

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:12-24

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHEN GOD SAYS - I PROMISE

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

God's Faithfulness, His Nature,

Jesus Christ Said

Matthew 5:37

But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Psalm 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

The Accusation Against Paul

**THE MORE AN INDIVIDUAL SPEAKS OR WRITES
THE GREATER THE RISK OF BEING MISUNDERSTOOD.**

**HOW MANY TIMES HAVE OUR WORDS BEEN TAKEN WRONG?
OUR MOTIVES MISUNDERSTOOD, OUR ACTIONS CRITICIZED.**

2 Corinthians 1:12-24

For our boasting is this: the **testimony of our conscience** that we conducted ourselves in the world in **simplicity** and godly **sincerity**, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. :13 For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end :14 (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus. :15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have

a second benefit :16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea. :17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? :18 But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. :19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. :20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. :21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, :22 who also has **sealed** us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**. :23 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. :24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) It's based upon His person	v. 12-14
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1a.) God is true	v. 12a
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For our **boasting** is this: the **testimony of our conscience**

**THE SOURCE OF ALL TRUTH. THE ESSENCE OF ALL TRUTH.
THE PROPAGATOR OF ALL TRUTH.**

- Testimony** **grk: martu/rion marturion, mar-too'-ree-on;** that which is evidential, proof positive. confirmed. evidence presented in a case or the testimony of the witness.
- Conscience** **grk: sunei+dhsiß suneidesis, soon-i'-day-sis;** the moral awareness. The consciousness.
- boasting** **grk: kau/chsiß kauchesis, kow'-khay-sis;**
in a good sense (motive) glory, glorying, rejoicing.

THE POWER OF GOD IS SEEN IN A NEW LIFE

NOT BY THE LIGHTNING OR AN EARTHQUAKE THOUGH THEY ARE TRULY AWESOME IN POWER – BUT THE GREATEST POWER EVER SEEN BY MANKIND IS THE CONVERSION OF A MAN'S LIFE.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

IT'S BASED UPON HIS PERSON

1b.) God is pure

v. 12b

that we **conducted** ourselves in the world in **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**, not with **fleshly wisdom** but **by the grace** of God, and more **abundantly** toward you.
(Christians)

that we **conducted** ourselves in the world

simplicity grk: aJplo/thß haplotes, *hap-lot'-ace*; without concealment or disguise.

sincerity grk: eijlikri+neia eilikrineia, *i-lik-ree'-ni-ah*; from 1506; clearness, i.e. (by implication) purity (figuratively): — sincerity.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

WHAT'S IMPLIED HERE IS THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS THE “REFLECTION OF CHRIST IN THIS WORLD” JESUS IS SAYING. “WATCH HIM, WATCH HER AND YOU'LL SEE – THEIR LIVES WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM A HUMAN BEING.”

1 John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

IT'S BASED UPON HIS PERSON

1c.) God is sovereign

v. 13-14

:13 For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even **to the end :14** (as also you have understood us **in part**), that we are your **boast** as you also are ours, **in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

:14 (as also you have understood us **in part**), that we are your **boast** as you also are ours, **in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

THIS IS A POWERFUL WORD PICTURE TO THE READER.

boast

IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE, WHEN A CONQUERING GENERAL HAD PERFORMED TO THE HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS THE ROMAN TRIUMPH @ THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS WAS HOSTED BY THE EMPEROR HIMSELF.

the general had to have killed 5,000

of the enemy and fully taken the enemies territory. the cool part for us was that, if the general had a son or sons – his heirs would follow behind him – in the wake of his victory. Rome believed that if the general's offspring could get a taste victoria /nike - under their skin that the nike / victoria would have favor upon them in future battles.

the Corinthians knew the gospel message
and the accounts of Jesus Christ's victory.

ON AND AFTER THE DAY OF PENTECOST SOME 3,000 PEOPLE WERE SAVED AND THEN ANOTHER 2,000 = 5,000 SOULS SAVED.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are **surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, :2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith,

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) It's founded upon His immutability v. 15-19

The Immutability of God

There is something that God cannot do, He cannot change or be changed. He is unchangeable and unalterable. – *and that's very good for us.*

2a.) God is unwavering v. 15-16

:15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit (*which was*) :16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.

confidence grk: pepoi+qhsiß **pepoithesis**, *pep-oy'-thay-sis*; a firm reliance, a concrete assurance — confidence, trust.

Paul had a Plan “A” but God had his Plan “A”.

But Paul was willing to be yielded and available to God’s “A-Plan”

The assumption is that some people accused Paul as being unspiritual, unpredictable, whimsical, and flaky because his plan had changed

Ministry would be an awesome career if it didn’t involve people.
But because it does involve people it’s not a career – it’s a calling.

Acts 18:4-6

And Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, **Paul** (paul went golfing) **was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.** :6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

IT’S FOUNDED UPON HIS IMMUTABILITY

2b.) God is faithful

v. 17-18

:17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? :18 But as **God is faithful**, our word to you was not Yes and No.

NO CHRISTIAN CAN GIVE A DEFINITE YES TO ANY PROMISE.

WHY? -- BECAUSE THE CAR MIGHT NOT START. WE HAVE NO POWER TO FULFILL OUR PROMISES. BUT GOD’S PROMISES ARE ALWAYS CERTAIN AND A YES.

GOD’S PROMISES ARE UNCHANGING AND THEY ARE GOOD.

:18 But as **God is faithful**, our word to you was not Yes and No.

2c.) God is consistent

v. 19

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us – by me, Silvanus, and Timothy - was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.
Toward the Man or Woman who has Decided to Trust God at His Word,
The Promises are **Positive** and **Consistent**.

I Have a Handful of “Default” Verses

(when all else seems to make no sense – go to what does)

example

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) It's rooted upon His desire

v. 20-24

what do I mean by "His Promises are Rooted Upon His Desire?"

3a.) God is willing

v. 20

For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus Christ) are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us

For all the promises of God find their Yes (fulfillment, answer, completion) in him.

THIS WORD Amen IS THE HEBREW WORD – FIRM, TRUE, ROCK SOLID. THE MEANING HERE IS EXCELLENT. IT MEANS THAT I MUST TAKE THIS TRUTH, all the promises of God in Him are Yes AND LIVE MY LIFE ROOTED IN THAT. !!! all the promises of God in Him are Yes !!!

Here's a Real Life Experiment in the Lab of Life

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,
And delivers them.

!!! AMEN!!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ---- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

!!! AMEN!!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING
THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ----- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

!!! AMEN!!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING
THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ----- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

IT'S ROOTED UPON HIS DESIRE

3b.) God is providing

v. 21-22

Now He who **establishes** us with you in Christ and has **anointed** us is God, :22 who also has **sealed** us and **given** us the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.

Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" :14 And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.' "

Establishes grk: bebaio/w bebaioo, beb-ah-yo'-o; to make stable or secured. To fasten. To make immovable

Anointed grk: cri+w chrio, khree'-o;
to cover with oil, to consecrate to devote. To make dedicated

the purpose for his anointing / healing, protection, comfort

1 John 2:26-27

These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you. :27 But the **anointing** which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same **anointing** teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Sealed grk: sfragi+zw sfragizo, sfrag-id'-zo;
to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation, to keep safe.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

There is no verse or scripture or passage that says you can be unsealed.

Given grk: di+dwmi didomi, *did'-o-mee*; bestowed. placed

Guarantee grk: ajrjJabwζn arrhabon, *ar-hrab-ohn'*; an unbreakable pledge, a security payment. on or held in reserve.

WAL-MART LAYAWAY IS BACK

PAUL REPEATS THIS IN CHAPTER 5

2 Corinthians 5:5

Now He who has **prepared us** for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a **guarantee**.

a pledge to return and take physical possession of what was, is and will remain my desired. – *love Jesus*

IT'S ROOTED UPON HIS DESIRE

3c.) God is watching

v. 23-24

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, - that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. :24
Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are **fellow workers** for your joy; **for by faith you stand**.

FEW PEOPLE CAN HANDLE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.

**I HAVE SEEN GOOD, NORMAL, SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
DECIDE TO GO INTO THE MINISTRY AND TURN INTO POWER HUNGRY, AUTHORITARIANS AND END UP
SHIPWRECKING THEMSELVES AND THE FAITH OF THOSE THEY INFLUENCED.**

Revelation 2:15

Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

the Nicolaitans. This refers to a situation during the 1st century church when a man arose named Nicolas who began to gather some from within the church to himself. These followers became known as *Nicolaitans*. A Christian-sect that advocated certain license in matters of Christian conduct, including morality, fellowship, leadership - though some understand from the meaning of the name *Nico-laitans* ("lords over or conquerors of the people") that attacked authority but set themselves up as the authority - or spiritual hierarchy.

THESE PEOPLE HINDER GODS WORK AND DERAILED OTHER BELIEVERS FROM A HEALTHY WALK WITH JESUS. THEIR FOLLOWERS BECOME BITTER AND CRITICAL AND ISOLATED FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST.

We are to be "**fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.**"

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

_____ *End of Study* _____

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