



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

October 3, 2021

**2 Corinthians 1:12-24: The Secret Behind Successful
Ministry**

Paul shares that his ministry is guided by “simplicity and godly wisdom” (v.12).

In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 he emphasizes:

- **Clarity** in communication
- A **cross-centered** message
- Being an **example/mentoring**
- **Generous giving**

Not worldly wisdom:

- Impressive speech
- “Relevant topics”
- Leadership from a distance
- Taking

Paul patterns his words, actions, and all his decisions after God’s faithfulness (15-22)

*Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the “Yes” of Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 1:20, The Message)*

A few of the many, many, promises of God:

Promises about Pardon: 1 John 1:9; Ephesians 1:7

Promises about God’s Presence: Isaiah 43:2, 3; Hebrews 13:5

Promises about Prayer: 1 John 5:14; Luke 11:9, 10

Promises about Paradise: Hebrews 11:16; 2 Timothy 2:11

Takeaways for 2 Corinthians 1:12-24:

1. A ministry which relies on God's power rather than human brilliance will not fail to be used by God.
2. God's faithfulness shines out like a beacon of light in a darkened world of self-love and faithlessness.
3. Messy human relationships don't mean God is absent.
4. Don't lose heart in your godly pursuit of strained and broken relationships.

“All God's giants have been weak men and women who have gotten hold of God's faithfulness.” (Hudson Taylor)

HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 1:12-24...

1. Boasting is almost always a negative word. So, what do you think Paul's purpose was? Why would it be acceptable in this instance? Read Jeremiah 9:23 and Acts 24:16.
2. So why do you think Paul made such ado about his conscience? Why do you think this is important? Why is this important in the face of criticism or persecution? How are our consciences feed, shaped and molded so that they do not conform to worldly wisdom?
3. What lessons can we learn from the apparent breakdown in communication seen in this passage? Read the following passages and discuss:
 - James 4:13-15
 - Matthew 5:37
 - Matthew 21:28-31