



2CORINTHIANS
Chapters 1-2
July 15, 2009

Four Letters To Corinth?

A. Paul Founded The Church

1. The Previous letter (1 Cor 5:9)

(Household of Chloe visit Paul with a letter *from* Corinth)

2. 1Corinthians (1 Cor 7:1)

B. The Painful Visit

3. The Severe Letter (2 Cor 2:4; 7:8)

4. 2Corinthians

C. Third Visit

Chapter 1

- 1 **Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia** - Timothy had grown up in Lystra, a city in the province of Galatia which Paul visited on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:8-21). There, he met Timothy's mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). On his second visit to Lystra, Paul asked Timothy to travel with him (Acts 16:1-5).
- 3 **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort** - Comfort is used as a *verb* 18X; *noun* 11X in this letter. It is the Greek word *paraklesis*, which means called alongside to help. Paul considers the Father a Paraclete (*paraklesis* is the Greek word in 1 Corinthian 1:3). The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete (John 14:16, 26; 15:26, 16:7) and God the Son is our Paraclete (1 John 2:1; Hebrews 2:18, Luke 2:25). Cf. Psalm 46:1-3.
- 8 **We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia** - Five suggestions for this hardship: (1) Fighting with "wild beasts" in Ephesus (1 Corinthians 15:32). (2) Suffering 39 stripes after being brought before a Jewish court (2 Corinthians 11:24). (3) The riot at Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41). (4) A particular persecution shortly before he left for Troas (Acts 20:19; 1 Corinthians 16:9). (5) A recurring physical malady.
- 9 **Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead** – Cf. Phil 3:10
- 10 **He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us** – Cf. Dan 3:16-17.

- 11 **as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many** – Paul asks for prayers 7x: Rom 15:30-32; Eph 6:18-19; Phil 1:19; Col 4:3; 1 Thess 5:25; 2 Thess 3:1; Phil 22.
- 17 **When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?** – Paul wasn't fickle saying "Yes" but meaning "No".
- 20 **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.** - Jesus is the proof that God's promises are true!
"We might never have had this precious verse if Paul had not been so ill-treated by these men of Corinth. They did him great wrong, and caused him much sorrow of heart . . . yet you see how the evil was overruled by God for good, and through their unsavoury gossip and slander this sweet sentence was pressed out of Paul." (Spurgeon)
- 21 **Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come** – Cf. Rom 8:9; Eph 1:13; 4:30; Phil 1:6.

Chapter 2

- 1 **So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you** – Speaking of his previous painful visit full of confrontation.
- 9 **The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything** - They were obedient in disciplining the man. But now, they needed to be obedient forgiving the man. Cf. Luke 17:3-4.
- 11 **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes** - The word "outwit" (is the Greek word *pleonekteo*) is used in four other verses in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 7:2, 12:17-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:6) and carries the idea of cheating someone out of something that belongs to them. This is spiritual not physical; Cf. James 4:7; Ephesians 6:12-13
- 14 **But 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** - In a Roman *triumphal procession*, a Roman general would drive his captives and the spoils of war before him down the main thoroughfare of Rome. He would be greeted by the loud cheers of Romans citizens, and a cloud of incense would be burned for the gods as they paraded to the temple of Jupiter. - *Life Application Bible Commentary: 1 & 2 Corinthians* Copyright © 1999 by The Livingstone Corporation.
Since some of the conquered foes were led in the triumphal procession to their death, the smell of the incense was the smell of death. But to those who were spared, it was the smell of life. So the sweet fragrance of the gospel that the Christians brought to all was the smell of death to those who did not believe and the aroma of life to those who did. - *New Commentary On The Whole Bible*