

“IN DEFENSE OF INTEGRITY”

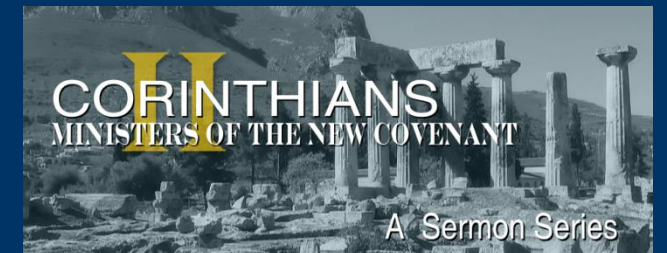
(2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:4)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 2

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

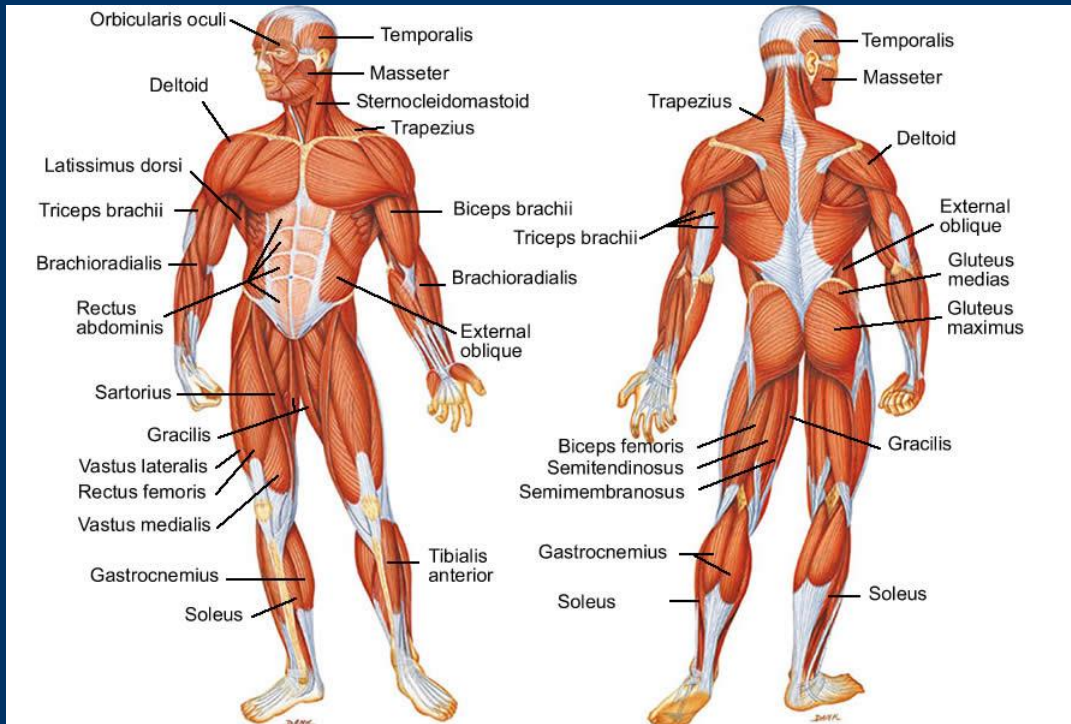
Date: June 11, 2017

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:

What is the smallest and most destructive muscles in the human body?



INTRODUCTION:



A sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows keener with constant use.

(Washington Irving)



INTRODUCTION:



NO HUMAN BEING CAN TAME
THE TONGUE. IT IS A RESTLESS
EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON.
- JAMES 3:8

James 3:8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.



INTRODUCTION:



- Ps 7:1** Lord my God, I take refuge in you;
save and deliver me from all who pursue me,
2 or they will tear me apart like a lion
and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me.
3 Lord my God, if I have done this
and there is guilt on my hands —
4 if I have repaid my ally with evil
or without cause have robbed my foe —
5 then let my enemy pursue and overtake me;
let him trample my life to the ground
and make me sleep in the dust.*

INTRODUCTION:



- Ps 7:6* Arise, Lord, in your anger;
rise up against the rage of my enemies.
Awake, my God; decree justice.
- 7* Let the assembled peoples gather around you,
while you sit enthroned over them on high.
- 8* Let the Lord judge the peoples.
Vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness,
according to my integrity, O Most High.

INTRODUCTION:



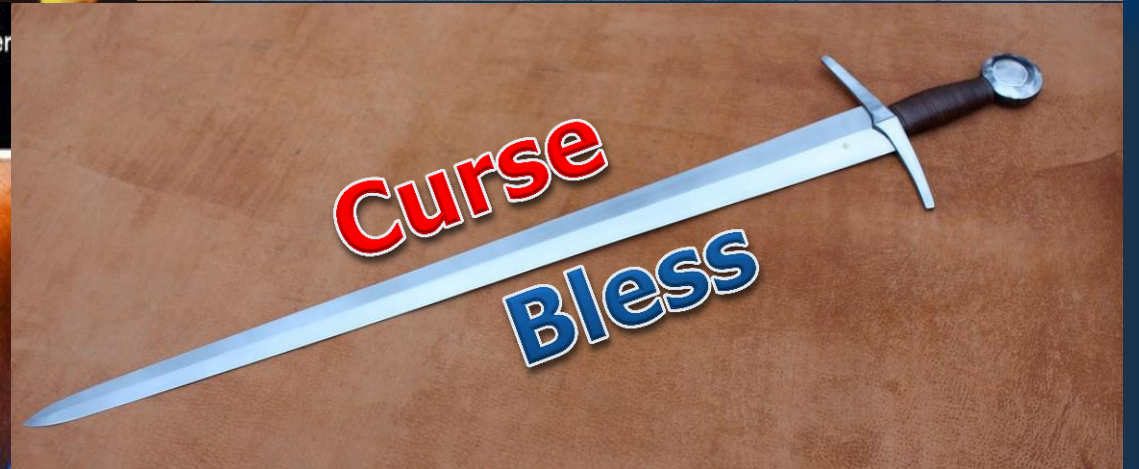
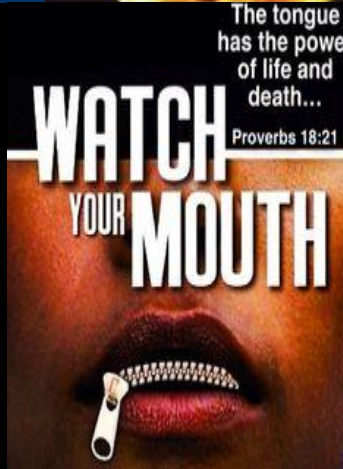
- Ps 26:1 Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.*
- 2 Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;*
- 3 for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.*
- 11 I lead a blameless life;
deliver me and be merciful to me.*

***Paul defends his Integrity
as a servant of God when
he was falsely accused.***



I. THE PAIN OF ENDURING FALSE ACCUSATION

"You can eat whatever you want but watch out what you say."



I. THE PAIN OF ENDURING FALSE ACCUSATION

1st Accusation:
Carnal Conduct

2nd Accusation:
Fickle
Indecision



3rd Accusation:
Dominating
Dictator

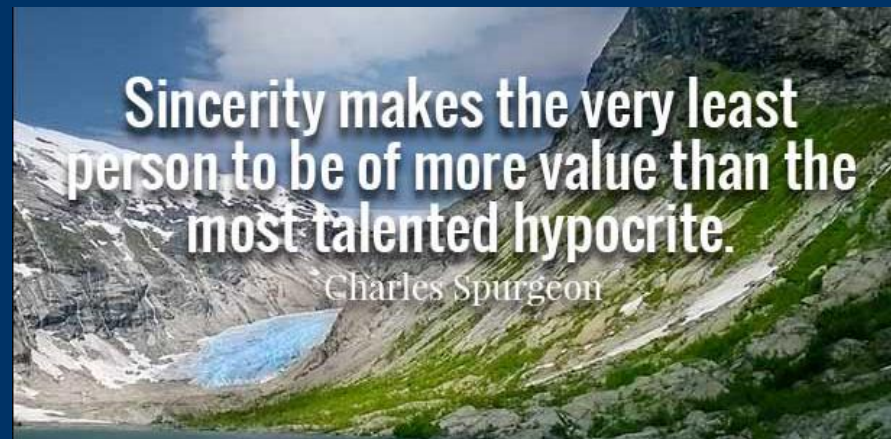
II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

A) *Carnal Conduct*



Integrity and Sincerity.

2 Cor 1:12 *Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.*



II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

A) *Carnal Conduct*



Integrity and Sincerity.

2 Cor 1:13 *For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, ¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.*



II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

B) Fickle Indecision

Keeping his promise



***2 Cor 1:15** Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. **16** I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.*

II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

B) Fickle Indecision



Circumstances postponed his travel plans



1 Cor. 16:5 After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you — for I will be going through Macedonia. ***6 Perhaps*** I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ***7*** For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; ***I hope*** to spend some time with you, ***if the Lord permits.***

II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

B) Fickle Indecision



*Circumstances postponed
his travel plans*



1 Cor. 16:17 Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

B) Fickle Indecision

Paul's Argument



18 *But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No."* **19** *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us — by me and Silas and Timothy — was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."*



**All you need to say is simply
'YES' or 'NO'
...anything beyond this
comes from the evil one.**

Matthew 5:37

II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

B) Fickle Indecision

Paul's Argument



2 Cor 1:20 *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

21 *Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, **22** set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*



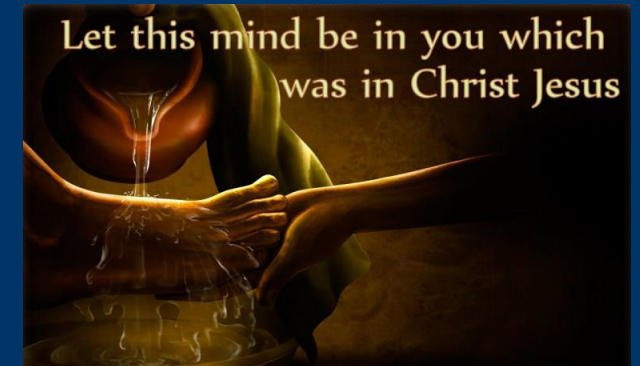
II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

C) Dominating Dictator



Paul stands as a fellow worker and a sincere bond servant

2 Cor 1:23 *I call God as my witness — and I stake my life on it — that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. **24** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.*

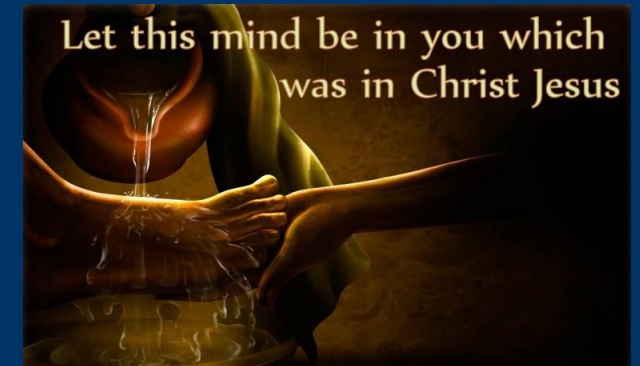


II. IN DEFENSE OF TRUE CHARACTER

C) *Dominating Dictator*



Paul stands as a fellow worker and a sincere bond servant



2 Cor 2:1 So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. ***2*** For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? ***3*** I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. ***4*** For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

CONCLUSION:



Three ways we can defend our self when we are falsely accused.

A) There are times when defending one's integrity calls for strong action.

B) There are other times when the best response is silence.

C) Whether your approach is assertiveness or silence, never take revenge.





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the most destructive muscle in the body?*
- 2. Why does James say about the control over this little muscle? How does it assassinate a person's character?*
- 3. How do we normally react to false accusation?*
- 4. How does the above reaction to accusation reflect on a person's true character?*
- 5. Why is the attitude of getting even with others does not bring peace?*
- 6. How does God use suffering to help us mature and grow spiritually?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:4