

READING 2 CORINTHIANS TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 2026

Who? Written by Paul to the church in Corinth, which was established through his ministry (Acts 18).

What? This is more than just a personal letter to a specific church. It is the timeless word of God, through which He still speaks today.

When? Probably written around 56 AD, about a year after writing 1 Corinthians. In between these two letters, in response to issues in the church, Paul made a "painful visit" to Corinth (2:1) and sent a (now lost) tearful letter calling them to repent (2:4). He received a positive report of their repentance (7:6–9) and wrote 2 Corinthians in anticipation of another, less painful, visit (13:1).

Why? The letter is in three main sections, showing Paul's main reasons for writing:

- 1) To reassure the church of his love and explain his ministry to them (ch 1–7)
- 2) To encourage them to give to a collection for poorer believers in Jerusalem (ch 8–9)
- 3) To challenge the false "super-apostles" who opposed his ministry (ch 10–13)

FIVE KEY THEMES

- 1. Strength in weakness.** Paul boasts in his weaknesses, because he knows it's in our weakness that Christ's power is experienced and displayed. "When I am weak, then I am strong" (12:10).
- 2. Hope in suffering.** The Christian life involves suffering of various kinds. But in our suffering, we remember the glorious resurrection hope we have in Christ. We "rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (1:9).
- 3. The new covenant.** Paul is a minister of the new covenant, which has "even more glory" than the old one made at Sinai (3:8). Through his ministry, God's Spirit is transforming the church to be more like Jesus (3:18).
- 4. Reconciliation.** As Paul pursues reconciliation with the Corinthians, he reminds them that the gospel is a message of reconciliation – we are reconciled to God through the death of Christ for us (5:16–21).
- 5. Generosity.** The self-giving love of Christ teaches us to be generous with our resources (8:8–9). God directs us to give generously, willingly, intentionally, wisely and cheerfully, giving thanks for "his inexpressible gift" (9:15).

FIVE KEY QUESTIONS

Here are five questions you could ask as you read each passage. You might find it helpful to make notes, so that you can remember what the Lord has been teaching you, use it to encourage others, and bring it to him in prayer.

1. **What do these verses tell me about God's character and plans?** Think about each person of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. **What aspect of Christ's work is being highlighted?** Across the letter, we remember the significance of his life, death, resurrection, heavenly ministry and return.
3. **Is there anything in this passage to give me hope in times of suffering?** As you answer, is there anyone in the church you can share this encouragement with?
4. **Is there anything that teaches me how to serve God and others?** The letter shows us what faithful service looks like and how to use our resources well.
5. **How can I pray for Litchard Mission?** Think about specific prayers of thanks and intercession that you can pray for our church as we grow together.

ADVICE FOR READING 2 CORINTHIANS

There are some extra resources you might find helpful on our website: litchardmission.co.uk/rbt

Some of the letter can be difficult to follow, because of Paul's emotional writing and the fact we don't know the full history of his relationship with the Corinthian church. If you're struggling with a passage, remember:

- **The best thing you can do is pray!**
- **We're reading the book together.** Is there someone in the church you could ask about it? Or a resource on the website (above) that might help?
- **You don't need to understand everything!** What do you think the main point of the passage is?

A possible 28-day reading plan

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4:7–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1–15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:12–22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:16–33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:23–2:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:11–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:16–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1–10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2:12–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1–5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12:11–21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1–6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:14–7:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:6–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1–10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:7–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:2–7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13:11–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1–6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:8–16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10:12–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Review |

