

A Survey of the Book of I Corinthians

TEACHER: RAYREYNOLDS

Author:

Paul, the apostle (**I Corinthians 1:1, 16:21**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it in the spring of 57 AD in the city of Ephesus (**I Corinthians 16:8**) during his third missionary journey (**Acts 19:1-41**). This was shortly before the Jewish feast of Pentecost (**I Corinthians 16:8**). It could have been written as early as 55 AD, but definitely during his three years in Ephesus, and coincided with his tenure at the school of Tyrannus (**Acts 19:9-10**).

Theme:

The entire book is about maturity and dealing with church issues. The problems at Corinth had reached Paul and the brethren in Ephesus. This message came from two sources: 1) the household of Chloe (**I Corinthians 1:11**), and 2) a personal letter (**I Corinthians 7:1**), which was delivered by Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (**I Corinthians 16:17**). Paul recommends these men to the leadership of the church (eldership) to help the church seek balance. It is doubtful that they had elders, so Paul may be suggesting these three men to the congregation for ordination and sends his blessings (**I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9**).

Audience:

The intended audience is the church in Corinth. Corinth was situated on the Isthmus of Greece (called Achaia in the Bible) between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea (above the Mediterranean Sea). It was around 50 miles east of Athens. It was a newer city, with a population of less than half a million people from all kinds of cultures, mostly pagan. The temple of Venus (Aphrodite), was located there and it hosted 1000 priestesses dedicated to prostitution in the name of religion. The church was established during Paul's second journey (**Acts 18:1-18**).

Key Verses:

I Corinthians 1:10, 3:16-17, 6:12-20, 9:24-27, 10:13, 10:23, 12-13, 15:58, 16:1-4

Outline:

Problems Regarding Unity (chapter 1)
Problems Regarding Sensitivity (chapter 2)
Problems Regarding Immaturity (chapter 3)
Problems Regarding Humility (chapter 4)
Problems Regarding Purity (chapter 5)
Problems Regarding Immorality (chapter 6)
Problems Regarding Sexuality (chapter 7)
Problems Regarding Liberty (chapter 8)

Problems Regarding Idolatry (chapter 9)
Problems Regarding Conformity (chapter 10)
Problems Regarding Loyalty (chapter 11)
Problems Regarding Spirituality (chapter 12)
Problems Regarding Charity (chapter 13)
Problems Regarding Stability (chapter 14)
Problems Regarding Authenticity (chapter 15)
Problems Regarding Sincerity (chapter 16)

A Survey of the Book of II Corinthians

TEACHER: RAY REYNOLDS

Author:

Paul, the apostle (**II Corinthians 1:1, 10:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. Timothy also aided in its writing.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it shortly after the first letter, possibly within six months to a year from the first (**I Corinthians 16:1, II Corinthians 8:10, 9:2**). It is assumed to have been written in the fall of 57 AD in Ephesus (or the region of Macedonia) during his third missionary journey (**Acts 19:1-41**).

Theme:

The entire book is about hope and encouragement to the congregation, with the exception of chapters 10-13 that seem to be out of place. When the problems at Corinth reached Paul because of the household of Chloe (**I Corinthians 1:11**), and a personal letter delivered by Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (**I Corinthians 7:1, 16:17**). Paul makes necessary recommendations, including three men who could serve in the leadership, and had those three men personally carry his first letter. The church apparently needed continuous attention (four letters), so Paul sent Timothy to them (**I Corinthians 4:17, 16:10-11**), then himself made a "sorrowful" visit (**II Corinthians 1:23-2:1**), which didn't end well. Therefore, he sent a letter through Titus (**II Corinthians 2:3**), which some scholars believe can be found attached at the end (**II Corinthians 10-13**), called the "sorrowful letter."

Audience:

The intended audience is the church in Corinth (See notes on I Corinthians and the Church in Corinth - Churches of Christ in the New Testament series). This was a congregation that was struggling with Paul's advice in previous letters and visits. Several complained about his authenticity (**II Corinthians 1:15-17**), his speech (**II Corinthians 10:10, 10:16**), his financial situation (**II Corinthians 11:7-9, 12:14**), his purpose for calling for their repentance (**II Corinthians 12:20-21**), and even his apostleship (**II Corinthians 10-13**).

Key Verses:

II Corinthians 1:3-4, 4:1, 4:7, 4:16-18, 5:20-21, 6:2, 6:14, 8-9, 12:7-13, 13:1-4

Outline:

Hope Through Consolation (chapter 1)
Hope Through Instruction (chapter 2)
Hope Through Commendation (chapter 3)
Hope Through Manifestation (chapter 4)
Hope Through Reconciliation (chapter 5)
Hope Through Separation (chapter 6)
Hope Through Satisfaction (chapter 7)

Hope Through Devotion (chapter 8)
Hope Through Demonstration (chapter 9)
Hope Through Transformation (chapter 10)
Hope Through Declaration (chapter 11)
Hope Through Affection (chapter 12)
Hope Through Examination (chapter 13)