

The Corinthian Epistles

2 Corinthians 1 Part 2

Paul's Change of Plans

12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

- Paul wanted them to know that he was trying to practice living godly before he ever preached being godly
 - He had a clear conscience of how he was walking in the Spirit
 - He wasn't relying on his education or his heritage
 - He was relying on the Works of Christ (grace) in his life
 - He believed his testimony would be so from others as well
 - He hoped that the church of Corinth felt the same way
 - His desire was that they would not allow the suffering IN Christ to remove them from following

13 For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end;

14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also *are* ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

15 And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit;

16 And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea.

- They weren't receiving conflicting epistles...what was good for them was good for all the NT churches
 - These were things to hold onto (1 Corinthians)
 - Note that all the epistles were passed from church to church eventually
- Paul had told them his desire to come and minister in person in the last letter

17 When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?

18 But *as God is true*, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

- God had other plans for Paul
 - Paul said he was coming
 - Paul didn't come
 - Paul is a liar...at least this is how some at the church felt
 - Paul wanted them to understand that while his will was to be with them, God's was not
 - Paul wanted them to know that it was not a flippant thing to him and that when he said he was going to come, he meant it
 - Paul said, "Just as God's Word is true, I want my words to be true"

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

- Everything I've preached to you was truth...nothing flippant
 - The Gospel of Christ is not a light thing
 - What Paul was conveying now, now what Silvanus and Timothy had conveyed were light things...they were truth

21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God;

22 Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

- God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us.
- By his Spirit He has stamped us with His eternal pledge — a sure beginning of what He is destined to complete.

23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

- Now, are you ready for the real reason I didn't visit you in Corinth?
 - As God is my witness, the only reason I didn't come was to spare you pain.
 - I was being considerate of you, not indifferent, not manipulative.
- We're not in charge of how you live out the faith,

- looking over your shoulders, suspiciously critical.
- We're partners, working alongside you, joyfully expectant.
- I know that you stand by your own faith, not by ours.