

SECOND CORINTHIANS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Of city from First Corinthian Lesson.
 - B. Occasion of Second Epistle.
 - 1. First letter had been written from Ephesus in 56 or 57 A.D.
 - 2. His plan had been to continue in Ephesus until Pentecost, and then to go to Corinth (I Cor. 16:8,9).
 - 3. Paul had sent Titus to Corinth, and had instructed him to return and meet at Troas.
 - 4. But the stir at Ephesus, caused by Demetrius, forced Paul to leave immediately from Ephesus. (Acts 20).
 - 5. Titus had not yet reached Troas so Paul after a brief stay went on into Macedonia. Still did not meet Titus (II Cor. 2;12-13; 7:5).
 - 6. Finally met Titus, possible at Berea, and the Second Corinthians letter was written from there.
 - C. Three Parties Addressed: and you need to keep this in mind as you read the epistle.
 - 1. The Loyal party.
 - 2. The License party
 - 3. The Judaizers.
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CHARACTER OF EPISTLE

- 1. In many ways unlike any of the other writings of Paul.
 - 2. It is neither doctrinal nor practical.
 - 3. It is INTENSELY personal. It is the most auto biographical of all the New Testament books.
 - 4. Paul found himself bound by necessity to do a thing that he would never have considered doing under normal or reasonable circumstances. That is, to write of himself.
 - 5. Except for Second Corinthians and the circumstances that prevailed, the saints could never know of the great high marks of Paul's life.
 - 6. Once can ascertain the charges that the opposition made against Paul by observing the defenses which he so reluctantly made for himself.
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CHARGES AGAINST PAUL

- A. Showed cowardice in not coming to Corinth as he said he would do. (II Cor. 1;15-17).
- B. Paul showed insincerity and was guilty of vacillation by have changed his mind. (II Cor. 1:18,19) Paul called God as his witness.
- C. Paul was a tyrant. (L:23,24) Paul shows just the opposite.
- D. Paul's letters were weighty and terrifying, but his physical appearance was mean and uninviting. ((10:10).
- E. Paul had great Boldness, but that his speech was rude and simple. (11:6).
- F. Paul was consciously inferior, and for this reason he abstained from taking support from Corinth for his labor. (11:7,8).
- G. Paul's descent as a true Hebrew was a matter to be questioned. (11:22,23).
- H. Paul's alleged escape from Damascus was preposterous. (11:31-33)
- I. Paul's claims of revelations raised question of his sanity (12;1-4).
- J. Paul's want of commendatory letters from Jerusalem placed him under a cloud of suspicion. (3:1; 10:8,9; 12:11-13).
- K. Charged Paul with underhanded guile and fraudulent duplicity (12;14-18).
- L. That Paul threatened to do that which he would not dare to do (13;1,2).
- M. Paul could not be on par with the apostles in Jerusalem (13:2,3; 12:11,12)

NATURE OF EPISTLE

- 1. THUS Paul wrote Second Corinthians against his will.
 - 2. The very thought of making a personal defense of himself was galling and out of character.
 - 3. But had he failed to clear himself of the detestable innuendoes and flagrant charges, his influence and work for the cause of Christ would be hampered.
 - 4. It is characterized by vehement, though suppressed, indignation; but it is also characterized by suppressed commanding authority. The epistle is the most moving, most tense, most personal, the most disorganized, the most autobiographical, the most defensive, threatening, and most difficult to follow of all of Paul's epistles.
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THE BASIC MESSAGE

- A. MINISTRATION OF Righteousness vs. Ministration of Death.
 - 1. II cor. 3.
 - 2. Upon stones or upon the heart?
 - B. GOSPEL IN EARTHEN VESSELS (chap. 4).
 - 1. His own conversion.
 - C. THINGS HONEST (chap. 8) Every Christian provide for things honest in sight of all men.
 - D. THE GRACE OF THE MACEDONIAN CHURCHES.
 - 1. Gave themselves.
 - 2. But this I say, He that soweth sparingly...bountifully....shall reap.
 - E. STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT (chap. 10).
 - 1. When a person says "I am as good as brother Jones," he is being very unwise.
 - 2. What if he is as good as brother Jones? The true standard of measurement...the only true standard of measure...IS THE WORD OF GOD.
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Recorded for us Today...

- A. THE UNEQUAL YOKE (chap. 6).
 - 1. What fellowship hath righteousness and iniquity.
 - 2. What communion has Light with Darkness.
 - 3. What concord hath Christ with Belial
 - 4. Or what portion hath a Believer with an Unbeliever?
 - 5. What agreement hath a temple of God with idols?\\
 - B. Christians cannot have fellowship with...serve both....be involved with both and still be pleasing to God!
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