

Word of Faith International Christian Center – St. Thomas
Teaching the Word, Doing the Work, Touching the World

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS

by Pastor Ronald D. Walker Jr. | ZOOM Bible Study Notes | Ministered Tues., 4/06/2021

Survey of 2 Corinthians

Author: Paul, along with Timothy, as noted in 2 Corinthians 1:1. Timothy may have been serving as Paul's *amanuensis*, writing down words in a manner similar to that of a secretary.

Audience: Paul wrote to Gentile Christians living in Corinth, sending this letter a few years after personally founding the church in that city. Paul had also written at least one other known previous letter to this church: the epistle of 1 Corinthians. It is also possible that Paul wrote at least one other letter to this church, which is no longer in existence (1 Corinthians 5:9). These believers had responded positively to Paul's previous writing, yet appeared to continue to have some problems, particularly in the area of false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13).

Date: AD 55—56, within a year of the completion of 1 Corinthians.

Book Type: The New Testament's third Pauline Epistle; the eighth book of the New Testament; the forty-seventh book of the Bible.

Background: 2 Corinthians differs from 1 Corinthians in dealing with personal matters rather than with doctrinal teaching or ecclesiastical order.

In this Epistle Paul's human side is evidence in this epistle. This epistle reveals his feelings, desires, dislikes, ambitions, and obligations. Second Corinthians gives us insight into Paul's career.

It was written not only to defend him against the occasional criticisms of the Corinthian Church but also against the slanders and accusations that his enemies raised against him where ever he was preaching. The controversy that began in Galatia had created a powerful group of Judaizing opponents, who did not



scruple to use any methods, fair or foul in order to discredit Paul. He not only had to deal with the spiritual resistance and the evils of traditional paganism, but he also had to face the active malice of jealous and prejudiced leaders who professed to be Christians.

Paul was accused of a lot of things:

- 1) They accused him of walking according to the flesh (10:2)
- 2) They said that he was a coward because his letters were powerful but in person he was mousy (10:10)
- 3) He did not maintain himself in dignity by taking support from the churches, instead he demeaned himself by working (11:7)
- 4) They claim that he was not one of the original apostles and so was not qualified to teach (11:5, 12:11-12).
- 5) They claimed he had no credentials that he could show (3:1)
- 6) They attacked his personal character by saying he was fleshly (10:2), boastful (10:8,15), and deceitful (12:16).
- 7) They also insinuated that he embezzled the funds that were being entrusted to him (8:20-23).

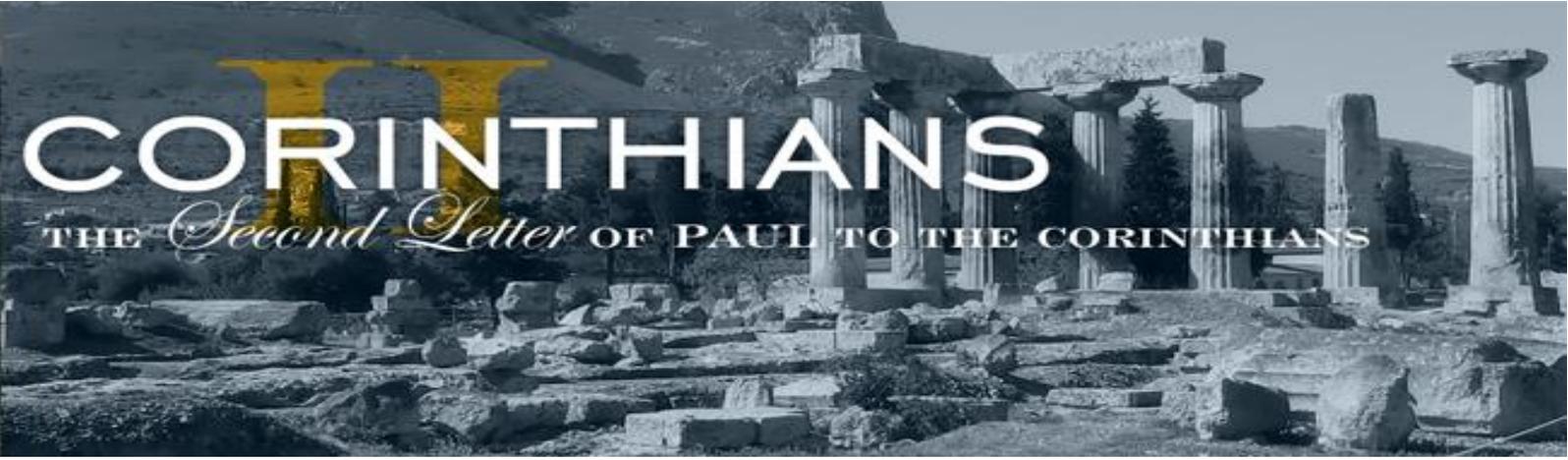
The accusers were Jews who were ministers of Christ and who, by means of the clever use of recommendations from other churches, they had obtained entrance into the churches Paul had established.

What Paul is pointing too in the church of Corinth is that in the Apostolic Age it had it's struggles and its sins however the fascinating part is not that the church was imperfect, but that it survived.

Key Verses (ESV):

2 Corinthians 3:5: *"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God."*

2 Corinthians 3:18: *"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*



2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

2 Corinthians 5:21: *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

2 Corinthians 10:5: *"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."*

2 Corinthians 13:4: *"For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God."*

Outline of 2 Corinthians: The Epistle of Paul's Ministry

I. Salutation	1:1-2
II. Explanation of Person Conduct	1:3-2:13
III. The Defense of the Ministry	2:14-7:4
The Nature of the Ministry	2:14-3:18
The Sincerity of the Ministry	4:1-6
The Perseverance of the Ministry	4:7-15
Prospect of the Ministry	4:16-5:10
The Sanctions of the Ministry	5:11-19
The Example of the Ministry	5:20-6:10
The Appeal of the Ministry	6:11-7:4
IV. Comment on Effects of Letter	7:5-16
V. The Grace of Giving	8:1-9:15
VI. Personal Defense	10:1-12:13
VII. Preparation for Visit	12:14-13:10
VIII. Concluding Salutation	13:11-14