

The Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Notes

- Most personal of all Paul's letters; reveals his character
- Great development of Christian apologetics
- Perhaps the most difficult letter to understand completely
- Written about 56 AD from Macedonia or Philippi during his 3rd missionary journey
- Paul thought the letter was necessary by events and problems that had arisen in Corinth since his first letter
 - We do not really know much about the background beyond what is in the letter
 - There is a crisis between Paul and the Corinthians
 - Need for further directives and encouragements
 - This is a very encouraging letter seeking to bolster the resolve of the Christians in Corinth who were facing difficult choices – full of “positive strokes”
 - The collection for the Church in Jerusalem
 - Very important to Paul but a source of irritation to the Corinthians
 - Definition and defense of Paul's apostolate
 - There must have been rival preachers who taught in error – we don't know for sure
- The letter shows lack of consistency – perhaps it was written over a period of several months
 - Many thoughts seem interrupted and resumed several verses later
 - Some passages are difficult to understand alone and must be seen in the context of the entire letter