

# Acts to 2 Corinthians

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# ACTS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	<b>Early Church History</b>				
62 AD	<b>Acts</b> 28 Chapters	Jesus's church will accomplish His purposes	Christ's ascension is described and the chronology of the expansion of the church is given. The church is in transition. Peter is the apostle to the Jews and Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles.	God oversees the Spirit-filled witness of His believers.	Jesus gives us the Spirit who dwells in us

# OUTLINE OF ACTS

1. The gospel spreads among the Jews (Acts 1–9).
2. The church spreads to Gentiles (Acts 10–12).
3. Paul spreads the gospel and plants churches in Asia and Greece (Acts 13–21:14).
4. Paul spreads the Gospel as a prisoner from Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 21-15-28:31).

### Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

## Gospels

Teachings,  
death, burial  
and  
resurrection  
of Jesus



# Acts



## Epistles

Instructions  
on how to  
conduct  
yourself as a  
Christian



### Acts 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

<sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

# ACTS

Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. It describes the establishment of the church.

In chapters 1-12 Peter is preaching the Gospel and the Gentiles are included.

Chapters 13-28 follow Paul and his missionary journeys in the then known world.

# ACTS

## **Acts 1: 7-8**

**7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

**8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

## **Acts 4: 12**

**12** “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

## **Acts 5: 29**

**29** But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

# ACTS

The book of Acts was written to provide a history of the early church. The emphasis of the book is the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Acts records the apostles' receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and being Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the surrounding world.

The book of Acts enlightens and encourages by the power of the gospel as it spread throughout the world and transformed lives.

# ACTS

Many miracles were performed during this time by the apostles to validate their message.

The book of Acts covers the transitional time between the ascension of Christ and the start of the New Testament church.

The apostolic miracles were God's means of authenticating His message.



# ACTS

The book of Acts describes the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as the mounting opposition to it.

Many faithful servants were used to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Before Saul was converted, he zealously persecuted Christians. After his conversion on the Damascus road (Acts 9: 1-31) he went to the opposite extreme of loving God and preaching His Word with power and fervency in the Spirit of the true and living God.

The Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (Acts 1—8: 3), in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8: 4—12: 25), and to the ends of the earth (Acts 13: 1—28: 31).

Included in the last section are Paul's three missionary journeys (Acts 13:1—21:16), his trials in Jerusalem and Caesarea (Acts 21: 17—26: 32) and his journey to Rome (Acts 27: 1—28: 31).

# ACTS

God can do amazing things through ordinary people when He empowers them through His Spirit. The book of Acts shows how God essentially took a group of fisherman and commoners and used them to turn the world upside down (Acts 17: 6).

God took a Christian-hating murderer and transformed him into history's greatest Christian evangelist (Paul), the author of almost half the books of the New Testament.

God used the persecution the Christians endured to help stimulate the incredibly rapid expansion of the church.

God can and does do the same through us—changing our hearts, empowering us by the Holy Spirit, and giving us a passion to spread the good news of salvation through Christ.

**If we try to accomplish God's work in the world by our own power, we will fail.** Like the disciples in Acts 2, we must faithfully proclaim the gospel, trust God for the results, and devote ourselves “to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2: 42).

# Lessons in Acts

1. Pray before making important decisions (Acts 1: 24-26).
2. Do the will of God (Acts 6: 12-15).
3. Be forgiving, as Stephen was, when others attack you (Acts 7: 59-60).
4. Rejoice when you receive an exhortation (Acts 15: 29-31).
5. Fear not (Acts 27: 22-25)!

**We must pray before making decisions, always seeking to do the will of God. Also as children of the Creator, we need to be forgiving when we are accused of something and rejoice when receiving an exhortation. Finally, do not fear, our Lord is faithful and our trust must be in Him!**

# ROMANS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	<b>Pauline Epistles</b>				
56 AD	<b>Romans</b> 16 Chapters	Doctrine of salvation	This book gives us a wonderful understanding about salvation and what it means that Jesus is our savior.	We must live by faith.	Jesus provides us with the righteousness of God

# Outline of Romans

1. Greeting from Paul (Rom. 1: 1–17)
2. The gospel (Rom. 1: 18–11 :36)
  - a. How our sin makes us enemies of God (Rom. 1:1 8–3: 20)
  - b. How Jesus reconciled us with God (Rom. 3: 21–5: 21)
  - c. How the Spirit changes us from sinners to sons of God (Rom. 6–8)
  - d. How God glorifies Himself in salvation (Rom. 9–11)
3. Our response to the gospel (Rom. 12–15)
4. Greetings to specific Christians in Rome (Rom. 16)

# ROMANS

Chapters 1-8 – Paul explains the foundations of Christian faith.

Chapters 9-11– Paul explains how people can have a relationship with God.

Chapters 12-16 – Paul explains how to use this information to live a godly life.

# ROMANS

Rom. 1: 16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God to everyone who believes, to the for salvation Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous *man* shall live by faith.”

# ROMANS

## **Rom. 3 23**

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

## **Rom. 6: 23**

**23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# ROMANS

Paul's letter to the Romans shares foundational knowledge with the community of believers.

He begins by remarking on human sinfulness, that is, on the tendency of all people to sin or fall short of living the way God intends us to. It's an experience that all human beings can relate to, both in Paul's time and in our own.

Paul wrote that due to our rebellion against God - against what is right - all of humanity has been condemned.

God is merciful and gracious and offers us justification, a way to be made right, through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son.

# ROMANS

By Jesus' sacrifice for us, we have been redeemed and saved. Christ's blood covers our sin.

Paul also insists that salvation is not the endpoint of our lives of faith; it is the starting point. We are being continually refined and made righteous by the Holy Spirit through our lives as we follow Jesus.

Our redemption, made possible by the grace of God, spurs us on to a life spent in pursuit of Jesus Christ.

# ROMANS

## Themes in the Book of Romans:

1. Our natural inclination to sin separates us from God.
2. We cannot make ourselves right or earn salvation on our own.
3. God's grace in the Holy Spirit works in us to help us avoid sin and grow in holiness.

# ROMANS

4. God's plan is for everyone! Any person who is obedient to Christ Jesus can receive this redemption.

5. Since we are all united in our need for Jesus, we should work together with other members of the body of Christ, the church. When we build each other up we give honor and glory to God.

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## 1. We are all sinners (Ch. 1-2).

In Romans chapters 1 & 2, we see that man's sin is both intense and serious. It is worthy of God's judgement. Once we understand the intensity and the seriousness of our sin – we realize we really aren't as good as we think.

One of the biggest lies of Satan is that there are good people. So many believe that if they are just “good” they will obtain heaven. They are deceived by their own goodness and will face the wrath and fury of the Lord, unless their eyes are opened to the truth.

All men need a Savior.

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## 2. Jesus is our only salvation (Ch. 3-6).

In Romans, chapters 3 through 6, we are given hope!

Through our faith in Jesus' saving grace, we are justified, redeemed and declared righteous!

Salvation comes through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## **3. There is no rejection, no condemnation and no separation for those in Christ (Ch. 7-8).**

We will always wrestle with sin (Romans 7) but we do have to repent to avoid punishment. We are free to walk in the Spirit and obey God because we love Him.

We may trip up, make mistakes, go astray and struggle a thousand times but when we confess our sins God forgives us .

In Christ we are forgiven but that does not mean God removes all of our struggles and problems.

**There is no rejection for those who are in Christ Jesus!**

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## 4. God is sovereign in salvation and we are required to share the Gospel (Ch. 9-11).

Israel believed in national election – they were the chosen ones.

In spite of Israel's privileges, they failed to believe. Israel's failure to believe was not a failure of the fulfillment of God's word but rather because of their rejection of God.

By God's grace, His plan of salvation includes Gentiles.

Paul emphasizes that Christ offers salvation to each individual by their obedience to the Gospel.

God gives everyone His great love and mercy and the opportunity for salvation. Christians must proclaim the gospel to others! Others cannot believe unless we share the truth.



# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## Rom. 12: 1-2

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so **that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which **is good and acceptable and perfect.**

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## 5a. Apply God's righteousness in practical ways throughout our lives (Ch. 12-16).

Since this is a letter to the church, this is a call for followers of Jesus to make that sacrifice. 'Spiritual worship' is literally 'reasonable act of worship.' It is reasonable considering all that God has done for us, through Jesus.

We honor God, by setting ourselves aside for His use. God is the sole priority of our lives, and we become useful in the kingdom of God with our willingness to serve Him and others.

We give God our hearts and our whole lives. There is nothing that is not given over to Him. We are called to serve Him with everything we have and everything we are.

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## 5b. Apply God's righteousness in practical ways throughout our lives (Ch. 12-16).

When we have a biblical world view, we see things differently.

We should emulate Jesus' example of how He conducted Himself while He was on earth, by living righteously in our Christian walk of life.

We undergo this transformation when we immerse ourselves in the word of God.

**The Gospel transforms our lives.**

# 1 CORINTHIANS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	<b>Pauline Epistles</b>				
55 AD	<b>1 Corinthians</b> 16 Chapters	Epistles of correction	These books are warnings not to sin in a number of areas: divisions, incest, lawsuits, sexual abstinence in marriage, divorce, order in the church and giving.	Don't let differences cause schisms	Jesus gives us the power and love of God

# 1 CORINTHIANS

Chapters 1-4 – Paul talks about the quarrels he had heard and offers advice.

Chapters 5-10 – Paul exposes sins he's heard are already infesting the church. They had to do with sexual immorality, filing lawsuits against each other and other things.

Chapters 11-14 – He helps them understand difficult doctrines such as what speaking in tongue means.

Chapters 15-16 – Paul preaches the pure gospel and encourages the saints at Corinth to hold fast to what is good.

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## **1 Cor. 6: 19**

**19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

## **1 Cor. 10: 31**

**31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## 1 Cor. 13: 4 – 8

**4** Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

**5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

**6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

**7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away.

# 1 CORINTHIANS

The apostle Paul founded the church in Corinth. A few years after leaving the church, the apostle Paul heard some disturbing reports about the Corinthian church.

They were full of pride and were excusing sexual immorality. Spiritual gifts were being used improperly, and there was rampant misunderstanding of key Christian doctrines.

The apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians in an attempt to restore the Corinthian church to its foundation—Jesus Christ.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

The Corinthian church was plagued by divisions. The believers in Corinth were dividing into groups loyal to certain spiritual leaders (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:1-6).

Paul exhorted the Corinthian believers to be united because of devotion to Christ (1 Corinthians 3:21-23).

Many in the church were essentially approving of an immoral relationship (1 Corinthians 5:1-2).

Paul commanded them to expel the wicked man from the church (1 Corinthians 5:13).

The Corinthian believers were taking each other to court (1 Corinthians 6:1-2).

Paul taught the Corinthians that it would be better to be taken advantage of than to damage their Christian testimony (1 Corinthians 6:3-8).

# 1 CORINTHIANS

Paul gave the Corinthian church instructions on marriage and celibacy (chapter 7), food sacrificed to idols (chapters 8 and 10), Christian freedom (chapter 9), the veiling of women (1 Corinthians 11:1-16), the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34), spiritual gifts (chapters 12-14), and the resurrection (chapter 15).

Paul organized the book of 1 Corinthians by answering questions the Corinthian believers had asked him and by responding to improper conduct and erroneous beliefs they had accepted.

# 1 CORINTHIANS

Many of the problems and questions the Corinthian church was dealing with are still present in the church today. Churches today still struggle with divisions, with immorality, and with the use of spiritual gifts.

The Book of 1 Corinthians very well could have been written to the church today and we would do well to heed Paul's warnings and apply them to ourselves. Despite all the rebukes and corrections, 1 Corinthians brings our focus back to where it should be—on Christ. Genuine Christian love is the answer to many problems (chapter 13).

A proper understanding of the resurrection of Christ, as revealed in chapter 15, and thereby a proper understanding of our own resurrection, is the cure for what divides and defeats us.

# 2 CORINTHIANS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	<b>Pauline Epistles</b>				
			These books are warnings not to sin in a number of areas: divisions, incest, lawsuits, sexual		
51 - 52 AD	<b>2 Corinthians</b> 13 Chapters	Epistles of correction	abstinence in marriage, divorce, order in the church and giving.	Do everything to please Jesus Christ (5:9)	Jesus is the down payment of what's to come

## 2 CORINTHIANS

In 2 Corinthians, Paul defends his character from critics who said that he was a fake apostle.

He uses a description of his own ministry as an exhortation for the Corinthians to live godly and open-hearted lives.

Paul describes how he's been honest, hopeful and devoted while suffering. These things have blessed his ministry.

# 2 CORINTHIANS

## 2 Cor. 2: 17

17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

## 2 Cor. 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;

## 2 Cor. 6: 14

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

# 2 CORINTHIANS

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul expresses his relief and joy that the Corinthians had received his “severe” letter (now lost) in a positive manner.

That letter addressed issues that were tearing the church apart, primarily the arrival of self-styled (false) apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13) who were assaulting Paul’s character, sowing discord among the believers, and teaching false doctrine.

They appear to have questioned his veracity (2 Corinthians 1:15–17), his speaking ability (2 Corinthians 10:10; 11:6), and his unwillingness to accept support from the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:7–9; 12:13).

There were also some people in Corinth who had not repented of their licentious behavior, another reason he had sent the “severe” letter. (2 Corinthians 12: 20–21).

# 2 CORINTHIANS

Paul was overjoyed to learn from Titus that the majority of Corinthians had repented of their rebellion against Paul (2 Corinthians 2:12–13; 7:5–9).

The apostle encourages them for this in an expression of his genuine love (2 Corinthians 7:3–16). Paul also urged the Corinthians to finish collecting an offering for the poor (chapters 8—9) and to take a harder stance against false teachers (chapters 10—13).

Finally, Paul vindicated his apostleship, as some in the church had likely questioned his authority (2 Corinthians 13: 3).



# 2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians applies to our lives today. One thing is stewardship, not only of money, but of time as well.

The Macedonians not only gave generously, but “they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will” (2 Corinthians 8:5). In the same way, we should dedicate not only all we have to the Lord, but all that we are. He really doesn’t need our money. He is omnipotent! He wants the heart, one that longs to serve and please and love. Stewardship and giving to God is more than just money.

God does want us to monetarily as we have purpose in our heart, and He promises to bless us when we give to Him. There is more though. God wants 100%. He wants us to give Him our all. Everything we are. We should spend our lives living to serve our Father. We should not only give to God from our paycheck, but our very lives should be a reflection of Him. We should give ourselves first to the Lord, then to the church and the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ.