

Confident Because Christ 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

- I. Paul's confident assertion: "Now this is our boast" - 1:12
 - A. We can be proud of Who we know - Jeremiah 9:23-24
 - B. Confidence has two different meanings
 - 1. Full trust; belief in the reliability of a person.
 - 2. Self-reliance; having no uncertainty about one's abilities.
- II. Self Confidence is fragile
 - A. It depends on externals beyond our control.
 - B. Self confidence is tested when serving God and others!
 - C. Paul's setting: His character was being challenged
- III. Christ-Confidence shapes our character
 - A. This is Paul's boast in verse 12:
 - 1. Who we are is "from God".
 - 2. We live "according to God's grace"
 - B. A clear life = "Sincere" - 1:12-13
 - A pot with no wax.
 - 1. Clear conscience - 1:12
 - 2. Clear conduct - 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:20
 - 3. Clear communication - 1:13 ; Deut. 30:11 - 14
 - C. The reason for clarity: to build relationships inside and outside the church
 - D. What determines my confidence?
 - Our character is the foundation for serving others.
- IV. Christ-confidence is contagious - 1:13c-14
 - A. Mutual boasting is encouraged!
 - B. Knowing Christ allows me to assume the best in others.

- V. Christ-confidence determines my plans and priorities - 1:15-17
 - A. Paul values the people.
 - B. Two visits seemed better than one.
 - C. "Worldly planning": self-confident, insincere, impulsive, without purpose, out of self-interest and convenience.
- VI. Christ-Confidence is unchanged by circumstances - 1:18-20
 - A. The change in plans does not change our message- 1:18-19
 - B. A change in plans does not change Christ- 1:19
--Christ is God's "Y-E-S!"
- VII. Christ-confidence agrees with what God has planned - 1:20
 - A. God initiates and we respond: "Amen!"
 - B. Humility allows God to interrupt our plans - James 4:13-15
- VIII. Christ-confidence enables us to follow through with God's ultimate plan: To become like Christ - 1:21-22
 - A. To "stand firm in Christ" - Verse 21
 - B. Our common bond: Holy Spirit - 1:21b-22
 - 1. The anointing
 - 2. The seal of ownership
 - 3. The deposit guaranteeing our inheritance
- IX. Christ-confidence allows others to grow in Christ - 1:23-24
 - A. Notice the inclusive language: "We", not "Me" and "You"
 - B. The motive is authentic love: "In order to spare you"
 - C. Servant leadership is not controlling - 1:24a; I Peter 5:2-3
--"Thou shall not smother"
 - D. Servant leadership is cooperative: "We work with you".
 - E. Remember the goal is Faith: "Your faith", "By faith"

