

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Second Corinthians)

I. General Introduction to 2 Corinthians

- Title: “To the Corinthians B” (1:1)
- Author: Paul the apostle and Timothy the brother (1:1)
- Date: written from Macedonia late in AD 56 before Paul’s third missionary visit (Acts 20:2, 3)
- Theme and Purpose: Paul’s Defense of his Apostolic Credentials and Authority; Paul writes to express delight at the repentance of the Corinthians (7:8, 9a), enlist their support of the needy saints in Jerusalem (8:7), and defend his apostleship (12:11, 12).
- Structure:
 - I. Explanation of Paul’s Ministry (chs. 1-7)
 - II. Appeal for the Support of the Saints in Jerusalem (chs. 8, 9)
 - III. Vindication of Paul’s Apostleship (chs. 10-13)

II. General Overview of 2 Corinthians

- Explanation of Paul’s Ministry (chs. 1-7): man in 1 Cor. 5 is not the man in 2 Cor. 2; digression from 2:14-7:5; validations of Paul’s ministry (3:1-4:15); reasons why Paul suffered willingly for the gospel (4:16-5:21); call to be reconciled to him (6:11-13; 7:2) and separated from the world (6:14-7:1)
- Appeal for Support of the Saints in Jerusalem (chs. 8, 9): key NT passage teaching principles of giving
- Vindication of Paul’s Apostleship (chs. 10-13):

III. Prominent People and Themes in 2 Corinthians

- People: Paul, Timothy, Titus
- Themes: God’s Character [spirit (3:17); glorious (4:6); loving (9:7; 13:11, 14); comforting, merciful (1:3); powerful (4:7; 6:7; 12:9; 13:4); keeps promises (1:20; 6:18; 7:1); reconciles (5:18, 18)]; Affliction (1:3-11; 2:4; 4:8, 17; 7:4, 5; 8:2); Satan (4:4; 11:3, 13, 14; 12:7); Reconciliation (5:19, 20); Substitutionary Atonement / Double Imputation (5:21)

IV. Christ in 2 Corinthians

- He is the believer’s comfort (1:5); triumph (2:14); Lord (4:5); life (4:11); judge (5:10); source of new birth (5:17; reconciliation (5:19); substitute (5:21); supreme motive for generosity with others (8:9); power (12:9)

V. Practical Lessons in 2 Corinthians

1) Make every effort, by the grace of God, to hold your leaders in high esteem (1 Thess. 5:12, 13).

2) Seek grace from God to enlarge your capacity to suffer (Rom. 8:17).

3) Aim, by the grace of God, to maintain a clear and firm grasp of the gospel.