

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4

Christian Integrity

I. Changing Plans (v.15-17) – ¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended at first to come to you, that you might twice receive a blessing; ¹⁶ that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea. ¹⁷ Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or that which I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yes, yes and no, no *at the same time*?

II. Walking in Integrity (v.18-21) – ¹⁸ But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us-- by me and Silvanus and Timothy-- was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. ²⁰ For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

III. Motivated by Love (v.1:23-2:4) – ²³ But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. 2 Corinthians 2:1 But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. ² For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful? ³ And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy would be *the joy of you all*. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you think of an example when your motives have been misunderstood and it caused you problems?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Why did Paul not visit the Corinthians as he had earlier planned to do (see vs. 2:1)?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Vs. 20 states, “For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him [Jesus] they are yes.”
- Think of the Old Testament promises - How is this statement true?
- Vss. 21 & 22 state, “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”
- How is this text an affirmation of the Christian Doctrine of the Trinity?
- Describe the various roles of the three persons of the Trinity.
- What is Paul describing with the words: “establish,” “anointed,” “sealed,” “gave”?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Paul experienced “much affliction and anguish of heart” (vs. 2:4) by having to correct the error of the Corinthians – a church that he loved.
- What do we learn from his example?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might the integrity of Christ (modeled by Paul) help me walk in integrity this week?