

2 Corinthians

Lesson #3, Chapter 1:12-22

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this study. Make sure you spend time in prayer asking the Lord for His help and insight before you dive into the lesson.

1. Summarize Paul's defense of himself in verses 12-22.
2. How are verses 12-14 related to the previous paragraph (verses 3-11)?
3. What is Paul's *proud confidence* as stated in verse 12?
4. Who were the recipients of their conduct (verse 12)?
5. Verse 12 also states an opposite way Paul and Timothy could have conducted themselves. What is it? See also James 3:15-16. Can you give any present-day examples of this kind of ministry?
6. Think about your conduct from day to day. Do you walk in holiness and godly sincerity? Is there a difference in your conduct toward believers and unbelievers (the world)?
7. What is the difference between Paul's proud confidence and the pride that God hates? Compare the following sets of verses:

- a. Jer. 9:23-24; Rom. 15:17; 1 Cor. 1:31; 2 Cor. 7:4, 14; 8:24
- b. 1 Sam. 2:3; Prov. 8:13; 11:2; 16:18; 29:23; Mark 7:20-23; 1 Jn. 2:16
8. In conjunction with #7 look up the following verses and explain how they fit in the *boasting/not boasting* argument: Acts 24:16; Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 15:9-10.
9. After answering #7 and #8 explain how you can move from having the wrong kind of pride to having the right kind of pride that is pleasing to God.
10. We all struggle with prideful areas of our life. Pinpoint areas that you need to deal with and write down 1 or more verses from questions 7 and 8 that you want to use to help you overcome that area of pride.
- When the devil cannot stay us from a good work,
then he laboureth by all means to make us proud of it. ~ Henry Smith
11. Please summarize the contents of verses 12-14. What point does Paul want to communicate to the Corinthians?
12. According to verses 12-14, why will we be proud of each other in the day of our Lord Jesus (when He returns and we stand before Him)?

13. Verse 15 begins *“And in this confidence I intended at first to come to you...”* What confidence is Paul referring to (see verses 12-14)?

14. Paul’s intended visit to the Corinthian church is postponed. His reason for doing so isn’t immediately given, but look ahead to verse 23-2:4 to find out why. What do you learn?

15. In verses 15-19 Paul addresses for the first time in this letter one of the things his enemies were saying about him. What is it?

16. What is Paul’s response to the accusations that he was fickle (verses 17-22)?

17. It’s obvious it grieves Paul that others may see him as vacillating and not to be counted upon. What about you? Are you faithful to keep your word, to follow through on your commitments? How does your faithfulness or lack of it affect others?

18. Look again at Paul’s response to accusations about his character in verses 12-22. What attitudes characterize his response? What kinds of attitudes characterize your response when others falsely accuse you?

19. Look up the following verses to see what truths shaped Paul’s thinking: Matt. 5:10-12; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:20-21. How will they help you the next time you find yourself in a similar situation as Paul?