

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 1:15-24

Lesson 2

Those who opposed Paul were taking opportunity to question his reliability and therefore, his authority. Watch carefully as Paul defends himself. May we learn from his example.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 1:15-24

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:15-24 is one paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the first chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, Spirit, and Paul/we

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 1:15-24. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them (For example: *He, Him, and who*). You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Scan the verses that contain the words that refer to *God* either as the *Father, Jesus* or as the *Holy Spirit*. Complete the following list, noting the verse reference next to each item. We have provided the first ones to get you started. ☺

Who/What God Is

He is faithful (verse 18)

What God Has Done For Paul

(and those with Him)

He established them (verse 21)

- a. How has God *established, anointed and sealed* you?

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 1:15-17

1. One source of criticism of Paul was based on his plan to visit Corinth on his way back from Macedonia. In the closing remarks of his first letter, he wrote: *Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia* (1 Corinthians 16:5). What clarifying phrase did Paul use in 1 Corinthians 16:7?
 - a. Why is this important? See James 4:13-15.
2. Paul had planned to make two visits to Corinth, one on his way into Macedonia, and the other on his way from Macedonia. He planned to add the Corinthian collection to that of the Macedonian churches and deliver it to the church in Jerusalem. However, Paul's plans were not God's plans. The conclusion of those in Corinth: Paul was indecisive, planned *according to the flesh*, could not be depended on. They concluded that his "yes" did not really mean "yes", and his "no" might not mean "no". How might a person's ministry be affected when their word is not trusted?
 - a. Paul's intentions were not fleshly; they were good. What does this say to you about seeking God even when your intentions are good and make sense?
3. Paul did not *plan lightly*. Sometimes he was not sure what God wanted him to do, but he knew how to wait on the Lord. What steps do you take when you are seeking God's direction?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-20

1. Apparently, some in the church were pointing to Paul's "failed" intentions to come to them, as support that his preaching was questionable. To what surety did Paul point to (verse 18) to support his own faithfulness to his word and what he preached?
 - a. How can we know, 2000 years later, that Paul's words are God's words for us?
2. According to Colossians 1:(27), 28, *who* did Paul *preach*?
3. 2 Corinthians 1:19 and 20 begin with the same word. What is it?
 - a. In context, the word *for* is a term of conclusion. It is like the word "because". According to verses 19 and 20, why could Paul's preaching be trusted?

3. What does verse 20 tell us about the *promises of God*?

- a. Unfortunately, all messengers of God are fallible. But, God is not. What do the following verses **promise** about God's *promises*?

1 Kings 8:56

Titus 1:2

- b. You may have heard the silly question, "Can God make a rock so big that He can't pick it up?" There are some things that God cannot do. According to Hebrews 6:18, what is it *impossible* for God to do?

- c. What does Romans 15:8 tell us Jesus *confirms*?

- 1.) The fact that Jesus rose from the dead, as He said He would, proves the *promises of God are in Him*. Why does knowing Jesus did what He said help you to believe God's promises?

God never made a promise that was too good to be true.

- D.L. Moody

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 1:21,22

1. Paul continues to point to the source of not only his credibility, but also the source of his power. Note that Paul is not confining this anointing to himself or those in a particular ministry, but to all believers. What two things does Paul say God has done for *us*? verse 21

- a. Define the word *establish*.

- 1.) What do these verses tell us about God *establishing* the believer?

Psalm 37:23

1 Thessalonians 3:13

2 Thessalonians 3:3

- 2.) Describe how God has *established* you.

b. Define the word *anointed*.

1.) What does 1 John 2:20,27 say about the *anointing* that all believers have?

2. Paul continues to reveal God's gifts to the believer in verse 22. What two gifts are mentioned in this verse?

a. Define the word *sealed*.

1.) Why is being *sealed* such a wonderful promise to the believer?

b. The Holy Spirit has been given to us *as a guarantee*. Define the word *guarantee*.

1.) According to Romans 8:16, what does the Spirit within us tell us?

3. Paul pointed to the common strength and anointing he had with the Corinthian believers as a reminder to them that his preaching and life were of God. How have you found the Holy Spirit to help you know if someone is of God or not?

Challenge: List some things that you know about Paul that help you to know that you can trust what he has written.

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 1:23,24

1. In continuing to support his decision not to visit Corinth, why does Paul say he did not come to them? verse 23

a. It is believed that Paul desired to spare them from his disciplining them. As a disciple, as the founder of their church, Paul had authority. Yet, he did not want to misuse his authority. He readily acknowledged in verse 24 that he did not *have dominion over their faith*. What authority do you think he had?

2. What role did Paul claim in verse 24?

a. What was the goal of his *work*?

1.) How does desiring *joy* for other believers make a good *fellow worker*?

