

- I) V15-16 INTRO: And in **this confidence I intended** to come to you before that you I mentioned that throughout this letter, Paul was led to answer accusations

THIS IS BECAUSE

- II) **False teachers** had infiltrated the church and were **undermining their faith**
Part of the way they did this was by calling Paul into question
This would undermine their confidence in him as their pastor/teacher

- III) They **appeared** to be genuine Christian believers, but were false teachers
Paul makes this clear later in the letter, and exposes them

2 Co 11:13-15 For such men **are false apostles**, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves **as apostles of Christ**. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

- IV) Jesus warned us and prepared us for their appearance

Mt 7:15 Beware of false prophets who come in sheep's clothing but are inwardly ravenous wolves!

- V) They outwardly appear to be true messengers of God, but in fact are destructive
They use the word God, speak **of** truth, mention Jesus, speak of blessings

HOW DID PAUL IDENTIFY THEM

- VI) They were bringing in a false message, contrary to what Paul had taught them
Ro 16:17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary **to the doctrine** that you have been taught; **avoid them**.

WHAT SHOULD THE BELIEVERS DO

- VII) They aren't to be listened to, tolerated, or honored but rather **exposed**

Jude 3-4 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was **once for all** delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who **pervert the grace of our** God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

IN THE CASE OF THE CORINTHIANS

- VIII) One of their tactics was to scrutinize Paul to find fault with him

This doesn't take long, because everyone has areas that can be pointed out

- IX) At this point we have looked at three of the charges: **THE FIRST CHARGE**

2 Co 1:3-7 They inferred that he was afflicted because he deserved to suffer

- I) His response was that his suffering developed his faith
His suffering also prepared him to be able to comfort those in need of comfort
THE SECOND CHARGE
- II) In 2 Co 1:12 He answered the charge that he was selfish and carnal
His response was that his life was one of simplicity and godly sincerity
In other words, he was without hypocrisy and had pure motives
THE THIRD CHARGE
- III) In V13 he answered the charge that he exaggerated his ministry success
He said: I speak plainly, don't insert personal opinions nor make up stories
I am not fabricating stories to win your admiration, but **I am preaching Jesus**
AT THIS POINT
- IV) He answers the accusation that he changes his mind easily
This came about because he made a change in his travel plans!
HE SAYS
- V) V15-16 In this confidence **I intended to come to you** before, that you might have
BEGIN
- VI) Paul originally had intended to come to them, using a different route
He made this clear in his first letter
1 Co 16:5-7 Now I will come to you **when I pass through Macedonia** (for I am passing through Macedonia). And **it may be** that I will remain, or **even spend the winter** with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not wish to see you now on the way; **but I hope** to stay a while with you, **if the Lord permits.**
INITIALLY
- VII) When he was planning his journey, he had hoped to see them **twice**
Once as he went N, to Macedonia and then a **second time** as he went S, to Judea
- VIII) He hoped to see them twice so he could teach them **more thoroughly**
They were a relatively young church that was filled with difficulties
Paul desired to see them so that he could further instruct them
- IX) V15 For them, this would be a **second benefit**: their receiving further instruction
As their spiritual father he wanted to **equip them** for their spiritual growth
- X) As a pastor he desired to minister to them in order to **deepen their faith**
It is **this confidence** (his pure conscience) that he refers to: **his integrity**
WITH GOOD INTENTIONS
- XI) Paul had written that he hoped to come to see them, to teach them more

- I) This was Paul's sincere longing for the churches: their spiritual growth
Ro 1:11 I long to see you, *that I may impart to you some spiritual gift*, so that you may be established
- II) He wasn't able to come so the infiltrators used this to lodge a charge against him
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE FOURTH CHARGE
- III) V17 Therefore when I was planning this *did I do it lightly?* Or the things I plan
The charge: He changes his minds easily, proving him to be **unstable**
- IV) They were saying Paul was **double minded**: Wavering, swerving, indecisive
This made him a leader that **you could not place your confidence** in
Jas 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
- V) The heart of their charge was deeper than him simply changing his mind easily
The **real attack** was they were saying that he did not love the Corinthians
- VI) They were planting the thought that he was unconcerned for their spiritual needs
They were saying he had said he was going to see them, and then bailed out
By bailing out on them, he showed no consideration or love for them
NOT ONLY THAT
- VII) By not planning properly he did not consult God for **the leading of the Spirit**
This made him worldly because he did not take **God's will** into consideration
Jas 4:15 you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH
- VIII) This is exactly what he had said in his first letter
1 Co 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; **but I hope to** stay a while with you, **if the Lord permits.**
- IX) This was obviously an unfair and untrue attack on Paul
WHY
- X) **First**: Paul loved the Corinthians: He would not intentionally injure them
The simple fact was his plans were always under the leading of **God's Spirit**
Ro 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God
- XI) Believers, especially leaders, are to be familiar with the leading of God's Spirit
APPLICATION
- XII) We might see a need somewhere that creates a burden in us to see the need met

I) We might even conclude that the Lord wants us to move to meet that need
Instead of just moving on the impulse, we seek the Lord

II) We have an example of this in the book of Acts

Ac 16:6-10 Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the **Holy Spirit** had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the **Spirit of Jesus** did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that **God was calling us** to preach the Good News there. (NLT)

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

III) King David loved God, and desired to build Him a temple

God had no permanent structure but met with Israel in a Tent (tabernacle)

IV) This grieved David, and it was in his heart to build a Temple for God

2 Sa 7:2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar; but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains

V) **His desire** was good, but it was not God's will that David should build it

God planned for David's son Solomon to build the temple

1 Chron 22:7-10 David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; **you shall not** build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. **He shall build** a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I **will be his Father**; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

VI) Paul knew that his plans were to be submitted to God, and habitually did so

Pr 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

VII) Before we bought this land, I had plans to build on our land in Ontario

God had different plans

- I) Because of the accusation, Paul was compelled to explain himself to the church
They were being influenced to think that Paul **uncaringly** changed his mind easily
- II) V18 But as **God is faithful**, our word to you was not Yes and No
God is faithful, speaking of being true to His word
- III) What He says is what He will do: you can put your full weight of trust in Him
Nu 23:19 God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

1 Sa 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man, that He should change his mind.

WHAT IS PAUL SAYING

- IV) V18 God's word and Spirit are trustworthy so trust the one **led by His Spirit**
As an apostle he faithfully ministered to them, and they could trust him

- V) He had a proven ministry: they were aware of the suffering he had endured
This **should have** established his trustworthiness and credibility to them

THIS WOULD MEAN

- VI) V18 We did not preach a message that was self-contradictory
We did not preach one thing, and then change it to mean something else

- VII) V19 For the Son of God Jesus Christ who was **preached among you** by us-by me
Paul speaks of a ministry team that joined with him in ministering to the church
Timothy and Silas had come to Corinth to work alongside of Paul
Ac 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

- VIII) He is defending his message: We preached the Son of God to you while at Corinth
We made sure that it was presented clearly, for what it is
1 Co 2:4-5 And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God. (NLT)

- IV) V20 **All the promises of God** in Him are Yes and **in Him** Amen to the glory of God
All the promises related to Messiah and salvation are fulfilled in Jesus
Everything that pertains to life and spiritual blessings are fulfilled in Him

I) In Jesus, **we have all that we need**

Eph. 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing** in Christ.

Col 2:10 You have been given **fullness in Christ** who is the head over every power and authority

2 Pe 1:3 His divine power has given us **everything we need** for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

II) Is Jesus all we need? Are you lacking something He should have supplied?

WHAT DID HE SAY

III) Jn 4:13-14 Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again: But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him **shall never thirst**; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life: he who comes to Me shall **never hunger**; and he who believes in Me **shall never thirst**.

Jn 10:10 The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they **might have life**, and that they might have it **more abundantly**.

Mt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

IV) V21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has **anointed us is God**
Paul now defends himself from the false teachers **fifth charge**

THE CHARGE

V) Paul is **self-appointed**, and not anointed by God

VI) Paul was not one of the 12 but **became an apostle** after Jesus' resurrection
The infiltrators said because He did not walk with Jesus he was self appointed

VII) Paul did not seek out the office and role of apostle but was called in to the ministry
He alluded to this charge in the introduction: Paul, **an apostle by God's will**

VIII) In answer to this charge, Paul addressed this in his first letter to the Corinthians
1 Co 15:5-8 He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was **seen by me also**, as by one born out of due time

I) This was something he addressed other times

Gal 1:15 It pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and **called me** through His grace

2 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, **putting me into the ministry**

II) He made it clear that it is God who established and anointed him for service

FIRST

III) V21 God called Paul, and God established (made him firm, stable)

God constantly works to refine our faith in Christ and strengthen us to serve

2Th 3:3 The Lord is faithful, who **will establish you** and guard you from the evil one

SECOND

IV) **Anointed us**: Has commissioned us, and imparted to us authority and gifts

Anointing: The gifts and influences of the Holy Spirit

V) Paul was anointed by God, not by man which is the foundation of his authority

Anointing comes from the Lord, it is not the work of man, but a choice by God

1 Co 12:11 One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills

THIRD

VI) V22 He has **sealed us** and given us the Spirit in our hearts **as a guarantee**

DEVELOP BRIEFLY

VII) In Scripture, sealing has at least three connotations

One: Sealing represents a finished transaction

Jer 32:9-10 I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.

VIII) **Two**: Sealing represents **ownership**

2 Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his. And, Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

IX) **Three**: **Sealing represents security**, in Christ

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (when God finally claims us as His Own)

I) V22 He has given us the Spirit as a **guarantee** (deposit)

Arrabon, a down payment, as a guarantee that the rest would be paid. Our spiritual blessings come because we have the down payment, guaranteeing future blessings

II) The Spirit is the pledge given to believers by God to assure them that the glory of the life to come, promised in the gospel, is a reality, and not an illusion.

III) This is what Paul made clear in his letter to the Romans

Ro. 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

IV) V23-24 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul that **to spare you** I came no

THE SIXTH CHARGE

V) He is a tyrant, lording it over their faith and not caring for them

By not coming he has shown them that he is **unaccountable to others**

If he loved them, he wouldn't have changed his plans without letting them know

PAUL'S DEFENSE

VI) To spare you a painful visit, I chose to alter my plans (2:1-2)

Because of their problems, he determined to give them time to **deal with them**

VII) Instead of bringing correction, he waited for the Spirit to move among them

1 Co 4:20-21 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

VIII) V24 Not that we have *dominion* over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy

Dominion: To be lord of, to rule over

Paul reveals his pastor's loving heart: I am not **lording over your faith**

IX) Paul was not an authoritarian, leading by Intimidation, or bullying them

X) Authority was to be exercised to encourage, not discourage them

His spiritual authority was designed to build up, not tear down the believers

2 Co 10:8 For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

I) V24 He was not to decide for them, but to encourage them to personally grow

II) **ULTIMATELY**: They were to stand in the Lord, by their faith in Christ

1 Pe 5:1-4 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away