

1 & 2 Corinthians

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure of 1 Corinthians

1 CORINTHIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

7

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

16

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



OVERVIEW

This epistle was written from Paul to the Corinthians. He had previously spent 18 months with the Corinthian Christians and they had been doing well at the time of his departure. After hearing of quarrelling and disagreement in the church, a disappointed Paul wrote to Corinth during his third missionary journey to correct the divisions and promote unity. Paul used the letter to present a model for how the church should handle the problem of sin amongst the members.



WRITTEN
55 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of
Grace



AUTHOR
Apostle Paul

Key Verse of 1 Corinthians

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Background of 1 Corinthians

The City of Corinth

A large city with an estimated population of 700,000

A trade city with two large harbors

A prosperous city protected by the Romans and hosting major events

A religious city with shrines and temples to many gods

The Apostle Paul and the Corinthians

Paul first travelled to Corinth during his second missionary journey.

Paul corresponded with the Corinthians at least three times.

Outline of 1 Corinthians

Divisions in the Church (Chapters 1-4)

Identifying the Problem (1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

Explaining the Solution (1 Corinthians 1:18-4:5)

Boast only in the Lord. (1:30-31)

Paul's humble approach to ministry (2:1-5)

Paul and Apollos serve Christ. (3:5-7)

Warning against pride (4:6-21)

Disorders in the Church (Chapters 5-6)

Moral Disorder (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

Legal Disorder (1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

Carnal Disorder (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

Difficulties in the Church (Chapters 7-16:9)

Domestic Difficulty (1 Corinthians 7:1-40)

Social Difficulty (1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1)

Worship Difficulty (1 Corinthians 11:2-34)

Practical Difficulty (1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40)

Doctrinal Difficulty (1 Corinthians 15:1-58)

Financial Difficulty (1 Corinthians 16:1-9)

Conclusion (1 Corinthians 16:10-24)

Summary & Structure of 2 Corinthians

2 CORINTHIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

8

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

13

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



OVERVIEW

Second Corinthians is actually the fourth letter Paul had written to the Corinthians, the first two having been lost. After three bad reports of their behavior, Paul finally had received a positive report of the church and wrote this letter as encouragement. Paul wrote to comfort those who suffered in the midst of affliction, and uses his biography as an example of honesty, hope, and devotion despite difficult circumstances.



WRITTEN
55-56 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of
Grace



AUTHOR
Apostle Paul

Key Verse of 2 Corinthians

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Background of 2 Corinthians

Introductory Notes

Paul composed this letter near the end of AD 56, possibly in the city of Philippi.

1 Corinthians takes the "roof" off the church while 2 Corinthians opens the heart of Paul.

Purpose of 2 Corinthians

To commend the church for disciplining the offender from 1 Corinthians 5, and to encourage them to forgive and receive him.

To explain why Paul changed his plans to visit them.

To encourage the church to share in the offering for the Jerusalem Christians.

To answer those in the church who questioned Paul's apostolic authority.

To prepare them for Paul's planned visit.

Outline of 2 Corinthians

Paul Explains His Ministry (Chapters 1-7)

Suffering and Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:1-11)

Paul's Integrity (2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11)

True and False Teachers (2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6)

New Covenant Ministry (2 Corinthians 3:7-6:2)

Living Holy Lives (2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1)

A Minister's Love (2 Corinthians 7:2-16)

Paul Encourages Their Generosity (Chapters 8-9)

Paul offers several clarifications within his challenge for generosity (2 Corinthians 8)

God's desire for His people is to give in light of what He has given us. (2 Corinthians 9)

Paul Enforces His Authority (Chapters 10-13)

Paul addresses several accusations against him in this section.

Accusation Number 1: His Manner "You pretend to be strong but are really weak."

Accusation Number 2: His Motives "You preach for what you can get out of it."

Accusation Number 3: His Merit "You are not really an apostle."

Accusation Number 4: His Mission "You will never come to see us."

Lessons/Applications

Ministry requires people to check their _____ at the door.

As long as churches have _____ they will have _____.

Growing in holiness is a _____.