

Second Corinthians: Passion For Trust, Truth & People

Intro: One of the least studied books of the New Testament is Second Corinthians. The personal nature of the letter: Paul's concern for his relationship with the Corinthians, often causes us to innocently ignore the letter as significant for the local church or for our personal lives. We kick off our study of 2nd Corinthians looking at these 3 major themes found in the book.

1. Passion For Trust

- A. God is the truly reliable source of comfort. - 1:3-4
- B. We trust that in him we will be given life even if we should die. - 4:13-14; 5:4-6
- C. For God, I will "take pleasure in my infirmities" and trust his grace. - 12:9-10

2. Passion For Truth

- A. We preach truth. That's the "aroma of life". - 2:15-16
- B. I must identify misguided teaching which opposes the truth. - 3:1-18
- C. Corinthians, "Don't receive the grace of God in vain". - 6:1
- D. Fears that they might be corrupted by untruth. - 11:3-4
- E. "Test yourselves". - 13:5
- F. Christ, the embodiment of truth, will judge us. - 5:10

3. Passion For People

- A. What we do we do for you. - 1:6
- B. Wanting a "fellow worker" relationship. - 1:23-2:2
- C. Desires their love and affection. - 6:11-13; 7:2
- D. He was "jealous" for them. - 11:2; 10-15
- E. All of these ideas are based on a passion for their faithfulness.

Conclusion: In this touching, and at the same time challenging letter from the hand of the apostle, Paul, we see the heart and soul of someone totally absorbed in the saving power of God through the gift of Jesus. We are able to see the joy and the anguish of being a Christian who cares for his brethren. Through Paul and this letter we are able to see what should really matter to us as children of God.