



Sunday Sermon Summary

Pastor Philip Thomas, March 19, 2023

2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 – How Should We Conduct Ourselves?

Summary of the Sermon

The sermon emphasizes how believers are called to live with biblical integrity, sincerity, grace, and a clear conscience, aligning their lives with God's truth. Using Paul's relationship with the Corinthians as an example, the speaker illustrates how Paul's decisions were guided by his love for the church, his reliance on God's grace, and his desire for their joy in the Lord. The sermon contrasts worldly and biblical definitions of integrity and sincerity, highlighting that true transformation and joy come only through God's grace and mercy. Believers are encouraged to conduct themselves in a way that reflects God's holiness and to seek the joy of others by showing mercy and grace, grounded in their personal experience of God's goodness.

List of Scripture References

1. **2 Corinthians 1:12-24**
2. **1 Corinthians 16**
3. **Romans 9:1**
4. **Acts 24:16**
5. **Acts 23:1**
6. **Acts 18**
7. **Psalm 51:15-16**
8. **Romans 12:9**
9. **1 Timothy 1:5**
10. **Joshua 24:14**

Detailed List of Each Important Point

Paul's Integrity and Sincerity:

- Paul conducted himself with integrity and godly sincerity, relying on God's grace rather than worldly wisdom.
- His decisions, such as sparing the Corinthians another painful visit, were motivated by love and a desire for their joy in the Lord.

Biblical Definitions of Integrity and Sincerity:

- Integrity involves being the same inside and out, aligning one's heart with God's holiness. It is not merely ethical behavior but a heart transformed by God.
- Biblical sincerity is being truthful and free from hypocrisy, double-talk, or embellishment. It is aligned with God's truth, not personal intent or worldly standards.

Examples of Sincerity in Scripture:

- Apollos in Acts 18: He was sincere but needed correction to align with the full gospel of Jesus.
- True sincerity involves seeking, finding, and applying God's truth to please Him rather than people.

Grace and Mercy:

- God's mercy withholds punishment we deserve, while His grace grants blessings we do not deserve.
- Paul's decisions were guided by the grace of God, which believers are called to imitate in their interactions with others.

Clear Conscience:

- A clear conscience is a gift that the Lord gives us when He forgives our sin in Jesus Christ.
- Believers should strive to maintain a clear conscience before God and others, as Paul did in his ministry -- not relying on worldly wisdom, but on God's grace.
- A clear conscience is maintained when one's life continues to align with God's truth and standards, prompting repentance, and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Joy in the Lord vs. Happiness:

- The joy Paul sought for the Corinthians was rooted in holiness and alignment with God's will, not temporary happiness.
- Joy in the Lord sustains believers through difficulties, and is their strength.

Practical Applications for Believers:

- Seek the joy of others in the Lord, even when they misunderstand or criticize you.
- Show mercy and grace to others, reflecting God's character.
- Pray for and commit to serving others in ways that lead them to experience the joy of the Lord.

Concluding Challenge and Prayer:

- The speaker challenges listeners to live lives marked by integrity, sincerity, grace, and a clear conscience.
- A closing prayer seeks God's help for believers to align their conduct with His Word and bring joy to others through their actions.