

# Studies In Second Corinthians

## (II Corinthians 1:13-24)

1. If someone told the Corinthians that Paul had something to say to them that he had not written, should they have believed that person?

No, he wrote all that he needed to say: *“For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end”* (II Corinthians 1:13).

- What Paul had written was supposed to be read to all in the congregation (**Colossians 4:16** and **I Thessalonians 5:27**).
- Yet, Paul had enemies who would say that he said something that he really did not say (**Romans 3:8**).
- Without evidence, we should never believe someone said something (**Proverbs 18:13**).
- Paul did not work by hiding things or being dishonest (**II Corinthians 4:2**).

2. Was Paul able to rejoice over the Corinthians in any way?

Yes, in looking toward the coming of Christ and his work with them to bring them to that day: *“As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus”* (II Corinthians 1:14).

- Paul’s goal was to prepare them for the coming of Christ (**I Corinthians 1:6-8**).
- The Corinthians must have grown since the first Epistle (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**). Yet, not as much as they need to, as we will discuss when we come to verse 23.
- Paul would not just say this to build them up. If he lacked faith in them he would have said so (**Galatians 4:11**).
- Yet, they only partially acknowledged Paul (**II Corinthians 4:11-18** and **II Corinthians 12:15**), while they were ready to accept those who were not Apostles (**II Corinthians 11:4-19**).

3. Did Paul have plans to come to Corinth for a beneficial visit?

Yes: *“(15) And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit; (16) And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea”* (II Corinthians 1:15-16).

- **I Corinthians 4:19** and **I Corinthians 11:34**.
- It was not going to be beneficial for them though (**II Corinthians 2:1-2**).

4. Was Paul's plans regarding a visit to Corinth made with lightness [fickleness; not serious]? Did he have a selfish/carnal desire in regard to his plans?

No: *"When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay"* (**II Corinthians 1:17**)?

- One cannot be a good teacher if they are reckless and not genuine in what they say (**Jeremiah 23:32** and **Zephaniah 3:4**).
- Paul did not approach them with fleshly/carnal thinking either (**II Corinthians 1:12**).
- Paul was not dishonest (**I Timothy 2:7**).

5. Do godly people speak in inconsistent manners and/or make empty promises?

No: *"(18) But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. (19) For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. (20) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us"* (**II Corinthians 1:18-20**).

- You can trust a faithful Christian to mean what he or she says (**Matthew 5:34-37**, **Acts 26:25**, **Romans 12:17**, **Ephesians 4:25**, and **James 5:12**).
- Jesus is the only begotten Son of God (**John 3:16**, **John 3:35-36**, **John 6:69**, **Romans 1:1-4**, **II Peter 1:16-17**, and **I John 5:20**).
- Paul preached Christ as the Son of God (**Acts 9:18-20**).
- God is true to His word as well (**Numbers 23:19**, **Psalms 33:4**, **Titus 1:2**, and **Hebrews 6:18**).

6. Who established and anointed Paul, Timothy, and the church in Corinth?

God: *"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God"* (**II Corinthians 1:21**).

- **Romans 8:9** and **I John 2:24-27**.

7. What were they given as an earnest [guarantee] of them being sealed?

The Spirit: *"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"* (**II Corinthians 1:22**).

- Bible commentary on this: **Ephesians 1:13-14** and **Ephesians 4:30**; cf. **Acts 19:1-7**.

8. Why didn't Paul come to Corinth at the time he had originally intended to do so?

To spare them: *"Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth"* (**II Corinthians 1:23**; cf. **II Corinthians 13:1-2**).

- Paul certainly had a credible witness (**Romans 1:9**, **Romans 9:1**, **II Corinthians 11:31**, **Philippians 1:8**, and **I Thessalonians 2:5**).

9. Did Paul and Timothy think that they could control the faith of those in Corinth?

No, they looked at themselves as helpers: *“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand”* (**II Corinthians 1:24**).

- Paul understood the good of having helpers (**Romans 16:3** and **Romans 16:9**).
- We each have to choose to follow the Lord ourselves (**Luke 11:28**) and stand upon our own faith (**I Corinthians 16:13**).
- No one can obey God for you (**Philippians 2:12**).