

Bible Reading Notes  
**2 Corinthians**

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## 2 Corinthians 1

2 Corinthians is actually the fourth letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians. It was written about two years after 1 Corinthians (2:4).

**1:3-9 – comfort** – Paul uses the term 8 times. The Lord allows affliction in order to prepare us for future ministry (v. 4) and to teach us to rely upon God more (v. 9).

**1:12-2:4** – The Corinthians have accused Paul of going back on his word in not coming to them as he had said he would in 1 Corinthians 16:5-6. He is explaining why he did not do as he had hoped.

## 2 Corinthians 2

**2:1 – painful visit** – Paul had gone to Corinth for a short visit to rebuke them. He has determined not to make another painful visit for the sake of their and his own joy.

**2:4 – wrote to you** – The description of the letter does not match 1 Corinthians. Paul not only had a painful visit but also wrote a painful letter to the Corinthians. We do not have a copy of this letter.

**2:5-11** – Commentators are split over the identity of the man. He could be the man of 1 Corinthians 5 that Paul ordered to be excommunicated. Or, more likely, he was a man who sinned directly against Paul. In either case, the man has responded to discipline and now needs to be restored.

**2:17** – Paul is contrasting himself and Timothy with the false teachers that some of the Corinthians are following.

## 2 Corinthians 3

2 Corinthians 3 continues Paul's defense of his apostleship and ministry.

**3:4-18** – Paul compares the old covenant with his new covenant ministry.

**3:9** – **ministry of condemnation** – Because the law could only condemn; it could not save.

**3:11** – **brought to an end** – The Mosaic covenant was never designed to last. It was in place only until Christ came to fulfill it.

**3:18** – **from one degree of glory to another** – This is a reference to progressive sanctification.

## 2 Corinthians 4

**4:4,6** – All unbelievers are in spiritual blindness until the Lord gives them sight.

**4:7ff** – There were some in Corinth who believed that Paul was not a true apostle because he was experiencing trials and suffering. Paul explains that this is part of living for Christ.

**4:17** – God uses affliction in our lives to prepare us for glory.

## 2 Corinthians 5

**5:1** – **tent...house** – The tent is our physical body while the house is our permanent resurrection body.

**5:4** – **unclothed** – He is referring to the intermediate state when our souls are with Christ prior to the resurrection. Better in Paul's mind is to be "further clothed" in our resurrection bodies.

**5:10** – This universal judgment will take place at the time of the resurrection.

**5:14** – **love of Christ** – Christ’s love for us should compel us to share the gospel with others.

**5:20** – **ambassadors** – The job of the ambassador is to represent his sovereign and speak his words, in our case, the gospel.

## **2 Corinthians 6**

**6:2** – This quote comes from Isaiah 49:8.

**6:3-13** – Paul has endured these things to bring the gospel to the Corinthians.

**6:16-18** – Paul uses a series of Old Testament quotations to show how a believer, who is the temple of God, cannot be yoked together with an unbeliever.

## **2 Corinthians 7**

**7:2** – Chapter 7 lays out Paul’s desire to be reconciled to the Corinthians.

**7:5** – Paul picks up from 2:13 and Titus’ report on his visit to Corinth.

## **2 Corinthians 8**

**8-9** – These two chapters take up the issue of the collection for the saints in Jerusalem that Paul referred to at the end of 1 Corinthians.

**8:1** – **Macedonia** – Unlike Corinth, Macedonia was one of the poorest parts of the empire, and yet they gave much. The Macedonian churches included Philippi, Berea, and Thessalonica.

**8:15** – This is a reference to the gathering of manna in Exodus 16.

**8:19 – brother** – We do not know for certain who this is.

## **2 Corinthians 9**

**9:7** – Our giving is to be done in obedience to God but is also to be done with joy as we give from what the Lord has already supplied us.

**9:9** – From Psalm 112:9, which describes the man who fears the Lord.

## **2 Corinthians 10**

**10:4-5** – The battle is a spiritual one, and Paul uses spiritual weapons to defeat the enemy and his false teaching.

**10:10** – One of the Corinthians' complaints about Paul was that he was not very impressive in person compared to some of the false apostles that had come through Corinth.

**10:14-16** – Paul's ministry was to areas not yet reached with the gospel. He was called to Corinth and other areas that had never heard the gospel before.

## **2 Corinthians 11**

**11:5 – super-apostles** – These are the false apostles that the Corinthians had welcomed and believed were superior to Paul.

**11:7-9** – The Corinthians thought Paul was inferior to the other teachers because he did not charge them for his teaching, as the false teachers did.

**11:13-15** – Paul bluntly defines who these other teachers are that some of the Corinthians love as servants of Satan.

**11:23-29** – Paul lists the sufferings he has endured as a true apostle.

## **2 Corinthians 12**

**12:2 – a man** – This is a reference to Paul himself (v. 7). The super-apostles have been boasting about their spiritual experiences, and so Paul does as well, though with an ending of humility.

**12:7** – God used Satan’s evil intent for his purpose to keep Paul humble. Paul never defines what his thorn was.

**12:14ff** – You can feel Paul’s heartache as he desires to be restored to the Corinthians but fears they do not share the same desire.

## **2 Corinthians 13**

**13:1** – The principle comes from Deuteronomy 19:15. Paul is using it to warn some Corinthians who are making false charges against him.

**13:14** – In spite of all their disagreements, Paul is sure of their status in Christ and ends his letter with what we now call the apostolic blessing in the name of the triune God.

