

SECOND CORINTHIANS

LESSON ONE

CHAPTER ONE

Before beginning this study you should take time to read through Second Corinthians from beginning to end. This will help you better understand each section in the context of the entire book. While doing the study read each question carefully using the given scripture reference to find your answer. May the Lord bless you as you study the book of Second Corinthians.

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul

PLACE OF WRITING: Written from somewhere in Macedonia, perhaps Philippi.

DATE OF WRITING: Second Corinthians was probably written at sometime between 54 and 58 A.D. while Paul was on his third missionary journey. It was probably written 4 to 5 months after 1 Corinthians.

PURPOSE, THEME AND SUBJECT

MATTER OF THE LETTER: Corinth was the seat of government for Southern Greece or Achaia. It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious, immoral and vicious habits of the people. It had a large mixed population of Romans, Greeks, and Jews. Paul visited Corinth for the first time around the year 51 A.D.



Although Paul's coworker, Timothy, carried the first letter (1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10), his other companion, Titus, had visited the city since it had been delivered and reported back to the apostle about how the church had responded to what Paul had written and what the general condition of the church was. People had called into question Paul's sincerity because of his delay in visiting them.

2 Corinthians seems to have been written to inform the believers about the reason for Paul's change of plans to visit them. He commends the believers because they apparently had responded to his instructions regarding the man

that had been in an immoral relationship (1 Corinthians 5:1-2). There were, however, a number of other concerns that had arisen: Paul defends the authority of his ministry, instructs the believers about financial giving and the collection for the believers in Jerusalem and warns the Corinthians against false apostles.

2 Corinthians has been described as the most personal and emotional of all the Pauline epistles. It is in this letter that we see a very human side of the great apostle.

Please read the entire book of 2 Corinthians. _____ Check.

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;” (2 Corinthians 1:3– KJV).

Which Bible version are you using to do this lesson? _____

GREETING AND THANKSGIVING

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-2 _____ Check

1. (v. 1) Who is identified as the author of this letter? _____
2. (v. 1) What was Paul’s title and how did he receive it? _____
3. (v. 1) Who was with Paul when wrote the epistle? _____
4. (v. 1) To whom was this letter addressed? _____

5. (v. 2) What does Paul wish upon the believers? _____

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 _____ Check

6. (v. 3) How is God described in this verse? _____

7. (v. 4) What reason is given for why we are comforted by God? _____

8. (v. 5) What two things overflow (abound – KJV) in our lives? _____

9. (vss. 6-7) What do Paul and the Corinthian believers share together? _____

10. (vs. 8) What conditions did Paul and his companions face in Asia? _____

11. (vs. 9) Why did Paul experience these trials? _____

12. (vs. 10) What did God do and what will he do for Paul? _____

13. (vs. 11) What help did Paul receive from the Corinthian believers? _____
14. (vs. 11) What happens when prayers are answered? _____

PAUL'S CHANGE OF PLANS

Note: Paul told the Corinthians in his first letter that he planned to visit them (1 Corinthians 4:19) however, he felt it necessary to change his plans because he knew that he would have to be harsh with them because of the many problems that were in the church. Because he did not come as he said he would there were some that questioned his integrity and accused him of not being true to his word. In this section Paul defends his character.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 _____ Check

15. (vss. 15-16) Describe Paul's plan to visit Corinth? _____

16. (vs. 17) What do you think the Corinthians might have been saying about Paul based on this verse? _____

17. (vss. 18-20) What does Paul say about the promises of God? _____

18. (vs. 19) Who besides Paul preached to the Corinthians? _____
19. (vs. 21) Who is it that makes us to stand firm (stablish us – KJV) _____
20. (vs. 22) (Read Ephesians 1:13-14) What are some of the descriptions given of the work of the Holy Spirit in these passages? _____

21. (vs. 23) Why does Paul say he did not go to Corinth at the original time? _____

22. (vs. 24) How does Paul view his relationship with the Corinthians believers (describe it in your own words)?

CHAPTER TWO

Read 2 Corinthians 2:1-13 _____ Check

1. (v.1 - 4) Was it Paul's intention to cause the Corinthian believers sorrow? _____
2. (v. 4) What was Paul's intention for writing the Corinthians? _____

FORGIVENESS OF THE SINNER

Note: Although Paul does not say specifically, many believe that 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 is referring to the individual that had sinned by living with his father's wife as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5. Please read 1 Corinthians 5 again to remind yourself of the circumstances regarding that situation.

3. (vs. 5) Who has been grieved most by the person's disobedience? _____

4. (v. 6) Assuming that Paul is referring in this verse to the instructions he gave the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 5 what is he saying about the punishment that the individual received? _____

5. (v. 7) What further instructions does Paul give the Corinthian believers? _____

6. (vs. 8) What more does Paul say regarding the treatment of the repentant sinner? _____

7. (vs. 9) Why did Paul write to the Corinthians the first time? _____

8. (vs. 10) What was Paul's response to the man's repentance? _____

9. (vs. 11) In your own words, explain what you think Paul means in this verse? _____

10. (vs. 12) What did Paul find in Troas? _____

11. (vs. 13) Why did Paul not have peace of mind (rest in his spirit – KJV) about staying in Troas? _____

PAUL'S MINISTRY

12. (vs. 13) What did Paul do since he was not at peace when he could not find his companion? _____

Note: This brief comment by Paul shows us that it is often not easy to determine God's specific will for us in every situation. Since a door had been opened for Paul to preach the gospel in Troas it would only make sense to believe it was God's desire for him to stay there and take advantage of the opportunity. Yet because he felt uneasy about not knowing the well-being of his friend and fellow minister, Titus, he decided to move on. If even Paul found himself wondering and unsettled about God's specific will for his life we should not be surprised if we find ourselves faced with similar questions and uncertainties. After we have determined if a particular decision is within the revealed will of God, e.g. God will never ask us to lie, steal or disobey one of His commandments, we are then left to determine the best choice based on our circumstances and feelings.

13. (vs. 14) For what does Paul give thanks in this verse? _____

Note: The following explanation from the NIV Study Bible helps to understand what Paul is describing in verses 14-16. "The imagery is that of a Roman triumph in which the victorious general would lead his soldiers and the captives they had had taken in festive procession, while the people watched and applauded and the air was filled with the sweet smell released by the burning of spices in the streets. So the Christian, called to spiritual warfare is triumphantly led by God in Christ, and it is through him that God spreads everywhere the 'fragrance' of the knowledge of Christ." (NIV Study Bible, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan © 1995, p. 1766.)

14. (vs. 15) How are Christians described in this verse and to whom are we this? _____

15. (vs 16) Describe in your own words why Paul would say that to one group we are the aroma of life and to the other the aroma of death. _____

16. (vs. 17) How does Paul describe his motivation for preaching the gospel? _____

CHAPTER THREE

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1 - 6 _____ Check

1. (vss. 1-3) How does Paul describe the believers as evidence of the effectiveness of his ministry? _____

2. (vs. 6) Into what has God made Paul and his companions? _____

3. (vs. 6) How does Paul describe the work of the Spirit? _____

THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT

Read 2 Corinthians 3: 7 – 17 _____ Check Also, to understand this passage you must read Exodus 34: 29-35.

4. (vss. 7-10) Use your own words to describe the difference between the Old and New Covenants as described in these verses. _____

5. (vs. 13) What did Moses do so that the Israelites could not see the glory of the Lord fading from his face?

6. (vss. 14-15) What is that veil compared to today? _____

7. (vss. 14-15) Describe in your own words what Paul means by “a veil covering their hearts.” _____

8. (vs. 16) When is the veil taken away? _____

9. (vs. 17) What does the Spirit of the Lord give us? _____

10. (vs. 18) This verse uses imagery to help us understand a spiritual truth. Try to explain in your own words what Paul is trying to communicate in this verse. _____

CHAPTER FOUR

INTEGRITY IN THE MINISTRY

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1 - 6 _____ Check

1. (vs. 2) What has Paul rejected? _____

2. (vs. 2) How does Paul describe the way he conducts his ministry? _____

3. (vs. 3) To whom is Paul's preaching hid? _____

4. (vs. 4) What has the god of this age (world – KJV) done to those that do not believe the gospel? _____

5. (vs. 4) How is Christ described in this verse? _____

6. (vs. 5) What is the message that Paul preaches? _____

7. (vs. 7) How does Paul describe our mortal bodies? _____

8. (vs. 7) What does having these treasures in these jars of clay show? _____

9. (vss. 8-9) Paul lists several things which happened to him and his companions, but also describes how they are not affected by those hardships. List the hardships and the discouragements they do not experience.

We are...

But not...

10. (vss. 10-12) What is revealed in our bodies through suffering on behalf of Jesus Christ? _____

11. (vs. 14) What do we know regarding our resurrection? _____

12. (vs. 15) What is the result when the grace of God reaches more and more people? _____

13. (vs. 16) What is happening outwardly and inwardly to us? _____

14. (vs. 17) What do our light and temporary trouble gain for us? _____

15. (vs. 18) Why should we fix our eyes on things eternal rather than the things we can see? _____

Write 2 Corinthians 1:3 from memory on the lines below.

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

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