

II Corinthians

BACKGROUND: Since Paul's first letter the church at Corinth had been swayed by false teachers who stirred the people against Paul. Paul sent Titus to Corinth to deal with this and when he returned Paul rejoiced that the Corinthians had a change of heart. Paul wrote this letter to express his thanksgiving for the repentant majority and to appeal to the minority to accept his authority. In II Corinthians Paul defends his conduct, his character and his calling. The letter was probably written in late 55 or early 56 A.D.

An intensely personal letter revealing much about the Apostle Paul and his "pastor's heart," (it could be called a letter of comfort), it also contains many important theological themes about all three persons of the Trinity. In it Satan is identified as "the god of this age" (4:4), the the great deceiver (11:14) and the leader of human and angelic deceivers (11:15). The nature of the New Covenant (3:6-16) receives its fullest treatment outside of the book of Hebrews. The end times include the glorification of believers (4:16-5:8) and the judgment of believers (5:10). God's sovereignty in salvation is the theme of 5:14-21. Man's response (repentance) is found in 7:9-10. The Bible's most concise description of the substitutionary atonement is found in 5:21.

A very brief outline of the book:

- I. Explanation of Paul's ministry (1:1-7:16).
- II. Collection for the saints (8:1-9:15).
- III. Vindication of Paul's Apostleship (10:1-13:14).

HELPS: Before turning to these, read prayerfully the Word of God, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you and instruct you.

If you don't own a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, or reference search, don't worry. They are all available on the link below.

http://www.preceptaustin.org/2_corinthians_commentaries_3.htm