

Lecture 21 – 2 Corinthians

“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange--I speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also.” 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

Key Terms

Reconciliation, Paul as an example, servant-leader, comfort

Objectives

- *Identify the occasion for 2 Corinthians.
- *Reproduce an outline of 2 Corinthians.
- *Formulate what Paul’s approach to the Corinthians is.
- *Apply what you learn from Paul’s attitude to your own life.

2 Corinthians

I. Background to, Occasion for 2 Corinthians

- A. Paul’s life as an example of reconciliation
- B. Theme of 2 Corinthians: _____
- C. Paul had changed his travel plans.
- D. AD 55:
 1. Roundtrip journey, Ephesus to Corinth and back
 2. Paul had planned to have third journey include Corinth as first stop, but instead, he went up to Troas.
- E. 2 Corinthians written from Macedonia in anticipation of third visit
- F. Paul’s instructions are being challenged in Corinth.
- G. Paul challenges the Corinthians to reconcile before he arrives.

II. Outline of 2 Corinthians

- A. Chapters 1-2 Explanation of his conduct
- B. Chapters 2-5 _____
- C. Chapters 6-13 _____
 1. Chapters 8-9 _____
 2. Chapter 10 _____

III. Detailed Look at 2 Corinthians

- A. Paul uses himself as an example and instrument of _____.
- B. Paul does not defend or justify himself. 2 Corinthians 13:3; 4:5
- C. Paul does not emotionally react/deal with the Corinthians. He preaches Christ regardless of how he is treated by the church.
- D. Paul does not want to get even.
- E. Paul gives the church what it needs, displaying extraordinary pastoral care.
- F. Paul ministers as an agent of reconciliation under the new covenant, and as a servant-leader.

IV. 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

- A. Beginning of Paul’s major appeal
- B. Paul appeals to them for an open heart.
- C. Paul asks them to soften their hearts so they can be instructed in how to become mature in actions and in fellowship with God and other believers.
- D. Paul relates the challenges he has experienced.
- E. Paul encourages them to open their hearts.

V. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

- A. Paul is receiving true comfort from God, which he is now passing on to them.