

2 Corinthians

*. Where is Corinth?

Located on the isthmus that connects northern and southern Greece; major commercial city; very wealthy; very immoral.

*. Who wrote the letter?

Paul – this is one of the four uncontested letters written by Paul

*. When was it written?

Written about 55 AD, shortly after 1 Corinthians;

*. Why was it written?

After Paul sent the letter of 1 Corinthians to answer the questions from the church, his answers were not all received well/enthusiastically by the church. Some refused to accept his direction and others were outwardly rebellious. As a result, Paul made a visit to the church in Corinth to help resolve the issues but the trip was referred to as a painful visit by Paul (see 2 Cor. 2:1). The visit was not a success and Paul wrote another letter (which we do not have today) in order to express his sorrow at their response. Finally, the church responded positively to Paul's instructions – and the result was that Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to express his thanks for their receiving his instruction and to encourage them in their walk with Christ.

*. What is the main topic?

The Christ-centered life must be demonstrated.

2 Cor. 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Cor. 12:7-10

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.