

# Workbook On 2 Corinthians



*Area of the Erastus Inscription*

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia...” (2 Corinthians 1:1)

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# 2 CORINTHIANS: THE EPISTLE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY

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(The above outline is by Merrill C. Tenney, *New Testament Survey*, p. 300)

# **2 CORINTHIANS: THE EPISTLE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY**

## **I. SALUTATION (1:1–2)**

1. Who was with Paul when this book was written? What do we know about him (1:1)?
2. This book is addressed to the church at Corinth and what other group of people (1:1)?

## **II. EXPLANATION OF PERSONAL CONDUCT (1:3–2:13)**

1. How is God the Father described in 2 Corinthians 1:3–4?
2. How do the “sufferings of Christ abound in us” (1:5)?
3. What good can come out of affliction (1:6)?
4. What are we to be “partakers” of (1:7)?
5. What “trouble” did Paul have in Asia (1:8)?

6. How did Paul carry the “sentence of death” (1:9)?
7. What did Paul boast of (1:12–14)?
8. What was Paul’s desire in 2 Corinthians 1:15–16?
9. How has God “sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit” (1:22).
10. Who is discussed in 2 Corinthians 2:3–8? Give the background. What were the brethren to do now? What can we learn from this?
11. In the context of 2 Corinthians 2:9–11, how could Satan take advantage of us?
12. What door was opened for Paul at Troas (2:12)?

### **III. THE DEFENSE OF THE MINISTRY (2:14–7:4)**

#### **A. The Nature of the Ministry (2:14–3:18)**

1. How did God diffuse “the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2:14)? What does this have reference to?

2. How could some people think of Paul as the “aroma of death” and others think of him as the “aroma of life” (2:15–16)?
  
3. What had some apparently accused Paul of doing (2:17)?
  
4. What is a letter of commendation? What type of letter did Paul offer (3:1–3)?
  
5. How does “the letter kill, but the Spirit gives life” (3:6)?
  
6. What is the “ministry of death” (3:7)? What “glory” did it have?
  
7. What do we know about the “glory” of Moses (3:7)?
  
8. What “glory” did the “ministry of condemnation” have? How does it compare to the “ministry of righteousness” (3:9)?
  
9. When did Moses “put a veil over his face” (3:13)? Why?
  
10. What veil remains for some today (3:14–15)? What is it?

11. What happens to this veil when one “turns to the Lord” (3:16)?

12. What kind of “liberty” do we have in Christ (3:17)?

13. Explain how we are “being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (3:18).

#### **B. The Sincerity of the Ministry (4:1–6)**

1. Describe Paul’s “handling (of) the word of God” (4:2).

2. How could the gospel be “veiled” to men today (4:3–4)?

3. What has God placed in our hearts (4:6)?

#### **C. The Perseverance of the Ministry (4:7–15)**

1. What is the “treasure in earthen vessels” (4:7)?

2. How did Paul “carry about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus” (4:10)?

3. Why was Paul delivered from death (4:11)?

4. What comfort did Paul find in 2 Corinthians 4:14–15?

#### **D. The Prospect of the Ministry (4:16–5:10)**

1. Why should you find comfort in 2 Corinthians 4:16–18?

2. Give several reasons why the physical body might be described as a “tent” (5:1).

3. Why do we “groan” on this earth (5:2–4)?

4. How has the Spirit been given “as a guarantee” (5:5)?

5. What application are we to make from 2 Corinthians 5:6?

6. How does one “walk by faith”? How can we “walk by sight” (5:7)?

7. How many people will appear before Christ? How will He judge them (5:10)?

## E. The Sanctions of the Ministry (5:11–19)

1. In view of the judgment, what was Paul prompted to do (5:11)?
2. What “opportunity” has been given (5:12)?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:15, *why* did Christ die for all men?
4. In what way is a Christian “a new creation” (5:17)?
5. Define “reconciled” (5:18) [Gr. *katallasso*, SR #2644].
6. Define “imputing” (5:19) [Gr. *logizomai*, SR #3049].

## F. The Example of the Ministry (5:20–6:10)

1. What is an “ambassador” (5:20)? Why is this a fitting term for the apostles?
2. How did Christ become “sin for us” (5:21)?
3. How could one “receive the grace of God in vain” (6:1)?

4. When is the “day of salvation” (6:2)?

5. Summarize the characteristics found in 2 Corinthians 6:4–10. What *apparent* contradictions do you find here?

### G. The Appeal of the Ministry (6:11–7:4)

1. What “yoke” is under consideration in 2 Corinthians 6:14?

2. How are we the “temple of God” (6:16)?

3. If you applied 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 to the marriage of a Christian to an unbeliever, what action would 2 Corinthians 6:17 force you to take? What does this prove?

4. How can one perfect “holiness in the fear of God” (7:1)?

5. Why was Paul “filled with comfort” (7:4)?

## IV. COMMENT ON EFFECTS OF LETTER (7:5–16)

1. How did God comfort Paul (7:6–7)?

2. Paul had no regrets about what action (7:8)?
  
3. What did Paul rejoice in (7:9)?
  
4. “Godly sorrow” produces what? What does the sorrow of the world produce? (7:10).
  
5. What good came out of their “sorrow” (7:11–12)?
  
6. How did the Corinthians “refresh” Titus (7:13)?

## **V. THE GRACE OF GIVING (8:1–9:15)**

1. Why would giving be described as a “grace” (8:1, 7)?
  
2. Describe the manner in which the saints in Macedonia gave (8:1–5)?
  
3. For what specific purpose was this money given (8:4)?
  
4. Why was it easy for the Macedonians to give of their means (8:5)? Why is it so difficult for some to be liberal in their giving today?

5. What was Paul testing in 2 Corinthians 8:8?
  
6. What example of “giving” is used in 2 Corinthians 8:9?
  
7. According to 2 Corinthians 8:12, how are we to give?
  
8. What type of “equality” is there to be in giving (8:14)?
  
9. Who was chosen for this “trip” (8:16–24)? How was he chosen and why?
  
10. What was the “proof” of the Corinthian’s love (8:24)?
  
11. According to 2 Corinthians 9:1, who were to be the recipients of the gift?
  
12. What were the brethren to “prepare” (9:5)?
  
13. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6–7, what are the characteristics of an acceptable offering to God?

14. What result was Paul looking for in 2 Corinthians 9:10?

15. The needs of what group of people would be met by this gift (9:12)?

16. How was God glorified by this gift (9:13–15)?

## **VI. PERSONAL DEFENSE (10:1–12:13)**

1. What was Paul pleading for (10:1–2)?

2. What are the “weapons of our warfare” (10:4)?

3. What is the purpose of the “weapons of our warfare” (10:4–6)?

4. Why did Christ give Paul “authority” (10:8)? How was this authority exercised?

5. What did some brethren say about Paul (10:10)?

6. Who were some brethren comparing themselves to (10:12)? How did they compare?

7. Did Paul have any grounds on which to boast (10:13–18)?
  
8. What great concern did Paul express in 2 Corinthians 11:1–4?
  
9. How did Paul compare to the other apostles (11:5)?
  
10. How did Paul “rob other churches” (11:8)?
  
11. Who supplied the needs of Paul while he was laboring at Corinth (11:9)?
  
12. How could Satan transform himself “into an angel of light” (11:14)?
  
13. Why would Paul want the brethren at Corinth to receive him “as a fool” (11:16–21)?
  
14. How did Paul compare with his detractors (11:22–23)?
  
15. What is the significance of the phrase, “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one” (11:24)?

16. In addition to all of the physical perils Paul had to endure, what other burden was upon him daily (11:28)?
  
17. What event is described in 2 Corinthians 11:32–33?
  
18. Who is Paul discussing in 2 Corinthians 12:2–4?
  
19. What is the “third heaven” (12:2)? Where are the other two?
  
20. Who gave Paul his “thorn in the flesh” (12:7)? Why was this “thorn” given? What was it?
  
21. What did Paul ask the Lord to do about the “thorn” (12:8)? What did the Lord actually do (12:9)? Did the Lord answer Paul’s prayer?
  
22. Explain the phrase, “For when I am weak, then I am strong” (12:10).
  
23. What are “the signs of an apostle” (12:12)?

## **VII. PREPARATION FOR VISIT (12:14–13:10)**

1. What was Paul seeking in 2 Corinthians 12:14?
2. What did Paul “fear” (12:20–21)?
3. What were the Corinthians seeking (13:3)? Why?
4. How was Christ “crucified in weakness” (13:4)?
5. Why did Paul tell the Corinthians to “examine” themselves (13:5)?
6. Why would some think of Paul as “disqualified” (13:7)?
7. Why was Paul glad when he was “weak” but the Corinthians were “strong” (13:9)?

## VIII. CONCLUDING SALUTATION (13:11–14)

1. How is one “complete” (13:11)?
2. What blessing is attached to those who “live in peace” (13:11)?
3. What is the “holy kiss” (13:12)? Is this a command for us today?
4. What is the “communion of the Holy Spirit” (13:14)?



# Photographs From Corinth



*City Streets and Acrocorinth*



*Sacred Fountain in Agora*



*Ex Votos from Sanctuary of Asklepios*



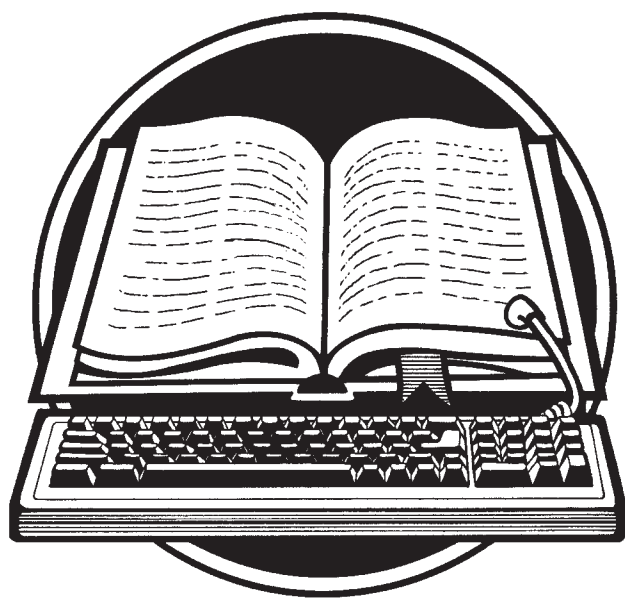
*Ferrell Jenkins at the Erastus Inscription*



*Ferrell Jenkins at Bema Judgment Seat*



*Gene Taylor before the Bema*



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