

In Him Was Yes

2 Corinthians 1:19

Introduction

1. The apostle Paul laid the foundation of Christ in Corinth by the preaching of the gospel (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11) – “And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized” (Acts 18:8b).
2. Because of Paul’s work in the gospel among the Corinthians, a special relationship had been developed (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:14-15).
3. Yet, due to evil influence among the Corinthians, their relationship with Paul had been marred (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:11-12; 7:2-3; 12:14-15).
4. As Paul’s opponents in Corinth – the “false apostles” – warred with weapons of the flesh, they attacked Paul’s character, charging him with duplicity:
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:15-17 – Paul’s original travel plans (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:5-7).
 - i. Evidently these plans changed.
 - ii. The Corinthians were persuaded that Paul was being dishonest with his intentions from the start.
 - iii. (v. 17) – lightly – *elaphria*; levity (figuratively), i.e. fickleness. (Strong) (“I was not vacillating when I intended to do this” – NASB)
 - b. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 – Paul’s confidence in his conscience.
 - i. (v. 12) – Paul’s conscience is clean. He was not dishonest with the Corinthians.
 - ii. (v. 13) – The things he wrote to them – 1 Corinthians – meant exactly what they understood them to mean, with no ulterior motives.
 - iii. NOTE:
 1. (v. 12) – simplicity – *haplotēs*; singleness, i.e. (subjectively) sincerity (without dissimulation or self-seeking). (Strong)
 2. Paul said his conduct was the opposite of duplicity – it was single, straight-forward, and honest.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 1:17-22 – Paul’s defense of his character, and of the gospel.
 - i. (vv. 17-18) – Paul’s planning was not duplicitous – he did not say one thing with the intentions of doing another. (AS GOD IS FAITHFUL – he acted according to the standard of God)
 1. “Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?” (v. 17 – NASB)
 2. “Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say ‘Yes, yes’ and ‘No, no’ at the same time?” (v. 17 – ESV)
 - ii. The greater danger was that the Corinthians were allowing the evil influence of Paul’s opponents to turn them, not only against Paul, BUT AGAINST THE GOSPEL:
 1. Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 – they were being deceived, and corrupted, and were turning to a different gospel.
 - a. Simplicity – *haplotēs*; singleness. (Strong)

- b. Same as in **1:12** – “*we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity*”
 - 2. **(vv. 19-20)** – The gospel of Christ from God is not duplicitous.
 - a. It is not “Yes and no,” but “Yes” – not contradictory.
 - b. WHAT PAUL PREACHED ORIGINALLY WAS TRUE THEN, AND IS TRUE NOW – BUT THEY WERE TURNING TO SOMETHING THAT CLAIMED TO BE TRUTH, BUT WAS DIFFERENT.
 - 3. **(vv. 21-22)** – This came from someone other than the true apostles, who claimed to be apostles themselves.
 - a. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:12-15** – false apostles.
 - b. **(v. 21)** – HOWEVER, GOD ANNOINTED PAUL AND THE OTHERS AS APOSTLES – TRUE APOSTLES.
 - c. **(v. 22)** – They had the gifts of the Spirit to prove it. **(cf. 2 Corinthians 12:12)** – the signs of an apostle were performed among them by Paul)
 - d. They needed to reject the message of Paul’s opponents, and turn back to the TRUTH that he preached.
 - 5. It seems that the religious world needs to learn this lesson – in God is not “Yes and no,” but “Yes.”
 - a. Many doctrines taught and held as truth in the denominations are contradictions to scripture.
 - b. If the teaching contradicts scripture IT IS NOT FROM GOD – For in Him is Yes →**
- I. God Says “Yes,” Not “Yes and No”
 - A. There is Only One Gospel
 - a. **Jude 3** – It has been delivered once for all.
 - b. **Galatians 1:6-9** – All other “gospels” are not a gospel at all, but must be rejected. (All that contradicts)
 - B. The Same Gospel is Preserved Today
 - a. **Hebrews 13:8-9** – Jesus’ gospel does not change, and will not change. Therefore, we should not be led away by teachings which differ from it.
 - b. **Acts 17:11** – Like the Bereans, we need to search the scriptures, and compare what is taught with them to find whether it is the truth.
 - C. God does not say one thing (YES) but mean another thing (NO). God’s “yes” will never become “no,” and we must not allow others to convince us otherwise.**
 - D. “Let God be true but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4).**
- II. Denominational Contradictions – When God says “Yes,” and the Denominations say “No”
 - A. Denominationalism
 - a. Idea – we cannot all understand the Bible the same way, so our differences make no difference.
 - i. Those who agree with each other associate with each other.
 - ii. However, all the different groups are right, regardless of contradicting views.
 - b. God says:
 - i. **Ephesians 3:3-4** – We CAN understand the Bible.

1. If we can understand the Bible, then we can understand the Bible alike.
 2. God does not mean multiple things when He says one thing – so if we understand it truly, we understand what God meant.
- ii. **1 Corinthians 1:10** – We must speak the same things – division is not acceptable.
- B. More Than One Church
- a. The divisions in beliefs and doctrines comprise churches.
 - i. They claim to all head up in Christ.
 - ii. Christ has several churches?
 - b. God says:
 - i. **Ephesians 1:22-23** – the church is the body of Christ.
 - ii. **Ephesians 4:4** – ONE BODY.
 - iii. **Matthew 16:18** – Christ said He would build His church – singular.
 - iv. **Acts 20:28** – Christ purchased ONE church with His blood.
- C. More Than One Name
- a. With the divisions in belief, and into different churches, there comes the DISTINCTIVE NAMES.
 - i. These names do not bring glory to God.
 - ii. They are meant to draw attention to a distinct group, or man.
 - b. God says:
 - i. **Isaiah 62:1-2** – prophesied new name GIVEN BY GOD.
 - ii. **Acts 11:26** – new name given.
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 1:11-13** – Being called by another doesn't bring glory to God or Christ, but to that man, or group. (**cf. Romans 16:16** – church of Christ)
- D. Multiple Ways to Heaven
- a. Jesus says – **John 14:6** – He is the ONLY way.
 - b. Denominations – our differences are all still IN CHRIST.
 - i. But Christ does not say “Yes and no,” just “Yes.”
 - ii. He doesn't say different things.
 - iii. **Essentially – Denominations are saying we can go different directions, and end up in the same place – multiple ways to heaven.**
 - c. God says:
 - i. **Matthew 7:13-14** – Really only two ways, but only one goes to life.
 - ii. The narrow way is Jesus' way – **“I am the WAY”** – but any way which differs is on the wide path.
- E. Salvation by Faith Only
- a. Surprisingly, this is one thing the denominations agree upon, but it is erring.
 - i. Salvation is SOLELY through faith?
 - ii. We don't have to DO anything?
 - b. God says:

- i. **John 6:28-29** – Their spiritual understanding is that action must be taken. Jesus did not rebuke them, but said faith was the work – work of God.
 - ii. **Acts 2:37; 16:29-30** – question about what needed to be DONE – not rebuked, but given an answer.
 - iii. **James 2:24** – Justified by works, not faith only.
- F. Baptism is Not For Salvation
- a. Baptism, they say, is an outward sign of an inward grace. Or an outward representative washing of an inward washing of Jesus' blood by faith.
 - i. Baptism is not essential to salvation.
 - ii. If one is not baptized, he will be saved.
 - b. God says:
 - i. **Mark 16:16** – belief AND baptism are necessary for salvation.
 - ii. **Acts 2:37-38** – Peter's response was for them to be baptized – for the remission of sins.
 - 1. **Matthew 26:28** – Jesus' blood FOR remission of sins.
 - 2. REACH THE BLOOD IN BAPTISM, NOT FAITH ONLY.
 - iii. **1 Peter 3:21** – baptism saves you – DIRECT CONNECTION WITH SALVATION.
- G. Apostasy is Impossible
- a. Once a person is saved he cannot lose his salvation.
 - b. God says:
 - i. **1 Corinthians 10:12** – you can fall – BEWARE.
 - ii. **Galatians 5:4** – some had “fallen from grace.”
 - iii. **Hebrews 12:15** – be careful you don't fall from grace.
 - iv. **2 Peter 3:14** – be diligent to be found by Him blameless – implication is that you can be found by Jesus unready!

Conclusion

1. When God says one thing (YES) He does not mean another (NO).
2. When God says one thing (YES) and we say another thing (NO), we are not right with God.
3. **We should be careful to accept what the gospel says, and only follow it!**