

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 4:7-11**.
- B. Paul had written his first letter, which was a very hard lesson to the church at Corinth, and was now faced with another problem.
- B. Most of the brethren had repented at Paul's first writing but the Judaizers and other rebellious ones needed further instruction.
- C. There was great opposition to Paul, and he felt the need to write this letter.
- D. Facts: 13 chapters, 257 total verses.

I. A PERSONAL LETTER WITH A MESSAGE.

- A. It must be stressed that the apostle wrote this letter against his will, but knew it was needed to help the brethren in Corinth.
- B. The book is a personal letter from Paul, who makes a defense of certain charges brought against him. These charges can be seen "inside" Paul's statements in the book.
- C. Also found in the letter is the seven "homilies" or sermons or serious talks.
- D. Paul states the following:
 - 1. His sincerity, love, and apostolic authority (chapters 1-7).
 - 2. Contribution (chapters 8, 9).
 - 3. Additional defense of apostleship (chapters 10-13).

II. THE BOOK AS A PERSONAL LETTER.

- A. The apostle Paul makes 13 defenses of his apostleship, authority and love throughout the book:
 - 1. A coward (2Cor. 1:15-17).
 - 2. Insincerity and vacillation (2Cor. 1:18,19).
 - 3. A tyrant (2Cor. 1:23,24).
 - 4. Letters were weighty and terrifying but his personal appearance was mean and uninviting (2Cor. 10:10-14).
 - 5. Boldness but speech was rude and simple (2Cor. 11:6).
 - 6. Inferior (2Cor. 11:7, 8).
 - 7. Descent as a Hebrew questioned (2Cor. 11:22,23).
 - 8. Escape from Damascus was preposterous (2Cor. 11:31-33).
 - 9. Question of sanity (2Cor. 12:1-4).
 - 10. Suspicion (2Cor. 3:1; 10:8,9; 12:11-13).
 - 11. Underhanded (2Cor. 12:14-18).
 - 12. Threatened (2Cor. 13:1,2).
 - 13. Not on par with Jerusalem apostles (2Cor. 13:2,3; 12:11-12).

III. THE BOOK AND ITS BASIC MESSAGES.

- A. Seven "homilies" or sermons are found in the book:
 - 1. Ministration of righteousness versus ministration of death (2Cor. 3:1-18).
 - 2. Gospel in earthen vessels (2Cor. 4:1-18).
 - 3. The unequal yoke (2Cor. 6:14-18).
 - 4. Things honest (2Cor. 8:16-24).
 - 5. The grace (and giving) of the Macedonian churches (2Cor. 8:1-15; 9:1-15).
 - 6. The standard of measurement (2Cor. 10:12-18).
 - 7. Charges made against Paul, help us to know what kind of man he really was.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Paul showed great love in writing both 1&2Corinthians.
- B. Because of the opposition to him, Paul wrote this letter to silence his critics and preach the gospel.
- C. Also because of this opposition we can see Paul fully revealed and learn much about the man himself.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.