

Week of August 5-11

DEMOLITION DERBY

Scripture Reading: Read 2 Corinthians 10

Two days from now, as I write this, our old church van will be taking part in the demolition derby at the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair. The van has served us well for many years but it was time to retire it. Our first thought was to try and sell it but there are so many repairs that would have needed to be made that we decided it would be better to salvage it for scrap metal instead and give the proceeds to our church's building project. Before we do that, however, a driver from the church will give the old van one last hurrah (or if it survives, two last hurrah's – one here and, then, at another fair). There's something about a demolition derby that many people find exciting. The sound of crashing metal, straining engines and spinning tires is certainly a sight to behold.

In today's chapter reading, Paul speaks about another demolition derby in which we, as Christians, find ourselves entered. *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

"Demolish strongholds!" "Demolish arguments!" A spiritual demolition derby! Paul recognized that he and the church were engaged in a battle with the forces of darkness. In order to battle effectively, we need to make sure that we are making use of the right weapons (and I'm not talking about our oversized blue church van). No, Paul says our weapons aren't worldly weapons because our enemy isn't of this world. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood Paul told the Ephesians but against spiritual forces of darkness. Spiritual forces demand that we utilize spiritual weapons and God has supplied them.

These weapons are more than sufficient for the task at hand. They have divine power. They are Holy Spirit energized to accomplish the task (much stronger than the engine in our blue van!) They can tear down and demolish any demonic strongholds: those entrenched patterns of thought, attitude, value and behavior that are rooted in our old sin nature. These weapons can tear down and demolish arguments rooted in worldly wisdom, ungodly beliefs, and false philosophies. They have the power to take thoughts captive and to bring them in submission to Christ, to have our minds transformed from stinkin' thinkin' to godly, wholesome thinking. These weapons have the power to demolish the darkest lies and the deepest secrets and to bring truth, life and grace into people's lives.

As our van faces the competition this Friday, we hope for the best for it and its driver. As believers, though, we're guaranteed a win in our demo derby since the weapons we have will demolish anything that stands in their way because of Christ's victory over the opposition.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: *Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to show you any strongholds or ungodly arguments in you that need to be demolished. Act accordingly and authoritatively in Christ to begin demolishing them today.*

Take-a-way: *In God's derby, we have what we need to demolish the opposition.*