

Getting a Handle on

Ministry

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

Ministry

- *diakoneo* = "to serve"
- *douleuo* = "to serve as a slave."

In the NT, **ministry** is seen as service for Jesus and to other people for God's glory.

¹² We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings.

(MINISTRY) We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you.

¹³ Our letters have been straightforward, and there is nothing written between the lines and nothing you can't understand. I hope someday you will fully understand us,

¹⁴ even if you don't understand us now. Then on the day when the Lord Jesus returns, you will be proud of us in the same way we are proud of you.

¹⁵ Since I was so sure of your understanding and trust, I wanted to give you a double blessing by visiting you twice—

¹⁶ first on my way to Macedonia and again when I returned from Macedonia. Then you could send me on my way to Judea.

¹⁷ You may be asking why I changed my plan. (CHANGED MINISTRY) Do you think I make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say “Yes” when they really mean “No”?

Handling Changed Ministry Plans

- Plan 1 – 1 Cor. 16:5-7
- Plan 2 – 2 Cor. 1:16
- Plan 3 – 2 Cor. 13:1

Handling False Ministry Accusations

^{11:4} You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.

Handling False Ministry Accusations

^{11:13} These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. ^{11:14} But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Handling False Ministry Accusations

^{11:15} So it is no wonder that his (SATANS) servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

Handling False Ministry Accusations

False Charge #1

¹⁷ You may be asking why I changed my plan. Do you think I make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say “Yes” when they really mean “No”?

Handling False Ministry Accusations

Truth Reply #1

²³ Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn't return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke. ²⁴ ... We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy, for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.

Handling False Ministry Accusations

False Charge #2

¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you does not waver between “Yes” and “No.”

Handling False Ministry Accusations

Truth Reply #2

¹⁹ For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between “Yes” and “No.” He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate “Yes,” he (JESUS) always does what he says.

Don't let anything (change in plans) or anyone (false teachers) trouble your confidence in JESUS Christ!

⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

God Personally Handles His Guarantee

²⁰ For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for His glory.

God Personally Handles His Guarantee

Some OT promises fulfilled in NT JESUS

"I will give you life" (Dan. 12:2, 3 >> Jn. 11:25)

"I will forgive you" (Isa. 1:18 >> Eph. 1:7)

"I will guide you" (Ps. 23:1 >> Jn. 10:11, 14)

"I will give you rest" (Ps. 95:11 >> Matt. 11:28)

God Personally Handles His Guarantee

²¹ It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, ²² and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.



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How should this affect our MINISTRY?

➤ ENCOURAGE OTHERS

And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. (2 Peter 1:4)

How should this affect our MINISTRY?

➤ ENABLE OTHERS

...with relationships that trust Jesus!



➤ Idealizers and Skeptics

