

2 Corinthians Whose Ministry Is It Anyway Ministry Pride

The letter of 2 Corinthians reveals a powerful debate between the apostle Paul and a shadowy group of opponents, along with the local church members who supported them. In this revised BST volume, Paul Barnett works passage by passage to provide helpful background, draw out key themes, and offer applications for Christians today. While the commentaries and articles on 2 Corinthians focus on the world behind the text, giving attention to the identity of Paul's opposition and questions about the letter's composition, few scholars have bridged the gap between the exegesis of 2 Corinthians and the sermon. The issue of what constitutes legitimate ministry, the focus of 2 Corinthians, is a pressing issue today for churches as they face an identity crisis. Paul confronts opponents who judge him by secular standards of ministry, offering an alternative that is based on the cross. Second Corinthians offers an insight into both the nature of pastoral ministry and the mission of the church. This book draws parallels between Corinth and the contemporary situation of the church. The exegetical insights demonstrate the primary focus of the passage as the basis for the preaching text. This book demonstrates a full awareness of current scholarship on 2 Corinthians and offers hermeneutical and homiletical guidance for addressing these issues today.

Empowering the Church In his second epistle to the Corinthian Church, the apostle

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Paul empowered the church by affirming that God's strength and power is revealed and works in our weakness. The apostle empowered the church with God's strength after having confronted the immorality, doctrinal confusion and frequent disputes that had become commonplace among the Corinthian believers. Paul's message to this church was simple yet powerful: Consider the values of Christ's redemption and realign your thinking with God's instructions. Although this letter was written to admonish, instruct and encourage the early church, they are just as relevant to us today. This verse-by-verse devotional study, complete with engaging commentary and practical life applications, will challenge you to pursue a closer walk with Jesus Christ and grow in the faith.

From the second century to the present, 2 Corinthians offers its riches grudgingly, if at all; and even then it demands only the most careful and attentive inquiries. The Abingdon New Testament Commentaries series provides compact, critical commentaries on the writings of the New Testament. These commentaries are written with special attention to the needs and interests of theological students, but they will also be useful for students in upper-level college or university settings, as well as for pastors and other religious leaders. In addition to providing basic information about the New Testament texts and insights into their meanings, these commentaries are intended to exemplify the tasks and procedures of careful, critical biblical exegesis. "2 Corinthians is a treasure hidden in a thorny thicket. It is so rich, so full of theological

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insight, so packed with hope and possibility, so aware of dark human tendencies and human vulnerability, and so radical in its reevaluation of what is true and real." From the Introduction

Known as the "Prince of Expositors," G. Campbell Morgan is at his best in this exposition of Paul's letters to the Corinthians. He makes these letters as timely and as applicable today as they were when written centuries ago. His lucid style and detailed interpretation illuminate the whole text, so that the Epistles become as fascinating to the lay reader as to the minister and Bible student. In this volume Dr. Morgan's sturdy faith stands out like a beacon, and his instinctive insight and close scrutiny bring out all the force of Christianity's greatest apostle. Here is a mine for preachers seeking new inspiration for their sermons and a handbook for Christian workers and laymen who wish to become better acquainted with the teachings of the Apostle Paul. G. Campbell Morgan is the author of more than seventy volumes, each of which shows its readers why this scholar and preacher could move more people with sheer exposition than any of his contemporaries.

A Church Divided The church in Corinth was divided, and Paul, their founding pastor, found himself defending his ministry to them. False teachers had begun spreading lies accusing Paul of selfish motives. But Paul saw this division for what it was—a threat to the gospel of Jesus. Paul wrote this second letter to remind the Corinthians how he'd worked among them. He wasn't defending himself—he was defending the gospel by

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placing both himself and the Corinthians under the authority of Jesus Christ. His humble approach is a model for every ministry leader today. LifeChange Bible studies will help you grow in Christlikeness through a life-changing encounter with God's Word. Filled with a wealth of ideas for going deeper so you can return to this study again and again. Features Cover the entire book of 2 Corinthians in 13 lessons Equip yourself to lead a Bible study Imagine the Bible's historical world Study word origins and definitions Explore thoughtful questions on key themes Go deeper with optional projects Add your notes with extra space and wide margins Find the flexibility to fit the time you have

This new and refreshing approach to 2 Corinthians shows how exegesis of the New Testament writing can issue in theology that is relevant to today. Beginning with an account of the essential thrust of the text, the authors argue for the unity of the letter, setting it against both its Jewish and Hellenistic backgrounds, and examining questions of meaning and reference in the interpretation of particular passages. They then consider how the text can be illuminated by the modern study of hermeneutics, as well as by new sociological approaches. The whole study reaches its climax with an assessment of Paul's authority then and now, and the importance of what he says about God. To conclude, the authors provide their own vivid and compelling translation of Paul's words, inviting a complete rereading of the letter in the light of all that has gone before.

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THE NEW AMERICAN COMMENTARY is for the minister or Bible student who wants to understand and expound the Scriptures. Notable features include:* commentary based on THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION;* the NIV text printed in the body of the commentary;* sound scholarly methodology that reflects capable research in the original languages;* interpretation that emphasizes the theological unity of each book and of Scripture as a whole;* readable and applicable exposition.

Paul's long, complicated history with the Corinthian church culminates in this ardent defense of Christian ministry in general and of his own ministry in particular. In this revised edition, Colin Kruse updates and expands his insightful analysis that illuminates Paul's contrast of the old and new covenants and his eloquent exposition of the ministry of reconciliation. He also charts a clear, plausible course through the maze of the literary history of Paul's correspondence with the Corinthian Christians. The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries have long been a trusted resource for Bible study. Written by some of the world's most distinguished evangelical scholars, these twenty volumes offer clear, reliable and relevant explanations of every book in the New Testament. These Tyndale volumes are designed to help readers understand what the Bible actually says and what it means. The introduction to each volume gives a concise but thorough description of the authorship, date and historical background of the biblical book under consideration. The commentary itself examines the text section by section, drawing out its main themes. It also comments on individual verses and deals with

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problems of interpretation. The aim throughout is to get at the true meaning of the Bible and to make its message plain to readers today.

These commentaries are designed to help the reader of the Bible understand what the text says and what it means. The Introduction to each book gives a concise but thorough treatment of its authorship, date, original setting and purpose. Following a structural Analysis, the Commentary takes the book section by section, drawing out its main themes, and also comments on individual verses and problems of interpretation. Additional Notes provide fuller discussion of particular difficulties. In the new New Testament volumes, the commentary on each section of the text is structured under three headings: Context, Comment and Theology. The goal is to explain the true meaning of the Bible and make its message plain. 2 CORINTHIANS. Paul's long, complicated history with the Corinthian church culminates in this ardent defence of Christian ministry in general and of his own ministry in particular. Colin G. Kruse provides an insightful analysis that illuminates Paul's contrast of the old and new covenants and his eloquent exposition of the ministry of reconciliation. He also charts a clear, plausible course through the maze of the literary history of Paul's correspondence with the Corinthian Christians.

This Catholic commentary on Second Corinthians interprets Scripture from within the living tradition of the Church.

One in an ongoing series of esteemed and popular Bible commentary volumes based

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on the New International Version text.

This package contains the complete two-volume set of First Corinthians and Second Corinthians from the MacArthur New Testament Commentary series. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary series continues to be one of today's top-selling commentary series. In First Corinthians and Second Corinthians, respected preacher and Bible teacher John MacArthur demonstrates how the Corinthian church required Paul's repeated care as the apostle sought to correct errors of unchristian practice, worship, and doctrine. Concerned with false apostles who were leading the church astray, Paul defended his own authority as God's apostle and sought reconciliation within the church. MacArthur explores these issues by giving a verse-by-verse analysis in context and providing points of application for passages, illuminating the biblical text in practical and relevant ways. Both volumes form yet another set of comprehensive and compelling commentaries in his New Testament series, and are a must-have for every pastor's library.

The Corinthian church required Paul's repeated care. In 2 Corinthians, he continues his attempt to correct errors of unchristian practice, worship, and doctrine. Concerned with false apostles who were leading the church astray, Paul defended his own authority as God's apostle and sought reconciliation within the church. Respected preacher and Bible teacher John MacArthur presents yet another comprehensive and compelling commentary in his New Testament series.

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Regarded as the most personal of Paul's weighty and strong" (10:10) letters, the Second Letter to the Corinthians continues to contribute toward the *building up - (13:10) of its readers. The Second Letter to the Corinthians is an implicit yet undeniable plea that Paul addresses to the Christians of Corinth and is impressive above all for its exposition of the apostle's identity. In this letter Paul more than once fiercely counters the attacks of his opponents. He extensively describes both the quality and circumstances of his apostolic existence: the sufferings he endures, the opposition he encounters, and his continual care for the Churches. Second Corinthians is, therefore, highly significant theologically as well as autobiographically. Not an easy letter to follow, the emotional language used in 2 Corinthians, the question of the integrity of 2 Corinthians as a letter, and inadequate information about the concrete situation at Corinth and the identity of Paul's opponents make following the flow of Paul's argument difficult at times. Yet 2 Corinthians is an especially important document because of Paul's ongoing reflection on his ministry. It is both profound in its content and style for its original audience as well as for today's readers. Chapters are *Corinth and Paul's Visits, - *Paul's Corinthian Correspondence, - *Christianity in Corinth, - *The Events Between 1 and 2 Corinthians, - *Paul's Opponents, - *One Integral Letter? - *A Structured Survey of the Letter, - *The Theological Significance of the Letter. - This commentary on II Corinthians in the New Testament Library continues the exemplary quality of the series. Frank Matera provides a commentary that is a close

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study of the backgrounds and language of the text while also providing important theological insights into the message of Paul for his time and for the contemporary church. The New Testament Library offers authoritative commentary on every book and major aspect of the New Testament, as well as classic volumes of scholarship. The commentaries in this series provide fresh translations based on the best available ancient manuscripts, offer critical portrayals of the historical world in which the books were created, pay careful attention to their literary design, and present a theologically perceptive exposition of the text.

The Cornerstone Biblical Commentary series (18 volumes) provides students, pastors, and laypeople with up-to-date, accessible evangelical scholarship on the Old and New Testaments. Presenting the message for each passage, as well as an overview of other issues relevant to the text, each volume equips pastors and Christian leaders with exegetical and theological knowledge so they can better understand and apply God's Word. This volume includes the entire NLT text of 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Ideal for the NLT reader who wants to do more in-depth study. William R. Baker, Ph.D., University of Aberdeen, is professor of New Testament at Cincinnati Bible Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is the general editor of Stone-Campbell Journal and the author and editor of several books and articles, including Evangelicalism and the Stone-Campbell Movement and Sticks and Stones: The Biblical Ethics of Talk. He has also written a commentary on 2 Corinthians for the College Press NIV Commentary Series. Ralph P.

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Martin, Ph.D., University of London, is in his fifth decade as a teacher, scholar, and mentor. He is Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary, at the Graduate School of Theology of Azusa Pacific University, and at Logos Evangelical Seminary in Pasadena, California. He is the author of numerous studies and commentaries on the New Testament, including *Worship in the Early Church*, the *Philippians* in The Tyndale New Testament Commentary series, and *James* in the Word Biblical Commentary, for which he also serves as New Testament editor. He also co-edited the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* and the *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Ordained to the Baptist ministry in 1949, Dr. Martin has pastored churches in Dunstable, Southport, and Gloucester, England.

Carl N. Toney, Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago, is adjunct assistant professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He edited and contributed to the revised edition of *2 Corinthians* in the Word Biblical Commentary series and is the author of *Paul's Inclusive Ethic: Resolving Community Conflicts and Promoting Mission in Romans 14-15*. A licensed minister in the American Baptist Convention, Dr. Toney is also a member of the Society of Biblical Literature.

The *Understanding the Bible Commentary Series* helps readers navigate the strange and sometimes intimidating literary terrain of the Bible. These accessible volumes break down the barriers between the ancient and modern worlds so that the power and meaning of the biblical texts become transparent to contemporary readers. The

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contributors tackle the task of interpretation using the full range of critical methodologies and practices, yet they do so as people of faith who hold the text in the highest regard. Pastors, teachers, and lay people alike will cherish the truth found in this commentary series.

Confidence in a ministry hinges on respect for the minister. Few people understood this truth better than the apostle Paul. In the latter half of his second letter to the Corinthian Christians, he spells out the crucial importance of ministering in a way that fosters trust. And by using his own life as an example, he gives us more than an unforgettable autobiography - he gives us a model worth emulating.

In a world that idolizes celebrity and success, 2 Corinthians remains one of our most vital and significant reminders that it is not human strength but God's power that paves the way for victory in the spiritual realm. In this accessible and relevant book, Jonathan Lamb explores key lessons for authentic Christian ministry, including the role of suffering in strengthening our dependence on God, the necessity of both discipline and forgiveness in our church communities, and the centrality of union with Christ for all true Christian witness. *Strength in Weakness* will prove a valuable resource for pastors, small group leaders, and anyone seeking to grow in reliance on God. It provides a variety of tools for personal study or group teaching, including an introduction with practical suggestions for how to use the text, clear headings for easy navigation, and questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each chapter. Information boxes

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with further background on context, key themes, and important points of doctrine are also provided for those desiring to dig deeper into related topics.

The Texts @ Contexts series gathers scholarly voices from diverse contexts and social locations to bring new or unfamiliar facets of biblical texts to light. In 1 and 2 Corinthians, scholars from a variety of cultural and social locations shed new light on themes and dynamics in Paul's most intriguing letters to a complex church. Subjects include race, identity, and privilege; ritual, food, and power; community, culture, and love. These essays de-center the often homogeneous first-world orientation of much biblical scholarship and open up new possibilities for discovery.

The apostle Paul founded many churches in the Roman Empire, including one in the prominent city of Corinth. But after personally ministering to them for years, he saddened to one day discover that he is being viciously slandered and ridiculed by adversaries who have arrived in the region. Paul responds by penning a second letter to them, defending not only his authority as an apostle of Christ but also the truth of the gospel he had so painstakingly modelled in their midst. Paul's words reveal the cost of following Christ—and also the ultimate rewards that await those who are faithful to Jesus. The Jeremiah Bible Study Series captures Dr. David Jeremiah's many years of commitment in teaching the Word of God. In each study, you will gain insights into the text, identify the key stories and themes, and be challenged to correctly apply the truths and meanings you find to your own life. Sections include: Getting Started: An opening

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question to introduce the lesson Setting the Stage: A short reflection to explain the context of the study Exploring the Text: The Scripture reading for the lesson with related study questions Reviewing the Story: Questions to help you identify key points in the Scripture reading Applying the Message: Questions to help you apply the key ideas to your life Reflecting on the Meaning: A closing reflection on the key teachings in the lesson Each of the Bible studies in this series will help you understand what the Bible says—particularly in its original context—and how to apply its teachings to your life.

Power Through Weakness Paul's Understanding of the Christian Ministry in 2 Corinthians Cambridge University Press

General editor Lloyd J. Ogilvie brings together a team of skilled and exceptional communicators to blend sound scholarship with life-related illustrations. The design for the Preacher's Commentary gives the reader an overall outline of each book of the Bible. Following the introduction, which reveals the author's approach and salient background on the book, each chapter of the commentary provides the Scripture to be expounded. The New King James Bible has been chosen for the Preacher's Commentary because it combines with integrity the beauty of language, underlying Hebrew and Greek textual basis, and thought-flow of the 1611 King James Version, while replacing obsolete verb forms and other archaisms with their everyday contemporary counterparts for greater readability. Reverence for God is preserved in the capitalization of all pronouns referring to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. Readers

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who are more comfortable with another translation can readily find the parallel passage by means of the chapter and verse reference at the end of each passage being explicated. The paragraphs of exposition combine fresh insights to the Scripture, application, rich illustrative material, and innovative ways of utilizing the vibrant truth for his or her own life and for the challenge of communicating it with vigor and vitality.

V. George Shillington sees this letter as Paul's personal testimony about his ministry of reconciliation among the Corinthian Christians (chapters 1-9) and his ministry in defending the truth of the gospel (chapters 10-13). The thread that ties the two parts together is Paul's conviction on pastoral ministry under the banner of Christ. Paul insists that ministry is to be borne in affliction like that of Christ crucified. In raising the crucified Messiah out of the old creation, God has inaugurated a new creation, in which believers already participate. The only boast allowed is in the Lord, not in one's own achievements or elevated experiences.

The church in Corinth was divided. Some people followed the gospel and others believed the teachings of false apostles. The Apostle Paul wrote a second letter to the Corinthians to defend the gospel of Christ by forcefully reminding his reader that what he taught was God's truth. This Bible study of the book of 2 Corinthians shows how Paul provides an example to Christians today who must defend their own leadership in times of trouble. • Personal study between meetings • 13 sessions • Includes study aids and discussion questions

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In this eleven-session LifeGuide® Bible Study, Paul Stevens introduces you to the apostle Paul and his radical reliance on a God who can turn even human weakness into divine strength.

Straight to the Heart is a series of devotional commentaries for those who appreciate the insights and sound research found in commentaries but find scholarly writing dry and lacking in personal application. The books in the series do not cover the whole text, but focus on key sections which communicate the main themes of each book. Although the tone is light, the text is full of useful application and backed by substantial scholarship. Its clear, thought-provoking insights will feed both mind and soul.

An intriguing new interpretation of the paradox at the heart of Paul's understanding of his ministry.

Charles Hodge (1797-1878) was the chief theologian of Old Princeton, and is still revered today as one of greatest American theologians in the Presbyterian tradition. Charles Spurgeon said, "The more we use Hodge, the more we value him. This applies to all his commentaries." Corinth, a diverse, cosmopolitan city sitting at a strategic center of commerce for both Greece and the wider Roman Empire, was known for its decadence and wealth. In his commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians, Chuck Swindoll explores how Paul took the Corinthian church to task for taking on the character of the city instead of the character of Christ. As Chuck shows, the message of Paul to the Corinthians is greatly needed by the Church today. The 15-volume Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary series draws on Gold Medallion Award-winner Chuck Swindoll's 50 years of experience studying and preaching God's Word.

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His deep insight, signature easygoing style, and humor bring a warmth and practical accessibility not often found in commentaries. Each volume combines verse-by-verse commentary, charts, maps, photos, key terms, and background articles with practical application. The newly updated volumes now include parallel presentations of the NLT and NASB before each section. This series is a must-have for pastors, teachers, and anyone else who is seeking a deeply practical resource for exploring God's Word.

Some days we just forget. We forget the house keys. We forget the directions. We forget to return a friend's phone call. And sometimes, we forget that we belong to Jesus. It's not intentional, but it happens. The church in Corinth had forgotten. They were divisive. Insensitive. Argumentative. Rebellious. They listened to false teachers who questioned the message of Christ and who accused Paul of being unreliable and a false apostle. Paul knew the Corinthian church needed a reminder, so he wrote a heartfelt letter defending his character, ministry, and message. The letter reminds the Corinthians to turn from their worldly ways and to think and live in ways that honor God. Likewise, Paul's letter encourages us to look at our own lives so we won't forget what really matters. The Life Lessons with Max Lucado series brings the Bible to life in twelve lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections to take you deeper into God's Word. Each lesson includes an opening reflection, background information, an excerpt of the text (from the New International and New King James versions), exploration questions, inspirational thoughts from Max, and a closing takeaway for further reflection. The Life Lessons series is ideal for use in both a small-group setting or for individual study. The Life Lessons with Max Lucado series is ideal for use in both a small-group setting or for individual study.

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Writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Tom Wright helps us to understand from the beginning of the letter that something unexplained yet terrible had happened. We feel the pain of Paul from the very opening lines, as he confronts dreadful issues of sorrow and hurt, emerging with a clearer picture of what it meant to say that Jesus himself suffered for us and rose in triumph. The letter itself moves through tragedy and from there leads into the sunlight. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians with a heavy heart, wrestling to maintain his relationship with the young church that he established. The way that Paul handled this painful situation provides an example for us today. When should we reconcile, and when should we walk away? How do we cut ties with darkness--whether in ourselves or in others? In this volume from the Transformative Word series, edited by Craig Bartholomew, John D. Barry explores how we deal with such scars in light of Jesus' example. Endorsements In beautiful prose, John Barry offers a plethora of practical insights for our lives, relationships and ministries from 2 Corinthians. He shows how the letter as a whole fits together, and his heart for the world shines through as he provides illustrations from a range of cultures as well as what he has witnessed personally. --Craig Keener, F. M. and Ada Thompson Professor of Biblical Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary In his work, Cutting Ties with Darkness, John Barry walks us through Second Corinthians, opens our eyes to the heart of Paul, and connects his message to our world in language and illustrations anyone can understand. This is not like most commentaries. It is both stimulating and enjoyable to read. The clarity with which he communicates Paul's message demonstrates that he has delved deeply into each passage and thought through each one's implications. John Barry is masterful in bridging the cultural gap and making Paul's message contemporary and practical. --Gary W. Derickson, Professor

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