

Lesson #30
Book Overview
1 Corinthians.

1. Paul challenges the believers to examine every aspect of their lives through the lens of the Gospel. Paul came to the strategic city of Corinth as a missionary. He was for 1.5 years. Many people believed and formed a Church community. (Acts 18)
 - a. Paul moves on eventually but then receives negative reports about Corinth Church. The Church had many problems. That is why Paul wrote this letter.
 - i. Letter has 5 main parts corresponding to the issues Church was facing.
 1. For example, sex, food, the gathering and resurrection.
 - ii. In each section he describes the problem then responds to problems with some aspect of life through the lens of the gospel.
 - b. Problems
 - i. Divisions: Ch. 1-4
 1. People picking their favorite teachers and divided along those lines.
 2. Need to center only around Jesus.
 - ii. Sex: Ch. 5-7
 1. Church didn't care that some slept with Temple prostitutes etc.
 2. They were claiming freedom in Christ.
 3. Integrity in sexual relationships is one way we follow Jesus.
 4. What we do with our bodies matters a lot!
 - iii. Food: Ch. 8-10
 1. The issue is meat sacrificed in local temples to the idols and Roman gods.
 2. Paul says our allegiance is ONLY to God!
 3. Don't eat that meat because others think you're worshipping both Jesus and other gods and is OK.
 4. But if others not around, just eat whatever. Won't cause a negative witness to those Free in Christ.

iv. Worship Gatherings: Ch. 11-14.

1. Chaotic meetings. Confusing to unbelievers.
2. Church is like the human body. Different parts but work together to build the Church.
3. Love one another and serve one another.

v. Jesus' resurrection: Ch. 15

1. Some were saying that Jesus' resurrection was not important.
2. Paul reacts by saying that the resurrection was critical to the gospel.
3. Hundreds of eye witnesses to the resurrection.
4. 1 Cor. 15:14 – If Christ has not been raised, then the gospel is useless!

Book Overview

2 Corinthians

Though it's 2nd Corinthians, it's really not just a second letter. He wrote others that are now lost. Some in the Church didn't like what he wrote in the first letter and rejected it. So in this letter he mentions that he visited after the first letter but it was a "painful" visit.

After that visit, he wrote a 2nd letter, written with anguish and tears.

Second letter lost but we know some in the Church wanted to reconcile so he wrote THIS letter in response.

This letter has 3 main sections. Each addressed a main topic. 1. Paul's reconciliation with Corinthians. Ch. 1-7, 2. Forgotten generosity. Ch. 8-9 and, 3. Final challenge to those that still reject him. Ch. 10-13.

1. Ch. 1-7 – Reconciliation

a. Paul forgives and tell them he wants an honest and open relationship.

i. Why did they reject Paul in first place?

1. He was poor, made living through manual labor, was constantly persecuted and suffering, homeless and unimpressive speaker.
2. Because they were impressed by other leaders, he points out that their value system was distorted and not like Christ.
3. True Christian leadership is not about status or emotion.
4. He depicts himself as slaves to King Jesus.
5. Paul says he doesn't want to be impressive but point others to Jesus.
6. They demand letters to prove his credentials.
 - a. Ridiculous! He says that the Corinth church are his credentials and proof in itself.
7. Holy Spirit is proof!
 - a. New covenant in Christ transforming them.
8. Cross rejects Corinthian's understanding of glory and success.
9. Jesus exalted through SUFFERING AND DEATH!

ii. The Cross points to new way of life and values.

1. Like Christ, Paul suffered, but to serve just like Jesus himself.

iii. Forgotten generosity. – Ch. 8-9

1. Church in Jerusalem were in poverty due to a famine. Paul was raising money for that.
2. Paul wanted the Gentile Church to help by sending money, all as a sign of unity.
3. Due to conflict with Paul, the Church at Corinth didn't save anything to help.
4. Their lack of giving was evidence that they weren't being transformed by the gospel.
5. Christ was generous to them, so they should be generous to others.

iv. Addresses "Super Apostles" – Ch. 10-13.

1. They come to Corinth promoting themselves and talking down Paul as being a poor leader.
2. Paul has stronger credentials than all of them!
3. He says comparing credentials really doesn't matter. Instead he'll brag about how flawed he is because in that he discovers love and grace of Jesus.

v. In the end (Ch. 13) he tells Corinthians that they need to check themselves! (2 Corinthians 13:5)