



Discussion Guide

May 6, 2018

Contrast: Jesus is God's "Yes"

II Corinthians 1:15-22

Introduction

Read II Corinthians 1:15-24 together.

We know that Paul wrote 4 letters to the church in Corinth: a first letter that we don't have [referred to in I Cor. 5:9], then I Corinthians, a letter he called "the severe letter" [referred to in II Cor. 2:1-4], and finally, II Corinthians. An introduction to II Corinthians can be found at <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/intros/corinthi.cfm>. Here you can learn historical context that aids in understanding the circumstances that prompt Paul to write as he does.

Discussion Questions

1. What is an event your personal history with promise making and promise keeping? Do you have a memory of an important promise either kept or broken in your life? What was the effect of that on your relationship with the person who either kept or broke the promise? Do you remember ever having to break a promise to someone? What was that like for you?
2. Look up these promises that Jesus makes to us in the here and now. Which of these are being fulfilled in your life at present? Do any of them give you pause for thought or confuse you as to how they are being fulfilled? Matthew 11:28, Matthew 6:33, John 14:12-14, Luke 12:11-12, Matthew 19:29, Luke 6:38, John 16:13, Matt. 17:20. Can you think of other present promises Jesus has made to us?
3. In 1:20, we understand that as God makes promises to us that are founded in the work of Christ, these promises are fulfilled as we say "yes" back to God. When do you find it hard to trust God enough to step into his promises and take him at his word? Have there been times when you have gone ahead and taken the leap of faith into one of God's promises, and were surprised as to how it turned out?



4. As we respond to the promises of Jesus in obedience and faith, we are told that it brings glory to God, or it allows the brightness of God to be obvious to others. God is honored, respected, made known to others as we demonstrate our faith and allow him to change us into much different and better people. Don't consider this bragging – go ahead and share – have there been times when people have noticed the brightness of God in your life and commented on that? Were you able to give God credit in the conversation?

4. In 1:21-22, we see that God gives us His Holy Spirit as a down payment on the promises of eternity to come. How and when do you sense the presence of the reality of God's Spirit within you? How does he communicate with you? How do you know it is him that is comforting, prompting, and instructing as opposed to your own sense of things?

Moving Forward:

Could you agree as a group, to pick out one of the specific promises Christ has made to you, and to step into that promise in obedience this week? And then report back to each other if there was an interesting outcome?