

3 –PAUL’S DEFENSE (2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:2)

I. General Defense of Integrity (2 Corinthians 1:12-14)

A. The Testimony of Paul’s Action (2 Corinthians 1:12)

1. With Holiness

- Paul boasted that they conducted themselves with holiness.

2. With Godly Sincerity

- Paul boasted that they conducted themselves with godly sincerity.
- Sincerity reflects a purity of motives.

3. Without Worldly Wisdom

- Paul boasted that they did not conduct themselves according to fleshy wisdom.
- Fleshy wisdom is ultimately self-serving.

4. By Grace

- Paul conduct was a result of the grace of God.

5. With Grace

- Paul conduct was marked by an abundance of grace toward them.

B. The Nature of Paul’s letters (2 Corinthians 1:13a)

- Paul tells them that his writings to them are like his conduct.

C. Their Mutual Appreciation (2 Corinthians 1:13b-14)

- Both Paul and Corinthians will be able to boast in each other in eternity.

II. Defense of Changed Travel Plans (2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4)

A. Paul’s Intended Plan (2 Corinthians 1:15-16)

- Paul’s intent was to visit them on his way to Jerusalem.

B. Paul’s Defense of Changing Plans (2 Corinthians 1:17)

- Paul stresses that he did not make his plans based upon self-interest.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

It appears that there were some in Corinth who said his vacillating was a sign of a fundamental unreliability, affecting not only where he went but what he said.

C. The Reliability of Paul's Word (2 Corinthians 1:18)

- Paul stresses the reliability of his message.

D. The Unchanging Nature of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 1:19-20)

- The message proclaimed by Paul and his associates resulted in the Corinthians' salvation.
- The result of the message in their lives brought glory to God.

E. The Nature of God's Work (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

- Paul takes a moment to express the nature of gospel's impact on their lives.

1. Anointed (2 Corinthians 1:21)

- Paul makes the point that the believer is anointed with the Holy Spirit.

2. Sealed (2 Corinthians 1:22a)

- Paul stresses that the Holy Spirit is given to us as the seal of our salvation.

3. Guarantee (2 Corinthians 1:22b)

- Paul stresses that the Holy Spirit serves as our guarantee of our salvation.

F. The Reason for Changing Plans (2 Corinthians 1:23-24)

- Paul's plans were changed because he did not want to have another confrontation.

G. The Painful Experience of the Last Visit (2 Corinthians 2:1-2)

- Paul wanted to spare them a repeat of the painful experience of the last visit.