

"forgotten book of the New Testament." Why do you think this is? Read the articles on Corinth, II Corinthians, and Paul in a Bible dictionary or encyclopaedia for further history and background. Using the passages in Acts and I Corinthians, try to reconstruct Paul's motives for writing II Corinthians and his emotions while doing so. How does this help explain the sudden changes of subject and tone in II Corinthians?

Outline Paul's doctrinal teachings in this book. Which receives the most space? Why? How does it apply to the situation in the Corinthian church? What picture of Paul is revealed by the many references to his own feelings for and relationship to the church at Corinth.

Further Study:

II CORINTHIANS by R.V.G. Tasker is a helpful commentary in the Tyndale series. II CORINTHIANS by P.E. Hughes is a slightly more technical, but still helpful, work in the New International Commentary series.

b. Some extended notes:

(1) Chapter summaries:

1. God's comfort in affliction, Paul's integrity amid changes of plans.
2. The letter of tears and its result
3. Contrast between New and Old covenants
4. Characteristics of Paul's ministry
5. Our heavenly dwelling: ministry or reconciliation
6. Exhortation to faithfulness, openness, separation from unbelief and to God.
7. Paul's concern for Corinth as seen in his actions towards the company.
8. The plea for generosity
9. Thankfulness for the happy response.
10. Paul answers questioners of authority
11. The life of an apostle is not an easy one!