

Question: what does it mean when a product is sealed? In what way does God “seal” his believers? What does it say to the believers’ enemies in the world?

Question: what additional “guarantee” of our salvation has the Lord given us?

Questions for Further Discussion.

What is Paul willing to brag about?

What is the basis for his integrity?

Are there church leaders who operate on the basis of “fleshly wisdom”? (verse 12)

How does their ministry differ from those who operate on the basis of “the grace of God”?

When has something painful served as a “grace” or “benefit” in your life? (verse 15)

II CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Faithful Ministers of the Faithful God

Warm-up: nobody likes a braggart! And yet we're all tempted to do it. Can you think of a time when your bragging got you into trouble? How did the episode turn out? Did anything about you change as a result? Are there things we *should* brag about?

Question: Paul's critics may have been accusing him of boasting about himself. But in verse 12, far from “boasting”, Paul makes a straight forward claim—what is it?

2 Cor 1:12 _____

Question: when it comes to one's conduct, which do you think is harder to live up to—“fleshly wisdom” or “the grace of God”?

Question: of all the congregations Paul visited, where was he most careful to show simplicity and godly sincerity?

Question: Paul's critics may also have been deliberately misunderstanding his letters, reading between the lines and accusing him of teaching new doctrines. But what does Paul say his letters contain?

2 Cor 1:13 _____

Question: what do you think Paul meant by the expression "in the day of the Lord Jesus" in verse 14?

2 Cor 1:14 _____

Question: in what way would Paul and his fellow workers be the Corinthians' "boast" on the day of judgment?

Question: how would the Corinthians be Paul's boast?

Question: what had been Paul's initial plan regarding the Corinthians — a plan that did not in fact work out?

2 Cor 1:15-16 _____

Question: in view of the next question, how do you think Paul's critics in Corinth used that change in plans against him?

2 Cor 1:17 _____

Question: some people do think that changing one's plans demonstrates a lack of character. Do you think that's true? Why or why not?

Question: what is Paul's answer to that accusation?

2 Cor 1:18 _____

Question: in fact, says Paul, his gospel presentation has been as faithful as what?

Question: "yes" and "Amen" in verse 20 synonyms? Who confirms the promises? Who says Amen to them?

2 Cor 1:20 _____

Question: there is a word play in verse 21. The name "Christ" comes from the Greek verb for "anoint". What do believers have in common with Jesus?

2 Cor 1:21 _____

1 Peter 2:9 _____

Question: bearing in mind that Corinth was center of trade (and that Paul was a tradesman), what business metaphors does the Apostle employ in verse 22?
