

Plans

Introduction: Second Corinthians is a very personal letter from the Apostle Paul. More so than any of his other letters, this one will reveal his heart and deepest motives in the ministry.

- I. Introduction and Background (2 Cor. 1:1-2)
 - A. "Since Paul's first letter, the Corinthian church had been swayed by false teachers who stirred the people against Paul. . . Paul sent Titus to Corinth to deal with these difficulties. . and rejoiced to hear of [their] _____ of heart" (Wilkinson and Boa).
 - B. This letter was written from Macedonia around A.D. _____.
 - C. Paul founded the _____ at Corinth. (Acts 18).
 - D. He spent _____ years there establishing the new believers in the faith.
 - E. After leaving for Ephesus for _____ years he wrote 1 Corinthians.
 - F. Paul revisited the church afterwards to see how they were doing.
 - G. Then after leaving for the second time, he wrote this _____ of rejoicing.
 - H. He begins by assuring them of God's _____ upon his apostleship.
 - I. Grace and peace will cover the bases in your _____.
- II. God _____ Us in Unplanned Events (2 Cor. 1:3-11)
 - A. Things will come into our life that we do not _____ from time to time.
 - B. During those times we must seek "the God of all _____."
 - C. God comforts us so we can later comfort _____ experiencing the same trial.
 - D. "Only those who have gone through deep testings know how to speak a fitting _____ to others who are called upon to go through the same" (MacDonald).
 - E. The _____ of comfort is so important in the local church.
 - F. If ever a man faced trials, Paul _____ what it was like to suffer.
 - G. Trials should cause us to _____ trust in ourselves, but in God alone.
 - H. "The comfort of God is channeled through people and by means of _____" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).
- III. God _____ Our Plans Which Are Not in His Will (2 Cor. 1:12-24)
 - A. Paul had a _____ conscience in how he ministered to and dealt with the Corinthian church.
 - B. He wanted to visit the church after hearing more _____ reports, but the Lord did not allow it to happen; God already resolved the situation.
 - C. We should not be fickle in the way we make our _____.
 - D. We ought to be _____ because Christ is faithful.
 - E. You must acknowledge God's perfect _____ in all your planning.

Conclusion: "One reason we love 2 Corinthians so greatly is because it is so personal. We seem to get closer to the heart of Paul here than in any other of his writings" (MacDonald).