



## MESSAGE NOTES

Doug Baker | July 24, 2022  
**Wholeness through Simplicity**  
2 Corinthians 1:12-24

George Bernard Shaw once said:

*"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."*

That can be very true! So, if you have ever had something you've said... be misunderstood! Or you've had something you've done... be misrepresented! Then you know how important it is to be clearly understood and fairly observed!

This is true in ALL human relationships but it is especially so in our relationships with each other as God's people - His Bride - the church.

Because this need for clarity in our communication and this unity in our mutual understanding is so critical to our relationships, Paul addresses this very thing in our passage for today.

Paul corrects their understanding of his \_\_\_\_\_, 1:12

Sincere behavior has four outstanding qualities:

1. Acting in good \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acting with \_\_\_\_\_
3. Acting with \_\_\_\_\_
4. Acting with \_\_\_\_\_

Paul corrects their understanding of his \_\_\_\_\_, 1:13-14

(2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 8:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Hebrews 6:10)

A few of the things we will be judged for:

1. How well we \_\_\_\_\_ the Great Commission, *Matthew 28:18-20*
2. How well we \_\_\_\_\_ in the Great Commandment, *Luke 10:27*
3. How victorious we were over \_\_\_\_\_, *Romans 6:1-4*
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts and the \_\_\_\_\_ we speak, *Matthew 12:33-37*
5. How we \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, *Malachi 3:16*

The rewards we gain in heaven are not like the rewards we earn here on earth. We tend to think in material terms—mansions, jewels, etc. But these things are only representations of the true rewards we will gain in heaven. A child who wins a soccer trophy, treasures the trophy he receives not for the sake of the trophy itself but for what that trophy means. Likewise, any rewards or honor we gain in heaven will be precious to us because they carry the weight and meaning of our relationship with God—and because they remind us of what He did through us on earth. In this way, rewards in heaven glorify God and provide us with joy, peace, and wonder as we consider God's work in us and through us. ***The closer we were to God during this life, the more centered on Him and aware of Him, the more dependent on Him, the more desperate for His mercy, the more there will be to celebrate.*** We are like characters in a novel who suffer doubt, loss, and fear throughout the story, wondering if we will ever really have our heart's desire. BUT, when the happy ending comes and desire is fulfilled, there comes a completion. The story would not be satisfying without that completion. ***Rewards in heaven are the completion of our earthly story, and those rewards will be eternally satisfying***"

Paul corrects their understanding of his \_\_\_\_\_, 1:15-20  
(2 Corinthians 8:1-10)

Jim Erwin writes in his Patheos, Evangelical Channel:

"The grace of giving was first revealed in the life of Jesus. Jesus was rich. He was God's Son. He resided in Heaven. When He came to Earth, He didn't decide to be born in a rich palace. Instead, He chose to be born in a poor family. Born in a borrowed cradle, Jesus preached from a borrowed boat, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, ate His Last Supper in a borrowed room, and was buried in a borrowed grave. He who made everything laid it all down and entered into total poverty that we might be rich. The poverty of Jesus led to our eternal wealth. He made everyone rich but was in total poverty for his entire adult life. That should say something about our perspective on money."

Paul Corrects their Understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_, 1:21-24

## 2 Corinthians 1:23-24

But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, ***but we work with you for your joy, for you to stand firm in your faith.***

**Our faith is strengthened when...** we know the kind of Spiritual leaders we should have...and we have them!

**Our faith is strengthened when...** we understand that every word we speak and action we take must be accounted before at the Day of Jesus Christ.

**Our faith is strengthened when...** we give money to God's people and God's work generously, intentionally, sacrificially, passionately, we experience more of God's grace to us!

**Our faith is strengthened when...**we understand the role and finality of the Holy Spirit's work in us individually and corporately!