

The Ministry of Suffering

2 Corinthians

Wednesday Nov 10, 2010

2 Corinthians is Paul's autobiography of his humanness.

Steps that led to 2 Corinthians

1. Paul starts the church at Corinth in Acts 18:1-17
2. Paul travelled to Ephesus in Acts 18:18-19
3. Paul writes his "lost letter" (1 Cor 5:9)
4. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians later from Ephesus (1 Cor 7:1)
5. Paul went to Troas to meet Titus (2 Cor 2:12-13)
6. Paul travelled to Phillip to meet Titus (2 Cor 7:5)
7. Titus brought good and bad news (7:6-16)
8. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians

Theme of 2 Corinthians: A Defense of the Ministry

2 Corinthians 1-7: The Ministry Explained
2 Corinthians 8-9: The Ministry of Giving Encouraged
2 Corinthians 10-13: The Apostolic Ministry Enforced

1. The Ministry Explained Chapters 1-7

A. The Suffering of the Ministry 1:1-2:11

How can we Turn Our Suffering into a Ministry to Others?

1) By Praising God in All Circumstances (1:3-7)

- A) When do we praise God? (1:3-4a)
- B) Whom do we praise? (1:3)
- C) Why does God give us encouragement? (1:4)
- D) Why do we suffer? (1:5-8)

2) By Trusting in the Lord (1:8-10)

- A) God puts us in circumstances too big for us to handle so we will trust in Him (1:8-9)
- B) God has delivered, is delivering, and will deliver (1:10)

3) By Praying for One Another (1:11)