



# 2 CORINTHIANS

# 2 Corinthians:

## The Benefit of Inadequacy

# **“Confidence in Criticism”**

**2 Corinthians 1:12-24**

*What can we lean on when criticism arise?*

# *Four Criticisms about Paul and Timothy from the Corinthian Church*

- 1. Unimpressive in person*
- 2. Unclear in letter*
- 3. Unreliable in plans*
- 4. Uncaring in absence*

“I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.”

– 1 Corinthians 16:5-7

“For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you.”

– 2 Corinthians 2:1

“But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ... as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it ...”

- 2Corinthians 7:6-8

# Confidence in Criticism

*1. Sincere, though as if Unimpressive and Unclear*

*“we behaved in the world with ... sincerity”*

*“you will boast of us as we will boast of you”*



“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

# Confidence in Criticism

*1. Sincere, though as if Unimpressive and Unclear*

*“we behaved in the world with ... sincerity”*

*“you will boast of us as we will boast of you”*

“And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”

- 2 Peter 3:15-16

# Confidence in Criticism

## *1. Sincere, though as if Unimpressive and Unclear*

*“we behaved in the world with ... sincerity”*

*“you will boast of us as we will boast of you”*

## *2. Faithful, though as if Unreliable and Uncaring*

*“as surely as God is faithful...”*

*“all the promises of God find their Yes in him.”*

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”

- James 5:12

“But I say to you, ... do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

- Matthew 5:34-37

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- Ephesians 1:7-10

# Confidence in Criticism

## *1. Sincere, though as if Unimpressive and Unclear*

*“we behaved in the world with ... sincerity”*

*“you will boast of us as we will boast of you”*

## *2. Faithful, though as if Unreliable and Uncaring*

*“as surely as God is faithful...”*

*“all the promises of God find their Yes in him.”*

*What can we lean on when criticism arise?*

*Always and only lean on Christ for confidence*



