

"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).

Here's the outline of this letter...

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 - B. Proper handling of someone who had been withdrawn from (2:3-11)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



2 Corinthians 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴

who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be

able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the

comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in

abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through

Christ. ⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and

salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort,

which is effective in the patient enduring of the same

sufferings which we also suffer; ⁷ and our hope for you

is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of

our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

• (Vv. 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?

• ((Vv. 3-11) AFFLICTION AND COMFORT

- the _____ of mercies and God of all _____
 - How does God comfort us?
- (V. 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?
- (Vv. 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 _____

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 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, 11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

12 For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you. 13 For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end; 14 just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

- 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 — "so that we should _____ trust in _____, but in _____ 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 _____ yet deliver us.")
- How were Paul's comforts (encouragement) giving them comfort?
- (Vv. 10, 11 "...And He will yet deliver us, _____ 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.")
- **((Vv. 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 (Vv. 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*

15 In this confidence I intended at first to come to you, so that you might twice receive a blessing; 16 that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea. 17 Therefore, I was not vacillating 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 yes, yes and no, no at the same time? 18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. 19 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 yes in Him. 20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

23 But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth. 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.

explain anything, since he was an apostle?

- Paul's defense...

- (V. 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?"

- (Vv. 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:

- (V. 24 "Not that we _____ it over your faith, but are _____ with _____ for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm."