

Homework #2 - *Confidence in Christ Who Never Changes*

II Corinthians 1:12-24

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ.
And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." II Cor. 1:20*

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 1:12-24. Write down any key words or concepts:

<p>Contrasts in Corinthians: Paul often contrasts two opposite themes or words in this book. What contrasts can you find in this section?</p>
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2. Describe Paul's boast in verse 12:

In what does he also boast in verse 14?

How does Paul hope his readers will respond to his life and message?
(Verse 14)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Why does Paul have this confidence? (Verse 12)
--Also read Acts 24:16.
4. What two words does Paul use to describe the quality of their conduct?

How would you define each of these words?
5. Where do these qualities ultimately come from? (Verse 12b)
6. How does Paul describe the content of their message in verse 12c?
7. Do you think our actions or our words are more important, or both?
Explain your answer:
8. How would you describe a person of integrity?

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Is your conscience clear before God and others, or do you have something to hide? How does hiding or insincerity impact your relationship with God and your ability to present Him to others?

Ask God to cleanse you so that who you are inside matches what you say on the outside!

Day Two:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Describe Paul's original plan in verses 15-16:

What do you think was his motivation for the original plan of 2 visits? (Verses 15a and 14c)

2. What change did Paul make in his plans?

What reason does Paul give for this change? (Verses 23, 24)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Read James 4:13-15 and Proverbs 16:1-3; 19:21. Does God want and expect us to make plans?

Who is ultimately in control of our plans?

What should our attitude be in making our plans?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

4. Have you ever needed to change a plan that you initially believed was God's plan? Describe what you learned from your experience of being flexible!

Day Three:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:17-20. What question does Paul answer about his change of plans? (Verse 17)

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2. Does Paul's change of plans also mean that God's message through Paul has changed? (Verses 18-19)
3. What does Christ always say to all the promises made by God? (Verses 19-20)

What word do we say? (Verse 20)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. How does this passage describe Christ? What does He "sustain" and how?
5. The word, "Amen" is from a root word that means "firm, sure, to be trusted". Look up or write down your own definition of "Amen":

How can our lives be an "Amen" to God's Word in Christ?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. Take time to remind yourself of some of God's promises in Christ and write several of them down:

How can you say "Amen" to these promises today? What impact will this have on your attitude and actions today?

Day Four:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-24. What does Paul have in common with his readers? (Verses 21-22)
2. How does Paul describe the work of God's Spirit in this passage?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Read Ephesians 1:13, 14. What is a deposit? Why is this an encouraging description of God's Spirit inside of us?
4. What do you think it means to "stand firm"? (Verses 21 & 24c)

Who is ultimately responsible for us to do this?

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5. Read Jesus' words about the Spirit in John 14:16-20, 26 and Acts 1:4,5,8. Describe the Spirit's work in our lives from these passages:

How does God's Spirit help us "stand firm"?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. Do you feel you are standing firm in your confidence in Christ right now? Or are there areas of doubt in which you need reassurance?

How can relying on God's Spirit as Counselor, Spirit of Truth, and source of God's power, strengthen you today?

Pray and ask God to fill you in a fresh way with His Spirit, to strengthen your trust in Him.

Day Five:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 1:23-24. What did Paul not want to do to his readers?
2. How does Paul instead describe his ministry in verse 24?
3. Read Mark 10:42-45. What is Jesus' description of our world's typical leadership style in these verses?

What should leadership look like among Jesus' followers?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. How would you describe "lording it over" another person?
5. Read I Peter 5:2-3. What should we do instead of "lording it over" other people in order to lead them?

What is the negative impact on a person's life under this kind of leadership? How does it impact their ability to trust God?

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6. What are the positive results of Paul's servant leadership among the Corinthians? (2 Corinthians 1:24)
7. Read I Corinthians 13:4-7. What aspects of God's love do you see in Paul's relationship with the Corinthians?
8. How does Paul's confidence in Christ affect the way he treats other people? How does genuine love allow others to truly grow?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Does your faith in God allow you to also trust Him for others' lives? Can you come alongside another person to "work with" them or do you think you must make demands and be in charge?

Pray and ask God to give you His heart for others and the faith to trust Him for their maturity!