

## Worksheet 1: Overview of 2 Corinthians

### Major Themes

*Read through the entire letter in one sitting and then answer the next few questions.*

1. Why was this letter written? (Is the author addressing problems? Is his tone encouraging or confrontational? Does the author seem to have a primary purpose?)

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2. What do you see as the primary themes of this letter? (If you can't decide on one, identify two or three prominent themes.)

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3. What topics from the text are you excited about discussing in the next 2 weeks?

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4. What questions do you have after reading through this book?

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## Outline of 2 Corinthians<sup>1</sup>

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-11)
  - A. Salutation (1:1-2)
  - B. Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:3-7)
  - C. Explanation of Paul's Thanksgiving (1:8-11)
- II. PAUL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CORINTHIANS (1:12-2:11)
  - A. Paul's Pure Conduct (1:12-14)
  - B. Paul's Change in Plans (1:15-22)
  - C. The Reason for the Change in Plans (1:23-2:4)
  - D. Forgiveness to the Repentant Sinner (2:5-11)
- III. PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS MINISTRY (2:12-7:16)
  - A. Paul's Ministry in Troas and Macedonia (2:12-17)
  - B. Paul's Letters of Recommendation (3:1-3)
  - C. Paul's Competence (3:4-6)
  - D. Ministry of the New Covenant (3:7-18)
  - E. The Unveiled Truth (4:1-6)
  - F. Treasure in Clay Jars (4:7-18)
  - G. The Coming Resurrection (5:1-10)
  - H. The Ministry of Reconciliation (5:11-6:2)
  - I. Catalog of Paul's Sufferings (6:3-13)
  - J. Call to Separate from Paul's Opponents (6:14-7:1)
  - K. Paul's Final Defense (7:2-16)
- IV. THE COLLECTION FOR THE BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM (8:1-9:15)
  - A. Example of the Churches in Macedonia (8:1-7)
  - B. Examples of Christ's Sacrifice and the Old Testament (8:8-15)
  - C. Administration of the Offering (8:16-24)
  - D. Importance of Having the Offering Ready (9:1-5)
  - E. Principles Motivating Generous Giving (9:6-15)
- V. PAUL'S RENEWED DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP (10:1-13:4)
  - A. The Tone of Paul's Appeal (10:1-11)
  - B. Divine Commendation of Paul's Ministry (10:12-18)
  - C. Danger of the False Apostles (11:1-15)
  - D. Paul's Sufferings (11:16-33)
  - E. Paul's Visions and Revelations (12:1-10)
  - F. Paul's Miracles (12:11-13)
  - G. Paul's Final Defense (12:14-13:4)
- VI. FINAL EXHORTATIONS (13:5-12)
- VII. CLOSING (13:13)

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<sup>1</sup> Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 484.