

# Bible Snapshots



## Second Corinthians – Ministering to Mishaps

**Author** – Paul, A.D. 56

- At the conclusion of the first epistle to the Corinthians the apostle Paul announced his intention of visiting the believers in Corinth as he was passing through Macedonia, which was a change in his plans of sailing directly from Ephesus to Corinth and, consequently, was meant an extended postponement of this visitation.
- This caused great dissatisfaction in the Corinthian church. Some said he was inconsistent. Others said he was afraid to show. The entire church, it seemed, was embroiled in debate over the apostle, his authority and the intentions of his ministry among them. This deeply grieved Paul.
- Not more than a year separates the writing of these two epistles.
- Second Corinthians is the most personal of the letters written to churches. Most of this is due to the needed apology for his ministry and motives. He faced unjust charges, insinuations, and personal attacks leveled against him by the very brethren he was trying to help, though lacked understanding. Thus, the book is very emotional and focuses a great deal on human weakness, humility, self-respect, wounded feelings, rebuke, passion, zeal for the welfare of the weak and self-renunciation. The book has 13 chapters and 257 verses.

### Themes

- Service rendered to God by uniting under the head of the church and as members on the one body.

**Key chapters/verse** – 5, promises of immortality / 4:5 and 5:17

### Key phrase / word / thought

- Signs of an apostle (12:12) / boast or glory (both from the same Greek word) / My grace is sufficient for thee (12:9)

**Christ In 2 Corinthians** - God's unspeakable gift (9:15) and Image of God (4:4)

### Outline

- I. Salutations and Thanksgiving (1:1-11)
- II. Characteristics of Paul's ministry (1:12-7:16)
- III. Concerning the collection for the Poor (8,9)
- IV. Paul's defense of his ministry (10:1-13:10)
- V. Conclusion (13:11-14)

**Miracles referred to** - deliverance from death and persecution (11:23-33); Paul caught up to the third heaven (12:1-4); signs, wonders and mighty deeds (12:12);

### Proving Corinthians

**In peril of robbers (11:26)** – When Paul wrote this letter he said he was in peril, referring to his journey between Perga and Antioch. A number of inscriptions from this area of Paul's day refer to armed policemen and soldiers who patrolled this section and kept the peace because of a conflict with robbers. This could explain why John Mark decided to leave Paul and Barnabas when they reached Perga (Acts 13:13; 15:36-40)

### Key lessons

Deliverance from sin (1:9, 10) past, present and future.

Character of ministry – responsible (2:14-3:5); glorious (3:6-4:6); in earthen vessels (4:7-18); reconciling (5:12-21); approved (6:1-13); pure (6:14-7:1).

All Things (occurs 221 times in the Bible). See 5:18

The separated life (6:14-7:1) – God commands it, success depends on it and it is desperately needed

Godly sorrow works repentance (7:9, 10)

Systematic giving (9:7, 8)

The need to defend ministry (12:7-9)

Paul's thorn in the flesh (12:7)