

**Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 19***

**Scripture: *2 Corinthians 4:1-7***

**Time, Place, and Purpose of 2 Corinthians**

1. This letter was written to the church at Corinth around 56 AD.
2. This letter is the most personal of all Paul's letters. It is considered the most personal writing in the New Testament.
3. The church was influenced by false teachers who criticized Paul's ministry. They claimed he was fickle, proud, unimpressive in appearance and speech, dishonest, and unqualified as an apostle of Christ. Paul sent Titus to Corinth to deal with these issues, and upon his return, rejoiced to hear of their change of heart.
4. Paul wrote to express gratitude for the repenting majority and to appeal to the rebellious minority to accept his authority. This explains the change of tone between chapters 1-9 and chapters 10-13.
5. Paul defends his conduct, character, and calling as an apostle.
6. Paul describes his intense suffering for Christ and the gospel.

**Key Passages**

- *4:16-5:10* Earthly suffering compared to eternal glory
- *5:17-21* The message and ministry of reconciliation
- *Chps. 8-9* The principles and promises of Christian giving
- *12:1-10* Paul's vision of heaven and thorn in the flesh

**Outline of 2 Corinthians**

- I. Paul's explanation of his ministry (1:1—7:16)
  - A. Introduction (1:1-11)
  - B. Paul's explanation of his change of plans (1:12—2:13)
  - C. Paul's defense of his ministry (2:14—6:10)
    - 1) Contrasted with legalism (2:12—3:18)
    - 2) Opposed by Satan (4:1-18)
    - 3) Examined by Christ (5:1-10)
    - 4) Motivated by love for Christ (5:11-19)
    - 5) Marked by lack of offense (5:20—6:10)
  - D. Paul's concern for the Corinthians (6:11—7:16)
- II. Paul's collection for the saints (8:1—9:15)
  - A. Example of the Macedonians (8:1-7)
  - B. Example of Christ (8:8-15)
  - C. Explanation of the church delegates (8:16—9:5)
  - D. Blessings of giving (9:6-15)
- III. Paul's defense of his apostleship (10:1—12:13)
- IV. Paul's announcement of his upcoming visit (12:14—13:10)

# Know Your Bible – Part 19

## Book of 2 Corinthians

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4. Paul wrote to \_\_\_\_\_ for the repenting majority and to appeal to the rebellious minority to accept his authority.
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### Key Passages

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