

2 CORINTHIANS

1. TITLES:

- A. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians
- B. The Book of Comfort
- C. The Book of Apostolic Qualification

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. DATE:

Probably written between 54 and 57 A.D. during Paul's stay in Philippi on his third missionary journey (Acts 20).

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Glory, Boast (same Greek word) – 31
- B. Comfort, Consolation, Beseech, etc. (same Greek word) – 29
- C. Glory (of God) (different Greek word from above) – 22
- D. Minister (ing, ed, s, ry, ration) – 18

5. KEY VERSES: 1:3, 4

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To defend Paul's apostolic ministry and authority against false ministers trying to destroy his influence.
- B. To give further instruction concerning the collection for the saints at Jerusalem (9:1-5).
- C. To point out the need for consolation in the case of discipline mentioned in the first epistle (2:5-11).
- D. To show that the New Covenant surpasses the Old Covenant in glory.

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7. MESSAGE:

- A. A true minister of God will glory in the Lord and not in himself.
- B. The chief purpose of church discipline is restoration rather than condemnation.
- C. Apostolic ministry is attested to by patience, signs, wonders, and mighty deeds (12:12).

8. OUTLINE:

- I. The Ministry of Reconciliation Ch. 1-7
- II. The Ministry of Distribution (Giving) Ch. 8-9
- III. The Ministry of Vindication (of Apostleship) Ch. 10-13

9. SUMMARY:

The church at Corinth had responded to Paul's first epistle dealing with certain disorders, particularly in the matter of immorality. This second epistle was written to balance out the discipline they exercised, encouraging them to restore the penitent brother back to fellowship. Whereas the first epistle was written to correct, this second epistle was written to comfort. This second epistle, like Hebrews, contrasts the glory of the New Covenant and its ministers (Christ and the Church) with the Old Covenant and its ministers (Moses and the Prophets). In the practical realm Paul reminds and exhorts the church to have the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem ready. In the remainder of the epistle, Paul vindicates his apostleship by pointing to the fruit of his ministry.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as our Comforter, our Sin-offering (5:21), our Apostle, and the Glory of the New Covenant (3, 4).