

“Faithful & True”
2 Corinthians 1:15-22

Introduction:

1. Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me This Morning:
 - To 2 Corinthians - Where - Back In 1:12:
 - Paul Talks About “The Testimony Of Our Conscience!”
 - And How He Was Able To Serve The Lord:
 - With A Clear Conscience!
 - How Is Your Conscience Today?
 - Has God Been The Guide Of Your Conscience This Week?
 - When You Are A Christian:
 - God Can Use Your Conscience To Guide You:
 - In Your Life To Glorify Him!
 - And Paul Gives Us Some Good Examples Of How To Live With A Good & A Clear Conscience!
 - According To 1:12-14:
 - You Can Have A Good Conscience:
 - When You Live Your Life – Transparently!
 - That Is - With Nothing To Hide!
 - When You “Exercise” Yourself “To Have Always A Conscience Void Of Offense Toward God, And Toward Man!” (Acts 24:16)
 - And In Addition To This - According To 1:15-22:
 - You Can Have A Good Conscience:
 - When You Live Your Life – Truthfully!
 - And Honestly!
2. And This Is What We Find When We Come To:
 - 1:15-22 - “And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit; / 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. / 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? / But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. / 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. / For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. / Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; / Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts!”
 - From These Verses:
 - It Appears That One Of The Accusations Raised Against Paul Was That He Was Not A Man Of His Word!
 - He Was Not A Man Of Integrity!
 - Instead - He Was Untruthful & Unreliable!
 - And The Reason Came Up With Was Because His Itinerary / Travel Plans To Visit Them Changed!
 - And So - In These Verses:
 - Paul Tells Them That He Has Always Tried:
 - To Reflect The Truth Of God:
 - In His Life - Even In His Travel Plans!
 - And That Even Though He Was Providentially Hindered From Keeping His Initial Plans:
 - Yet - That Does Not Reflect On His Honesty - Only His Humanity!
 - “To Err Is Human!”
3. And So - Paul’s Conscience Remained Clear!
 - Because By God’s Grace:
 - He Sought To Live:
 - Transparently & Truthfully!
 - In Romans 12:17 - We Are Told To - “Provide things honest in the sight of all men!”
 - And This Is How Every One Of Us Should Seek To Live!
 - Does This Describe Your Life Today?
 - Are You Seeking To Live:

- A Life Of Transparency & Truthfulness:
 - So That The “Testimony Of Your Own Conscience” May Be Clear?
 - Before God & Before Men?

4. What We Find Here:

- Is That - Every Christian Ought To Reflect:
 - The Truth Of God:
 - In Their Lives!
 - And In These Verses, Paul Explains How We Will Be Able To Do This!

* First - We Need To Reflect God’s Truth:

1. In Your Plans!

- That Is - Every Plan You Make In Your Life:
 - Should Conform To The Truth Of God!
 - What This Means Is That:
 - Every Desire!
 - Every Design!
 - Every Decision!
 - Should Be Made With Honesty & Integrity & With God’s Will In View!
 - To Maintain A Clear Conscience, Your Plans Should Be Made:
- With The Right Desires!
 - 1:15 - “And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit!”
 - When Paul Was Making His Plans:
 - As An Apostle & A Missionary For Jesus, He Had Plans & Goals!
 - In Fact - One Of His Long-Range Goals Was To Take The Gospel All The Way Into Spain! Find This In Romans 15:24, 28!
 - But At This Point In His Missionary Journeys:
 - His Desire Was To Visit The Young Corinthian Church:
 - “That Ye Might Have A Second Benefit!”
 - A “Second Grace!”
 - This Means That Paul Had Every Intention & Desire:
 - To Return To Corinth:
 - For A “Second Opportunity” To:
 - Encourage Them & Edify Them & Enjoy Them & Their Fellowship!
 - He Was Looking Forward To This Time!
 - Is This Our Desire?
 - For Fellowship With Our Church & With Other Christians?
 - But - Even Though Paul Had The Right Desire:
 - When He Made These Plans:
 - His Plan Failed! But This Did Not Mean That He Had Been Dishonest With Them!
 - Instead - Because He Had The Right Desire - His Conscience Was Clear! Also:
 - With The Right Design!
 - As Paul Made His Initial Plans:
 - **IE:** It Almost Sounds Like He “Mapped It Out” Even As We Would Do - Using Google Maps Or Something! He Even Describes 3 Legs Of His Trip!
 - 1:16 - “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!”
 - Paul Was A “Traveling Man!”
 - But Look At The Design Of His Trips!
 - It All Revolved Around Them & Their Needs!
 - “By You!”
 - “Unto You!”
 - “Of You!”
 - The Design Of Paul’s Intended Trip Was:
 - To See Them!
 - To Stay With Them!
 - And To Be Sent By Them - As One Of Their Own!
 - But - Even Though Paul Had The Right Design:

- When He Made These Detailed Plans:
 - His Plan Failed! Did This Mean That He Had Been Dishonest With Them?
 - No! But Because He Had The Right Design In Place - His Conscience Was Clear! Also:
- With The Right Decisions!
 - In 1:17 - He Asks Some Questions For Them To Consider - “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?”
 - Two Questions To Show That Paul Made His Decisions Truthfully & Honestly! He Asks:
 - Am I Frivolous?
 - When I Make My Plans?
 - “Use Lightness!”
 - As If It Really Didn’t Matter If He Visited Them Or Not!
 - But - The Way He Asks This Question:
 - Directs Them To Answer It:
 - Negatively! No - Paul Did Not Use Lightness In His Decisions & Plans!
 - Paul Was No “Day-Dreamer!”
 - Of Places To Go / Things To Do / Things To See!
 - He Didn’t Have Time For That!
 - Asks:
 - Am I Fleshly?
 - When I Make My Plans?
 - “Do I Purpose According To The Flesh?”
 - What Motivated Him To Make His Plans & Decisions?
 - His Own Needs?
 - Think About Some Of Paul’s Needs:
 - Material Needs - Had To Work!
 - Physical Needs - Tired & Worn Out!
 - Emotional Needs - Fears / Attacks!
 - Mental Needs - Accusations!
 - If He Made His Decisions “According To The Flesh” - Why Would He Ever Go Back To Corinth!
 - But So Many Times We Do Make Our Decisions This Way, Don’t We?
 - And When We Do - Our Planning:
 - Often Looks Like What Paul Describes:
 - “That With Me There Should Be Yea Yea, And Nay Nay!”
 - This Is What Our Human Hearts Are Prone To!
 - **IE:** Just Think Back To The Last Time You Wanted To Change Or Renovate Something In Your Home! Back & Forth! One Way & Another Way! Yea & Nay!
 - But Paul Answers His Own Questions:
 - In 1:18 - “But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay!”
 - Even Though Paul’s Plans Failed:
 - His Conscience Was Clear!
 - Because Every Decision He Made Was Made With Honesty & Integrity!
 - Paul’s Desires / Designs / Decisions:
 - Were Not Made Lightly!
 - He Had Every Intention To Fulfill The Plans He Made To Visit Them & To Fellowship With Them!
 - Paul’s Conscience Was Clear!
 - And God Himself Was His Witness!
- What About You?
 - Are You Reflecting The Truth Of God:
 - In Your Own Plans?
 - Do You Strive To Live Honestly:
 - Before Others - Especially Your Church Family - With The Right Desires / Designs / Decisions?
 - Every Christian Ought To Reflect:
 - The Truth Of God:

- In Their Lives!
- So That Even When Your Own Plan Might Fail - And Many Times They Will - Your Conscience Before God May Remain Clear!
- But Also:

* Second - We Need To Reflect God's Truth:

2. For God's Praise!

- See This In 1:19-20 - "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. / For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us!"
 - Here - Paul Turns His Focus Away From:
 - His Own Faithfulness:
 - To The Faithfulness Of Jesus Christ!
 - This Was The Main Reason:
 - Why Paul Wanted To Live His Life According To The Truth!
 - Because Truth Conforms To The Nature:
 - Of Jesus Christ Himself!
 - John 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!"
 - Jesus Is "The Truth!"
 - And The Truth & Faithfulness Of Jesus Christ:
 - Is The Source Of Any Truth & Faithfulness In Our Own Lives:
 - As Christians!
 - Jesus Was Faithful:
 - To All Of His Servants!
 - 1:19a - "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus!"
 - Paul Reminds The Corinthians That He, Along With Silvanus (Silus) & Timotheus (Timothy) Preached & Proclaimed The Gospel Truths About Jesus!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures!"
 - And This Same Jesus Was Faithful To Save Them & Change Them:
 - When They Believed In Him As Their Own Savior!
 - And So - Because Jesus Had Been Faithful & True:
 - To Them - They Sought To Be:
 - Faithful & True For Him!
 - They Sought To Reflect His Truth In Every Part Of Their Lives!
 - Jesus Was Faithful:
 - In All Of His Pursuits!
 - 1:19b - "For The Son Of God, Jesus Christ . . . Was not yea and nay, but in him was yea!"
 - Jesus Never Pursued After Things:
 - The Way We So Often Do - "According To The Flesh!" (1:17)
 - Instead - Jesus - Was Always Faithful & True!
 - He Was & Is Always - "Yea!"
 - This Means That Jesus Was:
 - Always "About [His] Father's Business!" (Luke 2:49)
 - And He Did So "In Him!"
 - This Means - That In Every Pursuit:
 - They Were United Together!
 - And So - Because Jesus Had Been Faithful & True:
 - To His Own Mission:
 - To "Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!" (Luke 19:10)
 - We Ought To Reflect His Truth:
 - And Faithfulness In Our Own Lives!
 - Jesus Was Faithful:
 - To All Of God's Promises!
 - 1:20 - "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by

- us!”
 - Think Of The “Promises Of God!”
 - They Are “Exceeding Great & Precious Promises!” (2 Peter 1:4)
 - But All Of These Promises:
 - Are Extended Through Jesus Christ!
- “In Him” - The Promises Of God:
 - Are “Yea!”
 - This Means - Jesus Confirms All Of God’s Promises!
 - When Jesus Came To Earth - He Was The Proof / Evidence / Confirmation That God Meant What He Said! But Also:
- “In Him” - The Promises Of God:
 - Are “Amen!”
 - This Means - Jesus Completes All Of God’s Promises!
 - “Amen” - Used In Prayer - Often Means “May It Be So!” - Can Also Mean - “It Is So!”
- Jesus Christ Came:
 - To Faithfully & Finally:
 - Accomplish All Of God’s Promises!
 - Especially Those Made To You If & When You Believe In Him!
- And So - Because Jesus Is Faithful & True:
 - To All Of God’s Promises:
 - We Should Strive To Reflect His Truth:
 - To God & To Others!
- And When We Do So - It Leads:
 - 1:20 - “Unto The Glory Of God By Us!”
 - When You Reflect The Faithfulness & Truth:
 - Of Jesus Christ - It Brings God:
 - Glory & Praise In Your Life!
 - This Was Why Paul Sought To Live A Life Of Integrity!
 - And Why We Should Do So As Well!
 - To Glorify & To Praise:
 - The One Who Was & Always Will Be:
 - “Faithful & True!”

* Third - We Need To Reflect God’s Truth:

3. ***Through God’s Power!***

- See This In 1:21-22 - “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; / Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts!”
 - Paul Knew That He Could Never Be Faithful:
 - And Never Be Consistent:
 - Apart From The Work & Power Of God In His Life!
 - And This Is Why He Describes:
 - Four Precious Truths:
 - About What God Has Done In The Life & Heart Of Every Christian - From Bottom To Top / From The Outside To The Inside - All Belong To Him!
 - And These Are The Reasons Why We Can Reflect His Truth!
 - Because:
 - God Has Established Us! (Bottom - Feet)
 - 1:21a - “Now He Which Stablisheth Us With You In Christ!”
 - Before We Are Saved:
 - The Only Way We Can Live Is - “According To The Flesh!” (1:17)
 - But Now - By Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - Psalm 40:2 - “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings!”
 - Now We Have A Special Foundation:
 - For Our Lives!
 - “In Christ!”
 - Now We Can Enjoy A Special Fellowship:

- In Our Lives!
 - “With You!”
- Now We Have A Special Focus:
 - And Purpose For Our Lives!
 - To Reflect The Truth Of God!
- God Has Anointed Us! (Top - Head)
 - 1:21b - “And Hath Anointed Us!”
 - As God Had:
 - His Prophets / Priests / Kings Anointed In The Old Testament:
 - Now - Every Christian Is Anointed & Consecrated For God’s Special Purpose & Use!
 - And So - We Should Live:
 - As God’s Anointed Ones!
 - Always Reflecting The Faithfulness & Truth Of Our Savior!
- God Has Sealed Us! (Outside)
 - 1:22a - “Who hath also sealed us!”
 - As Someone Would “Seal” A Scroll Or Letter:
 - With Wax - As A Signature & A Seal Of Authenticity:
 - So - Every Christian Has Been Sealed By God!
 - It Means That Now You Belong To The Lord!
 - He Possesses You!
 - And He Will Preserve You!
 - The Words God Spoke To Israel:
 - Now Apply To You! Isaiah 43:1-2 - “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. / When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee!”
 - God’s Own Image Is Now Deeply Impressed:
 - Into Your Soul!
 - So Live According To His Image!
 - Reflect His Truth!
 - Reflect His Faithfulness!
- God Has Pledged Himself To Us! (Inside)
 - 1:22b - “And given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts!”
 - “Earnest Money” Is A Down Payment:
 - And A Pledge To Complete The Transaction / The Purchase!
 - This Is What God Does For Every Christian!
 - In A Sense - He “Deposits” His Holy Spirit:
 - In You - As An Earnest & A Pledge:
 - Of What Is Yet To Come!
 - Why - Philippians 1:6 - We Can Be “Confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”
- And Because Of All That God Has Done For You:
 - You Ought To - As His Dear Child:
 - Live For The Lord!
 - And Live Like The Lord!
 - How?
 - By Living A Life Of Truth & Honesty!
 - In All Of Your Words!
 - In All Of Your Relationships!
 - In All Of Your Plans & Desires & Decisions!

Conclusion:

1. Every Christian Ought To Reflect:
 - The Truth Of God:
 - In Their Lives!
 - Can This Be Said Of You Today?

- Begins With A Relationship:
 - With Jesus Christ - The One Who Is “Faithful & True!”
- Then - His Power:
 - And His Praise:
 - Will Motivate You In Your Own Plans:
 - To Be & Ever Remain “Faithful & True” To The Lord!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com