

Through the Bible Course

**April 1948**

**2 Corinthians**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Key Word: Paul

Key Verse: 5:14, 15

Time: 57AD Fall

Occasion: After writing the first epistle to Corinth, Paul had sent Titus to try and help the church. He was fearful of the condition existing there. He left Ephesus and hoped to meet Titus at Troas but did not meet him until he had come to Macedonia. Paul had been attacked by the Judahizers. They accused him of being fearful when present, but brave when writing (10:10); that he was rude in speech (11:6); that he cared for them only for what he received (11:7, 12). Paul wrote to answer these personal accusations. In doing so he expresses various moods “anxiety, indignation, resentment, trust and love – all liked together in rapid succession.” He uses “consolation and rebuke, gentleness and severity, earnestness and irony.”

This book is very difficult to outline because Paul is writing of such personal things and does not follow a logical outline.

- I. 1:1-7 – He had been comforted of God that he might comfort them.
- II. 1:8 – 2:17 – His troubles.
  - 1. 1:8-11 – He had trouble in Asia.
  - 2. 1:12-34 – Yet he had confidence and rejoiced.
    - a. verses 12 -14 – Because of his consciousness of sincerity and they had accepted him in part.
    - b. verses 15 – 34 – Because he had testified to them in truth.
  - 3. 2:1-17 – Trying to determine whether to come to them at that time or not.
    - a. He decided to await the results of his first letter so that he would not have to come in sorrow.
    - b. verse 12 – when did not meet Titus in Troas he was further grieved
- III. 3:1-18 – He did not feel needed to command himself because they were his commendation.
  - 1. 3:1-5 – They were epistles of Christ.
  - 2. 3:6-18 – God made him minister of New Testament which had produced results in their life.
- IV. 4:1 – 5:13 – Since he has this ministry he faints not.

1. 4:1-6 – He handles word of God without deceit and so commends himself to man's conscience although some do not understand.
  2. 4:7-18 – This treasure of Gospel is in earthen vessels (men) therefore he suffers.
    - a. verse 17 – but this suffering produces glory
  3. 5:1-13 – In spite of present sufferings knows have eternal home and shall be with Christ.
- V. 5:14 – 6:18 – Exhortations and appeals to the church
1. 5:14-21 – We have been given ministry of reconciliation, and so knowing Christ as alive we serve Him in love.
  2. 6:1-10 – How we approve ourselves as ministers of God (4-10). List these.
  3. 6:11-18 – We should be separated from unrighteousness.
- VI. 7:1-16 – Paul rejoices over report Titus brought him when they met in Macedonia.  
 Note: This rejoicing was that they were made sorrowful to repentance (verses 10, 11)
- VII. Chapters 8 and 9 – The Matter of the Collection
1. 8:1-5 – The example of Macedonians
  2. 8:6-15 – Were exhorted to give because of what Christ had done for them.
  3. 8:16-24 – Those he sent were proven ministers to help them with Gospel and collection
  4. 9:1-15 – He urges them to have offering prepared.
    - a. verses 1-5 – because of their example
    - b. verses 6-15 – because by so doing could bring glory to God
- VIII. Chapters 10 through 13 – Paul's self defense and vindication
1. Chapter 10 – He answers the criticism that in presence he was base.
    - a. Verses 3, 4 – He does not accomplish things by the flesh but by obedience to Christ.
    - b. Verse 12 – He says not to compare self with self but with measure of Christ.
    - c. Verses 15-18 – He had accomplished much in them and beyond.
  2. Chapter 11 – He was zealous over them but not because of what he had or would receive from them.
    - a. Verses 1-15 – He had received nothing from them and he would not.
    - b. Verses 16-33 – He had more to boast of than others because of ancestry and proof of his service in sufferings.
  3. Chapter 12:1-14 – He glories
    - a. Verses 1-5 – In his heavenly vision
    - b. Verses 6-10 – In his infirmities which had worked to glory of God
    - c. Verses 11-13 – In what he had done among them
  4. Chapter 12:16-13:10 – He had planned to come unto them before but desired to come when he would not have to criticize.

Conclusion: 13:10-14