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Psalm 100:3

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WEEKLY WEATHER



TUE 8/4  81° 64°

WED 8/5  80° 66°

THU 8/6  85° 64°

FRI 8/7  87° 65°

SAT 8/8  85° 64°

SUN 8/9  84° 63°

MON 8/10  84° 63°



— In Loving Memory —

Patsy Ruth Davis, 89



Patsy Ruth Davis, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 25th, 2026 surrounded by family.

Patsy was born on March 5th, 1937 in Oklahoma to Melvin and Ruth Hulsey. They later moved to California where eventually Patsy would meet the love of her life, Harry Davis. Together they had 4 children. Diana, Marjorie, Harry Jr., and Dennis.

Harry and Patsy relocated to Tennessee where they continued to raise their family. She was a devoted mother to her kids.

Once her kids were grown, Patsy enjoyed spoiling her grand kids with time. She could be found playing games with her grand kids. Teaching them to play multiple card games and pretty pretty princess with the girls.

She became a member of Mossy Grove Baptist Church in 1994. She was devoted to being a deacon's wife and studying her Bible. She served as a door greeter and rode with her husband to pick up some of the ladies of the church that could no longer drive. She also was part of the Stitching Sisters.

Once her great-grand kids came along, Patsy lit up with a new joy. She loved her greats fiercely.

Patsy was known for her wonderful smile and bright disposition. She would help anyway she could.

Once her beloved husband of 63 years went on to heaven,

Patsy lost a piece of herself. She longed to be with her husband and Heavenly Father.

Patsy is finally resting in the arms of her Savior.

She is proceeded in death by her husband, Harry Davis, daughter Marjorie Davis, daughter in law Vickie Davis, great granddaughter Ella Davis, her mother and father, Melvin and Ruth Hulsey, Sister Peggy Marsh, and Brothers Chuck Hulsey and David Hulsey.

She is survived by daughter Diana (Edgar) Brown, sons Harry "Buddy" Davis Jr, and Dennis (Ellen) Davis.

Grandchildren Ray Brown, David (Nikki) Brown, Holly (Matt) Davis, Shawn (Nikki) Davis, Sierra (Ryan) Hamby, Cassie (Tyger) Herbst, Courtney (Drew) Drummond, Samantha Davis and a host of great grandkids. Brother, Larry (Esther) Hulsey of California.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at Mossy Grove Baptist Church in Harriman from 2:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Mossy Grove Church Cemetery.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Quality Hospice for taking such great care of Patsy.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patsy Ruth Davis.

Jerry Loyd Sr, 84



Jerry Loyd, Sr., passed away July 26, 2026 at his home. He was born June 19, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Ruth and Odell Loyd.

Jerry spent his younger years in Oneida, Tn., with his cherished grandparents Barry and Eldora Loyd, and beloved aunt Rema and uncles Donald and Audney Loyd.

He is preceded in death by parents Barry and Eldora Loyd, Ruth and Odell Loyd; aunts Edna Cassidy Rema Terry Eugene Loyd, Audney Loyd, Donald Loyd.

He is survived by his loving wife Jane Katherine Lloyd of 62 years; two sons Jerry (Anita) Loyd, Jr., of Lansing, TN., Steven (Janice) Loyd of Decula, GA.; daughter Melissa Tate of Oklahoma City, OK.; grandchildren Jeremy Loyd, Jordan (Kaitlyn) Loyd, McKenzie

(Chyanne) , Chase and Hannah Loyd, Morgan and Emily Loyd, Gabriel Loyd and Sophia Loyd; brothers Gary and Linda Loyd of Augusta, GA., Terry Loyd of Friendsville, TN.; great grandchildren McKenlee, Kyson, Bentley, Augustus, Qwenn, Monroe, Talullah, Aurelia, Garrett, Elliot and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Jerry was a kind and gentle soul. Very soft spoken man that never raised his voice. He was a great listener that could talk about a lot of things. He enjoyed driving down in the woods (at 2 mph) watching and listening for wild life... while enjoying his cigar. He was a man of few words but spoke a lot of wisdom in the those few words. He will be great missed and cherished forever.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 31, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. Grave-side services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the H C Smith Cemetery in Wartburg.

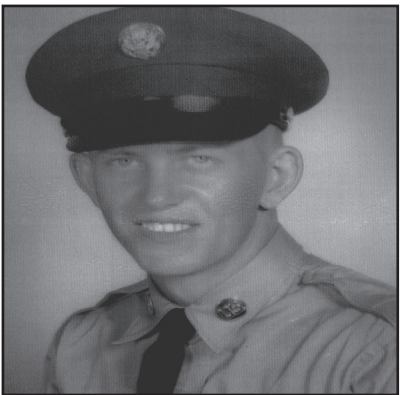
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerry Loyd.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Bobby Dee Nunley, 85
United States Army Veteran



Bobby Dee Nunley, age 85 of Petros passed away July 31, 2026 at his home. He was born February 5, 1941 to Robert R. & Eva Lee Trail Nunley.

Bobby was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He belong to the Mason Lodge of Petros and Shriners. He loved history, hunting, outdoors and loved being around his kids. He was of the Baptist faith.

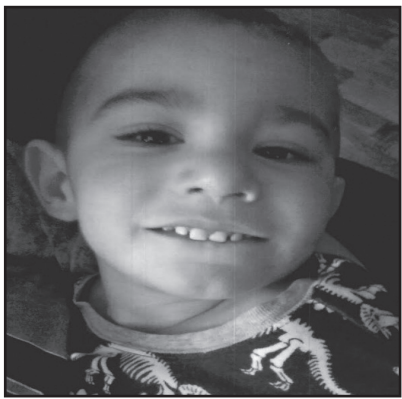
He is preceded in death by his parents; sister Della Long; brother Baxter Trail; brothers-in-law Floyd Long, Boyd Franklin and Emmett Massengale, Jr.; nephew Wade Trail

He is survived by his sister Barbara Massengale and Judy Franklin; brother George Nunley and Von; sister-in-law Shelby Trail and a host of extended family and friends. The family will have a grave-side service Monday, August 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Petros Cemetery (COG) with Dr. Jim West officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Dee Nunley.

— In Loving Memory —

Zamuel Brin Copeland, 12



Zamuel Brin Copeland, age 12, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Monday, July 27, 2026.

Though his time on earth was far too short, Samuel filled every day with joy, laughter, and love. He was a sweet, fun-loving, and happy child who never met a stranger. His kind heart, gentle spirit, and infectious personality touched the lives of everyone blessed enough to know him. Samuel's smile could light up any room, and his laughter was truly unforgettable. He was proudly recognized with the "Best Laugh" award, a fitting honor for a boy whose contagious laugh brought happiness to so many.

More than anything, Samuel was deeply loved. His kind heart, playful personality, and gentle soul left an everlasting impression on his family, friends, teachers, classmates, and all who were blessed to know him. The love he shared will remain in our hearts forever.

Zamuel loved life and found joy in simple things. Whether spending time with his family, making new friends at school, or sharing his bright smile with those around him, he had a special gift for making others feel loved and happy. His life was a beautiful reminder of unconditional love, innocence, and kindness.

Left to cherish his precious memory are his loving parents, Bryon and Crystal Copeland; his siblings, Amber and Chas Shannon, Kristen and Jeff West, Breanna and Cody Campbell, Brent Copeland, Brylie Copeland, Colton Copeland, Trey Copeland, and Jada Copeland; along with a host of loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and countless people whose lives

were forever changed by knowing Samuel.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, William and Nella'Mae Hutcherson and James and Brenda Copeland; his beloved sister, Latisha Hawn; and his nephew, Bryson Hawn.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the special people who played such an important role in Samuel's life. A sincere thank you to his devoted teachers, Ms. Paula Winn and Ms. Lori Love, for the love, patience, and encouragement they showed him each day. The family is also deeply grateful to his school bus driver, Ms. Amanda Woodall, and bus aide, Ms. Renee Jones, whose kindness and care meant so much to Samuel's family knowing he was safe on those school days.

Although our hearts are shattered by this unimaginable loss, we find comfort in knowing that Samuel is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus.

His beautiful smile, infectious laughter will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved him. He leaves behind an imprint of joy, kindness, and unconditional love that will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him. While we grieve the loss of his earthly presence, we rejoice in the promise that we will see him again.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 19:14

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever our sweet Samuel.

The family will be having a private service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Samuel Brin Copeland.

Maelee Rain Lowe



In Loving Memory of Maelee Rain Lowe

With hearts shattered by unimaginable loss, yet forever grateful for the precious gift of her life, we announce the birth and passing of our beautiful daughter, Maelee Rain Lowe, who was born peacefully asleep on July 26, 2026.

For 25 weeks, Maelee was carried safely beneath her mother's heart. From the instant we learned of this little life, our hearts were forever changed. Every heartbeat, every tiny movement, every dream we held for the future became a beautiful part of our story. Though our time together

was far too short, she brought so much joy, hope, and unconditional love to everyone who knew of her and eagerly awaited her arrival, the love we have for our babygirl will last a lifetime. She knew nothing but the warmth of her momma's embrace, her daddy's tickles, her big brother's giggles, and the endless love of all her family.

Maelee was the cherished daughter of Chelsey Smith and Bradley Lowe, and the adored little sister of Carson "Bub", who will forever hold the title of proud big brother.

Born weighing 7 ounces and measuring 8 inches long, Maelee was tiny beyond words, yet her life made an immeasurable impact. She will always be remembered for the love she inspired and the lasting imprint she leaves on the hearts of all who loved her.

She is lovingly remembered by her grandparents, Charlis Davis; Jennifer Lowe and Luc; and Chad Strunk and Dianna; her great-papaw, Ricky Lowe, her

great great grandmother Moana Human; her aunts and uncles, Samantha and Charles, Madeline and Asher, Jakob, Jolie, and Hudson; her godparents, Jessica and Dillon; and a host of other aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends who loved her long before they had the chance to meet her.

As heartbreaking as it is to say goodbye, we find comfort in knowing that Maelee was welcomed into Heaven by so many loving arms. She is now being held by her beloved Nanna Cyn-di Wicks, Uncle Amos Wicks, Papaw Tommy Petrey, Great Papaw Charles Davis, and Great Mamaw Deloris Galloway, Great Great Papaw David Wicks, where she is surrounded by perfect peace, everlasting joy, and unconditional love.

While we grieve the future we longed to share with her, we find comfort in believing she now rests peacefully in the loving arms of Jesus. Maelee's life has forever changed ours. She taught us that love is not mea-

sured by the length of time we have with someone, but by the depth with which they are loved. She will forever be our daughter, our sister, our granddaughter, and our greatest blessing.

Our hearts will ache until we meet again, but we rejoice in the promise that this goodbye is not forever. Until that beautiful day, we will carry Maelee in our hearts with every sunrise, every rainfall, and every breath.

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever our little girl.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18

"There is no footprint too small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world."





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Historically Speaking

Manhattan Project

National Historical Park

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

I am proud that we in Oak Ridge have a national park and that we now have a sign on the interstate encouraging people to stop and visit the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We have signage in the city as well to help tourists locate the park’s visitor center. The park is 10 years old and has grown from an idea to a major influence on tourism in the three locations, Oak Ridge, TN, Los Alamos, NM, and Hanford, WA.

For the first time this summer, Manhattan Project National Historical Park had a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew to provide maintenance on waysides, cultivate the Victory Gardens, assist with Park Ranger programs, and preserve historic cemeteries throughout Oak Ridge. Team members Emma Cipollini, Evelyn Denson, Ifeoluwa Abiodun-Adeniyi, and Ollie Hoke join the park from Oak Ridge High School Throughout the summer Oak Ridge based YCC crew members received training alongside YCC crews based out of Andrew Johnson, National Historic Park, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, and Obed Wild & Scenic River.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a summer employment program for male and female youths, ages 15-18, to work on projects to protect public lands. The Youth Conservation Corps program is one that trains young people and provides outdoor work that is supervised by a trained crew leader. Participants gain valuable professional experience working on National Park Service lands and learn how to use tools, safe work habits, teamwork, and how conservation projects benefit the environment and protect cultural and historical resources For more information about the Youth Conservation Corps, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/getting-involved/youthprograms/ycc.htm>.

Among other things the YCC crew did such as maintaining the 40 plus wayside historical markers, they also cleaned tombstones in cemeteries (using professional trained approach and proper cleaning materials). I understand the Park Service is going to provide this training to interested individuals soon.

That is a good thing as cleaning tombstones properly is important to retain the integrity of the tombstone and not damage it in any way. Be on the lookout for details of this training if you are interested. It will be announced on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Oak Ridge website: <https://www.nps.gov/mapr/oak-ridge.htm>

Here are the cemeteries that received attention from the YCC:

- George Jones Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery, AEC #4
- Rather Cemetery, AEC #63
- Gallahar Cemetery, AEC #12
- Silvey Cemetery, AEC #62
- Ellis Cemetery, AEC #3
- Shelton Cemetery, AEC #68
- “Lost” Cemetery AEC #70

Another program that has been well received is the Fishing with A Ranger program. Youth, ages 12 and younger, are invited to join the Oak Ridge, Tennessee unit of Manhattan Project National Historical Park for a monthly fishing education program.

This free program requires registration and space is limited.

More information on the program and how to register can be found at: Fishing with a



(left to right) Ifeoluwa Abiodun-Adeniyi, NPS Archeologist Rachel Steffen, Ollie Hoke, and NPS Archeologist Summer Kiker
(Courtesy of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park)

Ranger.

This program was made possible with a grant from the National Park Foundation.

One of my favorite things the Manhattan Project National Historical Park has done is to place nearly 40 wayside historical markers around the city. For some time they had a fun game going for me. They would install a wayside historical marker and let me know one had been installed but would not tell me where or what it was about. The challenge for me was to locate the new wayside historical marker and post on Facebook that I had found it.

We had a good time with that game for months. Now, however, they have created a web page of the wayside historical markers that includes the content of the marker and its location. <https://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn/photosmultimedia/oak-ridge-waysides.htm>

Recently, on April 30, 2026, (the actual anniversary date was November 15, 2025 but the celebration was delayed) the 10th anniversary of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was celebrated at the Oak Ridge Convention Center. Free admissions to the museums in Oak Ridge was included in the celebration as was a free showing of the Oppenheimer movie.

I well recall being asked to testify before Congress regarding the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. You only get five minutes to testify...I choose to tell a story about the time I was speaking to a fourth and fifth grade class of students about the history of Oak Ridge. When I had spoken for approximately 45 minutes, the bell rang for the students to go to lunch. One of the students held up her hand and asked, “Mr. Smith, if we go and get our lunch and bring it back here in the class room, will you keep on talking?” I said, “That is up to your teacher.” The teacher said, “Of course, if you students want to do that, it will be fine.” So they did just that and I talked for another 45 minutes.

Now what I stressed for Congress is that the young students are interested in history when it is well presented. And the National Park Service is our best national resource for presenting

our history in a way that will be retained and appreciated. I am proud to have been a small part of the effort to successfully create the unique, three locations, national park. It is an unusual park and I believe doing a really good job of presenting our history to the young generation and others as well.

Another program that has been well received is the Tennis Court Dances. This is reminiscent of the dances held there during the Manhattan Project as a source of entertainment for the 75,000 residents of Oak Ridge in 1945. It is held monthly on the third Thursday evening at the Jackson Square tennis courts. It is much fun and has grown to be a most popular event during the summer months from May to October at 7pm. August 20, September 17, and October 15, are the remaining dates in 2026.

Ranger talks, hikes, bike rides, canoe and kayak trips, and ranger presence in in A. K. Bissell Park are all exceptional activities that promote better understanding of Oak Ridge for visitors to our city. The entire city of Oak Ridge has become a part of the national park.

An event coming up on August 6, 2026, at dawn, is “Days of Peace and Remembrance: marking 81 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.” This is a solemn event where no conversation is permitted. It is held at the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell, in A. K. Bissell Park. Each person is asked to ring the bell once for whatever reason that speaks to them. After ringing the bell each bellringer is invited to record the reason why they rang the bell.

There is also a virtual bell ringing option on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park’s website: <https://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn/oak-ridge-friendship-bell-ringing.htm> As I hope you realize, I am proud of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. I believe it does exactly what I told the US Congress the park service could do so well. I am amazed at the creative ways the park rangers at Oak Ridge do their job of educating the public about Oak Ridge’s history.

The facilities that have been designated by the Department of Energy as part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park are: The Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Buildings 9204-3 (Beta 3) and 9731 at Y-12; and the footprint of Building K-25 at the Heritage Center’s Atomic History Campus at K-25 of the Oak Ridge Discovery Foundation.

The Alexander Guest House is also mentioned in the language that created the national park. I am proud to take tourist to visit the main lobby and view the Robert Oppenheimer photograph made by Ed Westcott that includes the fireplace mantle. I have framed and placed that photograph on the mantle of the fireplace which Rick Dover retained when he refurbished the Alexander Inn to create the Alexander Guest House senior living center.

- Continued on Page 10

Historically Speaking
Manhattan Project
National Historical Park

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Very soon we will see wayside historical markers at the K-25 building footprint and flagpoles marking the corners of the footprint to show the amazing size of the building. It is my hope that we can have a laser show that will show the amazing true size of the largest building in the world at the time of its construction. LIS Technology, a laser enrichment company, has agreed to help us with that laser show! I am looking forward to that...

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park visitor center is located in the main lobby of the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge. You can get your National Park Passport stamped there...remember the stamp is in three sections, one for each of the three sites, so in Oak Ridge you only get one third of the stamp.

The Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge has also done an amazing job with the flattop house that was donated to them from the American Museum of Science and Energy when it was no longer possible to display it in conjunction with the AMSE museum. It is open now for public visits on the third Sunday of the month from 1pm to 4pm.

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park also provides photographic displays at several locations including the Oak Ridge History Museum, the Department of Energy, the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge and will have more photographs in the wayside historical markers at the K-25 Building footprint soon.

If you want more information about the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, you may visit their website: <https://www.nps.gov/mapr/planyourvisit/oakridge-tn.htm> or just drop by the visitor center at the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge at 461 West Outer Dr.



(left to right): Ifeoluwa Abiodun-Adeniyi, Ranger Matt Klein, Emma Cipollini, Ollie Hoke, and Evelyn Denson
(Courtesy of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park)



(left to right) Ollie Hoke, Ifeoluwa Abiodun-Adeniyi, Emma Cipollini, and Evelyn Denson
(Courtesy of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park)



2 Corinthians Chapter 1



Melvin Howard

(2 Cor. 1:1-2) Salutation: At the opening of this volatile letter, Paul flashes his “badge” of apostolic authority: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God” (Phil. 1:1). Timothy, a close worker with the apostle (Acts 16:1), was known by the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10) and was with Paul at the time of this writing (v. 19). He was not, however, the co-author of the letter; he merely joined in its sentiments. This group in Corinth was the “church”, as were all the “saints” in the entire region of Achaia (southern Greece). “Saints” signifies a formal separation from the world (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2, etc.; 2 Cor. 5:17), which occurs at the point of water baptism when one’s sins are washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 2:38, 8:35-39; 22:16; Eph. 5:26). Paul includes his customary “grace” and “peace” greeting. “Grace” reflected Heaven’s favor, while “peace” hinted of the absence of a former alienation (Rom. 5:1). The grammatical connection of God with Christ is a clear affirmation of Jesus’ divine nature.

(2 Cor. 1:3-11) Suffering and thanksgiving: God is wonderfully extolled. He is: “blessed” (used only of him in the New Testament); Father of Jesus (via a miracle Isa. 7:14; Mt. 1:22); Father of mercies (many expressions of compassion or pity); God of all comfort (one who comes to our side), especially in times of affliction; an enabler who helps us in comforting others. (verse 3-4 “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”)

The Christian’s sufferings for Christ are many. Some are from outside enemies of the truth; others are from ungodly church members (like his Corinthian critics). Nonetheless, our comfort eclipses them all through the power of Christ (3-5; Phil. 4:13). Whether the Christian is comforted or afflicted, it works out for his ultimate good, producing a strong constitution that allows one to patiently endure his trials (v. 6 “And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation”).

Paul uses the term “steadfast” (v. 7 “And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation”). This does not suggest, as Calvinists claim, that their salvation was so steadfast it could never be lost. Rather, Paul’s hope for them, in spite of their weaknesses, remains steadfast. It is an expression of confidence, but faithfulness depends upon them. May their sufferings be compensated by comfort.

The apostle wants them to know of his sufferings in Asia; the nature of these sufferings are not known for certain---possibly his trouble in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41; 1 Cor. 15:32). Such were a heavy load, beyond his power to remedy, and almost to the point of death. (The apostle’s use of plural pronouns may embrace companions (Timothy) or be an editorial plural.) Paul passed through a harrowing experience (“affliction” (v. 8) is singular). He believed he was going to die, and he came so close, but he trusted God and was “delivered out of” death. He had confidence that the Lord would continue his providential protection until he was finished with his servant. Paul was not unmindful that the prayers of these brethren had been instrumental in his deliverance (which he viewed as a gift). There is power in orchestrated prayer (v. 11 “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”)

(2 Cor. 1:12-14) Paul’s sincerity and his writing: In studying this document it becomes increasingly clear that Paul periodically in responding to charges made by his Corinthian critics, one of which was that he was not sincere in

his attitude and actions. Here he emphatically denies that. His conscience is so clear in this regard that he can virtually glory in it. He was dedicated to holiness and sincerity toward God, not directed by fleshly wisdom, but by Heaven’s grace. He behaved himself spiritually, especially respecting them (v. 12 “For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward”).

The apostle previously had written other letters to these saints, and criticism arose that he had been duplicitous in the use of his language (he gave “double meanings” to his words). He assures them that his correspondence had not been deceptive or to vent personal feelings, but for their spiritual benefit. He urges them to understand the plainness of his writing; there were no hidden meanings or crude slurs. They appear to have acknowledged this previously, and he hoped they would even more later on. He had not given up on them, and sincerely hoped that both he and they would glory in one another on the day when Christ returned (v. 14; 1 Cor. 1:8; 3:13; 5:5).

(2 Cor. 1:15-22) The dependable apostle: Paul had laid out a sincere travel plan which he had hoped to fulfill; it would bring him through Corinth twice, and would give them a double benefit. He wanted to visit Macedonia, but he would direct his route so that he could drop by and see them on the way. He then would return through Achaia, visit them again, and let them send him forward on to Judaea. But he felt compelled to modify his plan. His critics, therefore, accused him of being “fickle.” He denies such. His decisions are not “according to the flesh,” but by God’s will. He does not deliberately say “yes” when he really means “no”. He is honest in his intentions.

Paul wants these brothers to know that he aims for faithfulness in keeping his word; such would be identical to the kind of faithfulness one expects of God. God is faithful and “our” (including his companions word is as well (v. 18 “But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay”). “The gospel that I preached, accompanied by Silas and Timothy, was not inconsistent. It was in harmony with the will of Jesus Christ. The many promises of God regarding Christ have been fulfilled---with a resounding ‘yes!’ To this our ‘Amen’ should be added”. This implied the termination of the law, which the Jewish clique disputed.

Paul contends that his divine mission had been authenticated by God. He and his companions were: joined to the Corinthians by the “in Christ” relationship; divinely “anointed” by God; given God’s “seal” of approval by the reception of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was a guarantee of even greater things to come (v. 21-22 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts”).

(2 Cor. 1:23-24) A change of plans: Paul now resumes his explanation for the change in his travel plans (v. 15). He called God as a witness on his behalf, putting his life on the line. He had delayed coming to Corinth earlier for their sake; he wanted to spare them pain. He had warned them of their spiritual neglect in his previous letter (1 Cor. 5), and he wanted to give them more time to think about the matter, repent, and rectify the situation.

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