

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 24, 2009**

**“A Change in Plans”
2 Corinthians 1:12-14
Dale Whitehead**

Our conscience is our soul reflecting on itself in judgment, either defending us or accusing us (Romans 2:14-15).

How did Paul respond to the various charges by certain false teachers within the church at Corinth, who said that he lacked personal integrity in 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4?

Paul, first of all, responded to the charges against him by introducing the testimony of his own conscience (2 Corinthians 1:12-14).

Paul’s conscience concluded that his conduct in this world and especially toward the church at Corinth was conducted in holiness and godly sincerity (2 Corinthians 1:12).

The word “holiness” (HAGIOTES) refers to moral purity.

The word “sincerity” (EILIKRINEIA) is a combination of two Greek words, one word, “EILE,” meaning “sunlight,” and another, “KRINO,” meaning “to judge.”

Paul called his sincerity “godly” because God was its object and its source (1 Corinthians 15:10; Colossians 1:29).

Fleshly wisdom cannot produce holiness and godly sincerity, only God can produce these things as He pours out His grace upon us.

Paul wants to assure the Corinthians that, in light of the fact that his conscience had defended him, they could continue to place their confidence in what they had come to know through him.

And this would have included what they had come to know through His writings or through their personal contact with him (2 Corinthians 1:13).

When Paul said that he hoped that the Corinthians would understand what he had written to them until “the end,” he meant until the end of their lives (2 Corinthians 1:13).

When Paul, in 2 Corinthians 1:14, said, “just as you also partially did understand us,” he was referring to when he and Timothy were there with them during the founding of the church.

The day of our Lord Jesus Christ refers to that time when Christ will appear and takes His church to heaven.

May our conscience, by the grace of God, be perfected so that it will accuse us when it should accuse us and defend us when it should defend us.