

## 2 Corinthians

<b>The Corinthian Chronicles Review</b>	<p>(1) <b>First Letter:</b> Referenced in 1 Cor 5:9: "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people." That letter is lost.</p> <p>(2) <b>Second Letter:</b> Is 1 Corinthians</p> <p>(3) <b>Third Letter:</b> Severe letter Paul mentions in 2 Cor 2:3-4: "I wrote to you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears."</p> <p>(4) <b>Fourth Letter:</b> 2 Corinthians</p>
<b>A Personal Plea</b>	2 Corinthians is a vulnerable letter. It contains numerous personal comments from Paul about the persecution he had suffered for the sake of Christ as well as the mysterious thorn in the flesh that kept him reliant on God. The reason Paul gets personal in this letter is because the church was struggling, and he wanted to preserve the unity of the church.
<b>Difference Between 1 Cor and 2 Cor</b>	First Corinthians is a letter of correction. Second Corinthians is a letter about Paul's personal relationship with them. First Corinthians is Paul's way of applying the Gospel to the lives of the Corinthians. Second Corinthians is one of personal testimony. It's a testimony of strength in the midst of weakness
<b>Purpose</b>	Paul's personal defense of his apostleship and message (both which had been under attack in Corinth).
<b>Theme in a Phrase</b>	<u>Strength in Weakness.</u> Throughout the letter, Paul turns upside down our natural expectation of the way life works. Contrary to the way the world works and our heart's function, God takes what is low, despised, and weak to accomplish his purposes.
<b>Key Verses</b>	<p>"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (3:18)</p> <p>"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (5:17)</p>
<b>Basic Structure</b>	<p>(1) Paul, Corinth, and the Past (chs 1-7)</p> <p>(2) Paul, Corinth, and the Present (chs 8-9)</p> <p>(3) Paul's Defense of His Ministry (10-13) ***Because it was severely under attack</p>

<b>Paul, Corinth, and the Past (chs 1:7)</b>	
<b>The Suffering Was For Your Comfort</b>	<i><sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup> If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup> And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort (1:3-7)</i>
<b>My Ministry Was a New Covenant</b>	<i><sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. (4:5-12)</i>
<b>I Persevered and Demonstrated Gave You Love. But You Withheld Yours</b>	<i><sup>3</sup> We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as</i>

	<i>unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. <sup>11</sup> We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. <sup>12</sup> We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. <sup>13</sup> As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.</i>
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<b>Paul, Corinth, and the Present (chs 8-9)</b>	
<b>Giving in Macedonia</b>	<i>And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you<sup>[a]</sup>—see that you also excel in this grace of giving (8:1-7)</i>
<b>The Charge for the Corinthians to Follow the Macedonian Example</b>	<i><sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (9:6-8)</i>

<b>Paul, Corinth, and the Future (chs 10-13)</b>	
<b>When the Message Was Attacked</b>	<i><sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (10:3-4)</i>
<b>When The Messenger Was Attacked.</b>	<i>Here Paul contrasts his life with that of the false apostles who showed up in Corinth. They peddled the Word of God for prophet (2:17), but here is what happened to me: <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.<sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches (11:24-28)</i>
<b>When My Weaknesses Were Exposed</b>	<i><sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (12:8-10)</i>
<b>Therefore, Be Weak So That You Can Be Strong</b>	<i><sup>4</sup> For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. <sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? (13:4-5)</i>