

**Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Misunderstood"
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4
Study-2**

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry:

Charges Leveled Against Paul:

- 1. Paul was coming to visit them by a different route than he had told them: (Not a man of his word) 1 Corinthians 16:5**
- 2. Paul had assured them of a speedy visit, he now delays:**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Life Is Ever Changing, But We Must Remain Pure And Loving, Both Before God And Others."

- 1. Verses 12-14 The Results Of Suffering**
- 2. Verses 15-22 Integrity In Changing Plans**
- 3. Verses 23-2:4 God Can Change Our Plans**

1. Verses 12-14 The Results Of Suffering

2 Corinthians 1:12 For - Paul has just spoken about "**Suffering.**" Suffering God's way will result in God's comfort. Paul now introduces Integrity, love for others, and a heart ready to forgive.

Verse 12 Results Of Suffering Is Integrity: For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, (Integrity - *the state of being whole and undivided.*) What do we mean by the word **Conscience?** - *It is a God given voice to direct us in the moral decisions of life.*

1 Timothy 1:5 a good conscience and a sincere faith.

The Word of God is the basis for our conscience; by obedience and practice we see clearly. Paul always kept a clear conscience.

Acts 23:1; 24:16; Romans 9:1

Notice that Paul examined his own heart to see if he was pure.

1 Timothy 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, 1 Timothy 4:2

1 Corinthians 4:5

that in holiness (simplicity) "Single minded purpose."

and godly sincerity, - *"To be sun judged"* let me be checked out in the sun light!

Our Conduct: not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

Verse 13 Consistency: 2 Corinthians 1:13 For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand,
Paul had no hidden meaning in what he had written to them.

2 Corinthians 1:14 just as you also partially did understand us,
Humans are limited in judgment. God sees the heart. We can be tainted in judgment!

Verse 14 Results Of Suffering Is Mutual Rejoicing: (Focus is eternal) that we are your reason to be proud (Rejoicing) as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

2. Verses 15-22 Integrity In Changing Plans

2 Corinthians 1:15-16 In this confidence
(Character, Conduct and Consistency.)

This could be very confusing if we had not studied **1 Corinthians 16:5-8**

2 Corinthians 1:17

A mark of a Christian is that their word is to be true and dependable.

A Clear Conscience Produces A Life Desiring To Live To Glorify Jesus: 2 Corinthians 1:18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.

(Plans Changed 1 Corinthians 16:5-8)

Acts 16:6-7

2 Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus,
Note the message of Jesus Christ who is God, is true!

2 Corinthians 1:20 God is trustworthy, what He promises He is always true to. God is the only one that will always be consistent in His commitments and promises.

Promises of God are doubled guaranteed, by God the Father, by Jesus Christ!

2 Corinthians 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ
God is changing us into His image!

A Clear Conscience Brings God's Empowerment: and anointed us is God, - The idea of being empowered to be equipped with what is needed to get the job done. (God's presence at conversion)

2 Corinthians 1:22 The term **sealed us** speaks of ownership, authenticate, protection. The **pledge** – down payment of what is to follow. This happened at conversion.

3. Verses 23-2:4 God Can Change Our Plans

2 Corinthians 1:23 But I call God as witness to my soul,
Paul evokes God as his witness regarding the change in plans.

3 Reasons For Paul's His Delay:

1. Paul's Delay Was In Order To Show Mercy: that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth. 1 Corinthians 4:18-21

That if he was to come as he said he would, it was not going to be a happy reunion.

Paul sent a letter instead of another visit.

2 Corinthians 1:24

2. Paul's Absence Would Allow Them To Grow Spiritually: Not that we lord it over your faith, - Paul was not using his apostolic position to manipulate and control these believers.

Paul wanted them to do what was right from their own hearts.

but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. Leaders are sheep as well as shepherds.

3. Paul Did Not Want To Come To Them In Sorrow: 2 Corinthians 2:1 But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. That Paul made an attempt to clear up some of the problems of this fellowship, but the meeting was not fruitful. He then wrote a letter that then brought repentance.

2 Corinthians 2:2-3

There were those in the fellowship that had sinned against the Lord and each other. As much as Paul did not want to, he had to discipline them and confront them in their sin.

2 Corinthians 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; - Paul had a deep affection for them. His heart was being pulled apart.

not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

Application:

- 1.** When We Serve God, We Should Expect To Be Misunderstood And Even Attacked. Walking With God Does Not Exempt Us From Afflictions.
- 2.** Attacks Can Arise As A Result Of Our Words, Works Or The Very Judging Of Our Motives.
- 3.** When Facing Attacks, We Must Never Compromise Our Integrity. Always Keep A Clear Conscience Knowing That God Is Our Witness And Defense.