

Second Corinthians Outline

Introduction: Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is kinder than the first- conceding the communities' positive response to his first letter. Things are so positive Paul's second letter here is in large part a letter asking the community for further financial support. And the warnings that do come at the end are mainly warning the community away from charismatic teachers who appear to be drawing more attention to themselves than to the good news of Christ. Some of our most memorable images from Paul come from this letter- that we are jars of clay, that we are part of a ministry of reconciliation, and the enigmatic thorn in Paul's flesh.

Section One: Introduction

Chapter 1: Paul's greetings; times are hard- unable to return to Corinth

Section Two: Community and Ministry of Reconciliation

Chapter 2: Corinthians must now forgive the man expelled by community; we are the aroma Of Christ

Chapter 3: We are letters of Christ- written with Spirit of God

Chapter 4: We carry the treasure of the Gospel in jars of clay

Chapter 5: We have ministry of reconciliation

Chapter 6: Paul recommends not being 'yoked' with unbelievers

Section Three: Practical Matters: Giving

Chapter 7: Paul not sorry previous letter was painful- it led to change

Chapter 8: The generosity of the Macedonian church great; Paul challenges the Corinthians To give more; Titus is coming

Chapter 9: Paul already boasting about how much the Corinthians give; God loves a cheerful giver

Section Four: Practical Matters: Other Teachers

Chapter 10: We fight, but not with weapons of the world

Chapter 11: Paul warns against false teachers; Paul tauts his sufferings

Chapter 12: Paul given a "thorn in his flesh" to keep him humble; Paul wants to visit again

Chapter 13: Final greetings

Stories to know: Jars of clay (Chapter 4); Ministry of reconciliation (Chapter 5); Paul's thorn in the flesh (Chapter 12)