



Today's Message

Date: October 14, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Family Resemblance*

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:15–22

¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Introduction: The apostle Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to defend his integrity and thus, his message and mission. In our text he answered the charge of insincerity. To answer the accusation, Paul appealed to the faithfulness of God. Because God is faithful and utterly reliable in his promises and provisions for us, the apostle who spoke for him was also dependable. This establishes for us a basic principle of the Christian life: children of God must reflect the character of God.

I. Paul invested his life in the Corinthians' spiritual well-being. 15-16

- A. He encouraged them to grow. 15
- B. He enlisted them to serve. 16

II. Even so, some misunderstood and misrepresented Paul's motives. 17

III. In defense, Paul appealed to the character of the God he served. 18-22

- A. God is completely dependable. 18
- B. We know that God is dependable because: 19-20
 - 1. He keeps promises made regarding Christ. 19-20
 - 2. He keeps promises made regarding us. 21-22
 - a. He upholds our growth. 21a
 - b. He empowers our service. 21b
 - c. He secures our destiny. 22a
 - d. He guarantees our inheritance. 22b

Today's take-home truth: A strong "family resemblance" provides the Christian's best defense against false criticism.