

Sermon Notes -

April 7, 2024

Summer Series:

“Paul’s Love, Our Love, For God’s Church”

Week 1: History Leading Up to the Letter

The Corinthian Church was founded by Paul on his **second** missionary journey, where he spent **18** months teaching and preaching.

Paul wrote his **first** letter, now **lost**, followed by 1st Corinthians, his **second** letter, which addressed two problems in the Church:

1) **Interpersonal** relationships between believers in the Church.

2) How **corporate worship** time was being **conducted**.

Paul called for **unity** through the **recognition** of **roles** in Christ’s body, and through **love**, and of the **centrality** of the **resurrection** in our faith.

Paul **returned** to Corinth where he was **publicly** attacked, and was **hurt** when the Church did not stand up for him.

Paul writes a **third** letter, also **lost**, referred to as a **sorrowful** letter (2 Corinthians 2:4 & 7:8).

The Corinthian Church seems to have **accepted** the letter and **repented**. 2nd Corinthians is then the **fourth** letter and is a **response** to their repentance.

Scripture Focus: 2 **Corinthians** 1:1-2

The two opening **greetings** of 1st and 2nd Corinthians are almost **identical**, except the former calls for **unity**, while the latter **extends** out to the greater area.

The overall focus of the book is divided into three parts: **Comfort** for the Church, Paul’s **heart** for the Church, and the need to stand against **heretical** teachers.

God is calling **us** to **love** his **Church** as he does, and how **Paul shows** us in this letter.

Scripture Reference: **Ephesians** 5:25b

Challenge:

Look at your past experiences in the Church, good and bad, and realize the pain that resided in it. Then prepare your heart to love the Church as Jesus does.