

CONTENTS

Preface | xi

Part I: Introduction

- A. Paul and Corinth | 3
- B. Roman Corinth | 4
 - 1. *A prosperous, bustling, international community* 4
 - 2. *Corinth as a Roman colony* 5
 - 3. *Corinth as a hub of manufacturing, patronage, and business* 6
 - 4. *The ethos of the city permeated the church and resonates with today* 7
- C. The Content and Argument of the Epistle | 8
 - 1. *Broad outline* 8
 - 2. *The unity of 2 Corinthians* 9
- D. Fundamental Framing Questions | 12
 - 1. *The identity of Paul's opponents* 12
 - 2. *The tearful letter* 13
 - 3. *Doctrinal themes* 13
 - 4. *Paul: apostle, missionary pastor, and man of intense emotions* 15

Part II: Exegesis

- I. Introduction (1:1–11) | 19
1. Address (1:1–2) 19
 2. Thanksgiving and hope (1:3–11) 21
- II. Defense of Paul's Conduct with Regard to His Travel Plans and the Offender (1:12–2:17) | 28
1. The theme of boasting or glorying (1:12–14) 28
 2. The postponement of Paul's intended visit (1:15–22) 30
 3. Whether or not Paul's plans change, his purpose remains (1:23–2:4) 33
 4. The need to forgive the one who has caused such pain (2:5–11) 35
 5. A further reason why Paul changed his travel plans (2:12–13) 37
 6. The glory of ministry and God's triumphal procession (2:14–17) 38
- III. The Authentic Ministry Described and Defended (3:1–7:4) | 42
1. Paul's ministry to the Corinthians (3:1–6) 42
 2. The ministry of the Spirit: Paul's reflection on Exodus 34:29–35 (3:7–18) 47
 3. A ministry of integrity (4:1–6) 51
 4. The treasure of the gospel through fragile earthenware jars (4:7–15) 56
 5. The present and the future as seen and unseen: longing to be clothed (4:16–5:10) 61
 6. The ministry of reconciliation (5:11–6:2) 70
 7. The apostolic credentials of Paul's mission (6:3–10) 77
 8. A plea for openness and purity: the temple of the Living God (6:11–7:4) 81

CONTENTS

IV. The Arrival of Titus in Macedonia (7:5–16)	87
1. The encouraging report brought by Titus after a difficult situation (7:5–7)	87
2. The long-term positive effects of Paul’s letter (7:8–13a)	89
3. The joy of Titus at the Corinthians’ response (7:13b–16)	91
V. The Collection for Poor Christians in Jerusalem (8:1–9:15)	93
1. Paul’s exhortation to finish the collection (8:1–15)	93
2. Titus’ eagerness to travel to Corinth again (8:16–9:5)	99
3. Wider reflections on giving and the generosity of God (9:6–15)	103
VI. Paul Confronts the Malignant Ministry of His Opponents (10:1–13:13)	108
1. Present or absent, Paul’s authority is the same (10:1–11)	109
2. Paul and his rivals: proper and improper boasting (10:12–18)	115
3. Paul’s use of “the speech of the fool”: to which Christ did he pledge the Corinthians? (11:1–4)	118
4. The “foolish” speech continues: Paul and the “super-apostles” (11:5–15)	121
5. Paul boasts about his sufferings (11:16–33)	124
6. Paul’s visions and revelation, the climax of “the fool’s speech” (12:1–13)	128
7. Preparation for Paul’s third visit to Corinth and final greeting (12:14–13:4)	133
8. An authentication of faith, the purpose of Paul’s letter, and final greetings and benediction (13:5–13)	137
<i>Bibliography</i>	141
<i>Index of Names</i>	147
<i>Index of Subjects</i>	149
<i>Index of Biblical References</i>	155