

# Introduction to II Corinthians

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 1:1-2.
- B. Life is full of trouble. (Job 14:1)
- C. Sometimes it feels as though God is not there, but God always intervenes. (Psalm 88)
- D. God will save His people. (Psalm 22, 31, 34, 39, 46, 54, 71, 81, 107)
- E. Paul writes II Corinthians from a context of trouble.
- F. Paul's greatest trouble was trying to deal with the churches such as the Corinthians.

## II. Paul describes his trouble five different ways, but his comfort is expressed ten times.

- A. He was comforted by the coming of Titus. (II Corinthians 7:6)
- B. Paul blesses God in Christian benediction in the midst of his afflictions.
- C. Paul is filled with joy and gratitude because of who his God is.

## III. 2 Corinthians is...

- A. A letter devoted to the personal life of a man.
- B. Paul telling the Corinthians what he is.
- C. A letter of personal testimony.
- D. A look at a man being strengthened for greater usefulness.
- E. A cross-section of a genuine Christian.
- F. A teacher by way of example.

## IV. Paul starts out positive despite the difficulty of the situation.

## V. Prologue.

- A. Paul saw himself as an apostle called by the will of God. (I Corinthians 15, Acts 26:15)
- B. Paul mentions Timothy who is a dominant person in his life in order to smooth over whatever residue was left from Timothy's recent visit. (Acts 16)

C. The letter was written to benefit all the churches throughout Achaia. (Romans 16:1, I Corinthians 15:16, Acts 16:34)

VI. Background.

- A. It is on the neck of the Peloponnesian Peninsula.
- B. Sailors would carry their boats around the peninsula because it was cheaper to travel this way.
- C. There were many pagan priests and prostitutes. The city became known for its wicked deeds.
- D. He wrote I Corinthians around 53-54 AD.
- E. There are two letters written to them, which we do not have. (I Corinthians 5:9)

**Application questions:**

1. What was unique about Paul's apostleship?

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2. What about the background of the Corinth might be helpful in understanding the challenges the church faced?

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3. What is unique about II Corinthians? Give examples if possible.

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