

## 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!