

An Outline of 2 Corinthians

1. Address, Salutation, and Thanksgiving [1:1-11]
2. Autobiographical Report and Apology [1:12--2:17]
 - a. Sincerity of the apostle [1:12-14]
 - b. Reason for postponement of apostolic visit [1:15--2:4]
 - c. Treatment of the offender [2:5-11]
 - d. Report on his ministry from Troas to Macedonia [2:12-17]
3. Defense of Paul's Apostolic Ministry [3:1-6:10]
 - a. Letters of recommendation [3:1-3]
 - b. Sufficiency is from God [3:4-11]
 - c. Truth of Scripture veiled to others [3:12-18]
 - d. Others preach themselves; "we" preach Christ [4:1-6]
 - e. Suffering validates ministry [4:7--5:10]
 - f. Love of Christ controls us [5:11--6:2]
 - g. God known in suffering and weakness [6:3-10]
4. Invitation to Reconciliation [6:11--7:16]
 - a. Plea to restore relationship [6:11-13; 7:2-4]
 - b. Report of Titus on Corinthian visit [7:5-16]
5. The Collection for the "Poor" in Jerusalem [8-9]
 - a. Example of the churches in Macedonia [8:1-6]
 - b. Appeal to share in the offering [8:7-15]
 - c. Titus and others commissioned to assist [8:16-24]
 - d. Exhortation to prepare [9:1-5]
 - e. Exhortation to give generously [9:6-15]
6. The proposed "Letter of Tears" [10-13]

(It is the general opinion of most New Testament Scholars that 2 Corinthians is actually made up of at least 2 letters from Paul. The "Letter of Tears" that Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 2:4 is believed to be found in chapters 10 - 13 of 2 Corinthians, and the other letter is the above material from chapters 1-9. This theory is also my opinion. For an outline of 10-13, see next page.-- GN)