

**God's Masterwork, Volume Six**  
**Letters to God's People — A Survey of Romans – Philemon**  
2 Corinthians: A Man and His Ministry  
*A SURVEY OF 2 CORINTHIANS*



### **The Heart of the Matter**

Someone has called the writer of 2 Corinthians “The Transparent Apostle,” for here, as in no other letter Paul wrote, the man bore his soul. Clearly the most autobiographical of all Paul’s correspondence, this letter allows us to see the man and his ministry in true, unveiled terms. The letter was written from a defensive posture because Paul’s apostleship was being questioned. But behind the strong words and forceful style is a heart tender toward God and committed to ministry—a beautiful, rare blend of strength and compassion.

In this letter, the afflicted apostle modeled how Christians should respond to suffering. He highlighted God’s role as the perfect comforter. Paul also showed believers the connection between inadequacy in ministry and experiencing God’s strength.



### **Discovering the Way**

#### 1. Some Helpful Background Information (2 Corinthians 7:5–7)

Let’s examine the purpose for this letter, its style, and the circumstances in which Paul wrote it.

#### 2. An Analysis of the Letter (2 Corinthians 1:1–11; 2:1–16; 3:1–6; 4:1–10; 8:1–2; 9:7–8; 10:10–11)

Review the outline of 2 Corinthians on the next page, and examine the underlying themes of suffering, forgiveness, grace, and giving.

#### 3. Second Corinthians for Today

Remember: it’s brokenness that gives wholeness to a ministry; it’s meekness that communicates strength in life; it’s loneliness that makes us value companionship; and it’s weakness that puts God’s power on display.

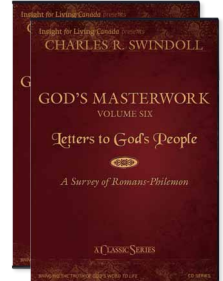


### **Starting Your Journey**

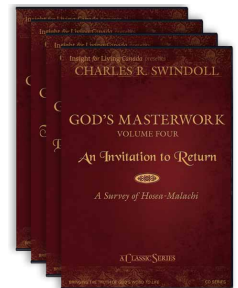
Read 2 Corinthians and reflect on a time of suffering when God comforted you. Thank Him for His grace and share it with someone else this week.



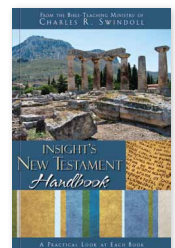
## Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork, Volume Six: Letters to God's People—A Survey of Romans–Philemon by Charles R. Swindoll  
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## SECOND CORINTHIANS

<b>Introduction — Greeting (1:1-2)</b>	<p><b>Crucial Concerns</b></p> <p><u>Suffering and God's comfort</u></p> <p><u>New covenant ministry</u></p> <p><u>Persevering in godliness</u></p>	<p><b>Grace Giving</b></p> <p><u>Example of Macedonians</u></p> <p><u>Command to Corinthians</u></p>	<b>Conclusion — Farewell (13:11-14)</b>
	<p><i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:3-7:16</p>	<p><i>CHAPTERS</i> 8-9</p>	<p><b>Apostolic Authority</b></p> <p><u>Reply to critics</u></p> <p><u>Justification of ministry</u></p> <p><u>False teachers</u></p> <p><u>Visions, revelations, credentials, warnings</u></p> <p><u>God's power perfected in weakness</u></p> <p><i>CHAPTERS</i> 10:1-13:10</p>
<b>Scope</b>	Past	Present	Future
<b>Issue</b>	Misunderstandings, concerns, explanations	Financial project	Vindication of Paul's ministry
<b>Tone</b>	Forgiving, grateful, bold	Confident	Defensive and strong
<b>Theme</b>	Paul's defense of his apostleship and message		
<b>Key Verses</b>	4:5	9:7	10:8
<b>Christ in 2 Corinthians</b>	Jesus is the One who comforts us in our suffering, reconciles us to God, and gives strength in our weaknesses (1:5; 5:17-21; 12:9).		

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