



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Changing Plans in the Changing World

SPEAKER Ps Low Kok Guan

THEME Time of the End

DATE 14 Feb 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

How are we coping with the many changes that is taking place in our world in the span of just one year? Ps Kok Guan draws valuable principles from 2 Corinthians 1:16-24 to guide us as we navigate the changing plans in our ever-changing world, all the more the end times draws near.

2 Corinthians is likely to be the fourth letter that was written to the church Paul founded. It is a personal letter that can be divided into three parts.

Chapters in 2 Corinthians	Focus
1 - 7	Sincerity
8 - 9	Generosity
10 - 13	Authority

Paul's Letter of Defense

Today's sermon focuses on Paul's sincerity and credibility, which was cast in doubt when he changed his travel plans to visit the church. In response, Paul wrote the letter in 2 Corinthians 1:16-24 to defend his apostleship and the credibility of the gospel of Jesus Christ that he had preached to them.

A. Be Sincere in Speech (2 Corinthians 1:16-20)

The false teachers used Paul's seemingly volatile travel plans to attack his credibility. In 2 Corinthians 1:15, Paul explained that his conscience was clear. While his making of plans was sincere, his changing of plans was also intentional. Both the making and changing of plans were directed by the Spirit of God, and not by flesh.

We may not be perfect. However, we should always try to keep our conscience clear before God and men. The message that we preach is only as credible as the messengers. As Christians, we have to be sincere in our speech. Ps Kok Guan exhorts us to let our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no". Our conscience must be tutored and examined by God.

B. Be Secure in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:21-23)

Once again, Paul attempted to prove his credibility by what God had done for them (Silvanus, Timothy and himself). God is the one who had anointed the three of them and established them in Him. In spite of the change of his travel plans, God is still on their side.

Similarly, in the V.U.C.A. (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) world that we live in today, the Lord is with us. As the church of Jesus Christ, we need to remain fearless and find our security in our unchanging and constant God, so that we can be a blessing to the shaken world around us.

C. Be Selfless in Service (2 Corinthians 1:14, 24, 2:1)

Paul had the Corinthians in mind in every letter he pens to them. Since his previous visit to them was not so pleasant, Paul did not want *“to make another painful visit” (2 Corin 2:1)* to them. As such, the change in his travel plans was meant for them. His desire was for them to stand firm in their faith till the Lord’s return.

CONCLUSION

We endeavor by God’s grace to apply the points listed in Paul’s letter of defense to the church. Jesus modelled for us all the three points listed above.

- (1) Jesus meant what He said by dying on the cross for his disciples when He told them that His body would be broken and His blood would be shed for them.
- (2) At the cross before He breathed His last, Jesus committed Himself into God’s hands. He was fully secure in God’s promise that God will raise Him up.
- (3) *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,” Mark 10:45.* Jesus has done and given everything for us – selflessly – including giving up His own life.

With Jesus as a model set before us, let us be sincere in our speech, secure in Christ and selfless in our service unto Him. That way we may be changed to be more and more like Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. With reference to 2 Corinthians 1:16-24, list Paul's justifications for the change of his plans. Which point stands out to you? Why?

2. Share an experience when you had to justify a change in plans or break a promise we made. Which of the point/s listed in Q.1 stood out to establish your credibility?

3. Reflect on the points listed in Q.1 Which one do you feel you are lacking or need further tutoring from the Lord Himself?