are* destroying argumentsand all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* takingevery thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

This is a learned skill set – none of this happens overnight. We have to develop lifestyle practices of knowing when and what to discern and how to quickly handle the OSN and the mix of cosmic viewpoint all around us.

/We have to be conscious enough to know when the temptation is arriving and the negative thought springs up that we be aggressive with our spiritual weapons and take control.

2Cor 10:5 – evil and arrogance is continually assaulting the people of GOD. The truth of BD is under attack! \

There is nowhere in our Bible that we are called to shy away from spiritual warfare. Nowhere you can find GOD commanding you to not be prepared for spiritual warfare.

 REPEAT

Why are you shocked when it happens?

Both verse 5 and 6 are written in a Greek present tense – we keep on being ready, we keep on destroying arrogance and evil.

/[2Co 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/6/s_1088006) and **we are ready** (*hetoimos*) to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

A continued state of fitness, not just ready, fully prepared, trained and in peak condition!\

HET-OY-MOSS – speaks to fitness a military readiness…prepared for battle.

Your soul structure – your thoughts, your decisions, your norms and standards are what we are talking about.

Your obedience is only complete when you are under the accurate teaching of BD and compliant to the chain of command - understanding the doctrine of authority.

2Cor 10:7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, have him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ’s, so too are we.

Remember now Apostle Paul is in correction – rebuke mode in this letter.

/[2Co 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/8/s_1088008) For if I boast somewhat more **about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up** and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,

The Apostle Paul and men under his tutorship were chosen leaders of the early church. That is the hand of God, not human viewpoint.\

*IF I boast* – this is in the Greek 3rd class condition – meaning, that it is probable, maybe he will and maybe he won’t – chances are strong that HE WILL!

[2Co 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/9/s_1088009) for I do not want to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.

[2Co 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/10/s_1088010) For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.”

Paul was described by some historians as short, with a bulbous nose, slightly bald and appearing as unattractive.

His speech and presentation were not strong or impressive compared to other teachers of that day.

There is an age old saying that holds true to this very day…it is not the man it is the message that matters!

[2Co 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/11/s_1088011) Have such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons *we are* also in deed when present.

/2Cor 10:11 – *that which I cover in my letters and my writings is what I firmly believe, what I live in and what I teach in my daily life!*\

That is where the rubber meets the road.

2Cor 10:12 For we do not presume to rank or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they have no understanding.

Note the divine sarcasm laced throughout this chapter.

/Many of the Gnostics and the Pharisees (Judaism) followed the Apostle Paul from place to place to undermine his authority. They often would use one another as compared to other teachers, they being the ‘*scholars and experts’*. Narcissistic people love to flaunt their expertise and knowledge. They always know better and perform better than others – at least, that is what they want you to believe.\

These are some of the experts who led the Bels at Corinth astray and then the Bels at Thessalonica astray as well.

[2Co 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/13/s_1088013) But we will not boast beyond *our* measure, but within the measure of the domain which God assigned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.

We can not boast beyond that which GOD has given us in HIS grace plan.

The Apostle Paul was most certainly chosen by GOD for leadership.

Interestingly enough most men of GOD were called at a time when they were either settled in their life or going in the wrong direction.

Moses, Noah, Abraham, and most of the Apostles had their own agendas – in some cases they were considered too old or too average. Maybe not good enough or smart enough for ministry and yet GOD called them.

 REPEAT

In the case of the Apostle Paul, he had a path in front of him and TLJC knocked him off his feet and stopped that path he was on.

Its not boasting when GOD has His hand upon you and you are stating truth.

[2Co 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/14/s_1088014) For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;

/[2Co 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/15/s_1088015) **not boasting beyond our measure**, *that is,* in other people’s labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, **within our domain, enlarged even more by you,**

Paul states - Knowing my own limits and power inside God’s plan, I have the hope and confidence that we will move forward in this ministry at Corinth. \

The Apostle Paul is hopeful and confident that they can fix this disruption of authority and this break in the chain of command that had happened at Corinth.

Yet he has to address it with some hard truth and difficult statements.

Leaders need to know when and how to be hard toward negativity and lies.

[2Co 10:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/16/s_1088016) so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, *and* not to boast in what has been accomplished in the domain of another.

[2Co 10:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/17/s_1088017) But THE ONE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD. (Jer 9)

/[2Co 10:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/18/s_1088018) For *it is* not the one who commends himself that is approved, **but the one whom the Lord commends**.

God is the one who promotes and elevates HIS word and those who teach it.\

When you know GOD is at work and trust in HIS plan you can stand confident in that!

The Apostle Paul was quoting and teaching from the prophet Jeremiah;

/Jer 9:23 This is what the LORD says: “**Let no wise man boast of his wisdom,** nor let the mighty man boast of his might, nor a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but **let the one who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me,** that I am the LORD who exercises mercy, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD. \

The world is filled with highly respected experts, scholars and the Christian stage is filled with denominational nonsense, false teachers and so-called Biblical authorities.

I can tell you all the cosmic knowledge and experts and scholars or teachers in this world mean nothing.

If GOD is not with them and the truth of BD is not accurately handled and upheld it is all for nothing!

 REPEAT

I will close this today with my favorite set of scriptures –

/1Cor 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers *and sisters,* that there were **not many wise according to the flesh**, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but **God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise**, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,\

/[1Co 1:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/28/s_1063028) and **the insignificant things of the world and the despised God has chosen,** the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 **so that no human may boast before God**.\