

Bible Training Institute

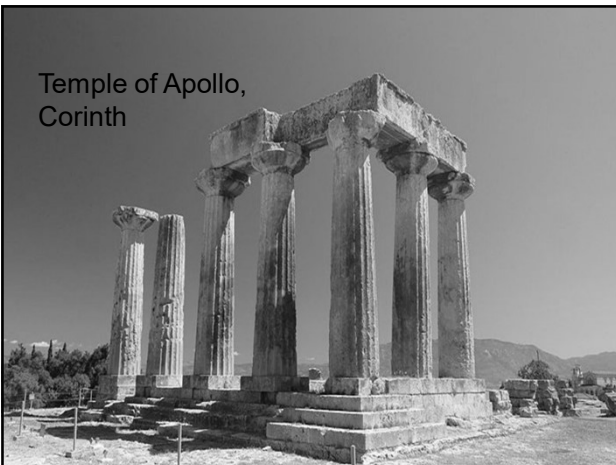
To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

1 and 2 Corinthians

2

Temple of Apollo,
Corinth



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Writing Note: proper notation

- a. In Paul's letter of 2 Corinthians... ["2" is for second]
- b. Second Corinthians begins with... ["Second" is spelled out to begin a sentence]

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Introduction

- Author—Apostle Paul
- Recipients—the Church in Corinth
 - 30% of Paul's NT material
 - Church completely made up of recent raw pagans
- City of Corinth:
 - Pop. 250,000--- "Little Rome"—very much a Roman city
 - The place where Paul's apostleship to the Gentiles could be tested and affirmed

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Paul's 18-month stay	Fall AD 50- Spring 52	Longest ministry stay so far
LETTER A — "Previous"	AD 55 (?)	1 Cor 5:9 - 11
Report and Letter	Spring 56	1 Cor 1:11; 7:1; 16:17 - 18
LETTER B —1 Cor	Spring 56	1 Cor 16: 3 - 9
"Painful Visit"	Spring 56	2 Cor 2:1; 12:14; 13:1 - 2
LETTER C -- "Sorrowful/Severe"	Spring 56	2 Cor 2:3 - 9; 7:8 - 12
Paul's anxious wait	Summer 56	2 Cor 2:12 - 13; 7:5; cf. 11:28
LETTER D --2 Cor	Summer/Fall 56	2 Cor 7:5
3 rd Visit	Winter 56/57	Writes Romans

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Introduction

- Three visits
- Four letters
- 1 and 2 Corinthians = 2nd and 4th letters
- Other letters not part of canon of Scripture

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Historical/Theological Themes (1st Corinthians)

- Call to Holiness (1:2, 30; 3:17; 6:1, 2, 11, 19; 7:14; 34; 14:33; 16:1, 5, 20)
 - Holy Spirit, human spirit, “spiritual/spiritually”
- Pride of Corinthians
 - Self-styled wisdom (1:17, 19, 20-22, 24-27, 30; 2:1, 4-7, 13; 3:10, 18-20)
 - Arrogance/Boasting (4:6, 18; 5:2; 8:1) (1:29, 31; 3:21; 4:7)
 - Over-assessment of their knowledge (1:5; 8:12; 3:16; 5:6; 6:2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19; 9:13, 24)

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Historical/Theological Themes (1st Corinthians)

- The “Body”—physical, church, Jesus’ body
- The Church
 - God’s Temple (3:16-17)
 - Body of Christ (12:12-31)
 - Divisions in the Corinthian Church (1:10-4:21, 11:18)

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Purpose/Structure—1 Corinthians

- **PURPOSE:** Paul applied Christian solutions to the spiritual problems at Corinth in his desire to see a holy Church result.
- **STRUCTURE:**
 - Divisions in the Church (1-4)
 - Disobedience in the Church (5-6)
 - Difficulties in the Church (7-16)

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Interpretive Issues—1 Corinthians

- “Tongues” in chpts 12 – 14
 - Angelic speech?
 - Liturgical, archaic, or rhythmic phrases?
 - Ecstatic speech?
 - Language of the heart released?
 - Human languages (see Acts 2)
- Silence of Women—1 Cor 14:33-36 “keep silent” vs 11:5 when a woman “prays or prophesies”--

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Key Passages—1 Corinthians

- 2:14—The natural man cannot discern spiritual things
- 3:1-3—Immature Corinthians only able to “drink milk” not “solid food”
- 5:1-5—Immorality rebuked
- 6:9-11—The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God; forgiveness: “such were some of you”
- 7:1-5—Your body is not your own in marriage
- 7:12-16—Marriage rules for the unequally yoked
- 11:23-34—Communion instructions
- 13:4-13—Love never fails; tongues cease; prophesy is done away

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Historical/Theological Themes (2nd Corinthians)

- The Attack against Paul
 - He was vascillating (1:17-18; 10:2-4)
 - He was dictatorial (1:24; 7:2)
 - He was uncredientialed (3:1; 10:13, 14)
 - His gospel was obscure (4:3; 6:2, 3)
 - He sought to destroy (7:2, 3; 10:8; 13:10) and cause pain (2:2, 4, 5; 7:8)
 - He was a coward (10:1, 10)
 - He did not maintain apostolic dignity (11:7)
 - He was not an 'original' apostle (11:5; 12:11)
 - He collected for himself (12:16-18)
 - He walked after the flesh (10:2)

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Historical/Theological Themes (2nd Corinthians)

- The Defense of Paul
- Paul's Characterizations of His Opponent(s)
 - False apostles (11:13; cf. 11:4)
 - Super-apostles (exaggeration) (11:5; 12:11)
- Paul's Afflictions/Weakness but God's Comfort/Strength (e.g.. Chpt 12)
- Satan (2, 4, 6, 11, 12)
- The Ministry (3,4,5,6,8,9,11)

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Purpose/Structure—2 Corinthians

- PURPOSE: Paul defended his apostolic authority and ministry against a pointed attack from his foe(s) at Corinth.
- STRUCTURE:
 - Character: Paul's Explanation of His Ministry (1-7)
 - Collection: Paul's Collection for the Saints (8-9)
 - Credentials: Paul's Defense of His Apostleship (10-13)

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Interpretive Issues—2 Corinthians

- “A thorn in the flesh”—12:7
 - Physical malady?
 - Adverse circumstances?
 - Personal foe(s)
 - False apostles (cf. 11:23)?
 - The Corinthians themselves?
 - Constant Opponent
- The Opponents of Paul
 - Early Gnostics?
 - Jewish Christians?
 - Judaizers (legalists)

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Key Passages—2 Corinthians

- 3:18—transformation from one degree of glory to another—sanctification
- 5:16-21—Doctrines of...
 - Regeneration and New Life in Christ (vv16-17)
 - Security in Salvation (v17)
 - Reconciliation (vv18-19)
 - Evangelism (v20)
 - Justification (v21)
- 9:6-15— “God loves a cheerful giver”

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