

2 Corinthians 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

Analysis

But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay (πιστὸς δὲ ὁ θεός)—pistos ho theos (πιστὸς ὁ θεός, "God is faithful/true") is oath formula invoking divine character as guarantee. Paul swears by God's reliability to certify his own.

Aorist egeneto (ἐγένετο, "became/was") shows Paul's message has never been contradictory yes-and-no. Logic: because God is unchanging truth, those representing Him speak consistent truth. Paul's reliability flows from God's faithfulness.

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Can I stake my word on 'as God is faithful'—does my reliability flow from His character?
2. How do I respond when people misinterpret changed circumstances as changed character?
3. What message must remain consistent regardless of pressure to compromise?

Interlinear Text

πιστὸς	δὲ	ό	θεὸς	ὅτι	ό	λόγος	ἡμῶν	ό	πρὸς
is true	But	G3588	as God	G3754	G3588	word	our	G3588	toward
G4103	G1161		G2316			G3056	G2257		G4314
ὑμᾶς	Οὐ	ἐγένετο	Ναὶ	καὶ	Οὐ				
you	nay	was	yea	and	nay				
G5209	G3756	G1096	G3483	G2532	G3756				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:9 (References God): God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 3:7 (Truth): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Revelation 3:14 (Truth): And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;