

# 1 & 2 Corinthians

## Breakdown

- 1 & 2 Corinthians are epistles (letters) that Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth. The church began in 52 A.D. when Paul visited there during his second missionary journey.
- Ancient Corinth was a city of wealth, but it was also a city of sin. Corinthians worshipped many false gods, and immorality of all types was the norm in the city.
- Paul wrote 1 Corinthians sometime between 53 and 55 A.D., and he wrote 2 Corinthians around 55 or 56 A.D., approximately one year after his first letter.

## Main Points

- The Church at Corinth had only been planted a few years earlier, and the people of this young church were struggling to keep their focus on God in the midst of all the sin and idol worship in the city. This led to division over several issues, so they wrote a letter to Paul asking for his help in solving some problems they were having. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church several times, but only 2 of those letters are included in the Bible.
- In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes to urge them to put things back into proper perspective, always putting God's glory first. In 2 Corinthians, Paul goes into more personal details about his ministry and his own dedication to God, reminding the church that God wants our hearts – hearts that serve and please and love Him.

## Did you know?

- Paul wrote that, unlike us, God doesn't choose the strongest, wisest, and best. Instead, He chooses the weakest, lowest, and most despised. Why does Paul say God does that?
- Paul explained that God no longer lives in a temple made of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, etc. What kind of temple does God live in now?
- The Corinthian Church members were concerned about people eating food that had been offered to idols. How does Paul respond?
- Paul spends a good portion of his first letter explaining how love looks and acts. Why is it important for believers to know these details about love?
- Paul compares our bodies with tents. What does he say will happen when our tents are destroyed?
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Most people quote it say "When I am weak, God is strong." What does the verse actually say?

## Further Thought

- Many of the problems the Corinthian Church was dealing with are still present in the church today – like division and immorality. Paul urged the Corinthian believers to make the glory of God their number one priority. Does that advice apply to us? How would following that advice change the church today?
- Through examples of his personal experiences, Paul encourages the church to remember that even though we may have trouble in the world, our physical bodies are not our real selves – our spirits are. How can we focus more on our spirits that we can't see instead of the physical things we can see?