

# Table of Contents

**Outline 1** Introduction: The Nature of the Letter.....7

## ***Part I The Ministry Entrusted to and Defended by the Apostle***

---

**Outline 2** Heading, Salutation and Thanksgiving  
*2 Corinthians 1:1-11*..... 11

**Outline 3** The Planned Visit Which did not Materialize  
*2 Corinthians 1: 12-24*..... 17

**Outline 4** The Ministry of Grace and Triumph  
*2 Corinthians 2*..... 23

**Outline 5** Paul's Credentials and the Nature of His Ministry  
*2 Corinthians 3*..... 31

**Outline 6** Treasure of the Ministry of the New Dispensation  
Kept in an Earthen Vessel  
*2 Corinthians 4*..... 41

**Outline 7** Hope and Glory and the Ministry of Reconciliation  
*2 Corinthians 5*..... 47

**Outline 8** The Necessity of Receiving God's Grace  
*2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1*..... 55

**Outline 9** A Plea for the Recognition of Restored Fellowship  
*2 Corinthians 7:2-16*..... 61

## ***Part II The Collection***

---

**Outline 10** An Exhortation to Generosity  
*2 Corinthians 8*..... 67

**Outline 11** The Collection in Perspective  
*2 Corinthians 9*..... 73

## ***Part III Paul's Defence of His Ministry and His Appeal to the Communion of Saints***

---

**Outline 12** Paul's Personal Integrity  
*2 Corinthians 10*..... 77

**Outline 13** Paul and the False Teachers  
*2 Corinthians 11*..... 83

**Outline 14** Paul Continues to Boast in Weakness  
*2 Corinthians 12*..... 91

**Outline 15** A Last Appeal, Greetings and Benediction  
*2 Corinthians 13*..... 99

## **Heading, Salutation and Thanksgiving**

*Chapter 1:1-11*

### **A. Writer and Addressees, Salutation, vv. 1-2**

Paul presents himself as the writer, following the custom of the time that the writer's name was mentioned first in a letter. This implies that Timothy, whose name follows in the next line, is not introduced as co-writer or sponsor, but as a faithful fellow worker and friend of Paul (cf. 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10).

The word *apostle* which Paul uses to designate himself comes from a verb meaning *to send*. If the sender is Christ Jesus and the delegation is based on the will or counsel of God, then clearly the apostle speaks with the highest authority. Chapters 10-12 show why Paul emphasizes this point so strongly.

The church of God in Corinth is named as the addressee of this letter. Note that the words "of God" indicate the church's origin. The church is from above, not from below, with all the implications this has for her life and existence. When he mentions all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia, Paul includes the believers in the dispersion throughout the province of Achaia which comprises the greater part of Greece. Although not yet organized into a group of sister churches, as saints, people who are ingrafted into Christ by a true faith, they belong to him and share in his treasures and gifts.

earth, not because he is so important that the Lord could not do without him, but because the Lord will continue to deliver him in response to the intercession of the congregations, including the Corinthians' prayers. This shows how highly

Paul valued the intercession of the church and how important prayer is for the progress of the gospel and for the coming of the kingdom. Verse 11 gives assurance that there is a link between God's blessing and many prayers and that God's blessing is procured in answer to many prayers.

#### **D. Questions**

---

1. What does Paul stress in verse 1 and why is this important in light of the entire letter and especially Chapters 10-12?
2. How does the name Christ Jesus differ from the more regular use of Jesus Christ, and why has Paul chosen the order Christ Jesus in this context? (v. 1)
3. What different meanings can there be for the term "the will of God" in the Bible? In which sense is it used here? For what reason?
4. It has been said that Timothy did not possess an office. Do you agree with this? What does Ephesians 4:11 state and what charge was Timothy given, according to 2 Timothy 4:5?
5. Evangelists were subordinate to and worked in close cooperation with the apostles. Could this be the reason that the Reformed Churches no longer recognize the office of evangelist?
6. Do we have an official office of "missionary" in our churches? What do you learn about this from the form for the ordination of missionaries?
7. What does Paul express when he uses the word "saints" in verse 1? How can this term be misunderstood? Why do we object to the Roman Catholic Church's interpretation of this word?