

2 Corinthians 1:19-22

Pastor Matt McBroom

“How much longer until Christmas?” If you have kids in your life, you have probably answered this question several times since Thanksgiving. It tends to be a frequently asked question for kids as they wait expectantly, and in many cases impatiently, for the arrival of Christmas. Answering the question is as easy as showing them a calendar and then explaining how many weeks and/or days are remaining. I say that it is easy for us only because the date is known and it’s not a matter of if Christmas is coming, but when.

Our perspective on waiting for Christmas might change, however, if Christ were yet to come and we were still waiting on God’s promise to be kept. Undoubtedly, some would faithfully wait and look forward with faith for the promised coming. There would also be many who would begin to doubt in the promise, and over time, they would become more and more openly skeptical. The Apostle Paul experienced this impatience and skepticism of people firsthand with the church in Corinth as the people grew impatient with him as they waited on him to make a return trip to be with them.

Paul begins his second letter to the Corinthians by addressing the churches expectations of how and when he would return. Paul had made it known to the church that he had intentions of returning, but due to some difficult circumstances he encountered in Asia, he had been delayed. It was in this time of waiting that some people in Corinth began to stir up descent by questioning whether Paul had intended to return or not. Some claimed that Paul had said “yes” but he had either changed his mind or had meant “no” all along.

Paul reassures the church that it was his heart felt desire to return. His response to the church also gives us an amazing view of God’s promises. Paul says, “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.” In other words, all God’s promises are kept in Christ. God has not and will not make a promise that He will not fulfill. God does not say “Yes” and really mean “No.” Paul, in following Christ’s example, is also seeking to make his Yes be Yes and do what he has said that he will do. As a further encouragement to the church, Paul says that God has established believers together in Christ and that He has anointed them and sealed them with His Spirit in their hearts as a guarantee of what He will do. How awesome is that?!

I pray that your hearts are prepared to celebrate God’s promise kept in Christmas. A promise needed because of the fall of man. A promise made because of God’s love and His desire to redeem mankind. A promise anticipated as God sustained His people through the millennia by His power and providential protection. A promise delivered, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and placed in a manger some 2000 years ago.

May Christmas serve as a reminder that God keeps His promises. May we remember that He has given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee of that. I pray that we would find comfort and encouragement in this as we wait for the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ