

2Corinthians

Lenny D'Ambrosia

Corinth

Corinth was known for the following:

1. Commerce (trade of goods)
2. It was the gateway between the east and the west with it's two harbors
 - a. Lechacum located 1 ½ miles to the west on the Corinthian Gulf
 - b. Cenchreae located 6 miles to the east on the Saronic Gulf

Outline

1. Paul explains the reason for the changes in his itinerary and to express joy at the favorable response to Paul's ministry (chapters 1 - 7).
2. Paul encourages the Corinthians to complete their collection in preparation for his arrival (chapters 8 - 9).
3. Paul stresses the certainty of his coming, his authenticity as an apostle and his readiness to exercise discipline if necessary (chapters 10 - 13).

1. What was the purpose in writing 2Corinthians?

1. To express the comfort and joy Paul felt because the Corinthians had responded favorably to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).
2. To let them know about the trouble he went through in the province of Asia (1:8-11).
3. To explain why he had changed his travel plans (1:12 - 2:4).

1. What was the purpose in writing 2Corinthians?
4. To ask them to forgive the offending party (2:5-11).
5. To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14 - 7:1).
6. To explain to them the true nature (its joys, sufferings and rewards) and high calling of Christian ministry. (2:14 - 7:4).

1. What was the purpose in writing 2Corinthians?
 7. To teach the Corinthians about the grace of giving and to make sure that they complete the collection for the poor Christians at Jerusalem (chapters 8 - 9).
 8. To deal with the minority opposition in the church (chapters 10 - 13).
 9. To prepare the Corinthians for his upcoming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

2. Who is the author of 2Corinthians?

Paul

2 Corinthians 1:1

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 Corinthians 10:1

¹ Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

3. How does Paul describe himself?

A. An Apostle

2 Corinthians 1:1

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:

B. An earthen vessel

2 Corinthians 4:7

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

3. How does Paul describe himself?

C. Meek and Bold

2 Corinthians 10:1

¹ Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

4. When was the church at Corinth established?

Paul's second missionary journey.

Acts 18: 1- 18

Acts 18:1

¹ After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.

5. Who did he meet at Corinth?

Aquila and Priscilla

Acts 18:2

² And he found a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

6. From where did Paul write his **FIRST** epistle to the Corinthians?

Ephesus

1 Corinthians 16:8

⁸ But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;

7a. From where did Paul write his second epistle to the Corinthians?

Somewhere in Macedonia (perhaps Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea?)

2 Corinthians 7:5

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

2 Corinthians 8:1

¹ Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

7a. From where did Paul write his second epistle to the Corinthians?

2 Corinthians 9:2

² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

7b. When did Paul write this letter?

55, 56 or 57 AD.

8. Whose arrival likely prompted Paul's writing of this epistle?

Titus

2 Corinthians 7:6-7

⁶ But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of **Titus**;

⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more

9. What plagued the saints at Corinth?

1. Infected with sexual immorality (1Cor 5)
2. Split by factions that were dragging each other to court (1Cor 6)
3. Crippled by the abuse of Spiritual Gifts (1Cor 12 – 15)
4. False teachers wanted to undermine Paul's ministry (2Cor 10 – 13)

10. What were the accusations the false teachers challenged Paul's apostolic authority?

A. Paul's veracity

2 Corinthians 1:15-17

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?*

10. What were the accusations the false teachers challenged Paul's apostolic authority?

B. Paul's speaking ability

2 Corinthians 10:10

¹⁰ For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

10. What were the accusations the false teachers challenged Paul's apostolic authority?

C. Paul's refusal to accept financial support

2 Corinthians 11:7-9

⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

⁹ and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

2 Corinthians 12:13 ¹³ For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!