

## 2 CORINTHIANS: CONTINUED PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH

**A. Author:** Paul

**B. Background:** After Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, false teachers infiltrated the church and stirred up the people against Paul. He wrote them. In between 1 and 2 Corinthians, Paul visited Corinth and wrote "the painful letter" to the church in Corinth. He then wrote 2 Corinthians to respond to the false teachers' challenge against him.

**C. Theme:** Through suffering, pain, and hardship, Paul proved to have a Christ-like spirit in his relationship with the church.

**D. Outline:**

**1. INTRODUCTION (1:1-11)**

- a. The Greeting (1:1-2)
- b. Thanksgiving for Comfort in Affliction (1:3-11)

**2. DEFENSE OF PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP (1:12-7:16)**

- a. An Explanation of Altered Plans (1:12-2:4)
- b. Forgiveness for an Offending Brother (2:5-11)
- c. The Triumph of Christ in Christian Ministry (2:12-4:6)
- d. The Frailty of Ministers (4:7-5:10)
  - Vessels of Clay (4:7-15)
  - Unseen Glory (4:16-18)
  - Earthly Tent (5:1-10)
- e. The Message of Reconciliation (5:11-6:10)
- f. Paul's Appeal to the Corinthians (6:11-7:16)

**3. ENCOURAGEMENT TO GIVE (8:1-9:15)**

- a. Macedonians Gave in Spite of Poverty (8:1-3)
- b. Corinthians Should Consider Christ's Giving (8:9)
- c. We Receive in Proportion to Our Giving (9:6-7)
- d. Our Giving Expresses Thanks to God (9:15)

**4. PAUL'S BATTLE WITH FALSE APOSTLES (10:1-13:10)**

- a. Battles are Spiritual, not Carnal (10:3-6)
- b. Examine a Person's Doctrine (11:24-12:21)
- c. Examine a Person's Life (11:24-12:21)
  - Paul's Persecution for the Gospel (11:24-28)
  - Paul's Thorn in the Flesh (12:7-10)
  - Paul's Love for the Church (12:15-16)
  - Christ in Paul (13:4-5)

**5. CONCLUSION (13:11-14)**

**E. Real Life Lessons from II Corinthians**

1. We should trust others and then seek forgiveness from those who have offended us.
2. Ministers are not god and they make mistakes, but reconciliation with God is possible, and so is reconciliation with others.
3. We should give joyfully to God so that we can bless those who are ministering to us and those who are in need.
4. Spiritual battles are not with people but with principalities who oppose God and His kingdom.
5. We should examine a person's life and doctrine when choosing leadership for our church.