

## 2 Corinthians

## Study Outline

**Background:** The church in Corinth was under attack. Spiritual compromise and false teachers were in their midst. In 1st Corinthians Paul effectively addresses several of their theological questions and calls the people on the carpet concerning their sin. Though Paul desired to swing through Corinth following his stay in Ephesus, the Holy Spirit was leading him east into Macedonia. In his place, Paul sends Titus to Corinth to see how things were going. Titus catches up with Paul in Philippi and gives him a full report. 2nd Corinthians is Paul's response.

**Main Point:** 2nd Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul approximately one year following 1st Corinthians. The church in Corinth was still in its infancy, and the believers were still baby Christians in need of constant leadership. To compound problems, this church had become a magnet for false teachers who had come in to discredit the ministry of Paul.

In his previous correspondence with this church we saw the heart of a shepherd as Paul calls them to account for their sin. We also noted the gifting of a teacher as Paul faithfully addresses a series of theological questions. In many ways 2nd Corinthians is a break from the normal "Pauline Epistle." Paul was known to write with a very orderly, systematic style; however, his second letter to the Corinthians takes on a very different feel.

In this Epistle, we see the passion of the preacher on display as Paul abandons his typical systematic approach and instead writes from the heart. Not only does Paul challenge these believers to grow in their understanding of Christian living, but he adamantly defends his Apostolic authority in the face of those who'd discredit him. Throughout this letter we're given an unique glimpse into the heart of Paul, not just his mind.

### 2 CORINTHIANS OUTLINE:

#### 1. PAUL ADDRESSES THE ISSUES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11	SUFFERING & GOD'S COMFORT
2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:2	GODLY TESTIMONY
2 CORINTHIANS 2:3-17	RESTORATION
2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18	LIFE UNDER THE NEW COVENANT
2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-18	VICTORY FOUND IN CHRIST
2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-21	ASSURANCE PROVIDED BY RESURRECTION
2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-18	HOLY CHARACTER
2 CORINTHIANS 7:1-16	GODLY REPENTANCE
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9:15	GRACIOUS GIVING (PRINCIPLES & PROMISES)

#### 2. PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-18	AUTHENTICATION (ATTACKS THE OPPOSITION)
2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-33	VINDICATION (PROTECTS THE CHURCH)
2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-21	REVELATION (LOVE FOR THE CHURCH)
2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14	APPLICATION (EXERCISES LOVING AUTHORITY)



### *Day 1: Comfort for the Comforter.....*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-11 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What gives God the platform by which He's able to provide us comfort in the midst of our tribulations? (2). In what way is Jesus the "God of all comfort?" (3). Can you really comfort someone if you've never been comforted yourself? How does this create a greater purpose in our own afflictions?

### *Day 2: Sufficiency.....*

**2 Corinthians 3:4-18 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does Paul mean when he says, "our sufficiency is from God"? (2). What should the end result of our Christian lives be? (3). If the goal is to be "transformed into the same image" of Jesus, and I'm not sufficient in myself to accomplish this goal, what should my practical Christian experience look like?

### *Day 3: Sweetening the Sweet.....*

**2 Corinthians 4:7-18 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What is the mode that God uses to transform us into the image of Jesus? (2). Though life will throw all kinds of obstacles our direction, what has God promised for the faithful? (3). Why does Paul direct our attention onto the eternal?

### *Day 4: New Creation.....*

**2 Corinthians 5:12-21 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does it mean to be "reconciled to God"? How does this happen? (2). When we give our lives to Jesus we become a "new creation." What does this mean? (3). In what way has Jesus completely changed your life? Have you experienced this transformation?

### *Day 5: Unequally Yoked.....*

**2 Corinthians 6:11-18 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does Paul mean when he tells us not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers"? (2). In what way can you find yourself "unequally yoked" with someone who's not a believer? (3). Why is it so important that we're careful as Christians who we allow ourselves to become close too?

### *Day 6: Sorrow.....*

**2 Corinthians 7:2-12 // THINKING POINT:** (1). What is the difference between "Godly sorrow" and "worldly sorrow"? (2). How can you tell the difference between these two different kinds of sorrow? (3). Is there a difference between "feeling sorry" about your sin and experience a deep sorrow over your sin? Examine your own life. Can you think of practical examples that resemble what Paul is discussing?

**DEVOTIONS**

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