

BGM BIBLE COLLEGE

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

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LEC NO 22

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE UNTO THE CHURCH OF THE CORINTHIANS

The Occasion of the Epistle

This Epistle is the continuation of the former Epistle, which was likely written from Macedonia in the year 56 or 57. Saint Paul tarried for the space of one year, waiting to see what manner of response the Church would give to the first letter. During this period he may also have undertaken a brief visit, that he might set in order certain matters that required correction (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:14; 13:1-2](#)).

By the help of the former Epistle many of their difficulties had been resolved, for which because he commended them. Howbeit, a new danger arose, even the influence of the Judaizers. This Epistle was written in answer to the false teachers and to the detection of their corrupt doctrines. According to the experience of Paul, certain false teachers followed after him, teaching things contrary to that which he had taught (cf. [2 Corinthians 11:4; 11:13-15; 11:22-23](#)).

To establish their own credit, those false apostles assailed the apostleship and reputation of Paul.

Accusations Raised Against Saint Paul

1. They accused Saint Paul that he had promised to come unto them and came not (cf. [2 Corinthians 1:16-18](#)).
2. They charged that Saint Paul preached not the whole Gospel, because he laid not emphasis upon works (cf. [2 Corinthians 3:6-14](#)).
3. They declared that he was not a true apostle (cf. [2 Corinthians 11:12-13](#)).
4. They said that he was lifted up with pride and arrogance (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:10-18](#)).
5. Yea, they mocked even his person, his countenance, and the manner of his speech, counting him contemptible and ineffective (cf. [2 Corinthians 10:7-12; 12:5-11](#)).

This Epistle was written in defence of the apostleship of Saint Paul that he might prove his right to speak into the life of the Church.

Paul's Response to the Accusations

1. Saint Paul declared the cause wherefore he was constrained to alter his plan concerning his coming ([cf. 2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4](#)).
2. He defended his apostleship against the false accusations ([cf. 2 Corinthians 10:1–4:13](#)).
3. He set forth his afflictions and sufferings as the very testimony of his ministry.

Principal Themes of the Epistle

Saint Paul did again rehearse certain admonitions from the former Epistle. He defended his apostleship and answered the charges laid against him for the edification of the Church.

He proclaimed the message of reconciliation and peace ([cf. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#)):

- The reconciliation of the world unto God ([5:18-21](#));
- The reconciliation of the Church with Paul;
- The reconciliation of the repentant man with the Church ([cf. 2 Corinthians 2:6-11](#)).

Saint Paul set forth the contrast betwixt the weakness of man and the power of God ([cf. 2 Corinthians 1:5-11; 3:4-6; 4:7-18; 5:1; 6:4-10; 7:5-7; 11:23-30; 12:5, 9-10; 13:4](#)).

THE PRINCIPLES OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP AS SET FORTH BY SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

Paul's Life as a Pattern of Ministry

Declaring his own life to be an example in ministry, Saint Paul the Apostle set forth the principles of *Servant Leadership*.

1. **Comfort and Deliverance** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 1:4–6; 7:11](#)).
2. **The Ministry of the Spirit** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 3:3–11](#)).
3. **Life and Faith** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 4:8–12](#)).
4. **Reconciliation and Peace** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 5:18–21](#)).
5. **Approval and Steadfastness in Ministry** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 6:1–10](#)).
6. **Generosity and the Spirit of Giving** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 8–9; esp. 8:5–24; 9:5–8](#)).
7. **Boldness with Meekness** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 10:1–2, 15–18](#)).
8. **Suffering for Christ** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 11:20–31](#)).
9. **Humility** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 12:10–21](#)).
10. **Discipline** ([cf. 2 Corinthians 13:1–3](#)).

Some Notable Features of the Epistle

Saint Paul opened his heart concerning his personal life in this Epistle. Beside the Epistle to Philemon, this is the least doctrinal of all his writings, and its outline is counted among the

most difficult to set in order. It is said that this Epistle was written less from the mind and more from the heart. Saint Paul declared several remarkable matters of his life. In this Epistle are recorded certain experiences of Saint Paul that are not found in any other Epistle.

1. The event of his being let down in a basket at Damascus (cf. [2 Corinthians 11:32–33](#)).
2. The experience of being caught up into the third heaven (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:1–4](#)).

Paul's Personal Struggles

Saint Paul declared his own inward conflict.

1. He speaketh of the thorn in his flesh (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:7](#)).
2. His personal hardships and afflictions in ministry are set forth (cf. [2 Corinthians 1:8–11; 6:3–10; 11:23–27](#)).

Facts Concerning His Ministry and Person

1. He was not eloquent in speech (cf. [2 Corinthians 11:6](#)).
2. Men deemed his bodily presence to be weak (cf. [2 Corinthians 10:10](#)).

Paul's teaching on Giving and Generosity

([2 Corinthians chapters 8–9](#))

Saint Paul teaches concerning giving and liberality:

1. To give with abundance even in poverty (cf. [2 Corinthians 8:2](#)).
2. To give beyond their power (cf. [2 Corinthians 8:3, 12](#)).
3. To first yield they unto God (cf. [2 Corinthians 8:5](#)).
4. To increase in the grace of giving (cf. [2 Corinthians 8:7](#)).
5. To make themselves poor that others may be enriched (cf. [2 Corinthians 8:9](#)).
6. To be bountiful, that they may reap abundantly (cf. [2 Corinthians 9:6](#)).
7. To give not carelessly, but from the heart (cf. [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).
8. To give cheerfully, not of constraint (cf. [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).
9. To give in faith, which bringeth growth (cf. [2 Corinthians 9:10](#)).
10. That they who give do partake of spiritual blessings (cf. [2 Corinthians 9:11](#)).