



1

(Theme slide for this message)



The dreaded rolling of the eyes . . . a signal that often reflects the contempt we feel toward another person or at least toward what they are saying.

-- It may be a micro-expression that some say has a powerful correlation to whether a relationship can be saved.

TR: Contempt reflects . . .



3

. . . the loss of the judgment of charity AND the corresponding increase in the judgment of suspicion.

-- When we imagine we can peer through the blinds of a person's soul and know what their motives are . . .

-- . . . and when we start to read into all they do with a squint of suspicion, it is hard to repair the relationship.

TR: But what about when someone is making it clear that they have the judgment of suspicion TOWARD US?

**How can we be
BUILT^UP in Christ
when we are facing
accusations?**

4

READ SLIDE

-- Can God use the suffering of being falsely accused for good?

TR: How can gut-wrenching accusations . . .

A graphic on a blue background. The word 'BUILT' is in black, bold, uppercase letters at the top. Below it, the letters 'U' and 'P' are large and green. A blue arrow points upwards from the bottom of the 'U' through the 'P'. The phrase 'through suffering?!' is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the 'U' and 'P'.

5

can happen when accusations push us to find our foundation in Christ

... push us to find our true foundation in Christ, and not just in the approval of others?

TR: I know many have already read this week's passage but allow me to refresh our minds by going over 2 Cor 1:12-22 straight through.

2 Corinthians 1:12 *page 1066 in handout Bibles*

For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

ESV

6

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 13

2 Corinthians 1:13-14

For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand—¹⁴just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

ESV

7

READ SLIDE

TR: v. 15

2 Corinthians 1:15-16

Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace.

¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

ESV

8

READ SLIDE

TR: v. 17

2 Corinthians 1:17-18

Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time?

¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

ESV

9

READ SLIDE

TR: v. 19

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

ESV

10

READ SLIDE

TR: v. 21

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

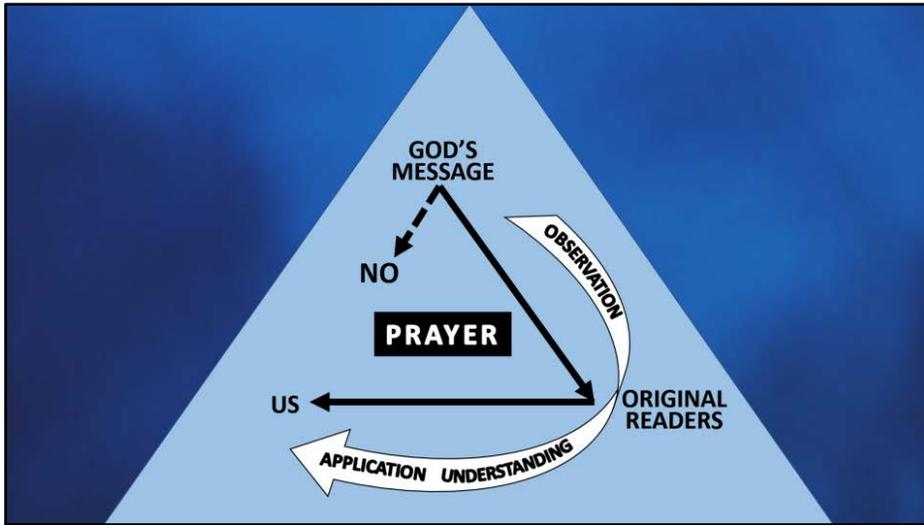
And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

ESV

11

READ SLIDE

TR: The first page of the message notes reflect . . .



... seeking clarity regarding what God's message was to the original readers.

-- we may want to immediately try to apply it to ourselves, but we often then are not faithful to the author's intention.

TR: When we read this passage, we realize that there are ...

Accusations *against Paul by the Corinthians*

13



... a number of accusations against Paul that are mentioned or implied.

-- When I say, "Implied," that is because it is like we are hearing one side of a phone conversation.

-- For those taking notes, on the notes page, add the verse references

TR: The first accusation is implied . . .

Accusations
against Paul by the Corinthians

? *Should we even pray for him?*

?

?

?

14

READ SLIDE

TR: This comes from verse 12's opening word . . .

2 Corinthians 1:11-12a

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. **12For** our boast is this

...

ESV

15

... FOR.

-- Paul asked for prayer in verse 11 . . . and now he is giving the grounds FOR this request.

-- This suggests that the Corinthians may have even gotten to the point where they were hesitant to pray for Paul.

TR: I think another reflection of the judgment of suspicion in the Corinthians' hearts is reflected in this doubt . . .

Accusations
against Paul by the Corinthians

16

? *Should we even pray for him?*

? *Does he even esteem us?*

?

?

READ SLIDE

TR: In verse 14 Paul emphasizes that he . . .

2 Corinthians 1:13-14

For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand—¹⁴just as you did partially understand us—**that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.**

ESV

17

. . . has confidence that he will BOAST of them on the day of Jesus' return.

-- Cf. the power of someone boasting of us to others . . . a sure sign that they esteem us.

TR: Paul's altered travel plans probably raised the concern in the Corinthians' minds captured in the question . . .

Accusations
against Paul by the Corinthians

18

- ?** *Should we even pray for him?*
- ?** *Does he even esteem us?*
- ?** *Does he even want to see us?*
- ?**

READ SLIDE

TR: Verses 15-16 find Paul addressing this

2 Corinthians 1:15-16

Because I was sure of this, **I wanted to come to you first**, so that you might have a second experience of grace.

¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

ESV

19

He WANTED to come, He WANTED to visit

TR: The most clearly stated concern that Paul addresses, probably in response to the report brought back to him from Corinth, is . . .

Accusations *against Paul by the Corinthians*

20

- ?** *Should we even pray for him?*
- ?** *Does he even esteem us?*
- ?** *Does he even want to see us?*
- ?** *Is his wisdom only “earthly?”*

READ SLIDE

- It seems that the doubts in the hearts of the Corinthians moved toward something darker . . .
- . . . they have twisted the blinds further shut and there's even less light of truth coming in.
- They are peering out with the scowl of the judgment of suspicion.

TR: Verse 17 reflects the doubts that have fermented into accusations . . .

2 Corinthians 1:17

Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time?

ESV

21

READ SLIDE

TR: In asking whether Paul's wisdom was only "earthly?" . . . the Corinthians were asking . . .

? *Is his wisdom only “earthly?”*

Is he making plans according to the flesh?

22

READ SLIDE

- Remember, the false teachers / apostles were saying they were the “spiritual” ones.
- Suggesting that Paul was only operating in the natural realm . . . the fleshly, old nature realm.

TR: They were asking . . .

? *Is his wisdom only “earthly?”*

Is he making plans according to the flesh?

Is he vacillating in sharing his desired travel plans?

23

READ SLIDE

-- Is Paul “fickle?”

-- Does he run “hot and cold?” Scalding people one minute and freezing them the next?

TR: And even worse . . .

? *Is his wisdom only “earthly?”*

Is he making plans according to the flesh?

Is he vacillating in sharing his desired travel plans?

Is he using “double-talk” rather than a simple “yes” or “no?”

READ SLIDE

-- Jesus taught that we shouldn't have to swear oaths to get people to believe us. And we certainly shouldn't have a code of what we swear by to indicate “how truthful” our words really are.

-- Swearing by the altar or the gold of the altar – cf. crossing my fingers behind my back.

-- Rather, our Lord said, “Let your ‘yes’ be a ‘yes.’”

TR: These accusations are addressed by . . .

? Accusations

! Assurances

. . . Paul giving certain assurances.

-- Elsewhere we know that he wasn't as concerned about what others thought of him personally . . .

-- . . . but it mattered because their opinions of him were impacting their thoughts about the Gospel of Jesus.

-- EX: Preaching = "Truth through personality"

TR: His first assurance was . . .

Assurances
by Paul of his godly sincerity

 *We behaved with simplicity & godly sincerity!*



26

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 12 is where we find this

2 Corinthians 1:12 page 1066 in handout Bibles

For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we **behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity**, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

ESV

27

**“we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity.”
-- Paul’s conscience was clear**

TR: He also assured them that . . .

Assurances
by Paul of his godly sincerity

28

! *We behaved with simplicity & godly sincerity!*

! *We have not used faithless "double-talk!"*

!

!

READ SLIDE

- In our world we hear some politicians and lawyers confidently assert that which means nothing.
- Double-talk leaves us wondering whether someone is really **FOR IT** or **AGAINST IT**.

TR: Paul said . . .

2 Corinthians 1:17-18

Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time?

¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, **our word to you has not been Yes and No.**

ESV

29

. . . our word has not been YES and NO.

-- They were accusing him of "bait and switch" tactics.

-- EX: Buying a Paw Patrol transport that suggested all the vehicles were included, but the much smaller print said only one was.

-- cf. Buyer Beware . . . but that shouldn't be true of an apostle or any Christian.

TR: Paul assures them that he wouldn't use such worldly, faithless double-talk because . . .

Assurances
by Paul of his godly sincerity

30

- !** *We behaved with simplicity & godly sincerity!*
- !** *We have not used faithless "double-talk!"*
- !** *We wouldn't because God & Jesus are not "Yes" and "No!"*
- !**

... READ SLIDE

TR: Verses 19 and 20 have several key linking words ...

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰**For** all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

ESV

31

**Why haven't Paul and his companions' words been yes and no?
FOR . . . (begins both verse 19 and 20)**

TR: Verse 19 tells us . . .

! *We wouldn't because God & Jesus
are not "Yes" and "No!"*

*Jesus is not "YES & NO," in Him
it is always "YES!"*

32

READ SLIDE

TR: Look again at verse 19

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, **was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.** ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

ESV

33

the Son of God, Jesus Christ,
was not Yes and No, but in him it
is always Yes.

TR: The second FOR tells us that . . .



***We wouldn't because God & Jesus
are not "Yes" and "No!"***

***Jesus is not "YES & NO," in Him
it is always "YES!"***

***God's promises are not "YES &
NO," in Christ they are always
"YES!"***

34

READ SLIDE

TR: Look again at verse 20

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

ESV

35

all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

-- [gospel fluency] means that we “speak gospel” in the way we plan, the way we deal with conflict, the way we face suffering.

-- It is usually our mother-tongue which gives us the words and concepts to deal with all of life . . .

-- . . . the quest of the believer in Jesus is to become so fluent in Gospel that it becomes our new mother-tongue . . . it becomes the very fibers of which our thoughts are woven.

TR: When that happens, like it did for Paul, we can give the assurance that we utter our AMEN to GOD for His glory (end of v. 20) . . .

Assurances
by Paul of his godly sincerity

36

- !** *We behaved with simplicity & godly sincerity!*
- !** *We have not used faithless "double-talk!"*
- !** *We wouldn't because God & Jesus are not "Yes" and "No!"*
- !** *We utter "AMEN" to godly sincerity & Gospel fluency*

What we utter AMEN to is READ SLIDE

TR: Because of . . .

! *We utter "AMEN" to godly sincerity & Gospel fluency*

Jesus' "YES" means that we say, "SO BE IT!" to godly sincerity!

37

READ SLIDE

-- If the accusations against Paul of planning according to the flesh or of vacillating or of being of "forked tongue," were true . . . then Paul would not be "speaking gospel" fluently.

TR: The other reason we say AMEN is that . . .

! *We utter "AMEN" to godly sincerity & Gospel fluency*

*Jesus' "YES" means that we say, "SO BE IT!" to godly sincerity!
God says "SO BE IT," by establish-ing us together with you all - having been anointed, sealed, and guaranteed by the Spirit*

38

READ SLIDE

- Paul isn't getting off topic and just having a "theological senior moment."
- He is helping the Corinthians understand why their accusations would be repulsive to him.
- They would mean that Paul does not reflect well the character of God.

TR: Look at verses 21-22.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

And it is God who **establishes** us with you in Christ, and has **anointed** us, ²²and who has also **put his seal on** us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee.**

ESV

39

God establishes or strengthens us (present tense) . . . WITH YOU IN CHRIST (reminding them of their TOGETHERNESS IN CHRIST) -- Not only is God currently strengthening us, but He has in the past, when we trusted Jesus, anointed, sealed, and given us the security deposit of the Spirit.

TR: I know that was a bit quick, but please allow me to move . . .

? Accusations

! Assurances

➔ 2 Essential Applications



40

... around the Pathways triangle, from God's message for the original readers to its understanding and application to us today.

TR: I believe there are two essential applications. The first is to . .

.

2 Essential Applications

! **How we make our plans
& speak to others**

41

READ SLIDE

-- It doesn't address suffering, per se, but it is still important for us to remember.

TR: Paul's ASSURANCES teach us that . . .

Gospel Fluency means
we plan & speak
with simplicity and godly sincerity



42

READ SLIDE

-- We don't try to trick people with verbal slight-of-hand.

TR: To do this we must . . .

Gospel Fluency means
we plan & speak
with simplicity and godly sincerity

 *Make sure our conscience is clear*



43

READ SLIDE

-- Paul's testimony of his conscience was clear.

TR: We must with simplicity . . .

Gospel Fluency means
we plan & speak
with simplicity and godly sincerity

 *Make sure our conscience is clear*

 *Mean what we say (Yes = Yes)*



44

READ SLIDE

TR: And what we say we will do, we then . . .

Gospel Fluency means
we plan & speak
with simplicity and godly sincerity

 *Make sure our conscience is clear*

 *Mean what we say (Yes = Yes)*

 *Keep our word, even to our own hurt*



45

READ SLIDE

TR: Related to that, if we really want to be Gospel Fluent, we must . . .

Gospel Fluency means
we plan & speak
with simplicity and godly sincerity

! *Make sure our conscience is clear*

! *Mean what we say (Yes = Yes)*

! *Keep our word, even to our own hurt*

! *Reflect God - finish what we start*

46

READ SLIDE

-- As you think about how you talk with your parents, your boss, your teachers, whoever . . . do you make clear to them what you intend to mean?

-- EX: clarifying when something is a promise and when something is what you would like to see happen

-- EX: making clear that these plans are “all things being equal,” that is, if the circumstances don’t radically change.

-- On a practical level . . . when you sign a reaffirmation of membership or an employment agreement, will you be Gospel fluent by keeping your word?

TR: These practical truths are a great reminder to us, but the key goal we have for our study of 2 Corinthians is to figure out how to be . . .



BUILT
through suffering?!

can happen when accusations push us to find our foundation in Christ

47

READ SLIDE

-- The suffering may be “deadly peril” like Paul talked about in last week’s text,
-- OR the afflictions of having our motives looked at with the judgment of suspicion.

-- We can be Built[^]UP when the pain of those accusations push us to find our foundation in Christ.

TR: That is our second essential application.

2 Essential Applications

**! How we make our plans
& speak to others**

**! What we do when
suffering leads us to
question God's motives**

48

READ SLIDE

-- When we suffer physically or are under the barrage of accusations against our motives . . . it will almost always lead us to the challenging question of why the all-powerful, all-good God does not do something to end our afflictions.

TR: When we suffer long and hard enough, we will start to wonder a lot of different things.

BUILT^UP THRU SUFFERING?

*even when we start losing
the Judgment of Charity toward
God?*

 *When we question God's motives*





49

We may question God's motives. Does He really love us?

TR: We may question . . .

BUILT UP THRU SUFFERING?

*even when we start losing
the Judgment of Charity toward
God?*

? *When we question God's motives*

? *When we question God's plans*

?

50

... God's plans. Does He know what He's doing? It doesn't make sense to me!

TR: We may even question God's ...

BUILT^UP THRU SUFFERING?

*even when we start losing
the Judgment of Charity toward
God?*

? *When we question God's motives*

? *When we question God's plans*

? *When we question His
commitment*

51

READ SLIDE

-- Is He really committed to us? Is He really the God of HESED and EMET?

-- Is He really the God Who makes and keeps covenant with His people?

-- CF. Tripp's book on Suffering – Even the well-versed will find their faith tested.

TR: Amid the suffering, we must allow the pain, even of our wondering about the motives of others, to push us to find our foundation in Christ, remembering . . .

BUILT^UP THRU SUFFERING!

*can happen when we find
our foundation in Christ*



*We know He loves us - He sent
Jesus!*



52

READ SLIDE

-- Even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us . . . so we can even rejoice in our suffering.

-- We can even count it all joy to suffer for the name of our Savior . . . like when we do right, out of a heart of simplicity and godly sincerity, but others peer through the blinds of bitterness with daggers of suspicion coming through their looks and their words.

TR: Remembering, and not forgetting . . .

BUILT^UP THRU SUFFERING!

*can happen when we find
our foundation in Christ*



*We know He loves us - He sent
Jesus!*



*We know He has a plan - He gave us
prophecies & fulfillment!*



53

READ SLIDE

-- He is working all things together for good, if you have given your life over to Him. Even the hard things. Perhaps, **ESPECIALLY** the hard things.

TR: We must renew our minds with the assurance of the truth that . . .

BUILT^UP THRU SUFFERING!

*can happen when we find
our foundation in Christ*



*We know He loves us - He sent
Jesus!*



*We know He has a plan - He gave us
prophecies & fulfillment!*



*We know He is committed to us -
He gave us His Holy Spirit!*

54

READ SLIDE

-- Why is it so important to stay in step with the Spirit, seeking to be filled with Him daily . . . because when we grieve Him or quench Him, we become numb to His presence . . .

-- . . . and we can forget that we can hang on to the end, because the end will be good . . . great . . . fantastic . . . heavenly!

-- . . . And, “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in Christ Jesus!”

TR: Are you suffering today?

A graphic on a blue background. The word 'BUILT' is in black, bold, uppercase letters at the top. Below it, the letters 'U' and 'P' are large and green. A blue arrow points upwards from the 'U' to the 'P'. The phrase 'through suffering?!' is written in a white, cursive font across the 'U' and 'P'.

can happen when accusations push us to find our foundation in Christ

55

We learned last week that to be Built^UP we must praise God.

-- This week we've learned that we must make sure our feet are on the solid bedrock of Jesus . . .

-- . . . on the convincing YES that God loves us, the YES that God has a plan, and the YES that He will see us through . . . all the way safely home!

May our YES be a YES because His YES is a YES!