



A Guided Tour of the Bible: Discovering God in

2 Corinthians

Background

- After writing 1 Corinthians, Paul made a difficult visit to Corinth to personally confront the issues facing the church (1:23). He followed up by writing a severe and sorrowful letter that has been lost to history (2:3-4).
- After the visit and letter, some repented (2:5-8) while some persisted in their sin (12:21). Some were influenced by false teachers from Jerusalem who made personal attacks against Paul (10).
- Not desiring another contentious visit, Paul wrote this letter to answer the false attacks of his critics while seeking reconciliation.

Roadmap

1. A Public Concern: Reconciliation (1-7)

- a. He defends his motives (1-2)
- b. He defends his ministry (3:1-6:10)
- c. He defends his message (6:11-7:16)

2. A Practical Concern: Motivation (8-9)

- a. Illustrating generosity (8)
- b. Applying generosity (9)

3. A Personal Concern: Vindication (10-13)

- a. A clash with false teachers (10:1-12:18)
- b. A challenge to the Corinthians (12:19-13:14)

Landmark

In 2 Corinthians, the gospel goes on defense. Paul defends his ministry, message, and authority with humility (2:4), truth (3:17), and sincere affection (12:14-15).

Must See

The Lord Jesus comforts us in our suffering (1:3-11), reconciles our broken relationship with God (5:18-21), and provides sufficient grace for our trials (12:9).

Takeaway

When you're on defense:

1. Remember the best partners of tough words are a tender heart and tearful eyes.
2. Always position yourself with the truth.
3. Remember God's light shines best through the cracked places in our lives.