

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

Overview and Outline

2 Corinthians

Classical Corinth had been destroyed by Romans in 146 B.C. and remained uninhabited for 100 years...

In 44 B.C. Julius Caesar rebuilt the city...

Though it had been rebuilt it's old debauchery had remained...

Paul visited Corinth in A.D. 46-50 on his 2nd missionary journey...

Even though it was less than 100 years old it had developed into a thriving city with over 80,000 in population.

Corinth had become the third most important city to the Roman Empire, behind Alexandria and Rome itself...

With two sea harbors it was called "the crossroads of Greece," and "a passage for all mankind."

He stayed there 18 months teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus.

Corinth was a very metropolitan city.

It was the LA, New York, or Las Vegas of that day.

Immorality was rampant

In fact, the Greek verb, "korinthiazomai", meaning, "to act like a Corinthian", was a verb used for sexual immorality.

Because Corinth was such a young Roman city wealth became the sole factory for respect and power...

Julius Caesar had reestablished the Isthmian games in Corinth (they were second only to the Olympics)

The city's theatre could hold over 18,000 people...

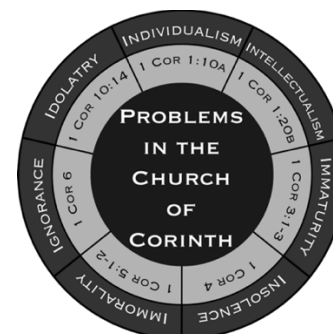
Its concert hall could hold 3,000...

Tourism, immorality, and religious pluralism were all woven together in this new and rapidly growing Corinthian culture...

Nero never visited Athens or Sparta, but he regularly visited Corinth enjoying its pleasures...

Jesus invaded this city with His Kingdom and the Church was established.

But a few years later, while Paul was in Ephesus, he received report of problems in the Church among the believers.



Paul had sailed in the fall of A.D. 52 with Priscilla and Aquila to Ephesus where they remained while Paul continued on to Jerusalem. At Ephesus, Priscilla and Aquila met Apollos whom they instructed and subsequently sent to Corinth for a period of ministry (Acts 18:18–28).

While Apollos ministered in Corinth (Acts 19:1) in the fall of A.D. 53 Paul returned to Ephesus on his third missionary journey. Paul remained there for two and one-half years, establishing it as a center for evangelizing the surrounding provinces as well (Acts 19).

While in Ephesus, Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian church that has been lost...

This letter was misunderstood by the Church...

1 Corinthians 5:9–10 (ESV) — I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

Paul learned of the misunderstanding and of additional problems in the Corinthian church from members of the household of Chloe (1 Cor. 1:11). He then received an official delegation in the form of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (1 Cor. 16:17), who brought corroborating news and specific questions on issues dividing the church. First Corinthians, Paul's second letter to the church, was written to address these matters.

Apparently the problems in the church were still not resolved. It is possible that Timothy (cf. 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10) was the bearer of this news.

1 Corinthians 16:10 (ESV) — When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

Paul then decided to pay the church a second visit, sailing directly from Ephesus to Corinth. This, it seems, was the “painful visit” referred to in 2 Corinthians 2:1

2 Corinthians 2:1 (ESV) — For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you.

After this visit and Paul's return to Ephesus he sent a third letter to the Corinthians (now lost, like the first) borne by Titus. It grieved Paul deeply to write this (2 Cor. 2:3–4) because of its stark disciplinary nature (7:8–9).

2 Corinthians 2:3–4 (ESV) — And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

2 Corinthians 7:8–9 (ESV) — For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

Paul left Ephesus in A.D. 55-56 and traveled to Macedonia where he met up with Titus...

There he met Titus, who brought good news about the general well-being of the Corinthian church but bad news about a group opposed to Paul.

From Macedonia Paul wrote a fourth letter, 2 Corinthians.

Paul then made his third visit to Corinth during the winter of A.D. 56–57 (Acts 20:2–3).

Acts 20:1–3 (ESV) — After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Exploits between the Apostle Paul and the Corinthian Church

- (1) First visit to Corinth (A.D. 46–51).
- (2) First letter to Corinth (now lost).
- (3) Second letter to Corinth (1 Corinthians).
- (4) Second visit to Corinth (a "painful visit").
- (5) Third letter to Corinth (now lost).
- (6) Fourth letter to Corinth (2 Corinthians A.D. 55–56).
- (7) Third visit to Corinth (A.D. 56–57).

ONE THING

When the CHURCH understands its OWNERSHIP and the LEADERS understand their STEWARDSHIP the PEOPLE will experience great FELLOWSHIP!

Second Corinthians

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

I. Remembering Our Position	1:1-2
II. Reconciling Our Suffering	1:3-11
III. Restoring Our Faith	1:12-7:16
IV. Rekindling Our Stewardship	8-9
V. Reestablishing Our Authority	10-13

1. Remembering Our Position

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV) — 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

We must be reminded WHO we are!

2. Reconciling Our Suffering

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV) — 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

We must also be reminded WHERE we are!

3. Restoring Our Faith

We must then see WHY we moved and then return!

Second Corinthians Restoring Our Faith 1:12-7:16

1. Integrity in Ministry	1:12-2:11
2. Embracing the Gospel Victory	2:12-17
3. Marks of Authentic Ministry	3:1-6
4. Our Glorious Gospel	3:7-18
5. Courageous Ministry	4:1-6
6. Living in God's Power	4:7-12
7. Eternal Perspective	4:13-18
8. Our Heavenly Home	5:1-10
9. God's Reconciliation	5:11-6:2
10. Evidence of Spiritual Leaders	6:3-13
11. Eagerness for Personal Holiness	6:14-7:1
12. Expressions of Godly Sorrow	7:2-16

2 Corinthians 5:17–21 (ESV) — 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Rekindling Our Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) — 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

5. Reestablishing Our Authority

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