

LESSON 2
IN _____ WE TRUST
2 CORINTHIANS 1:12—2:11



1 If someone wanted to borrow \$500 from you, what factors would you use to determine whether or not that person was trustworthy?

2 What makes a person trustworthy?



Read 2 Corinthians 1:12—2:11 and the following notes:

☐ 1:15–17 ☐ 1:17–20 ☐ 2:1

3 What caused Paul to change his plans to visit the Corinthians (1:23)?

4 Why did Paul write his painful letter (2:3, 4)?

5 What did Paul say to convince the Corinthians that he was trustworthy and committed to them (1:12—2:11)?

6 What should have given the Corinthians confidence in Paul's trustworthiness (1:17–20)?

The Corinthians had some questions for Paul: Why hadn't he visited them as scheduled? Why did he write such a harsh letter to them? Some had begun to wonder if he could even be trusted at all. And if Paul couldn't be trusted to keep his word or to care for them, then maybe the false teachers were right after all—the message brought by Paul might not be absolutely true either. Paul understood why they might be wondering about his reliability. That's why he took such pains to explain his actions to the Corinthians. The evidence was clear: Paul could be trusted. He was a dedicated servant of Christ who always kept his word. His life backed up what he said. He was trustworthy. When others doubt you, what evidence shows that you are trustworthy?



7 Why was Paul so concerned that the Corinthians understand the reasons for his actions?

8 Why was it important that Paul was trustworthy?

9 How did Paul's integrity come into question?



10 Why is it important for your behavior to reflect your faith when you talk about God with people?

11 How would you respond to a person who rejects Christianity on the premise that all Christians are hypocrites?

12 What evidence is there that you can be trusted?

13 List one or two areas in your life that you feel do not reflect your faith and that might hinder your witness. Pray about them each day this week. Write down something you would like to do differently by God’s grace.



14 What change can you make to give people more confidence in you?

A What does it mean that “all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in [Christ]” (1:20)? Which of God’s promises means the most to you?

B What truths mentioned in 1:21, 22 give you security in Christ?

C What is the purpose of church discipline (2:5–11)? What is your role in church discipline?

D What are the schemes of Satan (2:11)? How have you seen them in your life? What steps can you take to see through them?

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