

## The Book of 2 Corinthians #1

### I. Introduction – verse 1

- A. Paul is undoubtedly the author – written from 55 – 60 AD
  - 1. Question about Paul's reference to previous letter (2:3, 4; 7:8, 9)
    - a. Older Commentators believe this is a reference to I Corinthians
      - 1. New Commentators believe it refers to a lost letter
    - b. This also affects view of who offender (2:6 – 8) is
      - 1. In older view it's immoral person (I Cor. 5)–newer view unsure
    - c. Paul perhaps did write earlier letter that was lost (I Cor. 5:9)
    - d. This letter occasioned by good news from Titus (2 Cor. 7:5 – 7)
- B. Question of whether this book belongs in canon
  - 1. Was it written by an apostle? Yes! (2 Corinthians 1:1)
  - 2. Referred to as part of accepted Canon by early Christian writers
    - a. Irenaeus (150), Clement of Alexandria (200), Tertullian (200)
- C. Paul begins by referring to himself as “Apostle of Christ Jesus”
  - 1. Not an “apostle of the church”- his apostleship questioned by Corinth
    - a. I Corinthians 9:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 12:12
- D. Paul accepts that group at Corinth was a “Church”

### II. Verse 2 – Paul's Typical Salutation – Grace and Peace

- A. Except pastoral epistles where he adds “mercy” ( I Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2)
- B. By grace Paul means more than just “unmerited favor”
  - 1. Refers to all blessings that we receive by God's favor (Rom. 5:15)
  - 2. It is the very beginning of glory – Psalm 84:11
- C. Adds peace which is attitude that we should receive God's blessings in
  - 1. True peace – Romans 5:1; John 14:27; James 3:18
- D. Order important – Comes from God (fountain) through Christ (Channel)

### III. Verse 3 – A Unique Description of God

- A. In almost all epistles Paul follows salutation by thanksgiving for church
  - 1. Here changes it to give thanksgiving for what God had done for him
  - 2. Perhaps because Corinthians disdained Paul for his afflictions
    - a. This is a problem even in church today- a doctrine of demons
- B. “Blessed be the God” – Can we add anything to God?
  - 1. No – but it is our duty to bless Him and we are blest by doing so
- C. God is both “God” and “Father” of Lord Jesus Christ
  - 1. Jesus calls Father “my God” – Matthew 27:46 John 20:17
    - a. Formula “God of” has reference to covenant relationship
      - 1. Exodus 3:6 – God and Christ in covenant relationship
  - 2. Terms “God” & “Father” also have to do with Christ's mediatorship
    - a. He can only be our Father because of what Christ has done
- D. Father of mercies – Hebraism – He is the source of all mercies
  - 1. God can be Father of mercies because of Christ
    - a. First satisfied justice – Now God can have mercy on whom He will
      - 1. Romans 9:15; Not required that God show equal mercy
- E. “God of all comfort” – Paul uses this word 10 times in 5 verses
  - 1. God is only source of comfort – and source of all kinds of comfort

### IV. Conclusion – Verse 4 – We are comforted to comfort others