



Today's Message

Date: September 16, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Second Corinthians: What's It All About?***

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:1–2 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction: Concern for the health of the church at Corinth moved Paul to write a difficult letter to them. He directly and authoritatively challenged the church regarding matters of authority and the nature of true ministry. It is a timeless letter that speaks powerfully to the church in America. This morning we will set the context of the letter, providing information essential for our understanding the book. We will also take a taste of the main themes we will encounter as we move through the book.

I. Second Corinthians was written under divine authority ... 1a

- A. The author was commissioned to speak for Christ and of Christ.
- B. He was appointed an apostle by God's sovereign will.

II. to correct and instruct the church . . . 1b

- A. The church needed correction because it was a flawed.
- B. Though the church was flawed, it belonged to God.
- C. Through Paul, God taught the church three essential lessons:
 - 1. God’s design for the church is contrary to the values of the world.
 - 2. The church that embraces the values of the world undermines true ministry.
 - 3. Therefore, the “theology of the cross” must guide the church.

III. for its good and God’s glory. 2

- A. God has lavished his grace on the church . . .
- B. to establish our well-being.

Today’s take-home truth: Second Corinthians was written under divine authority to correct and instruct the church for its good and God’s glory.