

LESSON 4: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:11

“Yes” in Christ

1. What is Paul’s boast (v. 12), and is it appropriate that he should thus “boast” of this? What is so healthy about the testimony of a good conscience (v. 12)?
2. Why do you think Paul writes what he does in verse 13? And, in verse 14, what is “the day of the Lord Jesus”? See 1 Corinthians 1:8; Philippians 1:6,10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; and 2 Thessalonians 2:2. Why is this phrase important? How immediate is it to you? Should it be important in your life?
3. What reason does Paul give that the change in his travel plans was not a change in his love for the Corinthians (vv. 15-16)? What point is he making in verse 17?
4. Notice how Paul redirects their attention by focusing on Jesus Christ (vv. 18-22). Have you ever done this with your Christian brother or sister when you have misunderstood each other?
5. What aspects of Christian experience does Paul point to as evidence of God’s “yes” in Jesus Christ? Can you do the same?
6. What further reason does Paul give for changing his travel plans (vv. 1:23-2:4)? What do you think is behind this problem (see 1 Corinthians 5:1)? What point is Paul making as he speaks of his grief, distress, and anguish, as also of his confidence and joy (see especially v. 2:4)? How would a delay in his plans make Paul’s ultimate visit a joyous one? Has there been, or is there now, an occasion when you should have, or now need to wait, rather than act?
7. Notice Paul’s approach to the problem of the excommunicated sinner (5-11). How would this approach most likely result in the offender hearing God’s affirmation? Is there something to be said here about how we should deal with problems? Can you forgive and forget in the name of God? When? How? In what situations? With what exceptions? What are Satan’s schemes to which Paul refers?