

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:12-24

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHEN GOD SAYS - I PROMISE

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

Part 2

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

God's Faithfulness, His Nature,

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 1:12-24

Life is not an easy thing to Live.

And it can be at times even a bit tricky because there are seasons when everything seems to be going so smooth and we thank God for those times. But there are, and there will be seasons when the dark and lonely night of the soul must be lived out as well.

Jesus Christ Said

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Those Times of "Tribulation" are Times When – What's Inside of us Comes Out. The Real Person of "Us" is Made Public.

During Those Seasons of Crushing

Charles Spurgeon writes

"I will meditate in Thy precepts." — Psalm 119:15.

We ought to *muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them*. Truth is something like the cluster of the vine: if we would have wine from it, we must bruise it; we must press and squeeze it many times. The bruiser's feet must come down joyfully upon the bunches, or else the juice will not flow; and they must well tread the grapes, or else much of the precious liquid will be wasted. So we must, by meditation, tread the clusters of truth, if we would get the wine of comfort.

**HOW MANY TIMES HAVE OUR WORDS BEEN TAKING WRONG?
OUR MOTIVES MISUNDERSTOOD, OUR ACTIONS CRITICIZED.**

2Cor. 1:12-24

For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in **simplicity and godly sincerity**, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. :13 For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end :14 (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

WHEN GOD SAYS — I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) It's based upon His person v. 12-14

**THE PERSON OR NATURE OF WHO IS THE GOD OF
THE BIBLE IS ALL IMPORTANT --
BECAUSE HE IS NOT THE SAME GOD(S) OF THE OTHER
RELIGIONS.**

IT'S BASED UPON HIS PERSON

1a.) God is true v. 12a

For our **boasting** is this:
the **testimony** of our **conscience**

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

IT'S BASED UPON HIS PERSON

1b.) God is **pure**

v. 12b

that we **conducted** ourselves **in the world** in **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**,
not with **fleshly wisdom** but **by the grace** of God, and more **abundantly**
toward you. (*Christians*)

that we **conducted** ourselves **in the world**

simplicity grk: ἀπλότης *haplotes*, *hap-lot'-ace*; without concealment
or disguise.

sincerity grk: εἰλικρίνεια *eilikrineia*, *i-lik-ree'-ni-ah*; from 1506;
clearness, i.e. (by implication) purity (figuratively): —
sincerity.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you**
shall be witnesses TO Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”

WHAT'S IMPLIED HERE IS THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS THE “REFLECTION OF CHRIST
IN THIS WORLD” JESUS IS SAYING. “WATCH HIM, WATCH HER AND YOU'LL SEE
— THEIR LIVES WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT I HAVE THE
POWER TO TRANSFORM A HUMAN BEING.”

IT'S BASED UPON HIS PERSON

1c.) God is **sovereign**

v. 13-14

:14 (as also you have understood us **in part**),
that we are your **boast** as you also are ours, **in the day of the Lord Jesus**.

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) It's founded upon His immutability v. 15-19

The **Immutability** of God

There is something that God cannot do, He cannot change or be changed. He is **unchangeable** and **unalterable**. – *and that's very good for us.*

Mal. 3:6

For I am the LORD, I change not;

Heb. 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Matt. 5:17-18

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. :18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

IT'S FOUNDED UPON HIS IMMUTABILITY

2a.) God is **unwavering** v. 15-16

:15 And in this **confidence** I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit (*which was*) :16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.

confidence grk: **πεποίθησις** *pepoithesis, pep-oy'-thay-sis*; a firm reliance, the concrete assurance — dependability, trust.

Paul had a Plan “A” but God’s Plan “A” is Always Bigger than Ours.

Prov. 16:9

A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

But Paul was “**willing to be yielded**” which positions him to be “available to God’s “A-Plan”

The assumption by some Corinthians was that Paul was being
- unspiritual, - unpredictable, - whimsical, capricious

Paul's Plan Changed // God's Plans Never Do.

IT'S FOUNDED UPON HIS IMMUTABILITY

2b.) God is faithful

v. 17-18

:17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? :18 But as **God is faithful**, our word to you was not Yes and No.

**NO CHRISTIAN CAN GIVE A DEFINITE YES TO ANY PROMISE.
WHY? -- BECAUSE THE CAR MIGHT NOT START. WE HAVE NO POWER TO FULFILL OUR
PROMISES.
BUT GOD'S PROMISES ARE ALWAYS CERTAIN AND A YES.**

Eph. 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

GOD'S PROMISES ARE UNCHANGING AND THEY ARE GOOD.

:18 But as **God is faithful**, our word to you was not Yes and No.

1Th. 5:24

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

1Cor. 1:9

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Phil. 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

IT'S FOUNDED UPON HIS IMMUTABILITY

2c.) God is consistent

v. 19

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us – by me, Silvanus, and Timothy - was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.

Toward the Man or Woman who has Decided to Trust God at His Word, The Promises are **Positive** and **Consistent**.

I Have a Handful of “Default Verses” I Rely On.

(when all else seems to make no sense – go to what does)

one example

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Jer. 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Is. 26:3

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

WHEN GOD SAYS – I PROMISE

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) It's rooted upon His desire

v. 20-24

What do I mean by “*His Promises are Rooted Upon His Desire?*”
Look at the heart of this man of God, Paul.

IT'S ROOTED UPON HIS DESIRE

3a.) God is willing

v. 20

For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus Christ) are Yes,
and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us

For all the promises of God
find their Yes (fulfillment, answer, completion) in Him.

THIS WORD Amen IS THE HEBREW WORD — FIRM, TRUE, ROCK SOLID.
THE MEANING HERE IS EXCELLENT. IT MEANS THAT I MUST TAKE THIS TRUTH,
all the promises of God in Him are Yes AND LIVE MY LIFE ROOTED IN THAT.
!!! all the promises of God in Him are Yes !!!

Here's a Real Life Experiment in the Lab of Life

Psa. 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,
And delivers them.

!!! AMEN !!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING
THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ---- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

Phil. 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His
riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

!!! AMEN !!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING
THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ---- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

2Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed
away; behold, all things have become new.

!!! AMEN !!!

I NEED THAT BENEFIT. I WANT THAT BLESSING
THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME ---- THAT'S AN AMEN FOR ME

IT'S ROOTED UPON HIS DESIRE

3b.) God is providing

v. 21-22

Now He who **establishes** us with you in Christ and has **anointed** us is God, :22 who also has **sealed** us and **given** us the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.

Ex. 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" :14 And God said to Moses, "I **AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I **AM** has sent me to you.' "

Establishes grk: βεβαιώω **bebaioo**, *beb-ah-yo'-o*; to make stable or secured. To fasten. To make immovable

Anointed grk: χρίω **chrio**, *khree'-o*; to cover with oil, to consecrate, to devote. To make dedicated

the purpose for his anointing / healing, protection, comfort

1John 2:26-27

These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to deceive you*. :27 But the **anointing** which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same **anointing** teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Sealed grk: σφραγίζω **sphragizo**, *sfrag-id'-zo*; to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation, to keep safe.

Eph. 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

Eph. 1:13

In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

There is no verse or scripture or passage that says you can be unsealed.

Given grk: δίδωμι **didomi**, *did'-o-mee*; bestowed. placed
Guarantee grk: ἀρράβων **arrhabon**, *ar-hrab-ohn'*; an unbreakable pledge, a security payment. on or held in reserve.

PAUL REPEATS THIS IN CHAPTER 5

2Cor. 5:5

Now He who has **prepared us** for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a **guarantee**.

a pledge to return and take physical possession of what was, is and will remain my desired. – *love Jesus*

IT'S ROOTED UPON HIS DESIRE

3c.) God is watching v. 23-24

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul,
- that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. :24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are **fellow workers** for your joy; **for by faith you stand**.

FEW PEOPLE CAN HANDLE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.

Rev. 2:15

Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

THESE PEOPLE HINDER GODS WORK AND DERAILED OTHER BELIEVERS

FROM A HEALTHY WALK WITH JESUS. THEIR FOLLOWERS BECOME BITTER AND
CRITICAL AND ISOLATED FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST.

We are to be “**fellow workers** for your joy;
for by **faith** you **stand**.”

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<
Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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