

Paul's Second
Letter to the
Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*²⁰ For all the promises of God find their
Yes in him.*

2 Cor 1:20

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:4
- Summary Statement
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4 (ESV)

¹² For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand, and I hope you will fully understand— ¹⁴ just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. ¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4 (ESV) (continued)

¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4 (ESV) (continued)

2¹ For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

2 Corinthians

Summary Statement

Paul boasts that his behavior is characterized by Godly sincerity and motivated by God's grace, making his letters transparent and well understood. He says that he was confident that on the Day of the Lord he and the Corinthians would boast of each other. Because of this confidence he wanted to visit them twice, on the way to and the way from Macedonia, but he changed his plans to spare them a painful visit. Paul invokes God's faithfulness as the pattern and guarantee for his own faithfulness, reminding them that his presentation of the gospel was absolutely reliable, led to their salvation, and that he has abundant love for them.

Discussion

#1

1. Paul does a lot of boasting in 2nd Corinthians. But isn't boasting a bad thing? Is there a boasting that is good? See 2 Cor 1:12; 2 Cor 1:14; 2 Cor 5:12; 2 Cor 9:2; 2 Cor 10:8; 2 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 10:15; 2 Cor 10:17; 2 Cor 11:16; 2 Cor 11:18; 2 Cor 11:21; 2 Cor 11:30; 2 Cor 12:5; 2 Cor 12:6; 2 Cor 12:9; Jer 9:23–24.

Discussion #1 (scripture)

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)

²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Discussion

#2

2. How many itineraries did Paul formulate for his next visit to Corinth? What was each plan? See 1 Cor 16:5; 2 Cor 1:15,16; 1:23; 2:1

Discussion #2 scripture

1 Corinthians 16:5 (ESV)

⁵ I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,

2 Corinthians 1:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

Discussion #2 scripture

2 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 2:1 (ESV)

¹ For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you.



Discussion

#3

3. Paul changed his plans more than once, leading to the charge that he was fickle, unreliable or vacillating. How does he defend against this? See our entire passage but especially vv12; 17-18.

Discussion #3 scripture

2 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)

¹² For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

2 Corinthians 1:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

Discussion

#4

4. Another charge leveled against Paul was that since he was unreliable in what he promised about visiting, nothing else that he taught was reliable, including the gospel. How does he defend his ministering the gospel to the Corinthians? See vv19-22.

Discussion #4 scripture

2 Corinthians 1:19–22 (ESV)

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Discussion

#5

5. Choose the verse from our passage that is the most theologically significant, i.e., it communicates important information about the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit in their being, character, attributes or acts. Why did you choose this verse?

Discussion #5 scripture

²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

I. Paul's boast of his ministry to the Corinthians vv12-14

- A. Genuine – by the grace of God v12
- B. Transparent – understandable v13
- C. Confirmed – on the Day of the Lord Jesus v14

II. Paul's faithfulness in his ministry to the Corinthians vv15-22

- A. It is not fleshly vv 15-17
- B. It is godly vv18-22
 - 1. The son of God is confirmed vv18-19
 - 2. The promises of God are confirmed v20
 - 3. Their faith is confirmed v21a
 - 4. Paul's apostleship is confirmed v21b-22a
 - 5. The Spirit of God is confirmed v22b

III. Paul's pain in his ministry to the Corinthians vv23-2:4

- A. His changed plans – to avoid another painful visit vv23 vv23-2:3
- B. His anguish of heart – his abundant love for them v2:4