

Our New Covenant Ministry **1st Century Corinth of Achaia**

The City of Corinth

Capital city of the province of Achaia, southern shores of Greece

Hub of the Roman Empire – rich, cosmopolitan center,

Estimated population well over 100,000, with many visitors

Located by an isthmus – shipping was the main commerce

Held the Olympic style *Isthmian Games*

Arts, sciences, philosophies, cults & idolatry flourished

Called a “Seaman’s paradise,” “Drunkard’s heaven,” “Virtuous

woman’s hell,” “City in which only the strong survive”

Worldliness/sinfulness had an overwhelming presence in this city

The Young Church at Corinth

Divisions – following men, philosophy, civil lawsuits

Depravities – fornication, drunkenness, idolatry, lack of church

discipline, coveted social standing, denied resurrection, honored

worldly wisdom

Personal Issues – marriage & divorce, adultery, fleshliness

Worship problems – abuse of spiritual gifts (tongues), self-promotion,

evil fellowships, foods, role of men and women in the church,

abused the Lord’s table,

Doubted & questioned the Apostle Paul – inferior apostle

Worldliness had found a comfortable home within this church

The Apostle Paul

Established church ~50 A.D. on 2nd missions journey (spent 1 ½ yrs)

Wrote two letters to the Corinthians, 1st ~55 A.D., 2nd ~57 A.D.

Confronted the problems by example, doctrine & practice

Praised, rebuked, reprovved, and exhorted the saints

Defended his ministry & reputation throughout the letters

Encouraged Christ-centered maturity and application

The Second Letter to the Corinthians

Titus delivered mixed news about the church to Paul in Philippi

The letter was preparation for Paul’s 3rd visit to Corinth

Paul beared his soul to this wavering church – his joy & sorrow

Paul revealed his passion, love, & affection towards the wayward

Paul never reverted to legalism, but dismantles it with N.C. truth

Note: The Seven “C’s” are interwoven throughout this study

The Seven “C’s” of Our New Covenant Life **2 Corinthians 1-9**

1. A Ministry of Compassion

I. 1:3-7, The Relevance (importance, significance) of Suffering

II. 1:8-14, The Reality (at the moment) of Suffering

2. A Ministry of Co-Laboring

I. 1:15-24, A Purposeful Wait

II. 2:1-11, A Purposeful Presence

III. 2:12-13, 7:5-7, A Purposeful Departure

3. A Ministry of Change

I. Old Testament Background

A. *Genesis 15, Abrahamic Covenant*

B. *Exodus 19, Moses Law – Verbal*

C. *Exodus 32, Moses Law – Written Form*

II. Program Change

A. *Jere. 31:31, The Assurance of Change*

B. *2 Cor. 3:2-6, The Authenticity of Change*

C. *2 Cor. 3:7-11, The Ascendency of Change*

III. Personal Change

A. *2 Cor. 3:12-16, The Assurance of Change*

B. *2 Cor. 3:17-18, The Authenticity of Change*

4. A Ministry of Challenge

I. 4:1-6, The Challenge of the Message

II. 4:7-15, The Challenge of the Ministry

III. 4:16-18, The Challenge of Faith

5. A Ministry of Commitment

I. 5:1-8, The Reality of Immortality

II. 6:9-11, The Reality of Reward

III. 5:12-21, The Reality of Service

6. A Ministry of Consequence

I. 6:11-13, The Appeal

II. 6:14-16a, The Argument

III. 6:16b-7:1, The Authority

7. A Ministry of Cheerfulness

I. 8:1-6, The Example

II. 8:7-15, The Explanation

III. 9:1-15, The Enthusiasm