

2nd Corinthians

- **Author and Date**
 - Paul's name is attached in 1:1
 - No one disputes that the entire letter was written by Paul, but some have argued that it is actually 2-3 letters, or parts of letters, cobbled together by a later editor.
 - Some also explain the drastic shift from affectionate (1-9) to confrontational (10-13), by the possibility that in the course of writing the letter Paul was reacting to some news he had heard about the church in Corinth.
 - Written on his third missionary journey (circa AD 57), while in northern Greece (Roman province of Macedonia), having left Ephesus where the first letter to the Corinthians was written.
- **Purpose**
 - Apologetic in nature. Defending his apostolic authority and the sincerity of his apostolic efforts. Establishing his credentials over against his detractors.
 - Asks for donations for the church in Jerusalem.
- **Characteristics**
 - His arguments do not always develop logically, and this makes it more difficult to follow him at times.
 - Very impassioned, personal, hard-hitting and even sarcastic at times. Beginning tenderly and ending tenaciously. Much use of rhetorical questions.
- **Themes**
 - Paul's intense personal devotion to Christ is very evident:
 - 2:14-15; 4:5; 5:9, 14-15; 11:3
 - Many references to 'commending' his ministry, and how it is derived ultimately from God:
 - 1:1; 1:21; 3:4-6; 4:1, 7; 5:12, 20; 6:4; 10:8, 18; 12:11
- **Structure**
 - Greeting 1:1-11
 - Paul's Apostolic Ministry 1:12 – 7
 - The Jerusalem Collection 8 – 9
 - Paul's Apostolic Defense 10 – 13:10
 - Epilogue 13:11-14