

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for May 31, 2009**

**“A Change in Plans”**  
**2 Corinthians 1:15-17**  
**Dale Whitehead**

How did Paul respond to the charges against him by certain false teachers that he lacked personal integrity (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, secondly, responded to the charges against him by denying them (2 Corinthians 1:15-17).

The phrase “in this confidence” at the beginning of verse 15 refers back to the confidence that Paul and the Corinthians had in each other when he first came to them.

When Paul told the Corinthians that he had planned to come to them “first” he meant that he planned to come to them before he visited the churches of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 1:16).

By planning to visit the Corinthians “first” it made it possible for the Corinthians to be “twice blessed” because Paul would be able to visit them twice, once on his way to Macedonia and once again on his way back (2 Corinthians 1:16).

Paul initially laid out his plan to visit the Corinthian church “first” in a non-canonical letter that we presently do not have, that was referenced in 1 Corinthians 5:9 and was later changed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:5-6.

When Paul’s accusers charged Paul with vacillation, they inferred he was a shifty opportunist, a shallow, fickle, frivolous liar who said and did what he did in order to serve himself.

Paul did not see himself as fickle. He rather saw himself in the plans that he made and later altered as being consistent with his calling, an apostle of Christ, and not according to the flesh.

May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that when we are falsely accused, those around us will be able to say that the accusations are not consistent with who they have come to know us to be.