

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH" PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



The Second Corinthian Letter Introduction and Chapter 1

If the first letter from Paul was that of a scolding father, this second letter is one of a loving father appealing to his children. His main three purposes for writing were to 1) answer the criticisms of his opposition in Corinth, 2) encourage generosity within the church toward his collection for the poor of Judea, and 3) reaffirm his apostolic authority. Paul's approach is not what the world might expect: authoritarian command and boastful bragging. Instead, there is a spirit of love, the elevation of others, and a "boasting" in weakness (that God's power be magnified).

The outline goes something like this...

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| I. Special greetings (1:1-11) | D. The ministry of reconciliation |
| II. An answer to critics (1:2—2:17) | IV. Do not receive the grace of God in vain (6:1 — 7:16) |
| A. Changing plans about visiting Corinth (1:2 — 2:2) | A. Come out from among them |
| B. Proper handling of someone who had been withdrawn from (2:3-11) | B. Meeting Titus in Macedonia |
| C. Missing Titus at Troas (2:12ff) | V. An appeal about the collection (8:1—9:15) |
| III. The Adequacy of Paul's ministry (3:1 — 5:21) | VI. Affirmation of Paul's apostleship (10:1—13:14) |
| A. The Corinthians are Paul's letter commendation | A. Is Paul cowardly and weak? |
| B. Old and New Covenant comparison | B. False apostles invaded Paul's turf |
| C. Paul's courageous ministry through hardship and affliction | C. Authentic apostleship |
| | D. A warning to remaining opponents |
| | E. Parting encouragements and close |

(1:1,2) ADDRESSED TO...

the church of _____ in Corinth
all the _____ throughout Achaia

Where is Achaia?

How will all of the saints in Achaia read this letter?

Why does Paul want to address all of Achaia?



(1:3-11) AFFLICTION AND COMFORT

the _____ of mercies and God of all _____

How does God comfort us?

2 Corinthians 1:5 "For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in _____, so also our _____ is abundant through Christ."

How is Paul viewing his personal trials?

How can men claim the sufferings of Christ?

The body of Christ in this world is _____

When men persecute the church or its members, what are they really doing?

Does that make you feel differently about your trials and sufferings?

2 Corinthians 1:6, 7 "But if we are _____, it is for your _____ and _____; or if we are _____, it is for your _____, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are _____ of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our _____."

What afflictions was Paul talking about? (see 8,9)

in _____

Where specifically? (see 1 Cor. 16:8,9)

How serious were these afflictions?

In what way or in what sense were Paul's afflictions giving comfort or encouragement to the Corinthians? (*consider v. 9,10 — "_____ we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us."*)

How were Paul's comforts (encouragement) giving them comfort?

2 Corinthians 1:10, 11 "...And He will yet deliver us, **you** also joining in helping us through your _____, so that thanks may be given by _____ persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many."

(1:12-24) IT WASN'T INDECISION BUT TO SPARE YOU

What were Paul's plans regarding coming to the Corinthian church in 1 Cor. 16:6-7)?

How did his plans change according to 2 Cor. 1:15,16?

How did some of the Corinthians interpret this change of plans by Paul?

What were Paul's motivations and intentions in changing his mind? (see vv. 12-14 and 23,24)

Was it important that the Corinthians know why he did what he did?

What principle does this teach us — especially leaders? (*Why did Paul need to explain anything, since he was an apostle?*)

Paul's defense...

2 Corinthians 1:17 "Therefore, I was not _____ when I intended to do this, was I? Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be _____ and _____ _____ at the same time?"

2 Corinthians 1:19, 20 "For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us--by me and Silvanus and Timothy--was not yes and no, but is _____ in _____. For as many as are the _____ of God, in Him they are _____; therefore also through Him is our _____ to the glory of God _____ us."

What does this teach about integrity of the Christian and what it says to the world about the truth of the Gospel?

The real reason for changing plans:

2 Corinthians 1:24 "Not that we **lord** it over your faith, but are **workers** with **you** for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm."