

2 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 1

(Introduction to the Book)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Paul arrives in Macedonia in A.D. 57 (Acts 20:2)
1. Apparently Paul sent Titus to the Corinthians with the informative, but rather bold letter of rebuke with instructions to report back at TROAS. About the time of Pentecost, Paul journeyed to nearby Troas anxious no doubt to hear of the affect that his letter had on the brethren. He arrived only to have his anxiety heightened when Titus was not found (2 Cor. 2:13). He then proceeded to MACEDONIA where he met TIMOTHY (2 Cor. 1:1) and TITUS who informed him of the situation in Corinth (2 Cor. 7:6, 13). It is here in Macedonia (maybe in PHILIPPI) where Paul writes the letter we know as Second Corinthians, with the anticipation of shortly coming to Corinth (2 Cor. 9:4, 12:21, 13:10).

- B. **THEME:** Paul must defend his character and apostleship for the sake of the Gospel.

C. FEATURES OF THE BOOK:

1. Expressions of “glorying” or “boasting” prevalent (5:12 10:17; 11:18-30; 12:1-5)
2. Paul’s defense of his character is reoccurring (1:17; 3:1-2; 10:2; 11:12-15)
3. Paul bears his deep feelings more in this letter unlike any other epistle penned by him (6:11-13 7:2-4; 11:2; 12:14-15).
4. Paul learns through difficult circumstances that the Father of mercies is the Father of comfort, and that God’s strength is made perfect in His servant’s weakness (2 Cor. 1:3; 4:7; 12:0-10)
5. The Gospel is more glorious than the Law of Moses (2 Cor. 3)
6. Exhortation given to the saints to fulfill their benevolent plans (2 Cor. 8:11-15).

D. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Paul’s Salutation With Praise For Comfort (1:1-14)
- II. Paul’s change of Plans (1:15-2:13)
- III. Paul’s Estimation Of His Ministry (2:14-4:12)
- IV. Paul’s Walk of Faith (4:13-5:10)
- V. Paul’s Plea of Reconciliation (5:11-7:16)
- VI. Paul’s Exhortation of Fulfilling Benevolent Plans (8:1-9:15)
- VII. Paul’s Defense Of His Apostleship and Ministry (10:1-13:14)