EPISTLE, PAULINE



This epistle was written from Paul to the Corinthians. He had previously spent 18 months with the Corinthian Christians and they had been doing well at the time of his departure. After hearing of quarrelling and disagreement in the church, a disappointed Paul wrote to Corinth during his third missionary journey to correct the divisions and promote unity. Paul used the letter to present a model for how the church should handle the problem of sin amongst the members.







QUARRELING AND RESOLUTIONS

ADVICE ON ELIMINATING THE SINS OF THIS CHURCH

EXPLAINING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 CORINTHIANS 1—4

Paul speaks of the current quarrels of the church and offers advice. He likens their quarrels to arrogance and immaturity, and encourages them to grow in humility and strength.

1 CORINTHIANS 5—11

Paul exposes sins already infesting the church, which include sexual immorality, passing judgment on nonbelievers, filing lawsuits against each other, food, and head coverings.

1 CORINTHIANS 12-16

Paul helps the church understand difficult doctrines such as speaking in tongues. He explains that love is the greatest gift of all, and should be sought after above all else. He also gives a brief recounting of Jesus Christ and the importance of His ministry.

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

8

13

EPISTLE, PAULINE



Second Corinthians is actually the fourth letter Paul had written to the Corinthians, the first two having been lost. After three bad reports of their behavior, Paul finally had received a positive report of the church and wrote this letter as encouragement. Paul wrote to comfort those who suffered in the midst of affliction, and uses his biography as an example of honesty, hope, and devotion despite difficult circumstances.







1 CRUCIAL ISSUES

PAUL TALKS
ABOUT GIVING

3 PAUL TALKS
ABOUT HIS LIFE

4

ONE FINAL WARNING

2 CORINTHIANS 1-7

Paul addresses critical issues, such as forgiveness, love, hope in God's deliverance, separation from the world, and confidence in God's devotion.

2 CORINTHIANS 8—9

Paul talks about the joy of giving, especially when in poverty. Using the Macedonians as an example, he encourages generosity and then reminds the Saints of God's gift to man.

2 CORINTHIANS 10—12

Paul gives his testimony to show his love for the church and what he endured for Christ's companionship. He reveals the importance of weaknesses as a "thorn in the flesh," and that they can be gloried in as reminders of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 13

Paul closes his address, and exhorts the Corinthians to test their righteousness to determine their standing with God. He invites them to do good and to be an example to others.



BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

13: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Pauline Epistles (Paul wrote 13 of the New Testament epistles, and hence their name, Pauline)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

The first book Paul wrote was likely 1 Thessalonians, around 51 AD. The last book was probably 2 Timothy, around 66 AD. (The books in the New Testament are not presented in the order in which they are written!)



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Entire books have been written on the life of Apostle Paul, and he was not even one of the original 12 disciples. He did not meet Jesus until after the Crucifixion. Paul was born Saul of Tarsus, a very well-educated Jew, who was persecuting believers after the Crucifixion. He met Christ on the road to Damascus when he saw a bright light in the sky that blinded him, and Christ asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?"

Paul received his sight after three days spent with believers. Then he began traveling to preach the gospel. He completed three missionary journeys that covered most of the known western world of the time. He was imprisoned several times, including spending two years under house arrest in Rome, when he wrote several epistles mentioned above.

In all, he wrote 13 Epistles before being martyred in Rome.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul wrote four of the New Testament epistles when he was under house arrest for two years in Rome. They include Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. This two-year house arrest is thought to have been 60-62 AD.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul was an enemy of believers after Christ's death and helped put them to death. This makes his testimony about seeing a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus twice as meaningful. If Jesus could forgive a person who tried to kill his followers—and if Jesus could make that person one of his foremost witnesses—that shows the love of God for the rest of us!

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8–10	1 Cor. 12:28–30	Eph. 4:11	1 Peter 4:9-11
Prophecy	Word of Wisdom	Apostleship	Apostleship	Speaking
Serving	Word of Knowledge	Prophecy	Prophecy	Serving
Teaching	Faith	Teaching	Evangelism	
Exhortation	Healings	Miracles	Pastor/Teacher	
Giving	Miracles	Healing		
Leading	Prophecy	Helping		
Showing Mercy	Discerning of Spirits	Administrating		
	Tongues	Tongues		1
	Interpretation of Tongues	Interpretation of Tongues		

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Appearances of the Risen Christ

Central to Christian faith is the bodily resurrection of Jesus. By recording the resurrection appearances, the New Testament leaves no doubt about this event.

- In or around Jerusalem To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18)
 - To the other women
 - (Matt. 28:8-10)
 - To Peter
 - (Luke 24:34)
 - To ten disciples
 - (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25)
 - To the Eleven, including Thomas
 - (John 20:26–29)
 - At His ascension
 - (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:4-12)
- To the disciples on the Emmaus road (Luke 24:13–35)
- In Galilee (Matt. 28:16–20; John 21:1–24)
- To five hundred people (1 Cor. 15:6)
- To James and the apostles (1 Cor. 15:7)
- To Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-6; 18:9, 10; 22:1-8; 23:11; 26:12-18; 1 Cor. 15:8)

