



## Outline of the Book of 2 Corinthians by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

### Origin of the Corinthian Church

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, **who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla** (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, **he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers**. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

When **Silas and Timothy** had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when **they opposed him and blasphemed**, he shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.' And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named **Justus, one who worshiped God**, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then **Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized**. Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.' And **he continued there a year and six months**, teaching the word of God among them.

When **Gallio was proconsul of Achaia**, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, 'This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.' And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.' And he drove them from the judgment seat. **Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat**. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

So Paul still remained a good while. (**Acts 18:1-18a**)

### **Going Into the World of Corinth:**

1. Paul worked and lived with Aquilla & Priscilla while he sowed the seed.
2. When "backup" arrived, Paul pressed a point offensive to the Jews.
3. With his preaching to the Jews, Paul was delivered from their blood.
4. Paul moved in with Justus next door to the synagogue.
5. Following church's beginning, Lord told Paul of "many people" He had.
6. Sosthenes "paid the price" for Paul and the Corinthian church

### **Was Paul "Unsound" In His Dealing With Corinth?**

- Paul, before traveling there had already judged immoral man (**5:3**) and made urgent his sin and refusal to repent in **I Corinthians 5**
- Paul, however, "came no more to Corinth" to "spare" them.  
**2 Corinthians 1:23**
- There were yet in Corinth other cases of sins needing attention and repentance (including fornication and lewdness).  
**2 Corinthians 12:20-21**
- BUT Paul wrote to "those who have sinned before, and to all the rest," threatening to deal with them when he did come to them.  
**2 Corinthians 13:2**

**I. Paul's Apostleship From God chapters 1 - 2**

**A. Comforting Message As An Apostle 1:1-11**

1. Authorized to address "the church of God" **1:1-2**
2. Accompanied by the "God of all comfort" **1:3-11**
  - a. God is always near to help **1:3-7 Acts 17:27; Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 46:1-3; 118:5; Proverbs 24:16**
  - b. Paul's faith tested and strengthened **1:8-11**

**B. Confident Manner From An Apostle 1:12-2:2**

1. Paul trusted God's way **1:12**
2. Corinthians understood God's way **1:13-14**
3. Paul's travel determined by God's plans **1:15-20**
4. Paul has the authority of an Apostle **1:21-2:2**

**C. Compassionate Meaning By An Apostle 2:3-17**

1. Loving rebuke already sent proved effective **2:3-11**
2. Christian "cologne" but not for profit **2:12-17**

**II. Paul's Preaching From God chapters 3 - 9**

**A. Faith 3:1-5:11**

1. Sanctified souls are epistles of commendation **3:1-3**
2. Obeyed new covenant, NOT Old law **3:4-18**
  - a. Spirit-given new covenant, letter that kills is Old law **3:4-6**
  - b. Ministry of death, stone-etched, for children of Israel, passing away -- ministry of the Spirit more glorious **3:7-13 Cf Exodus 34:29-35**
  - c. Veil of Moses hinders removal of that veil in Christ **3:14-18**
  - d. Heart veil causes perishing, "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" shines in hearts, dispelling darkness **4:1-6**
3. Earthen vessels, though weak, convey strong message **4:7-15**
4. Therefore, seen things are temporary, unseen eternal **4:16-18**
5. Walking by faith looks beyond the grave **5:1-8**
6. Christians live for the judgment seat of Christ **5:9-11**

**B. Hope 5:12-7:16**

1. Love of Christ justifies abandonment of self for Him **5:12-21**
2. Workers with Christ can overcome any extreme in life **6:1-10**
3. Pledge allegiance to the Cross and God-drawn lines **6:11-7:1**
4. Open hearts toward God will:
  - a. Live upright though sharing tribulation **7:2-5**
  - b. Be encouraged by good reports of troubled churches **7:6-7**
  - c. Sorrow and repent for sins, not worldly shallow regret **7:8-12**
  - d. Be willing to have confidence in changed brethren **7:13-16**

**C. Love 8:1-9:15**

1. God's grace causes giving "beyond ability" **8:1-7**
2. Testing love's sincerity by others? **8:8**
  - a. See Christ! **8:9**

- b. See how willing our mind is **8:10-12**
- c. See how "equal" our giving helped others **8:13-15**
- d. See how diligent Titus was in gathering this gift **8:16-24**
- e. See how ahead of Corinthians the Macedonians were **9:1-5**
- f. See how cheerful heart doesn't hold back from God **9:6-15**
  - 1) God loves happy hearts who give **9:6-7**
  - 2) God always helps one to reap more than he sows **9:8-11**
  - 3) God causes blessing to brethren who receive gift **9:12-15**

### **III. Paul's Power From God**

### **Chapter 10 - 13**

#### **A. Critical Battle 10:1-11**

- 1. Method of spiritual battle within individuals **10:1-6**
  - a. More forceful in letter than presence **10:1-3**
  - b. Capturing ideas, not bodies **10:4-5**
- 2. Final confrontation to come **10:6**

#### **B. Critical Defenses 10:7-12:13**

- 1. Who can rule out Paul but believe his Scriptures? **10:7-11**
  - a. "We" are NOT the standard of measurement **10:12**
  - b. Paul found Corinth while searching for souls **10:13-18**
- 2. Church corrupted like Eve, by "craftiness" **11:1-4**
- 3. In his own defense, the Apostle Paul:
  - a. Was timid but equal to any apostle in authority **11:5-6**
  - b. Preached "free of charge" to help church grow **11:7-11**
  - c. Exposed abusers of the church he left there **11:12-15**
  - d. Deserved respect for his sacrifices for Christ **11:16-33**
  - e. Deserved respect as vessel for revelation **12:1-6**
  - f. Learned the strength of patience **12:7-10**
  - g. Asked how he had left the church inferior? **12:11-13**

#### **C. Critical Charges 12:14-13:14**

- 1. Third time's NOT the "charm" but correction **12:14-21**
  - a. He still refuses to burden them for his support **12:14**
  - b. Sadly, however, he notices an unjust "fact of life" **12:15**
  - c. He challenges them to show how he or Titus have taken advantage of them in their dealings **12:16-19**
  - d. Those whom he loves greatly are yet unlovable **12:20-21**
- 2. Third time's proof of Divine disapproval **13:1-10**
  - a. Christ mightily speaks through Paul's admonition **13:1-4**
  - b. Only self-examination will produce proper conclusion **13:5-6**
  - c. Christians are expected to only work for the truth **13:7-10**
- 3. Third time's appeal is finished **13:11-14**
  - a. 5 rules for a satisfactory church **13:11-12**
  - b. All Christians "fit in" to God's plan **13:13**
  - c. Three in the Godhead want it to work **13:14**

## Corinthian “Counters”:

- Paul deals with “they say”-ers: **10:10**; a vocal minority of grumblers (“some”): **3:1; 10:2, 7, 12; 11:4; 12:21**.
- False teachers are recognized by their techniques, for they:
  - **2:17** -“peddle” the word of God, or sell out at any price;
  - **4:2** -have to be “crafty, cunning, and treacherous” **Cf 11:3**;  
-handle the word of God deceitfully, like a fishing lure;
  - **5:12** -emphasize appearance, not heart, in obedience;
  - **10:7** -reason from any doctrine to a rejection of Paul;
  - **10:3** -use physical weapons to spread their kingdom;
  - **10:18** -recommend themselves with no Scripture proof;
  - **11:4** -preach a Jesus “just as good” as the one in the Bible,  
OR lead from a contrary spirit to the Scriptures,  
OR advocate a contradictory gospel;
  - **11:12** -falsely claim to be apostles **Cf 11:13a**, work deceitfully, with guile, disguising themselves as authoritative as apostles.
- This was Paul’s “third time” to come to them (**12:14; 13:1-2**).  
**I Corinthians** was written in response to their letter of inquiry (**I Corinthians 7:1**), and **II Corinthians** was a follow-up of the first letter. There is entirely too much time spent trying to establish and then lose other epistles Paul may have written to Corinth. That there were letters written by these men not included in the New Testament there can be little doubt, *but every inspired letter necessary to complete the New Testament has been included and overseen by the Holy Spirit Himself as of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century* (**I Corinthians 14:37; Colossians 4:16; I Thessalonians 5:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**).