

Message Notes

Welcome Back! 2 Corinthians Introduction

Introduction – A New Series!!

Welcome back to Corinth!!
The Bridezilla of Christ: a study of
2 Corinthians

Message #1
Introduction to 2 Corinthians
2 Corinthians 1:1-2

1. Paul (2 Corinthians 1:1a)
Philippians 3:4b-11

2. Church in Corinth
(2 Corinthians 1:1b)
a. Corinth as a city

b. The Church in Corinth (a buggy
ride through 1st Corinthians)

10 Things that were wrong in Corinth
when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians

1. Divisions (1:11-12)
2. Affairs (5:1)
3. Approval of Affairs (5:2)
4. Class Struggle (6:1, 7-8)
5. Visiting Prostitutes (6:12-15)
6. Asceticism (7:1-7)
7. Pagan Background (8:4-8)
8. Worship Chaos (11:17-21)
9. Charismania (12:1-7)
10. Horrible Theology (15:1-14)

But, hey, other than that,
this is a great church!

c. How does Paul respond?
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

3. How does Paul start to respond in
2 Corinthians? (2 Corinthians 1:2)

Application– How can we love unlovables?
Romans 5:8

Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

2 Corinthians 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:4b-11

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians Scripture passages:

Please view screen or grab a pew Bible for the 1 Corinthians references.



A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, holding a bouquet. She is positioned in front of a large, arched opening in a stone wall, which appears to be the entrance of a church. The architecture is old and weathered, with visible stone blocks and some missing sections. The ground is a flat, paved surface. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

photo by Jim Blackie (cc - creative commons use)

Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:



Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:

The Bridezilla
of Christ!

A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



The Return of Bridezilla: An Intro

2 Corinthians 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

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The Return of Bridezilla: An Intro

1. The Apostle Paul

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Paul



REMBRANDT van RINJ, *Apostle Paul*, National Gallery of Art, Washington D. C.

Paul

- Raised in Tarsus



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- Raised in Tarsus
- Trained by Gamaliel



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 - Very Religious!![Pharisee]



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- Persecutor of Church
 - Conversion



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- Church Planter

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 - Apostle
- Church Planter
- Theologian/NT writer



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Philippians 3:4b-11

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

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The Return of Bridezilla: An Intro

2. The Church in Corinth

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Corinth: The City



The Return of Bridezilla: An Intro

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To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:

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a VERY quick review of 1 Corinthians

a VERY quick review of 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth,
to those sanctified in Christ Jesus
and called to be holy,

together with all those everywhere who call
on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First Corinthians: The Letter



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Paul was the
founding pastor of
the church in
Corinth
(c. AD 49-51)

Acts 18



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

1. Wrote first to
them about an
issue of sin to be
dealt with:

1 Corinthians 5:9



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

2. The church
writes Paul back:

"Now for the
matters you wrote
about ..."

(1 Cor 7:1)



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

3. Paul now
writes 1
Corinthians letter
to address issues
in the church he
has heard about in
addition to issues
they are concerned
about.



LIFE

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Introduction
About the Map
Overview
Acts 15-16
Acts 17
Acts 18
Conclusion

Bible History Online

Paul's Second Church Planting Journey - Acts 15:40-18:23 (c. AD 49-52)



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Divisions among the leadership

1 Corinthians 1:11-12

¹¹ My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Divisions among the leadership
- A man is having an affair with his stepmother

1 Corinthians 5:1

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Divisions among the leadership
- A man is having an affair with his stepmother
- There are many in the church who think this is great!
“Freedom in Christ” is their montra

1 Corinthians 5:2

And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Divisions among the leadership
- A man is having an affair with his stepmother
- There are many in the church who think this is great!
“Freedom in Christ” is their montra
- The rich and sophisticated are taking advantage of others, even taking each other to court

1 Corinthians 6:1, 7-8

¹If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples

1 Corinthians 6:12-15

¹²“Everything is permissible for me” —but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me” —but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food” —but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples
- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex

1 Corinthians 7:1-7

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. ²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples
- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex
- Big debates about how to be involved with their pagan religious background

1 Corinthians 8:4-8

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:4-8

⁷But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Worship was an absolute mess
 - disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!

1 Corinthians 11:17-21

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Worship was an absolute mess
– disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!
- The Spiritual Gifts of God are present, but it is charismania and absolute bedlam in their meetings

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

¹Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Worship was an absolute mess – disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!
- The Spiritual Gifts of God are present, but it is charismania and absolute bedlam in their meetings
- Some people in the church do not actually believe that Jesus did not bodily raise from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:1-14

¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-14

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:1-14

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

1 Corinthians 15:1-14

¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.



Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:

The Bridezilla
of Christ!

Paul's opening remarks to the church in Corinth

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God in Corinth,
to those sanctified in Christ Jesus
and called to be holy,

together with all those everywhere who call
on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

How Paul deals with all of this...

Let 'em have it, Paul!!

What I would have done if I was Paul...



***YOU ARE HERE.**

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge — ⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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The Return of Bridezilla: An Intro

3. How Paul starts this letter...

2 Corinthians 1:1-2

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To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:

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Application

Application

BIG QUESTION?

How can Paul stay with these people and care so very deeply for them?

Application

BIG QUESTION?

How can Paul stay with these people and care so very deeply for them?

BIG ANSWER:

Because Paul was a Gospel Guy!

Application



Application



Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.