

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 28, 2009

“A Change in Plans”
2 Corinthians 1:21-22
Dale Whitehead

How did Paul respond to the charges against him 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 conscience (2 Corinthians 1:12-14).

Paul secondly responded to the charges against him by denying them (2 Corinthians 1:15-17).

Paul thirdly responded to the charges against him by affirming his faithfulness as a messenger of God (2 Corinthians 1:18-22).

Paul initially affirmed his faithfulness as a messenger of God by reminding the Corinthians how the message he had preached concerning Christ perfectly aligned with God’s Old Testament promises (2 Corinthians 1:18-20).

Paul also affirmed his faithfulness as a messenger of God by reminding the Corinthians how God, through the message he had preached, had joined them to Christ and would keep them joined to Christ (2 Corinthians 1:12-22).

When we respond to the gospel of Christ and God places us unto Christ through the baptizing work of the Spirit, God permanently joins us to Christ (1 Corinthians 1:4-8).

The Corinthians were anointed (CHRIO) when they, in responding to the gospel, were joined to Christ (CHRISTOS) or in other words to “the Anointed One.”

When the Corinthians were joined to “the anointed one” and thus became anointed, they were set apart for Christ’s mission in this world.

God’s present action of continuing to establish or confirm us is not only tied to God’s past action of having anointed us but also to God’s past action of having sealed us (2 Corinthians 1:22).

The seal in biblical times has a number of different meanings but the meaning I believe that is prominent here is ownership.

When the Corinthians responded to the gospel, they became God's property and were marked with God's seal, or in other words marked with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

God's present action of continuing to establish or confirm us is not only tied to God's past action of having anointed us and sealed us but also in having given us the Spirit as a pledge (2 Corinthians 1:22).

The word "pledge" (ARRABON) comes from the world of legal documents and may also be rendered "first installment" (Ephesians 1:14).

Although the believer has already been blessed with bountiful spiritual gifts, he does not yet have all of what has been graciously provided through Christ's redemptive death (Romans 8:18-23).

May God give us the grace to see those who are faithfully serving us and the grace to find ways to encourage them.