

Auckland Chinese Baptist Church (English Sunday School, 13-09-2015, 1145-1245)  
New Testament Survey: 2 Corinthians (8/27)

Author: Paul

Date: A.D. 55-56

Theme: The strength of w.....

Historical Background:

- 1 Paul promised to visit the Corinthians ..... time (1 Cor 16.5-6). This visit obviously resulted in severe conflict with the "false prophets." The "false prophets" attacked the Paul vigorously but the Corinthians did not rally to Paul's support in this conflict.
- 2 Paul wrote this letter to prepare the ..... for the third visit.
- 3 The letter may be a combination of ..... letters. This means chapters 1-9 (reconciling tone) were written on the basis of Titus' report that the situation had been rectified (7.6-13).
- 4 However, when Titus returned to Corinth, he found that the "super apostles" were back in charge. On hearing this, Paul wrote another letter which is our chapters 10-13 (..... tone).

Characteristics

- 1 This letter enables us to see .....: his passion for the Gospel, his deep love for his churches, the pain he felt over misunderstanding, rejection and attack, and the cost of his sufferings.

Outline

- |         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 1:1-2:4 | God's Comfort    |
| 2:5-3:6 | An Aroma of Life |
| 3:7-18  | The New Covenant |
| 4:1-18  | Our Treasure     |
| 5:1-6:2 | Reconciliation   |
| 6:3-7:1 | Come Out         |
| 7:2-16  | Peace Restored   |
| 8:1-24  | Our Giving       |
| 9:1-15  | God's Giving     |
| 10:1-18 | Paul's Defense   |

11:1-33 Paul's Credentials  
12:1-21 Paul's Strength  
13:1-14 True Power

#### Open Question 1

Do you like to be compared with others?

#### Dig Question 1

Look at 1:17; 3:1; 5:13; 10:1,10; and 11:5. What accusations might the false teachers might be making about Paul?

#### Dig Question 2

What are these "false prophets" like (see 3:1; 4:2; 6:14-16; 10:12; 11:13-15, 20; 12:11-13)? What is it about them that might have impressed the Corinthians?

#### Dig Question 3

Paul was viewed as weak. How does he accept the charge, but turn it around (see 3:4-6; 4:7-10; 6:4-10; 8:9; 12:9-10; 13:9-10)?

#### Reflect Question 1

When have you been confused about the conflicting claims of different Christian teachers?