



9 bible studies in

2 Corinthians

‘dealing with disappointment’



2 Corinthians... 'dealing with disappointment'

Some preliminary comments – with each question, sometimes there's a follow up question or two included at the same number. This is to just help draw it out a bit more. You may get it with the first one so don't panic if you end up saying the same thing in thinking about the follow up question and therefore just move on. Also, don't panic if you can't quite see what a question might be driving at. These questions are not the Bible. Feel free to move onto the next one. The questions are just an attempt to help us get into the passage/issue. Let the passage drive things at the end of the day. The questions are of course still meant to be a lead in to what could be very important with what God has in front of us here. So at least think about it before moving on. It's good to dwell for a bit and often, it then becomes a little more obvious, though it is hoped that the questions are not totally useless!

In terms of 2 Corinthians itself - this is all about Paul writing to get this Church back on track for the third time! (it seems Paul wrote a letter before 1 Corinthians — see 1 Cor 5:9-10)

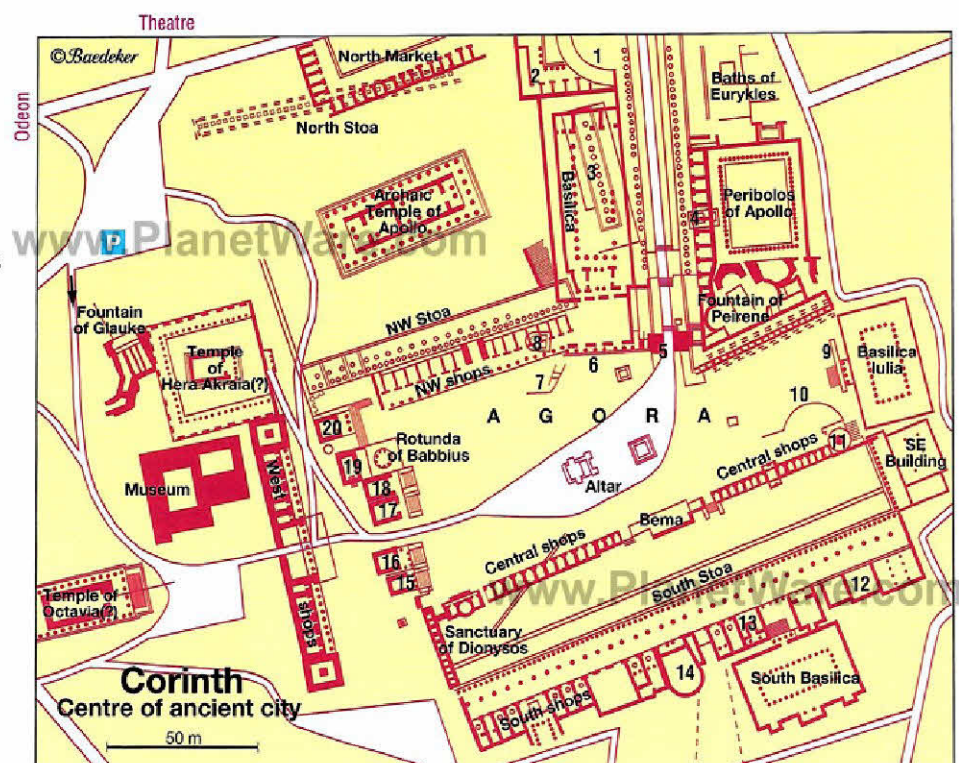
It must have been so hard for Paul to see major things still not right with this Church, especially when they had started out so well (see Acts 18) and there had been the two previous letters as well as a visit (see 2 Cor 12:14, 13:1).

From 1 Corinthians, we know Paul had spent 15 chapters urging and explaining how who we are in Jesus needs to match up more and more with what we are really like, how that gap needs to be taken seriously— 'sanctification'. But by 2 Corinthians, Paul is very disappointed to learn the gap, if anything, is **growing!**

But he doesn't give up as this 'second' letter shows.

And neither should we. Whether other Christians disappoint us from our own Church Family or from other Churches, or maybe even sometimes we disappoint ourselves, the good news (Gospel) of Jesus can overcome.

It's why Paul bothered with a third letter. It's why we should hang in there too!



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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Semicircular Market | 6 "Captives" Facade" | 11 Rotunda | 16 Pantheon |
| 2 Roman Market | 7 Sacred Spring | 12 Office of Agonothetes | 17 Temple of Herakles |
| 3 Greek Market | 8 Oracle | 13 (mosaic pavement) | 18 Temple of Poseidon |
| 4 Greek temple of 4th c. B.C. | 9 Starting-line in Stadium | 14 Fountain-house | 19 Temple of Apollo |
| 5 Propylaea | 10 Retaining wall | 15 Temple of Venus Fortuna | 20 Temple of Hermes |

