

Standing Firm in Integrity for the Gospel (Part 1)

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

Gregory Garrison

2 Corinthians: Background

- Paul establishes the Corinthian church (Acts 18:1-18)
- Sometime after leaving Corinth, Paul hears of immorality in the church
- Paul sends a **letter** (1 Cor. 5:9 – *I wrote to you in my letter ...*)
- Paul embarks on his third missionary journey, including a 3-year visit to Ephesus

This map illustrates Paul's third missionary journey, starting from Antioch (Syria) and traveling through the eastern Mediterranean. The route is marked by a red line with arrows indicating the direction of travel. Key locations visited include Tarsus, Antioch (Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Cilicia, Paphos, Rhodes, Patara, Lycia, Miletus, Ephesus, Thyatira, Mysia, Troas, Samothrace, Thessalonica, Berea, Amphipolis, Philippi, Neapolis, and Athens. The map also shows the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and various regions such as Macedonia, Thrace, Bithynia, Galatia, Cappadocia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Nabatea. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates distances in miles (0 to 200) and kilometers (0 to 300). A text box in the upper right corner states: "Paul sets out from Antioch with Silas on his third missionary journey."

Paul's Third Missionary Journey (53-57 A.D.)



2 Corinthians: Background

- Paul establishes the Corinthian church (Acts 18:1-18)
- Sometime after leaving Corinth, Paul hears of immorality in the church
- Paul sends a **letter** (1 Cor. 5:9 – *I wrote to you in my letter ...*)
- Paul embarks on his third missionary journey, including a 3-year visit to Ephesus
- While in Ephesus, Paul receives more troubling reports about the church in Corinth
- Paul composes a **letter** (1 Corinthians) to send to Corinth
- Paul sends Timothy (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10-11) to Corinth

Paul's Epistles in the New Testament

To	Group	Setting	Epistle	Date A.D.	Place Written
Churches	Travel Epistles	Between first (47-48 A.D.) and second journeys	Galatians*	49	Antioch?
		Second journey (49-52 A.D.)	1 & 2 Thessalonians	52	Corinth
		Third journey (53-57 A.D.)	1 Corinthians	55	Ephesus
			2 Corinthians	55	Macedonia
			Romans	56	Corinth
	Prison Epistles	First Roman imprisonment (61-63 A.D.)	Colossians	61	Rome
			Ephesians		
			Philemon		
			Philippians		
Individuals	Pastoral Epistles	Release	1 Timothy	63	Macedonia
			Titus	63	Corinth or Nicopolis?
		Second Roman imprisonment (66-67 A.D.)	2 Timothy	67	Rome

*There are various opinions as to the order of writing. For example, some place Galatians later.

Adapted from *Jenson's Survey of the New Testament*, Charts 1 (p. 20) and 61 (p. 241)

2 Corinthians: Background (continued)

- Disturbing news reaches Paul of further difficulties at Corinth, including the arrival of **false apostles**, who attack Paul's character to undermine his credibility and persuade the Corinthians to abandon him in favor of their own more worldly false teaching. (2 Cor. 11:4-6, 12-15)
- Accusations regarding Paul ...
 - Being a ministry failure
 - Weakness and lacking rhetorical skill
 - Fickleness and unreliability
 - Being a false apostle
 - Being a money seeker
 - Lacking spiritual power
 - Manipulating the gospel
 - Boastful and false humility

2 Corinthians: Background (continued)

- Travels to Corinth - “painful visit” (2 Cor. 2:1)
- Paul returns to Ephesus
- Paul writes a third **letter** – the “severe letter” (2 Cor. 2:4) and sends it with Titus to Corinth (2 Cor. 7:6)
- Paul leaves Ephesus after a riot sparked by Demetrius the silversmith (Acts 19:23-20:1) and goes to Troas, eager to meet Titus

Paul's Third Missionary Journey (53-57 A.D.)



2 Corinthians: Background (continued)

- Travels to Corinth - “painful visit” (2 Cor. 2:1)
- Paul returns to Ephesus
- Paul writes a third **letter** – the “severe letter” (2 Cor. 2:4) and sends it with Titus to Corinth (2 Cor. 7:6)
- Paul leaves Ephesus after a riot sparked by Demetrius the silversmith (Acts 19:23-20:1) and goes to Troas, eager to meet Titus
- Paul departs Troas for Macedonia (2 Cor. 2:12-13) where he eventually meets Titus and receives an encouraging report (2 Cor. 7:5-16)
- While in Macedonia (perhaps from Philippi), Paul writes a fourth **letter** (2 Corinthians)

Paul's Third Missionary Journey (53-57 A.D.)



2 Corinthians 1:12-14

For our **boast** is this, the testimony of our **conscience**, that we behaved in the world with **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**, not by **earthly wisdom** but by the **grace of God**, and supremely so toward you. ¹³For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and **understand** and I hope you will **fully understand** – ¹⁴just as you did **partially understand** us – that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will **boast** of us as we will **boast** of you.

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG