

Our Triumph in Christ

II Corinthians 1: 15-24

12/9/01

Intro

- Thank you to the church for the “baby” shower.
- Does it feel like Christmas?

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This is a letter from Paul which follows I Corinthians by only about a year.

The church in Corinth had received the first letter and those that were trouble makers before continued to cause trouble, but now added criticism of Paul!

Here we see Paul’s response and see his heart like in no other letter. There is much to gain as he addresses the church.

In this verses we see the insight of Paul in our identification with Christ.

In the first verses here, Paul addresses an accusation that his word is not to be trusted. Some were using his change of plans as supposed “evidence” for this accusation.

Paul takes this charge very seriously as we should also.

Illus- Sometimes with our children we give a fast answer without full thought. Our children then try to whine and cajole us to get their way. We often give in and thus teach them to devalue our words.

Paul, then, focuses on the strength of the promises of God.

I. The promises of God are sure.

II Cor 1: 19-20

A. In Jesus, the promises of God are all “yes.”

- We don’t have to seek after the promises of God, we simply need to receive them in Jesus.
- We don’t get the promises FROM the Lord, we get the Lord, and the promises are in Him.
- God promises life – in Jesus.
- God promises peace – in Jesus.
- God promises mercy – in Jesus.
- Jesus is the assurance that all God’s promises are true.

Illus – The famous Nordstrom unconditional-return policy, "For heaven's sake," he says, "what took you so long?"

II. In the Spirit, the presence of God is sure.

Vs 22, Eph 1:13-14

- The Holy Spirit is given as a down payment.
- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- Imagine what it will be like to get the full installment!!

Illus- We have the seal of the Holy Spirit. There is security, peace and confidence in this fact. Could this have the potential to cause apathy? In contrast, in almost all other faiths their future is never sure.

In the last Reader's Digest there was an article about Mohammed Ali. As a Muslim he gave a great insight into their idea of salvation. The good and the bad are put on a scale. He said he uses a match to remind him to be good because it reminds him of the fires of hell.

III. In your faith you are standing firm.

VS 24

- A. Paul would not presume to lord over their faith.
 - Their faith was in the Lord, not man.

- B. Paul says, I didn't come because it wouldn't have been right.
 - Paul trusts completely in the will of God to lead and direct his life.

Conclusion

Paul is giving us some insight into what Hudson Taylor called "The exchanged life." That is our resting in Christ in all things!!