

Studies in

2 Corinthians



Lesson II

Reading: 2 Cor. 1:12-24 (NKJV)

12 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.

15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit—**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. **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.

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. **20** For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. **21** 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.

23 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.

Group Discussion

1. What two things did Paul conduct himself with (vs. 12)? Why are these two so important to contemporary Christianity?
2. Verse 12 adds: “not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God.” How does this principle guide our actions and reactions in the world we live in?

3. Paul ends verse 12 by saying, “and more abundantly toward you.” Who is he talking to and what is he talking about?

4. Does the Holy Spirit want us to understand God’s will? (vv. 13-14). What barriers hinder people from understanding it?

5. Paul keeps using the word “boast” (vv. 12, 14). The Greek word (*kauchaomai*) can also be translated “glory.” What sort of things do people tend to boast or glory in? What is the Christian’s boast?

6. How did Paul approach making plans and commitments to others? (vv. 15-18) How does this compare with James’ admonition in James 4:13-17?

7. According to verses 19-20 can we believe God’s promises? Just how confident can we be that He will keep them?

8. What strong words do verses 20-21 use in describing our standing before God?

9. What is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit a “guarantee” of (verse 21)?

10. Complete the phrase: “By _____ we _____” (verse 24)

