

# “Dealing With False Accusations”

## 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

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**Teaching Aim:** To realize Christians are to minister with godly sincerity and a singleness of mind as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ. To recognize all the Messianic promises in the Old Testament ultimately find their fulfillment in Christ. To understand the true believer in Christ is anointed and sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of the future blessings yet to come. To realize this life is not all there is; in Christ, the best is yet to come!

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

#### **Part I: Paul’s defense against the false apostles (2 Cor. 1:12-14)**

1. The Greek word for “boasting” in **verse 12** means “proud confidence.” According to **verse 12**, what was Paul’s proud confidence? How can a Christian live his or her life in “godly sincerity?” Are you living your life sincerely and in a godly way? Why is it important for Christians to conduct themselves with “simplicity” or “singleness of mind?” What do you find is the biggest obstacle to making progress in your spiritual walk?
  
2. What does Paul mean by “worldly wisdom” (**vs. 12**)? Will following the wisdom of the world help or negatively affect your Christian walk? What are some of the major differences between “worldly wisdom” and “wisdom that is from above?” (See **Jam. 3:13-18**)
  
3. Paul wrote that he conducted himself “by the grace of God” and that he did so “more abundantly” at Corinth than at many other churches (**vs. 12b**). How long did Paul stay at Corinth for, personally ministering to the people? (See **Acts 18:11**) According to **Acts 18:8-11**, what led Paul to stay in Corinth for as long as he did? Which missionary journey was this on? Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit prompting you to make a change in your life? How did you know? Did you follow the Holy Spirit’s leading?
  
4. As Paul wrote 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, he was under attack from the false apostles who had infiltrated the church. Judging from **verse 13**, what charge did the false apostles bring against Paul? Why was this accusation a serious threat to Paul’s ministry at Corinth? If Paul had a hidden agenda or a hidden message in his writing, would the Corinthians have been able to trust him and his ministry?

5. In verse **13b**, Paul indicated that he was hoping the Corinthians would understand the fullness of the gospel message and realize the truth, *“He who has begun a good work in you [meaning the work God has done] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”*. (See **Phil. 1:6**) What is *“the day of the Lord Jesus”* and when will it occur? (See **2 Cor. 5:10**) What was Paul anticipating on that day? (See **1 Thess. 2:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:8**) Are you looking forward to *“the day of the Lord Jesus?”* Why or why not? (See **Rev. 22:20**) Should unbelievers be looking forward to this day? (See **Rev. 20:14-15**)

## **Part II: Paul’s original plan was sincere, but the Holy Spirit changed his plans along the way (2 Cor. 1:15-19)**

1. The false apostles attacked Paul’s personal integrity because he changed his plans as to when he would visit the church at Corinth. According to **verses 15-16**, what was Paul’s original plan? (See **1 Cor. 16:5-8**) Notice the conditional clause Paul gave to the Corinthians in **1 Cor. 16:7**, what was it? Considering this clause, did Paul do anything wrong when he didn’t go to Corinth at the time he had originally planned to? Why or why not? How should the Lord’s will come into play when we make decisions in our everyday lives? (See **Jam. 4:15**)
2. Paul defended his change of plans in **verse 17**. In your own words, sum up Paul’s defense. Why is it important for every Christian to live his or her life with the utmost of integrity? Who are we representing? What makes God’s plan and our plans so different? Whose planning should we be following?
3. In **verse 18** it appears that the trustworthiness of God’s Word was under attack by the false apostles. Is this similar to what we see happening in much of Christianity today? Despite the verbal attacks, who and what did Paul base the trustworthiness of his message on (**vs. 18**)? Paul was in effect saying, *“with God as my witness”* the word I brought to you is the truth and you can base that truth on the faithfulness of God Himself. Has your personal integrity ever been attacked by another person? How did it feel? How did you respond to the attack? Have you ever said, *“I swear to God”* in defending yourself? Is it right to say this? Why or why not? How did Jesus respond to attacks against His integrity? (See **Matt. 26:57-66; Mark 15:1-5**) What can we learn from His example?

4. It appears that even the message of Christ was under attack by the false apostles in Corinth. What double title did Paul give to Jesus in **verse 19**? Why do you think He did this? According to **verse 19**, what three ministers worked together as a team in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Corinthians? What is another name for "*Silvanus*?" (See Commentaries) According to Paul, was the message he and his team brought about Jesus Christ consistent or inconsistent as the false apostles charged (**vs. 19b**)? Why is it so important that the Scriptures and Scriptures alone be the authority for what we believe?

### **Part III: The promises of God are "Yes" in Christ (1 Cor. 1:20-22)**

1. According to Paul, "*all the promises of God in [Christ] are yes.*" What did Paul mean by this statement (**vs. 20**)? What are some of the Old Testament Messianic promises fulfilled by Jesus during His first advent? (See **Gen. 3:15; 12:2-3; 49:10; Deut. 18:18; Psa. 16:10; 22:16; 41:9; 110:1-4; 118:22; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:2; 35:5-6a; 53:1-12; Jer. 23:5; Dan. 7:9-14; Mic. 5:2; Zech. 9:9; 11:12-13; 12:10; 14:3-9; Mal. 3:2**)
2. By writing the words, "*in Him Amen*," Paul concluded that all of the promises of God in Christ are true (**vs. 20**). What does the word "*Amen*" mean? (See Dictionary) What title did the apostle John use for Jesus in **Rev. 3:14**? What can we learn about Jesus from this title and how does it relate to truth? When we read the Bible and all of its history, we need to realize that the Bible is really "*His story*," *the story of the redemptive work of Christ*. (See **John 3:16; Col. 1:21b-23a**) Why is the message of Scripture so important to you?
3. According to **verse 21**, who is at work in the life of every born-again Christian? Who establishes us in Christ and anoints us for the work of ministry? (See **Phil. 1:6**) What did Paul mean when he said God "*anoints*" us? (See Dictionary) Prophets, priests and kings were anointed for special service in the Old Testament. What does God anoint regenerate Christians for today? How should every Christian live after being anointed by God?
4. What did God do in the past for every regenerate (or born-again) believer according to **verse 22**? What was the purpose of a wax seal during the days of the Roman Empire? (See **Matt. 27:62-64**) Note: The full power of the Roman Empire protected anything that was sealed by Caesar. Who protects Christ-followers who are sealed by God? (See **Rom. 8:35-39**) According to **Eph. 1:13-14**, what is the significance of this "*sealing*" today?

### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Paul ministered to the Corinthians with both godly sincerity and a singleness of mind.
- Paul anticipated "*the day of the Lord Jesus,*" that day when the Corinthian believers would rejoice over the gospel message that Paul and his fellow workers had brought to them.
- Paul was under attack because he had followed the leading of the Holy Spirit in his life.
- We can expect to be under attack from the enemy when we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.
- All of the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- As born-again Christians, we have been "*anointed*" by God and "*sealed*" by His Holy Spirit which "*guarantees*" the future blessings we have in Christ.
- The regeneration of the Holy Spirit, which brings spiritual life from spiritual death, is the greatest gift anyone can receive in their life.