

Second Corinthians 1:12-23

The Apostle Paul is unsure of the Corinthian's affections--he is on thin ice
Paul _____ himself – he is eager to verify his integrity

I. The problem: lack of commitment

- A. Lack of commitment is a problem across our _____
- B. Lack of commitment is a problem in the _____ as well
- C. Paul gives his pastoral – his _____ – credentials
 1. Simplicity--holiness, _____
 2. Sincerity--_____: what you see is what you get
 3. Not by earthly wisdom but by the _____ of God

II. The _____ of the Gospel

No matter what the issue, Paul cannot stay away from the _____

- A. Paul is a _____ --he does not trust his own heart
*"I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted.
It is the Lord who judges me."* [First Corinthians 4:4]
- B. Amid his uncertainty and angst, Paul looks to Christ
*"The Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not Yes and No,
but in him it is always Yes."* [II Corinthians 1:19]
Jesus is completely faithful in the midst of unfaithfulness – both _____ and _____
It is His _____ – and His alone – that can save anyone
This is good news of great joy for _____ religious people

III. This should both _____ and humble us

- A. Much room for renewed _____ here at CTK
"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'" [Matthew 5:37a; James 5:12]
Show up for your commitments, and arrive on time
- B. Much room for grace toward others as well
 1. Consider our Lord – Behold!
 2. Consider our own hearts--full of excuses and _____ and blame shifting
 3. Consider the _____
Keeping commitments became their righteousness.
 4. Mountains and _____
Jesus warned of those who become grace-less amid their zeal and commitment
 5. The grace of _____ judgment
 - a. It is easy to make false assumptions--grace considers _____
 - b. There are times when it is best to change plans
 6. *"Above all, keep loving one another _____"* [First Peter 4:8]
The ideal: we _____ keep growing in our commitment to the Lord and to each other
A lot of "Yes!" and a lot of follow through
At the same time: more and more patient with those who may be less consistent

"Whom you would change you must first _____"

The best strategy for all of us: keep _____ our Lord and Savior together

This will liberate us to be more focused *and* more free!