

**Bold, Part 17: “Take Every Thought Captive”**  
**2 Corinthians 10:1-6**  
 Pastor Eric Yee

*Take every thought captive to obey Christ,  
 or else you will be taken captive by every thought.*

**I. Paul’s defensive approach against accusations (vv. 1-2)**

<sup>1</sup> I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—

<sup>2</sup> I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.

**II. Paul’s offensive approach against thoughts (vv. 3-6)**

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

A. Personally

B. One Another<sup>1</sup>

Listen for:

- Issues where the person responds in anger or defensiveness
- Times when the person is closed and self-protective
- Instances when the person places blame for their own behavior on someone else
- Occasions when the person has clearly erected a logical defense of their viewpoint and actions

<sup>1</sup> Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2002), 301-317.

Ask:

- What was going on in that situation?
- What were you thinking and feeling as it was going on?
- What did you do in response?
- What did you want, or what were you seeking to accomplish by what you did?
- What was the result?

C. Others<sup>2</sup>

- Ask Interest Questions: What are their interests and why do these things bring them such joy?
- Ask Issue/Opinion Questions: What are their opinions, views, or beliefs about a particular topic?
- Ask God Questions: Questions that get them to engage with their own worldview and consider what difference God would make to this topic

<sup>6</sup> being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 2:6-9 = For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

**Life Application**

1. Read through a Bible Reading Plan.
2. Memorize Scripture.
3. Read and discuss *What is the Gospel?* (Greg Gilbert) and its study guide with others.
4. Explain the gospel in less than a minute.

<sup>2</sup> Rebecca Manley Pippert, *Stay Salt* (Epsom, UK: The Good Book Company, 2020), 197-215, Kindle. For a summary article, see Ginger Blomberg, “The Evangelistic Power of Listening and Asking,” The Gospel Coalition, July 22, 2020, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/stay-salt-becky-pippert/>.