

Second Corinthians

- Online Verse by verse teaching in audio, video, notes:

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Second Corinthians	56 AD
<i>"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him." 2:14</i>	
Author: Paul	
Written From: Philippi in Macedonia as Paul traveled to Corinth from Ephesus	
Sent To: Church in Corinth	
Purpose: Oppose false apostles and false teachers who undermine the Gospel and Paul	
Theme: Paul defends his apostleship.	
Basic Outline:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapters 1-7, Paul's Ministry• Chapters 8-9, Jerusalem Offering• Chapters 10-13, Paul Directly Attacks the "Super-Apostles" and defends himself	

Outline

1. Travel, ch. 1-7 – Explaining the Change of Itinerary
 - a. 1:3-11 – Suffering
 - b. 1:12 -2:14 – travel details
 - c. 2:14-7:4 – digression
 - d. 7:5 – Paul resumes to report that he has met Titus
2. Macedonia, ch. 8-9 - Preparation for visit and collection of the money
3. Corinth, 10-13 – Expos the false-apostles and defend Paul's ministry

Greek Words:

- διακονος – *diakonos* – minister, servant, deacon, 3:6; 6:4; 11:15,23
- διακονια – *diakonia* – ministry, administration, service, 3:7,8,9; 4:1; 5:18; 6:3; 8:4; 9:1,12,13; 11:8
- ἁδοκιμος – *adokimos*, *a-* means "not"; *dokimos* (10:18; 13:7) means "to test, to approve, to prove, to approve after examination". Together they mean "disapproved, rejected after examination, not usable." 13:5,6,7
- ἁποστολος – *apostolos* – sent one, 1:1; 11:5,13; 12:11,12

Healthy Doctrine:

- Reconciliation – 5:17-21
- Ambassadorship – 5:20
- Glorification – 4:16-5:8
- Substitutionary Atonement – 5:21; 8:9
- New Covenant – 3:6-16
- Holy Spirit as deity – 3:17,18
- Satan – 4:4; 11:15;

Timeline

53 AD – Paul left Antioch, Syria

53 AD – Paul traveled across Galatia, Phrygia and into Asia

53-Spring of 56 AD – Paul is in Ephesus

56 AD – Paul travels through Macedonia

56 AD Winter-57 AD Spring – Paul is in Corinth, Achaia

57 AD Spring – Paul leaves Corinth to pass through Macedonia to Jerusalem

- 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:11 – Paul promised to send Timothy to Corinth
- Timothy returned to Ephesus with bad news concerning Corinthian Church
- Paul abandoned his original travel plans (given in 1 Cor. 16) and went immediately to Corinth to make an abrupt, painful visit to the church (2 Cor. 13:1-2; 2:1)
 - Paul was personally attacked by members of the Corinthian church at this time (2:5-11; 7:12)
- Paul returns to Ephesus and writes a third letter (in between 1 and 2 Corinthians) and sent it with Titus back to Corinth (2:4, 12-13; 7:6-7)
- Paul leaves Ephesus after the riot going north along the western coast of Asia to Troas. In Troas Paul waited because:
 - A door was open for his preaching
 - Paul expected to meet Titus returning to Ephesus from Corinth.
- When Titus did not show up in Troas, Paul crossed the sea to Macedonia (likely landing in the port of Neapolis.) Paul apparently met Titus soon after arriving in Neapolis or Philippi. (2:12 and 7:5)
- Titus' report back to Paul included this information:
 - Corinthians responded in a positive way “with many tears” to the “severe letter” (2:4)
 - Disciplinary action had been taken (2:5-11) and 7:5-12)
 - False Teachers - A new problem had developed: showboating, flamboyant “false” apostles from Judea had come to Corinth to challenge Paul and to make money.
- Paul writes 2 Corinthians from Macedonia and sends Titus back to Corinth with this letter (Paul's fourth letter in this series of four written to the Corinthians)
- Paul would follow Titus and 2 Corinthians later and make his third visit to Corinth (13:1-2)



Memorable Verses:

- “For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.” 1:5
- “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” 1:20
- “Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.” 2:14
- “If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!” 3:9
- “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 4:4
- “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” 4:7
- “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” 4:17
- “. . . has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” 5:5
- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 5:17
- “He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 5:20
- “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” 6:14
- “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 7:10
- “See that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 8:7
- “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 9:6
- “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 9:7
- “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.” 10:4-5
- “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.” 11:13
- “I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 12:10
- “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test.” 13:5

In chapters one through seven Paul describes his ministry both at the level of the divine calling and from personal experience. There is a heavy focus on the suffering of the ministry and the divine mandate for the ministry. Paul sees himself as a mere human living in time and space equipped by the glorious God of eternity. Paul is confident that his earthly labors and the hardships he faces in the flesh will be more than compensated for in eternity. With this insight and understanding, Paul continues faithfully and courageously in his ministry.

In chapter eight and nine Paul gives instructions about money that will be collected from the Corinthians and taken by a select and responsible delegation to believers living in Jerusalem. Paul begins by using the Macedonians as an example of grace giving. Paul gives Scripture's best description of financial giving and ties it to the principle of grace combined with human will. A man decides what he wants to give and the Scriptures promise an appropriate response from God. Giving is clearly compared to sowing seeds. These verses could be a prosperity teacher's dream, if they were not preceded by seven chapters of Paul describing his ministry as a state of suffering, and followed by four chapters of the apostle's most fevered reference to false teachers. Paul describes them as self-promoting and identifies them as condemned servants of Satan. The irresponsible promoters of the gospel of wealth and the name-it-claim-it preachers can only hope their listeners are too lazy to read these verses in context.

Qualities of an Ambassador

- 1. Ambassadors do not appoint themselves** – we are appointed by Christ.
- 2. Ambassadors do not support themselves** – God supplies all our needs. (Ep. 1:3; Phil. 4:19)
- 3. Ambassadors are not citizens where they serve** – we are citizens of heaven. (Philippians 3:20)
- 4. Ambassadors have instructions in written form** – we have the Scriptures. (2 Tm. 3:16)
- 5. Ambassadors cannot take insults personally** – “the insults of those who insult you fall on me”. (Rom. 15:3; Ps. 69:9; John 15:19)
- 6. Ambassadors do not enter a country to profit themselves** – no longer live for self. (2 Co. 5:15)
- 7. An Ambassador is a personal representative of someone else** – (Jn. 13:35; 17:18-23; 20:21)
- 8. An Ambassadors purpose is service, his hope is reward** – (Mt. 5:12; 2 Jn. 8; Rev. 22:12)
- 9. Ambassadors are called home when war is declared** – (2 Thes. 2:1-12)

A Few Questions and Unknowns

Deadly affliction of Asia 1:8; the vision of 12; the “thorn in the flesh” of 12:2; what “brothers” with Titus