

## The Book of 2 Corinthians

- I. CONSOLATION (2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-7).
  - A. The person of consolation and comfort (1:3).
  - B. The purpose of consolation and comfort (1:4-5).
  - C. The pattern of consolation and comfort (1:6).
  
- II. EXPLANATION (1:8--2:13).
  - A. Concerning Paul's travails in Asia (1:8-14).
  - B. Concerning Paul's trip to Macedonia (1:15-24; 2:1, 12-13).
    - 1. What he planned to do (1:15-16). He intended to visit the Corinthian church on the way back to Judea.
    - 2. Why he did not do this (1:23; 2:1). He realized the carnal church would not be receptive to his ministry at that time.
    - 3. Where he finally did go (Troas, Macedonia) (2:12-13).
  - C. Concerning Paul's tears in Ephesus (2:2-11).
    - 1. In the past, the Corinthian church had refused to rebuke an unrepentant believer. (See 1 Cor. 5.)
    - 2. Now the Corinthian church had refused to restore the repentant believer (2:6-8, 11).
  
- III. CHARACTERIZATION (2:14--6:18).

Paul here lists fifteen desired characteristics of the gospel ministry.

  - A. It is a triumphant one (2:14-16).
  - B. It is a sincere one (2:17).
  - C. It is divinely approved (3:1-3). Unlike his enemies the Judaizers, Paul needed no letters of recommendation from finite men.
    - 1. The nature of his letters (3:2).
    - 2. The author of his letters--the Holy Spirit (3:3).
  - D. It is a dependent one (3:4-5).
  - E. It is a superior one (3:6-18). The apostle now contrasts the gospel of grace with the Law of Moses.
    - 1. Its priests are superior (3:6).
    - 2. Its program is superior (3:7-13). The glory of grace will never fade away, as did the glory of the law. (See Ex. 34:29-35).
    - 3. Its person is superior (3:17).
    - 4. Its purpose is superior (3:14-18).
      - a. Concerning the Israel of God. To remove the veil. That is, to take away the unbelief from their heads (3:15-16).
      - b. Concerning the child of God. To renew the vision. That is, to transform believers into the image of Christ (3:18).
  - F. It is an open one (4:2).
  - G. It is a satanically opposed one (4:3-4).
  - H. It is a Christ-honoring one (4:5-7).
    - 1. It stresses who Christ is (4:5).
    - 2. It stresses what Christ has done (4:6).
    - 3. It stresses why Christ uses us (4:7).
  - I. It is a suffering one (4:8-18).
    - 1. The nature of this suffering (4:8-16).
      - a. Troubled on every side (4:8).
      - b. Perplexed (4:8).
      - c. Persecuted (4:9).
      - d. Cast down (4:9).
      - e. Perishing outer man (4:16).
    - 2. The victory through this suffering (4:8-16).
      - a. Troubled, yet not crushed (4:8).
      - b. Perplexed, but not in despair (4:8).
      - c. Persecuted, but not forsaken (4:9).
      - d. Struck down, but not destroyed (4:9).
      - e. Perishing outer man, but renewed inner man (4:16).
    - 3. The results from this suffering.
      - a. Immediate blessings.
        - (1) The believer is sanctified (4:10).
        - (2) The Savior is glorified (4:15).
      - b. Future blessings.

- (1) The assurance of our bodily resurrection (4:14).
  - (2) The assurance of our bountiful reward (4:17-18).
- J. It is a confident one (5:1-9).
- 1. The basis of our confidence (5:8).
  - 2. The vehicle of our confidence (5:7).
  - 3. The objects of our confidence.
    - a. To please our heavenly Father down here (5:8-9).
    - b. To receive our heavenly frame up there (5:1).
- K. It is a compelling one (5:10-17). Five factors which caused Paul to work night and day:
- 1. The judgment of saints (5:10).
  - 2. The need of sinners (5:14).
  - 3. The terror of the Lord (5:11).
  - 4. The love of Christ (5:14).
  - 5. The power of the gospel (5:17, 21).
- L. It is a representative one (5:18-20).
- M. It is (to be) a blameless one (6:1-7).
- 1. Being offensive in nothing (6:3).
  - 2. Being approved in all things (6:4).
    - a. During the hardships imposed by circumstances (6:4).
    - b. During the hardships imposed by sinners (6:5).
    - c. During the hardships imposed by self-discipline (6:5).
- N. It is a paradoxical one (6:8-10).
- 1. "As deceivers, and yet true" (6:8).
  - 2. "As unknown, and yet well known" (6:9).
  - 3. "As dying and, behold, we live" (6:9).
  - 4. "As chastened, and not killed" (6:9).
  - 5. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (6:10).
  - 6. "As poor, yet making many rich" (6:10).
  - 7. "As having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (6:10).
- O. It is (to be) a separated one (6:11-18).
- 1. The nature of this separation (6:14).
  - 2. The logic of this separation.
    - a. What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness? (6:14).
    - b. What fellowship has light with darkness? (6:14).
    - c. What harmony has Christ with Belial? (6:15).
    - d. What has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (6:15).
    - e. What agreement has the temple of God with idols? (6:16).
  - 3. The reason for this separation (6:16).
  - 4. The blessings of this separation (6:16-18)

#### IV. GRATIFICATION (7:1-16).

Paul is profoundly thankful to God for two things.

- A. Upon seeing Titus. He was literally beside himself when Titus did not appear either in Troas or Macedonia as originally planned. (See 2 Cor. 2:12-13.)
- B. Upon hearing Titus (7:7-16). Titus, who had been sent by Paul to Corinth, now brings back a twofold report.
  - 1. The church had favorably received Paul's message. He had previously sent them a letter (probably 1 Corinthians) of rebuke, attempting to straighten out the mess in their congregation. It had worked according to Titus, and led to their repentance (7:7-10).
  - 2. The church had favorably received Paul's messenger (7:13, 15).

#### V. SOLICITATION (8:1--9:15).

- A. The examples of giving.
  - 1. The Macedonians (8:1-5).
    - a. They surrendered their bodies to the Lord (8:5).
    - b. They submitted their wills to the apostle (8:5).
    - c. They sacrificially shared their wealth with the saints (8:2-3).
  - 2. The Savior (8:9).
  - 3. The Father (9:15).
- B. The characteristics of giving.
  - 1. It is initiated by God himself (8:1; 9:8).
  - 2. It is to be done purposefully (9:7).
  - 3. It is to be voluntary (8:3-4, 8, 12; 9:7).

4. It is to be liberal (8:2-3; 9:6).
  5. It is to be proceeded by a giving of self to the Lord (8:5).
  6. It is to come from our joy in Christ (8:2; 9:7).
  7. It is to be based on what we have (8:12).
  8. It is related to one of the spiritual gifts (8:7).
  9. It is therefore to be regarded as a ministry (9:1, 12).
- C. The results of giving.
1. It serves as an example for others (9:2).
  2. It shows our love for God (8:8, 24).
  3. It guarantees our own spiritual growth (9:10).
  4. It assures us our own needs will be provided (9:10-11).
  5. It results in God giving us more than we might in turn give back more (9:8, 10).
  6. It provides for the needs of deserving saints (9:12).
  7. It results in God receiving glory from those needy saints who have been ministered to (9:12-13).
  8. It enriches the giver as he is prayed for by the saints he has helped (9:14).

## VI. VINDICATION (ch. 10-13).

Paul writes these chapters to defend his name and ministry. Both were being undermined by some envious Judaizers who had probably come to Corinth from Jerusalem to stir up trouble. In his defense he lists a fivefold superiority of his divinely given ministry as contrasted to the false Judaizers

- A. His methods were superior.
  1. He did not use a fleshly system (10:3-5).
  2. He did not use a false standard (10:12, 17-18).
- B. His mission field was superior (10:16).
- C. His motives were superior. Especially was this true concerning the church. Paul was the concerned shepherd while his enemies were cruel hirelings!
  1. His jealousy over the church (11:2).
  2. His fear for the church (11:3).
  3. His unselfish service to the church. Even though he was an apostle, Paul functioned as a servant among them (11:5, 7).
    - a. He gave much to them (11:6-8).
    - b. He took nothing from them (11:7-9).
  4. His warning to the church.
    - a. Who their enemies were (11:13).
    - b. Where they came from (11:14).
    - c. What they did (11:16-20).
  5. His sufferings for the church (11:23-33). (See Acts 9:26.)
    - a. Backbreaking labor (11:23, 27).
    - b. Beatings.
      - (1) Beaten with thirty-nine lashes on five occasions (11:24).
      - (2) Beaten with rods on three occasions (11:25).
    - c. One stoning (11:25).
    - d. Three shipwrecks (11:25). During one of these he was afloat a night and a day on the open sea.
    - e. Wearisome travels (11:26).
    - f. Constant dangers (11:26).
      - (1) From swollen rivers.
      - (2) From robbers.
      - (3) From his own countrymen.
      - (4) From Gentiles.
      - (5) From false brethren.
    - g. Narrow escapes (11:32-33).
    - h. Physical deprivations.
      - (1) Lack of food and water (11:27).
      - (2) Lack of warm clothing (11:27).
      - (3) Lack of proper rest (11:27).
    - i. The daily pressure of caring for his local churches (11:28).
- D. His miracles were superior.
  1. Paul's supernatural sight (12:1-4).
  2. Paul's supernatural strength (12:7-10).
  3. Paul's supernatural signs (12:12).
- E. His future meeting would be superior. His enemies had met with the Corinthians, but only to confuse and

corrupt. His planned meeting would be different (13:1).

1. The spirit he would bring with him when he came (12:14).
2. The spirit he would expect from them when he came (13:5, 11-14).