

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 1, 2009

Paul's Opening Remarks to the Corinthians
2 Corinthians 1:1-2
Dale Whitehead

What did Paul accomplish with his opening remarks in 2 Corinthians 1:1-2?

Paul, in his opening remarks, identified himself as the author of the epistle (2 Corinthians 1:1).

Paul, in his opening remarks, identified the Corinthian church and other believers in the surrounding area as the recipients of this epistle (2 Corinthians 1:1).

Paul first came to Corinth on his second missionary journey in A.D. 50 and remained there for 18 months. It was during this time that the church at Corinth was established (Acts 18:1-17).

Problems among the Corinthians themselves and their relationship with Paul caused him to write not only the two lengthy letters that we have, but also two others, which we do not have.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church, that we do not have, was written sometime between A.D. 52 and A.D. 55 and was alluded to in 1 Corinthians 5:9.

Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church, that we do have, was written in A.D. 55 and is known as 1 Corinthians.

While this letter apparently resolved some of the problems in Corinth, another very serious threat soon arose. False teachers, claiming to be apostles, arrived in Corinth.

This threat to the church resulted in Paul temporarily leaving the church at Ephesus to visit the church at Corinth, a visit that has become known as the "sorrowful visit" (2 Corinthians 2:1).

Paul's third letter, that we also do not have, is known as the "severe letter," which was written very shortly after Paul returned to Ephesus after his "sorrowful visit" (2 Corinthians 2:1-4).

Paul wrote his fourth letter, which is known as 2 Corinthians, in A.D. 57.

Paul, in his opening remarks, greeted the whole of the church at Corinth and all the saints throughout Achaia (2 Corinthians 1:2).

May God give us the grace to love difficult people with the mind and heart of the Apostle Paul.

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