

*series title slide 1

**BIBLE SURVEY, PT 6--THE NT--THE
EPISTLES(2 CRINTHINANS—"WHY
GD LETS CHR'S SUFFER")**

>>>> We're in a "Bible Survey" series

*WHAT each book in the B is abt

*WHEN each book was written

*& HOW they're all interconnected

>We've covered OT/4 Gspels/ Bk of Acts

>& now—we're taking a wk each to look at all the major NT epistles ("letters")

*Bec more than any other part of the Bible--they define our faith

[CHART IN BULLETIN]

* *ONE SIDE = broken dwn all NT ltrs

* *OTHR SDE=hw P's ltrs fit into his life

>>So far—we've covered Romns/1 Cor's

[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]

* G.THIS WK—2nd ltr to chrch of Crinth

I- [READY????] 2nd CORINTHIANS

A. REVIEW

1. AP had come to Corinth in 50-51 AD

*Led lotsa pple to Lrd/est'd chrch

*Thn spent 18mo's dscpling them

*2. But the chrch in Crinth became most carnal/fleshly church AP ever started

3. In fact, P had alrdy wrttn thm once

* Frm Ephesus--whre discipling blvr's

* Ab their multple issues of sin/ carnality

* We studied tht ltr last wk: 1 Cor's

[LET'S TURN NOW TO 2nd LTR TO CR'S

B. P hoped tht 1 Cor wld solve prb's thre

C. But he received news bck tht it hadn't

D. In fact—now—on top of evrythng ...

1. P discovers tht a grp of false tchers
had shwd up at chch aftr he left

2. Teachng false doctrine

3. Undermining & backbitng P's
character & apostolic credentials

* E. P also learns tht this movmnt ag hm=
"gaining traction" inside the Cr'n chch

* MAP F. SO-P made a trip frm EphtoCor(53AD)
to try & straighten out all this mess

1. P tried to be gentle/ kind with Cor's

2. But they interpreted his kindnss as
weakness--& simply ignored him

* 3. 2 Cor 10:10—"For some say, 'His ltrs
are weighty but in person he is
unimpressive.'"

* 2. So P decides to mke a 3rd visit to Cor

G. 2 Cor 13:1—"This will be the 3rd time I

3

am coming to U”

- 1. 1st x = whn he started chch(A 18)
- * 2. 2nd x = in betwn 1st & 2nd Cor's
- 3. & now P's leavng Eph togo thre 3rd x

H. 2 Cr 13:2-“I told U previously (whn

* I was thre the 2nd x) & altho absent, I say again--in advance--to those who hve sinned--& to all the rest of U as well—tht when I come this 3rd x, I will not spare anyone”

* J. 2 Cr 13:11-“I am writing this while absent, in hopes tht whn I arrive thre, I willnot hvta use severity, in acordnce w/the authrity tht Lrd has given me”

ILT: YOUZA! I don't thnk I'd wanta be on the reciving end of P coming to town like this—would U??

K. SO-P's 2nd ltr to Cor's had 3 purposes

- * # 1-To exhrt Cor's to clean up the sin in the chrch before he arrives--so tht HE won't have to
- # 2-To expose these flse trchrs & warn the Cor's not to follow to them
- # 3-To defend slf frm the accusations these false teachers were making

*L. Of these 3 purposes—it's really
purpose #3 tht dominates this letter
 blink * [LET'S TALK AB THIS FOR A MOMENT]

M. The "enemies" P talks abt in 2nd Cor's
 are cmmnly referd to as "Judaizers"

- *
 1. These were Jews from Jerusalem
 2. Who claimed they belv'd in Jesus
 3. But who taught a diff plan of salv
 thn AP & rest of apostles taught

*N. In 2 Cor 11:4 (P says) tht these men
 "preach another J whom we hve not
 preached...& a different Gospel"

O. & wht WAS this "diff Gspel"??

P. These guys were telling Chr's: "Yes,
 * trusting wrk of Chrst on crss is good"
 1. "But still hvta keep OT Law to be svd

Q. SO THE DIFFERENCE WAS:

1. Whn it cmes to gettng etr life/ h.v.n.
 *2. TRUE GSPL=it's based on trusting
J's shed blood PLUS NOTHING
 ✓3. JUDAIZER'S=it's basd on trusting
"J's blood PLUS HMN WORKS"
 4. In this case—Jwsh religious works
 *Being circumcized
 *Keeping the Sabbath

***Observing Kosher laws...etc**

- R. These "Judaizrs" flld AP around...&
1. & whn he left twn--they infiltrated the young chrch P'd est'd
 - * 2. & thn bgan to theolog'ly mislead all the "baby Chr's" P'd left bhind
 3. 2 Cr 11:2-"I am jealous ovr U wth a godly jealousy; fr I bethrothed U to one husband, to Christ
 4. V. 3-"But I fear...U're being led astray frm the simplicity & purity of your devotion to Chst

[EVERYBODY UNDERSTAND??]

S. P really didn't like these guys

- * 1. In GAL 1:8-"thy shld be accursd"
- * 2. 2 Cor 11:13-"Fr such men are false apstles, deceitful wrkrs, disguising thmselves as apostles of Christ"
- * 3. V. 14-"Fr Satan disguises himslf as an angel of light, so is it any wndr tht. his sryants also disguise slves as servants of righteousness?"
4. LOOK: P calls thm "servnts of Stn"

T. And--these Jdz'ers didn't like P either

U. In 2 Cor—P says tht these “Judaizers”

1. Criticized P's physical appearance(10:10)

2. Made fun of his speaking skills(11:6)

3. Impugned his motives in the service of Christ(4:5)

4. Accused him of being arrogant(5:12)

5. Challenged his credentials as a true apostle of Christ (12:11-12)

6. **& ON & ON & ON IT WENT!**

*V. & as said a moment ago--this constant stream of slander was beginning to turn the Cor'n blvr's against Paul

W. & this **BROKE P'S HEART—LISTEN:**

*1. 2 Cr 7:2-“Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.”

*2. 2 Cr 1:12-“We conducted ourselves towards U in holiness & in godly sincerity”

*3. 2 Cor 11:11-“God knows—I love U!

✓4. 2 Cor 12:15-“For I will gladly spend everything & be spent for U”

*X. **SUMMARIZE:** AP writes ltr of 2 Cor in **53-54AD** on his way traveling thru #1-To deal with ongoing sin in church

7

#2-To expose the false teachers there

#3-To defend himself *persnally* frm
all their attacks

*Y. The result=AP's most prsnal ltr in NT

Z. I urge U--nw tht U hve all this bkgnd

1. Go back & read ltr all the way thru

2. & let P's love fr his sp. c'rn

3. & his hrt fr Gd's work grip yur hrt

*BLANK * II- SO WHAT? *BLANK

A.I wantus to pick lgreat sp truth-2 C 12

B. CONTEXT:

*1.V. 2-"I knw a mn(AP) who 14yrs
ago was caught up to the 3rd hvn

ILLUST: "THIRD HEAVEN???" No CLUE!

*2. V. 4-"This man was caught up into
Paradise & heard thngs tht a man
is not permitted to repeat(on erth)

*3. V. 7-"Bec of the greatness of these
revel'ns, to keep me frm exalting
myslf, there was given me a thorn
in the flesh—a messenger of Satan
to torment(KJV-"buffet") me—to
keep me from exalting myself."

[MAYBE EYE DISEASE OF SOME KIND]

*4. V. 8-"Concerning this ('thorn'), I

asked the Lrd 3 x's that it might depart frm me"

5. & 3 x's--Gd told Paul "NO!"

C. OK—so here's the CONTEXT:

1. Gd sent a phys malady into P's life tht was making him "suffer"

2. 3x's—P asked God to take it away

3. & 3 x's Gd said "NO"

*D. Q = "WHY?"

✓E. A = to produce *sme sp thngs* in P's life tht Gd cldn't produce any othr way

F. LISTEN: Gd is NOT "Santa Claus"

1. Gd is NOT "the genie in the lamp"

3. He's our "Heavenly Father/Parent"

*Who's raising us as His c'ren...

*To be godly, holy, Chst-like pple

✓4. & to do this--thre're crtain sp thngs He must teach us...

5. Tht we can only learn thru the "gateway of suffering"

F. 3 of them—all found here in 2 Cor

*G. #1-Humility

*1. 2 Cor 12:7—"Bec of the greatness of these rvl'ns, to keep me frm [SAY] exalting myslf, thre was givn me

a thorn in the flesh—a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from [SAY] exalting myself.”

* 2. 1 P 5:5-“Gd is opposd to the proud but gives grace to the humble”

* 3. B is clear: in ordr to bless us, Gd has to humble us-& keep us humble

✓ 4. Prv 15:33-“Bfre honr cmes humlity
5. & hw does Gd teach us “humlity”?

6. Well, hw did He teach P? Suffering

7. Only suffering humbles our high opinion of ourselves

* 8. Only ongoing suff’g keeps us ongoingly humble

8. Whch’s why Gd lets us all of us as believers have some!

* BLINK
* H. # 2-Reliance on Gd instd of ourslvs

* 1. P’s testimony (2 Cr 1:8)-“We want U to know, brthrs, abt the hardships we [SAY] suffered in Ephesus. We were afflicted far byond our abilty, & felt the sentence of death in slvs

* 2. V. 9-“THIS HPPNED(P says) in ordr tht we mght[SAY]learn not to rely on ourslves, but on God”

*3. We're all ^{10 NATURALLY} prone to rely on ourselves
 *Only whn Gd brings us to the utter end of ourselves **THRU SFFRING**
 *Are we willing to rely on Him

4.& whn we learn hw to rely on Gd alone
 *Tht's whn we learn hw to unlock the blessing/ power of Gd in our lives!

*5. 2 Cr 12:9—"Most gladly, therefore, I will boast in my weaknesses, tht the pwr of Christ may rest on me.. (V 10)fr whn I'm weak(& relying on J instd myslf)--thn I am strong

ILLUST: To unblvr—this is oxymoronic

AP: But fr us as F's—makes perfect sense!

*J. # 3-Mercy & comapssion for othrs

*1.2 Cor 1:3—"Blssd be the Gd & Fathr of our LJC, the God of all comfort, who cmforts us in all our sufrings, tht we may[SAY]learn hw to cmfrt others who are in any suffering with the comfort Gd has given us"

ILLUST: U're going thru—Rm 8:28—prsn with tears in eyes hugs U—

*More true "comfort" frm thm

*How did they learn to do this?

*quick
 *BLANK

*Course in sem'ry? Seminar? Book?

*Guarantee U; they've suffered!

A: SUFRING BURNS OUT SHALLOWNSS

*APP: This explains why..the pple who can comfort the best...are the ones who've suffered the most

* quick BLANK picture *

ILL: 2004 tour in Cairo—El Khalili bazaar

*Outdoor café--drinking coffee

*Teenage Eg'n girl handed me a card

*"I am deaf & dumb, but I am goin to school to try & bcome slf-suporting in life. Can U please help me?"

*So I pulled out 50L.E. & gave it toher

*U'll nvr believe wht hppned next

*She fell to her knees & began kissing the top of my hand ovr & over

*I tried my best to com'cate to her tht I did it in name of J—made cross

*But she just kept on kissing my hand

AP: 22yrs ago-I wlda nvr noticed this girl

*If she'd given me card—shooed away

* Blank (somewhere here or next page)

*But U see--fr last 22yrs, I've lived w/ a little girl who can't speak

**We've suffered together

**We've hurt together

- * & Gd's used this sfring to change me
- * To gve me compass I nvr had before
- 3. If U're F--Gd wants to do same fr U!
- 4. & the way He's gonna get U there=
thru "the doorway of suffering"

K. SO—TO SUM'ZE: There're some levels of Chr growth tht we can only attain thru the "doorway of suffering"

* {

- #1-Genuine & deep humility
- #2-Utter reliance on Gd instd of self
- #3-Compassion & mercy fr othrs

blank *

CONCLUSION

>>Go arnd & take pryr rquests—evryone of us wld hve a compelling/painful one

slides from here down steady only

- > Every prsn here is suffering in sme way
- > We must getovr idea tht 1day skies part
 - * No more suffering/pain in life
 - * BEC...it's not going to happen
 - * BEC ...it's not Gd's plan for us!
 - * BEC ...it would not be good for us!

PTTIP *

>>>>As soon as Gd took the pressure off

- * We'd all re-inflate lke a "puffer fish"
- * Full of argnce/ slf-rel'nce/ callousness

* >As a F, don'tU dare accept a cheap & superficial explanation fr yur sufring!

* blank

Great saint Andrew Murray (bedridden)

* "God brot me here by His will, & in
tht I will rest. He is teaching me, &
in His good time He will bring me out
✓>>>>"Therefore, I am here... BY His
appointmnt...IN His keeping...UNDER
His training...& FR His specified time.
Not my will but his be done!"

*
DANK