

# 2 Corinthians 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?

## Analysis

**When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness?** (μήτι τῇ ἐλαφρίᾳ ἔχρησάμην;)—elaphria (ἐλαφρίᾳ, "lightness/fickleness") connotes frivolous instability. Rhetorical question expects "No!"

**Or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?**—kata sarka (κατὰ σάρκα, "according to flesh") means worldly, self-serving motives. Doubled **yea yea...nay nay** depicts double-minded contradiction—like the double-tongued person (Sirach 5:9, 28:13).

## Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. When my plans change, do I defensively justify or humbly explain how God redirected me?
2. How can I distinguish Spirit-led flexibility from 'according to flesh' people-pleasing?
3. What accusations of inconsistency do I need to address directly rather than letting them fester?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦτο	οὖν	βουλεύομαι	μή	τι	ἄρα	τῇ	ἐλαφρία
thus	therefore	I		G3361	G5100	G686	G3588
G5124	G3767	G1011					lightness
							G1644
ἐχρησάμην;	ἢ	α	βουλεύομαι	κατὰ	σάρκα		
G5530	or	When	I	according	to the flesh		
	G2228	G3739	G1011	G2596	G4561		
βουλεύομαι	ἴνα	ἢ	παρ'	έμοὶ	τὸ	ναὶ	ναὶ
I	that	there should be	with	me	G3588	yea	yea
G1011	G2443	G5600	G3844	G1698		G3483	G3483
							G2532
τὸ	οὐ;	οὐ;					
G3588	nay	nay					
	G3756	G3756					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:37** (Parallel theme): But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

**James 5:12** (Parallel theme): But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

**Jeremiah 23:32** (Light): Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

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