

God's Positive (Affirmative): Living in God's Yes

2 Cor. 1:18-22

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The book of 2 Corinthians contains numerous metaphors. Many of them relate to the Christian, but one of the first similes Paul develops is this: "Jesus is our yes."

Consider the following outline:

- *1 With Faith and Optimism, we believe in Christ as God's Yes [chapter 1]
Causes us to speak with authority despite our weakness and doubts
- *2 In Victory and Triumph, we follow Christ as our victorious leader [chapter 2]
Causes us to speak with confidence
- *3 With Integrity, depend on and become like the Unveiled Christ [chapter 3]
Causes us to speak with transparency and sincerity, focused on Christ
- *4 In Gratitude, we depend on God to show forth the Light of the Glorious Gospel]
Causes us to speak with purpose

Introduction

Ministers feel incompetent--in ministry, baptisms, funerals, hospital visits

Christians are misunderstood, accused of ulterior motives, changing plans, lack of sincerity/caring

At times, our experiences resemble those of Paul in 2 Corinthians

Camus: "This is a generation about reading the newspaper and fornicating." Ours is the generation of "whatever" and "maybe."

Jesus is not God's whatever, maybe, or just. Jesus is not God's no.

Jesus is God's yes, affirmation, certainty, security.

The text describes God's promises as an illustration of Paul's plans and promise to the Corinthians. Paul had planned to go to Corinth, but he did not. Was his promise undependable? Uncertain? No. His promise is like the promise of God.

God's promises are dependable. This truth is clearly seen in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is God's yes as the declaration of the surety of God's promises (he says "yes" to the promises of God). Because God is faithful -- so his promises are sure

Jesus is God's yes as the evidence of God's promises -- regardless of the number of promises

Jesus is God's yes, and our confident affirmation (Amen) shows God's glory

Jesus is God's yes, we stand firm as his anointed, sealed, with the HS as deposit of future promise

That is what the text says, but what does it mean for you and for me?

>>Jesus was God's yes for Paul when he was overwhelmed by his failures

Weak vessel; thorn in flesh, when I am weak, then I am strong, gospel shines through weakness

Woe to me if I do not preach, why? Chief of sinners, persecuted the church

>>Jesus is God's yes for the church in the midst of failure.

We are not what we ought to be, what we want to be, corporately, together

>>Jesus is God's yes for Christians in the times we fail

Who is not aware of failure? Who is not aware of sin? Isa. 6

Who has not been overwhelmed by inability to do what we want to do?

Who has not suffered failure after doing one's very best?

>>Jesus is God's yes for the world in the midst of failure.

Our world is imperfect, as are we.

We are surrounded, live in the midst of uncleanness.

People of unclean lips, but our lips declare this great truth: Jesus is God's Yes!