# Walking through treacle 3. Keep God at the centre 2Co 1:20-2:2

# 2 Corinthians

## Paul is writing a difficult letter to people that don’t get where he’s coming from

### He focuses on relationships:

#### His with God

#### Theirs with God

#### Theirs with each other

#### His with them

## He does that by putting God at the centre and keeping Him there

### God is faithful, consistent and loyal

# God is faithful

### He is true to His commitments

## Faithful to His word

## Faithful to His people

## Faithful to His covenant

### The blessings (if His rescued people obey & follow in love)

### The cursings (if His rescued people disobey and ignore)

#### But if you haven’t kept the covenant there’s hope:

### Restoration blessings

## Faithful to His plan

### The Holy Spirit would be poured out

# God is consistent in His revelation

## The New covenant in Christ is the fulfilment of the old covenant

### The new supersedes the old

#### Some of Paul’s detractors didn’t like this

#### Others wanted it ripped from the cannon of scripture

## Paul sees it as Christ being the fulfilment of the OT

# God is loyal

### a strong feeling of support or allegiance

## Loyal to His word

## Loyal to His people

## Loyal to His promises

## Loyal to His covenant

# God at the centre

## God makes us stand firm in Christ

### He anointed us

### He set His seal on us

### He put His Spirit in us

## Paul has this at the heart

### With it he reaches out to those causing him pain

#### God is faithful, I will reflect His faithfulness

#### God is consistent, I will replicate His consistency

#### God is loyal, I will mirror His loyalty

### We have all we need to reflect God in life

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Dealing with real people

## How is it helpful to keep the relationship in focus when dealing with difficult situations?

# God is faithful

## In what ways has God been faithful to you?

## In what ways have you seen God’s faithfulness to the ‘cursings’ of those who want to do Christianity ‘their way’ (without obedience)?

### When God does this to a Christian, to what extent is it a punishment?

# God is consistent

## How can we say that God is consistent when the Bible says the lifespan of a human being shall be 120 years (Gen 6:3) but only 70 or 80 years is given in Ps 90:10?

## How can we say that God is consistent when He treats us as individuals?

### In what ways is God consistent to you?

# God is loyal

## How do you understand the loyalty of God to His people?

### To what extent can a person be faithful without being loyal?

#### What attitudes come from someone who does this?

### To what extent can a person be loyal without being faithful?

#### What attitudes come from someone who does this?

# Keeping God at the centre

## How do you keep God at the centre?

### To what extent can you keep the Bible at the centre without keeping God there?