

WHEN PLANS CHANGE

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24

Introduction

**This section of the letter
was written because
Paul had promised to
come see the
Corinthians (in 1
Corinthians) and had
not been able to do it.**

Therefore, some people
in the church were
saying, "*Paul is a liar!
He promised to come
visit us and he didn't do
it. You can't trust him!*"

I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.

(2 Corinthians 1:12) 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.

**conversation = way of
life**

(2 Corinthians 1:12) 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.

**simplicity = the virtue
of one who is free
from pretense and
hypocrisy (Thayer)**

(2 Corinthians 1:12) 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.

"For to them he had been especially particular, that in no point they should speak of him as having used the wisdom of words. Among them, he determined not to know anything save Jesus Christ and him crucified; to them, he was like the nurse who administers milk to babes." (Spurgeon)

**(1 Corinthians 2:2) For
I determined not to
know any thing among
you, save Jesus Christ,
and him crucified.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:13) For
we write none other
things unto you, than
what ye read or
acknowledge; and I trust
ye shall acknowledge
even to the end;**

**Paul wanted the
Corinthian Christians to
know he had no “hidden
meanings” in his letters.**

**His meaning was right
out on top, for all to see.**

(Guzik)

(2 Corinthians 1:14)

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.

(1 Thessalonians 2:19)

**For what is our hope, or
joy, or crown of
rejoicing? Are not even
ye in the presence of
our Lord Jesus Christ at
his coming?**

(2 Corinthians 1:15)

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

**(2 Corinthians 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.**

I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.

II. (17-22) Paul was
not duplicitous.

*His "yes" meant "yes"
and "no" meant "no."*

(2 Corinthians 1:17) 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?

"do I say *yes* when I
really mean *no*?"

(2 Corinthians 1:18)

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

Paul uses God's
sincerity as proof of
his own.

**(2 Corinthians 1:19) 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.**

Silvanus = Silas

(2 Corinthians 1:20)

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

Christ is faithful to keep his promises. There is no contradiction in them. Paul uses Christ's faithfulness and truthfulness as proof of his own.

(2 Corinthians 1:21)

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

annoint = *chriō* enduing
Christians with the gifts
of the Holy Spirit (Thayer)

(2 Corinthians 1:22)

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

"The seal indicates security, and the earnest is a guarantee that God will fulfill His promises." (Ryrie)

“I send you a box of very excellent grapes and a basket of excellent dates under seal.”

“I gave the letter sealed (to the messenger) on the 12th...

“all these were inside the brown tunic, and it was sealed with white clay.”

(2 Corinthians 1:22)

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

(2Co 1:22) And He has
also set His seal upon
us, and has put His
Spirit into our hearts as
a pledge and foretaste
of future
blessing. (Weymouth)

The Holy Spirit guarantees that we belong to God and will receive all his benefits (Eph. 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit guarantees that salvation is ours now, and that we will receive so much more when Christ returns.

The great comfort and power the Holy Spirit gives in this life is a foretaste or down payment ("first installment") of the benefits of our eternal life in God's presence. (LASB)

It is God, says Paul,
who has done all this
for us and God is
Paul's pledge that he
is sincere. He will
come to Corinth in due
time... (Robertson)

I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.

II. (17-22) Paul was
not duplicitous.

*His "yes" meant "yes"
and "no" meant "no."*

III. (23-24) Paul was doing them a favor by not coming to Corinth because he was angry.

(2 Corinthians 1:23)

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

(2 Corinthians 1:24)

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

When Plans Change

1. Don't assume that someone who tells you something and then does something else is a liar. Look at their overall character.
2. You can trust God to do what He says He will do!
3. Don't think that if God does not immediately fulfill his promises that he has forgotten about you or will not do what he said. God will fulfill his promises, even if it takes a long time.