

## Paul's Defense of Ministry - 2 Cor. 1:12-2:4

- I. A Ministry of Integrity - 1:12-14
  - A. The need for careful discernment, v. 12
    1. Confidence in God's work
    2. Testimony of conscience
    3. Conduct that matches God's character
  - B. Focus on the Word, v. 13
  - C. Maintaining the perspective of rejoicing, v. 14
- II. The Defense of Ministry Plans - 1:15-2:4
  - A. Paul's motive, v. 15-17
  - B. God's surety, v. 18-20

C. Paul's work in the unequivocal nature of Christ, v. 21-24

D. Paul under attack, v. 1-4

- How can we regulate our plans to ensure they are consistent with the Lord's?
- What are the implications of v.20 for your life? What does this mean for the trouble in your life?
- How can you improve your perspective on being a messenger, as Paul described in v.21-24?
- What specific steps can we take to align our plans with God's will?
- How do we respond to feelings of hurt or offense from other church members while maintaining our focus on Christ?
- How can we cultivate a genuine sense of community that reflects God's love and forgiveness?
- In what ways can we demonstrate integrity in our ministry and everyday interactions?

Next Week: 2 Cor. 2:5-17