



Credibility Matters

By Terry Kountz on April 21, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 1

We all face situations where we do not get the credit for something we think we deserve. Whether it is a school project, a job presentation or what we think is a really great dinner, someone is not going to appreciate our efforts as much as we want them to.

In 2 Corinthians 1:12-14, Paul had turned his life around, and he was sold out to Jesus. Yet he found himself defending his credibility. “Now this is our boast,” Paul says in verse 12. “Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.”

The Corinthians were upset because Paul had to change his plans. It seemed to them that he was saying one thing and doing another. They were beginning to question the integrity of Paul and distrusting what he said.

There was a lot more at stake with Paul’s credibility than a high-school grade. Damage would have been done to the spread of the gospel if Paul was proven untrustworthy. Paul understood the risk, so he appealed to the Corinthians with a clear conscience. Paul said “Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say 'Yes, yes' and 'No, no' at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him” (2 Corinthians 1:17-20).

The importance of how we conduct ourselves should not be lost on us. Our lives are not lived alone. People are measuring our credibility. We must understand that our lives either point people to Jesus or point people away from Him. Each day, we have the opportunity to build our defense by being sincere and having integrity like Paul.

PRAYER: Lord, help me be aware of those around me. Help me point those around me to Jesus in everything I say and do.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 2

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