

II Corinthians Background

1. The Corinthian Context

Politically:

- 44 B.C. Refounded as a Roman Colony by Julius Caesar.
- Corinth is made capital of Achaia in 27 B.C. by Augustus
- Became the residence of the Governor

Economically:

- Wealthy city
- Maritime city with two harbors; one leading to Asia, the other to Italy
- Wealth came from trade, travel, bronze making, and Isthmian games.

Religiously:

- Pagan cults (Apollos, Aphrodite, etc.)
- Greek Philosophy
- Small Jewish Community

2. The Corinthian Church

- **The Establishment (Acts 18:1-17)**

- **The Existence – diverse, small**

3. The Corinthian Correspondence

A. 3 letters

The lost letter (dealt with immorality) I Cor. 5:9)

The 1st letter: In response to oral and written reports

The 2nd letter:

- **Criticized by self-styled apostles**
- **The painful visit**
- **The return to Ephesus**
- **The composition of 2nd Corinthians**

B. Themes: Apology, Adversity, Authority, Accountability