

In the second half of 2 Corinthians 1, Paul gives a defense for his changing plans, which those in Corinth took as indecision or fickleness in his convictions. He argues that his decision to not return was based on a solid process AND, in Christ, God's plans are always perfect, as are His promises.

2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

Paul's

Change of

Plans

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

People can be unreliable, and some more than others. Of course, this includes us as well. Usually we tend to be more critical of those who fail to follow through with *us* than we are of ourselves when we don't deliver on the commitments or promises made with others. In either situation, we can neglect to believe the best in others, assuming the worst, and even questioning motives that are often unmerited.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

SHARE of a time when someone's unreliability really mattered in your life.

DESCRIBE a time when you were unreliable with someone in some way, causing strife or pain in the relationship.

DO you typically believe the best or the worst in others? **WHY?**

WHEN you commit to a responsibility, **DO** you apply any kind of process when considering it?

2 Corinthians

Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

1:12-2:4

Paul's Change of Plans

OBSERVATION

How does Paul say he behaved (and *didn't* behave) in vs. 12? According to vs. 13-14, how well did the Corinthians understand Paul?

What do you observe in vs. 15-16 regarding Paul's desire to visit those in Corinth?

What rhetorical questions does Paul present in vs. 17?

In vs. 18, what does Paul actually say is true?

Where do all of God's promises find their "yes" according to vs. 19-20?

What do you observe in vs. 21-22 that is true of us?

What reason does Paul give for not returning to Corinth (vs. 23-2:4)?

According to 2:3-4, instead of a personal visit, how does Paul choose to communicate to those in Corinth?

INTERPRETATION

Why do the Corinthians seem to be upset with Paul, according to this passage?

Explain the difference between simplicity and godly sincerity to that of earthly wisdom (vs. 12).

What does "vacillating" mean and how does this present a personal attack on Paul's character?

Why does Paul bring God's faithfulness into his conversation with the Corinthians (vs. 18-22)?

Look at Numbers 23:19-22. How does the account of Balaam give insight to God's decisiveness?

In 1 Corinthians 16:5-7, what does Paul say about his desire to come back and visit the church in Corinth?

Who, ultimately, is responsible for orchestrating Paul's visit?

In vs. 23, why do you think Paul wanted to spare the Corinthians pain, refusing to return to them again? How might his concerns have caused them pain?

Without a visit, how does Paul choose to communicate to the Corinthian church, and address his concerns?

APPLICATION

What does it look like to be faithful in our plans? What might be some good things to consider when making decisions that honor the Lord?