

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH IN CORINTH **ACTS** CHAPTER 18



THE REPORT
(SEE 1 CORINTHIANS 1:11)

2 CORINTHIANS



THE FIRST LETTER



"THE PAINFUL VISIT"
(2 CORINTHIANS 2:1)



THE SECOND LETTER
(2 COR 2:3-4, 7:8-12)

THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS

CHALLENGES OUR VALUES

GOD VALUES HUMILITY & WEAKNESS BECAUSE HIS LOVE & POWER WERE MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS

TRANSFORMS THROUGH THE SPIRIT

JESUS' "CRUCIFORM" WAY OF LIFE BECOMES OUR OWN

1-7 PAUL RECONCILES WITH THE CORINTHIANS

1-2a OPENING PRAYER

PRaise the GOD WHO COMFORTS US IN OUR TROUBLES! (1:3-4)

1-3 WHY DID THEY REJECT PAUL?

POOR! UNIMPRESSIVE! WELL-OFF! SUCCESSFUL! SUFFERING!

2b TRUE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: NOT ABOUT STATUS

POINTING OTHERS TO JESUS

DISTORTED VALUE SYSTEM

3a LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

PROVE YOUR CREDENTIALS! WE DEMAND

WHAT? YOU ARE MY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION, WRITTEN BY THE SPIRIT. (3:2-4)

SEE JEREMIAH 31, EZEKIEL 36

3b COMPARING THE:

OLD COVENANT → GOD → MOSES → ISRAEL

NEW COVENANT → GOD → JESUS & THE SPIRIT → CORINTHIANS

GLORIOUS, BUT FADING & INEFFECTIVE

GLORIOUS, ETERNAL & TRANSFORMATIVE

NEW COVENANT PEOPLE

1-7 THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS

THE CROSS REVEALS:

- GOD'S SALVATION: JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS
- GOD'S CHARACTER: SELF-GIVING LOVE
- A NEW 'CRUCIFORM' WAY OF LIFE: IMITATING THE CROSS

PROOF THAT PAUL AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENTS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN JESUS

HUMILITY, SUFFERING, POVERTY

JESUS GLORIOUSLY EXALTED... THROUGH HIS SUFFERING & DEATH

8-9 FORGOTTEN GENEROSITY



THIS ISN'T REALLY ABOUT MONEY; THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL. A STORY OF GENEROSITY

FOR YOU KNOW THE GENEROUS GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS THE MESSIAH, THAT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS RICH, FOR YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR, SO THAT THROUGH HIS POVERTY, YOU MIGHT BECOME RICH. (8-9)

TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS TO BECOME MORE GENEROUS

HONOR & "WEALTH" → DEATH of a POOR SLAVE

"RICH" THROUGH GOD'S GRACE → SIN & "POVERTY"

10-13 PAUL'S FINAL CHALLENGE

10-12 A MAIN SOURCE OF THE CONFLICT

PAUL? HA!

PAUL

- A PHARISEE (MEMORIZED THE WHOLE BIBLE!)
- SPENT TIME WITH THE RISEN JESUS
- HAD VISIONS OF JESUS' HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM
- GIVEN HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO THE MISSION OF JESUS
- NEVER ASKED FOR MONEY

THE SUPER-APOSTLES (11:5, 12-11)

- JEWISH BIBLE EXPERTS
- KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JESUS
- ASKED FOR LOTS OF MONEY

BUT NONE OF THIS MATTERS! INSTEAD, I WILL BRAG ABOUT MY WEAKNESS. (11:30)

"PAUL, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT THROUGH WEAKNESS." (12:9)

13 A SOBER WARNING

SERIOUSLY! YOU NEED TO CHECK YOURSELVES. (13:5)