

## **2 Corinthians**

### **Lesson #1, Overview**

First, read through the book 2 times before beginning this study.

Next, using only 2 Corinthians from your Bible try to answer the following questions. Cite Scripture references to show where you found your answers. At this point you won't be able to answer every question using only your Bible. The good news is you'll have an opportunity later in the study to complete your answers using other study tools.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was it written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What was the author's purpose in writing the book?
6. What general subjects are covered in the book?
7. What are some of the key words in the book?

8. What is the general atmosphere or tone of the book?

Now you can consult your Study Bible notes, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, or commentaries to complete your answers to the questions above.

9. At this point in your study of 2 Corinthians what questions do you have?
10. After previewing 2 Corinthians what do you think you are going to learn from this study in the coming months?

Eager Beaver: Read about Paul's missionary journey's beginning in Acts 13. See if you can keep track of his journeys as you read. For our purposes, remember that Corinth is in Achaia/Greece; Phillippi is in Macedonia, while Ephesus is in Asia.

Eager Beaver: As you read through the following time line of events, look up each of the verse references to gain a better understanding the background of 2 Corinthians.

1. During his second missionary journey Paul establishes the church at Corinth. Acts 18:1-7.
2. Paul receives a letter from Corinth asking questions. He writes 1 Corinthians.
3. Paul stays at Ephesus, but sends Timothy and Erastus ahead. Acts 19:21-22; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11.
4. Paul hears bad news about the church. He has a "sorrowful or painful" visit in Corinth. 2 Corinthians 2:1.
5. Paul returns to Ephesus and writes a severe letter to the Corinthians. This letter is not recorded in the Bible, but came between 1 and 2 Corinthians. 2 Corinthians 2:4, 9.

6. After the riot at Ephesus, Paul goes to Troas to wait for Titus. Titus doesn't show as planned, so Paul leaves to go find him in Macedonia. 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13.
7. By going to Macedonia, Paul breaks an agreement he made to visit the Corinthians again, but he doesn't want to visit them until he hears how they received his letter. 2 Corinthians 1:15-17, 23.
8. Paul encourages the churches and collects money for the Jerusalem church. Acts 20:1, 2 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.
9. Paul and Titus finally meet. Titus shares the good news about the Corinthians. 2 Corinthians 7:5-16.
10. Paul writes 2 Corinthians. He reminds them to complete their giving to the Jerusalem church and that he will come to visit them soon. 2 Corinthians 8:10-24.
11. Paul stays in Achaia 3 months. Acts 20:3.