

Yes and Amen

2Cor. 1:20

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Probably one of the most quoted scriptures that preachers, believers, and people of faith quote is **2Cor.1:20** - For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Wow, what an awesome sound that scripture has too it but do we really understand what the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul is conveying? If we look closely into the context and in light of the Word of God will we see a truth that is profound, prolific, and promising!!

First let's take a look at the previous verses; particularly **verse 19**. *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us ..was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.* What is Paul saying! Paul by the Holy Spirit is making a contrast of the assurance of God's promises in Christ versus the yes and no of the promises of God under the Law or Old Testament. See under the Law of Moses the promises of God were based solely on the obedience and observance of keeping the Law. Meaning that if you kept and observed the law you would be blessed and assured of the promises but if you broke any part of the law you were assured of the curse and the promises became "no" to you. What a powerful revelation being unveiled. Let's look closer:

YES!!

If we go back to the blessings and curses of the Law we can see clearer of the message being conveyed.

Deuteronomy 28 is the primary chapter that gives the charge of the blessings and the curses under the Law.

Verse 1 says that if *"thou shalt diligently hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe, and to do all his commandments which I command you this day that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: Vs 2 and all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.* Then a list of all the particular blessings is listed. What an awesome list but lets take a look at the conditions: **First**; if thou diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord ..Sounds great, right?

However lets continue.. **Second**; to observe and to do **ALL** his commandments.. Now this is where the rubber hits the road!! Not only were they to *hearken or listen* but to **observe and to do ALL** his commandments.

Notice the word **ALL**!! If one commandment was broken or not observed at any time that disqualified the observant of the blessing. Under the Law the participants were constantly conscience of the curse and many times under the consequences of the Law. This brings out the "yes" and "no" nature of the promises of God under this covenant. The ramifications were extremely great but based solely on the performance of the participant. Thus when one was obedient to do **ALL** the commandments the promises were "Yes" but when they broke one commandment the promises became "NO". However Paul is stating in **2Cor.1:20** that "In Christ" **ALL** the promises are emphatically **"Yes" all the time !!** WOW what a revelation. How could this be? Because Christ filled the obligation of the Law by living a perfect life then dying paying the price for it's consequences. Jesus took the "curse" that we by Faith may have the "blessing." Thus by Faith we are "in Christ" a position of perpetual, eternal obedience counted or imputed to those "IN" him by Faith. So by substitute and reconciliation we by Faith are always blessed and the promises of God are emphatically always toward us!! *When we embrace Jesus Christ by Faith his finished work and obedience is counted for us because God sees us in HIM.* Assuring all the promises because of HIM are always Yea! PRAISE THE LORD!!!!

AMEN!!

Not only are the promises yes but the writer says they are also "Amen". Amen is an ancient term used by the Hebrew people that is an emphatic "so be it"!! It is more than just a yes but it is an affirmation of the appropriation of the subject at hand. In other words it is an agreement that the subject promised will and is happening to the believer. When Mary agreed with the Angel Gabriel about the birth of Jesus she stated "so be unto me" which is the same as saying AMEN! Why did Paul choose to use the term AMEN? This also is based upon the promises of God under the Law!! Let's take a look at the initiation ceremony before the children of Israel entered the Promise Land!

Mount Gerizam and Mount Ebal! The proclamation of the Curses

Deuteronomy 27:11-26: Is the recorded text that Moses instructed the people to follow in regards to obeying the Law. Notice that the 12 tribes were broken into two groups of six. There was a place immediately across the Jordan that had two mountain peaks. One mountain was Mount Gerizam and the other directly across from it was Mount Ebal. (I won't get into all the particulars) However six tribes were on each mountain ridge and the Levites were in the valley between the ridges. The Levites announced the CURSES and those on Mount Ebal would shout Amen. Notice that the "Amen" was for the curses. This meant that the people were saying if we do not observe then "so be it" that the curses come on us. Let the curses be appropriated to us based upon our observance or performance of the keeping the Law. Now in light of this understanding lets now look at what Paul is conveying in our text in light of other scriptures.

Since Christ Jesus came he that knew no sin became sin that we might be the righteousness of God in him. Jesus took the curse of the Law by hanging on a tree (wooden cross) thus taking the "so be it" consequences of the curse upon himself freeing the believer in Christ. His finished work freed us from the curse of the Law. Gal. 3:13 - *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree* ^{vs 14} *That the blessing of Abraham ¹¹ might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Wow !!! My Goodness!! So now we see that the Promises along with the blessings are emphatically Amen, "so be it" in Christ. We now have this assurance that ALL of God's promises are emphatically yes and always Amen to those who are in Christ by Faith. The Spirit is the affirmation of the "blessing" that originated with Abraham by Faith.

Through Christ Jesus ALL the promises of God are "yeah" and "amen"!!! Praise God!!