

Paul Unplugged

II Corinthians Intro

differences from I Corinthians

- ✓ more journalistic whereas I Cor systematic, doctrinal
 - ✓ *"I wrote with many tears"* 2:4
 - ✓ *"you are our letter"* 3:1-2 (see 5:12)
 - ✓ *"open your hearts to us"* 6:11-13; 7:2-3
 - ✓ *"I am being foolish for you"* 11:1
 - ✓ *"may not be good talker, but least I know talking about!"* 11:5-6
 - ✓ *"okay, think me a fool, you seem to like fools"* "11:16, 19-20
 - ✓ *"why aren't you saying these things about me"* 12:11
 - ✓ *"It seems the more I love you, the less you love me"* 12:15
- ✓ choppy and intense whereas I Cor smooth and theological
- ✓ II Cor very biographical (*Apologia Pro Vita Sua* = defense of his life)
 - ✓ Paul's hardships 11:23-33
 - ✓ Paul's thorn in the flesh 12:7
 - ✓ Paul's vision of heaven ch 12:1-10
 - ✓ but Paul defends self in godly way 12:19

probable Corinthian letters timeline

1. Paul visits Corinth after Athens, "many believe"
2. In Corinth 1 ½ years, goes to Ephesus, stays there 3 years
3. While at Ephesus, writes "Corinthians A"
4. Corinth responds, Paul writes "Corinthians B" (I Corinthians)
5. Timothy's report precipitates second visit
6. Paul returns to Ephesus, writes "Corinthians C"
7. Paul goes to Macedonia, meets Titus, gets a good report
8. Encouraged, Paul writes "Corinthians D" (II Corinthians)
9. Paul's 3rd visit mentioned in II Cor 13:1 and Acts 20:1-2

who is adequate?

- ✓ Paul weak 13:3
- ✓ Jesus weak 13:4
- ✓ we rejoice in weakness 13:9

general

I Cor = teaching; II Cor = pleading

ch 1-6 Paul “opens up” re his ministry and its challenges

7:9-11 Paul blessed by Corinth’s response to admonish letter

ch 10-12 Paul pleads with Corinth to accept his apostleship

book begins and ends with “*I am an apostle*” 1:1; 12:12

only this book ends

famous passages

- ✓ earthen vessels 4:7
- ✓ groaning anticipating redemption 5:4; Rom 8:22
- ✓ new creature 5:17
- ✓ unequally yoked 6:14; I Cor 7:39
- ✓ sorrow unto repentance 7:10
- ✓ indescribable gift 9:15
- ✓ weapons of our warfare 10:4
- ✓ Satan disguises himself as light 11:14
- ✓ Paul’s hardships 11:23-33
- ✓ Paul’s thorn in the flesh 12:7
- ✓ Paul’s vision of heaven ch 12:1-10

interesting points

- ✓ suffering 58x
 - “*suffering in abundance*” 1:5
- ✓ “*I have authority to act the same way I write*” 10:8
 - “*contemptible*” (to despise, 1x in Bible) 10:10
 - “*I won’t compete with those who brag*” 10:12
- ✓ “*better for me to brag about how God humbles me*” 11:30
- ✓ “*are you even believers?*” 13:5
- ✓ ch 8-9 most on giving in NT
 - similarly I Cor 15 pattern for Communion
 - Ecclesiastes ch 11