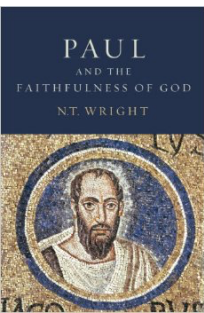


2 Corinthians

Mastering the Scriptures

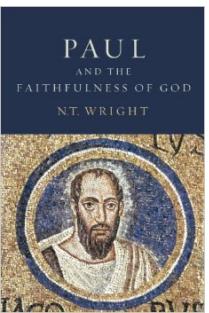
Paul's Early Epistles



Family Updates

- Budgeted for week 8 \$73,080
- Accumulated income \$54,132
 - Encourage each other to give with a grateful heart
 - Encourage each other to give regularly

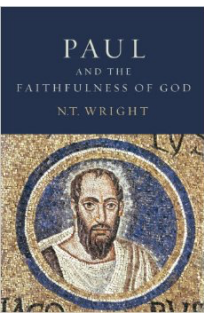
- Jeff and Steve are in India working with cohorts
- Bill is somewhere “over there” doing Bible Translation starts

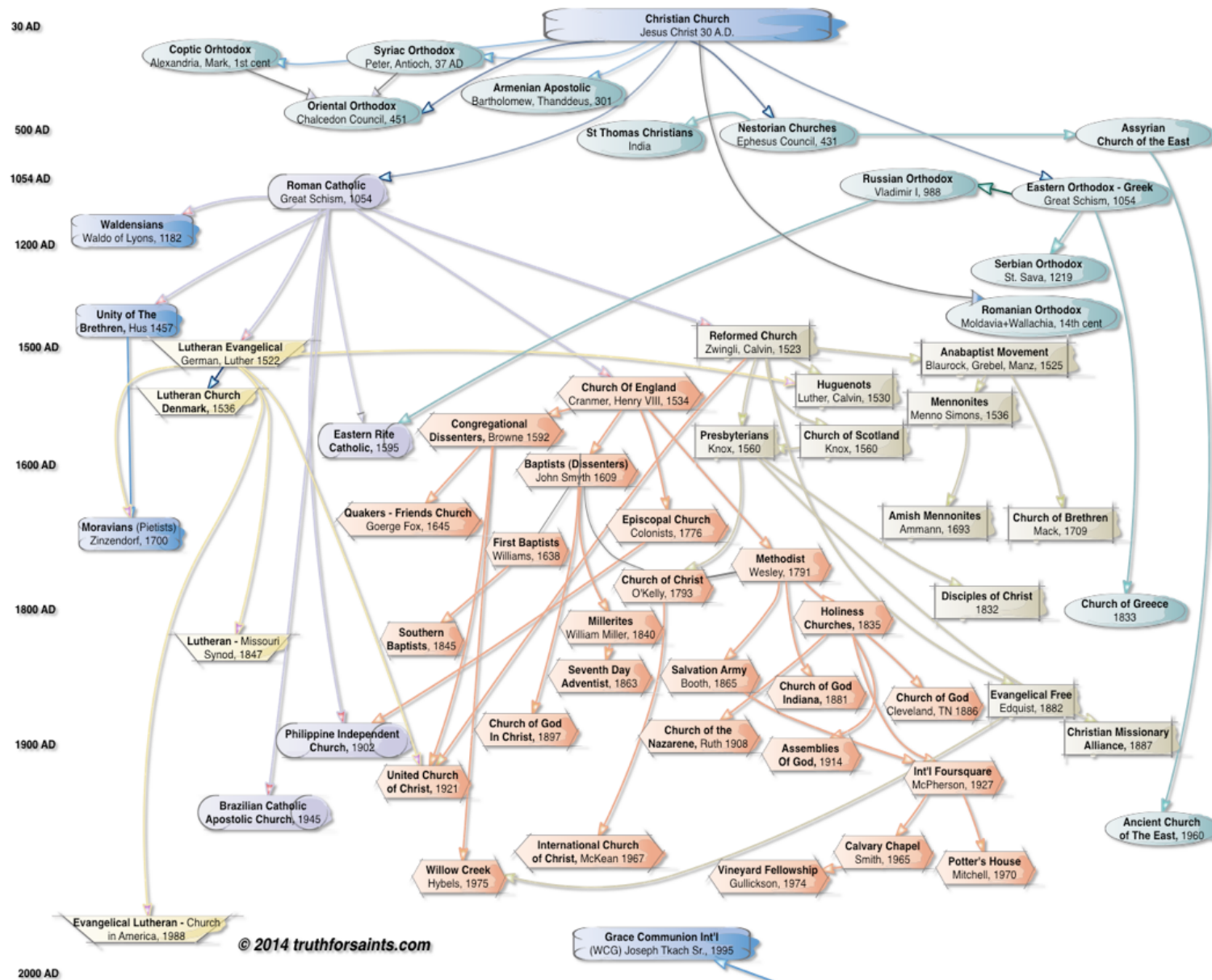


2 Corinthians

Mastering the Scriptures

Paul's Early Epistles



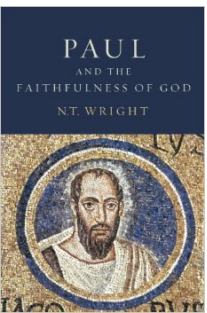


PAUL
AND THE
FAITHFULNESS OF GOD
NT. WRIGHT



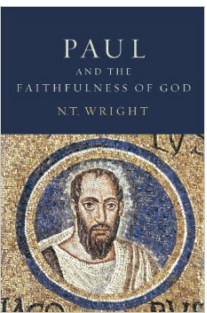
Mastering the Scriptures

- Easily observable: fragmentation into denominations/factions
- Problem: allegiance to secondary tradition
 - Result: we teach the tradition
 - Result: we don't do Theology in Culture
- Problem: don't understand God's Story
 - Result: don't align ourselves with it
 - Result: misguided agendas (often cultural/political)
- Mastering the Scriptures
 - Paul's epistles → Paul's early letters → Corinthians → 2 Corinthians



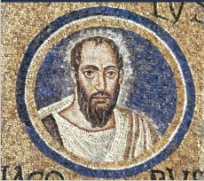
Background to 2 Corinthians

- City of Corinth
 - Major trading center
 - As many as 700,000 people (Tyndale Bible Dictionary)
 - Major cult: Aphrodite (temple prostitution common)
 - Noted for moral corruption, more so even than Rome
 - Church founded ~51-52 CE (Ac 18.1-17)





PAUL
AND THE
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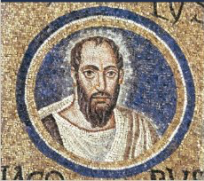
Third journey begins
53 CE, Ac 18.23

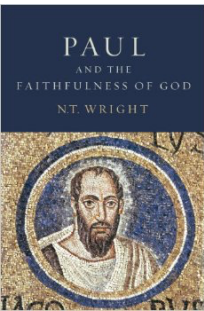
PAUL
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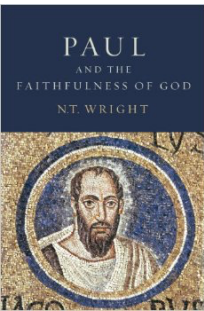




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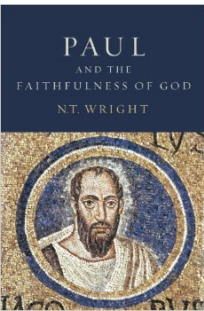


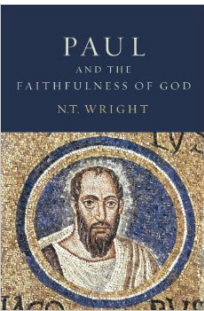


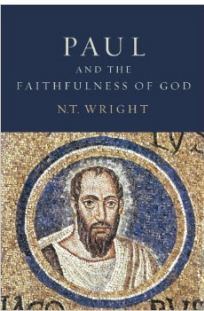


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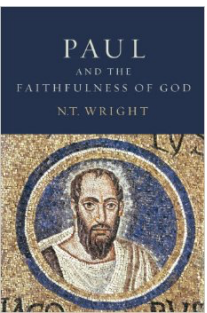






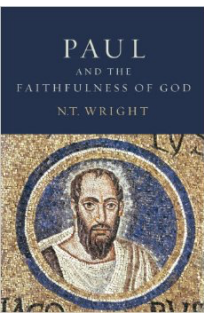
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- Action up to now:
 - Founded the community, Ac 18.1-17
 - Wrote a first letter (“Corinthians”)
 - 1 Co 5.9: “I wrote to you in my previous letter not to associate...”
 - Received a negative report
 - 1 Co 1.11: “It has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you...”
 - Received a letter
 - 1 Co 7.1: “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote...”
 - Wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus



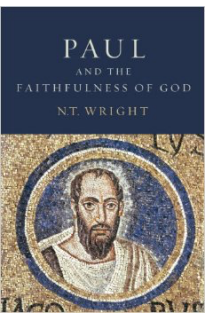
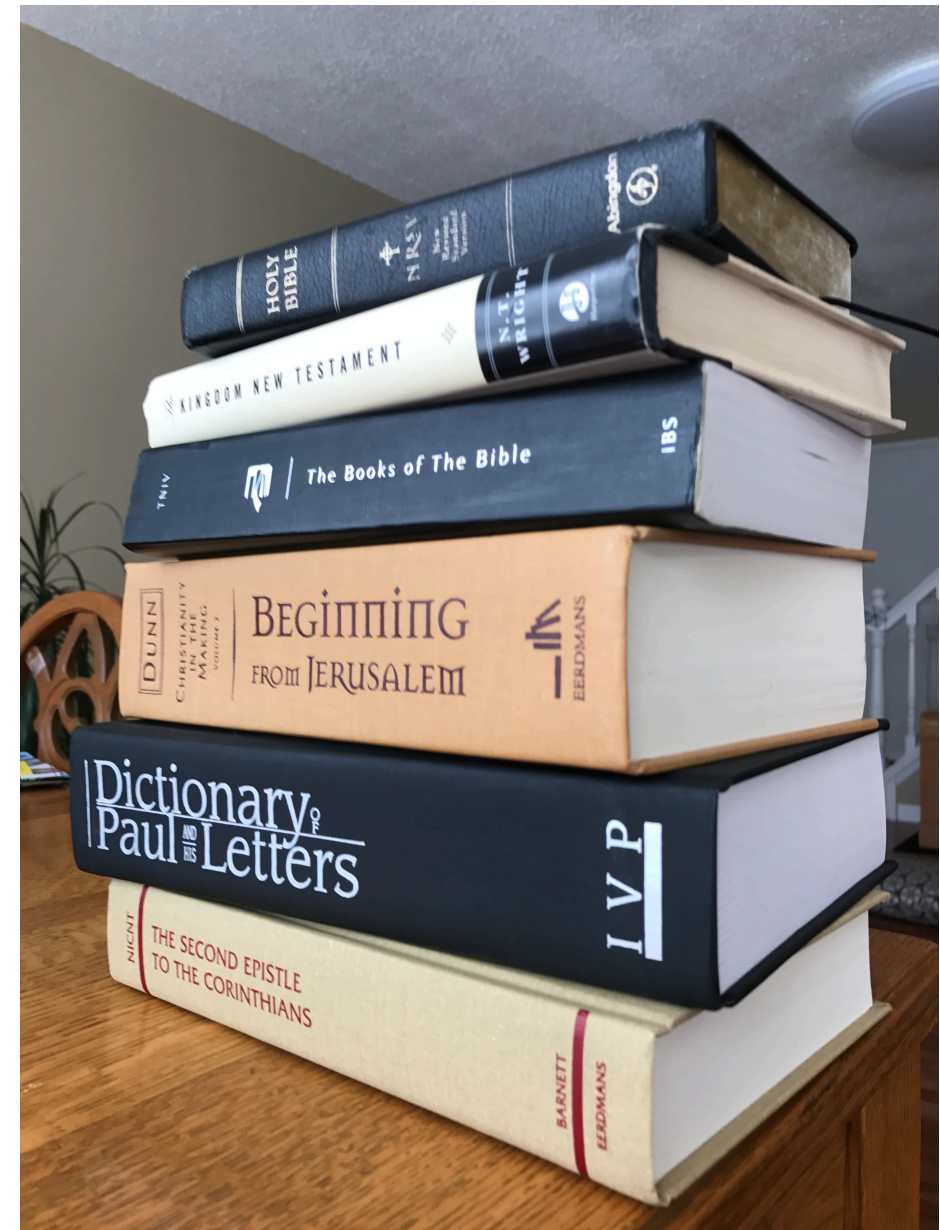
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- Action up to now:
 - Made a “painful visit” to Corinth from Ephesus
 - 2 Co 2.1: “So I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit.”
 - Wrote a third “tearful letter” to the Corinthians from Ephesus
 - 2 Co 2.4: “I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.”
 - Departed Ephesus; waited for Timothy in Macedonia
 - 2 Co 2.12-13a: “When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there.”
 - Departed Troas for Macedonia, reconnected to Titus
 - 2 Co 2.13b: “I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia
 - 2 Co 7.6-7: “God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.”
 - Wrote 2 Corinthians, 56 CE, (Philippi or Thessalonica)
-



Exploring 2 Corinthians

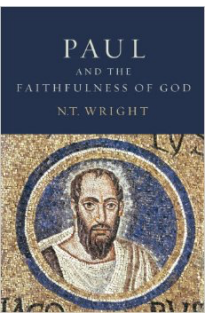
- My process:
 - Read in multiple translations
 - Read increasingly detailed scholarship
 - Author's intent, first stab
 - Discuss
 - Author's intent, second stab
 - Read in multiple translations
 - Author's intent, continuing iterations



Exploring 2 Corinthians

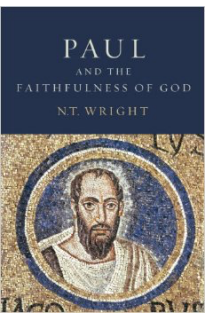
In the midst of his travels, Paul wrote his fourth letter to the Corinthians to defend his suffering, to comfort the Corinthians, and to defend his ministry among them, in anticipation of another visit to them.

- By defending his changing travel plans and previous interactions with the Corinthians: a painful visit and a tearful letter (perspective from Asia: 1.1-2.11)
- By defending his reconciling ministry of the new covenant and proclaiming his gospel to them (perspective from Troas: 2.12-7.4)
- By describing his joy at the Corinthians' faithful response to his tearful letter, and expressing his expectation of their faithful response to his instructions about the collection (perspective from in Macedonia: 7.5-9.15)
- By defending himself against the “super-apostles” who’ve entered his assigned sphere to oppose him (perspective in light of upcoming travel to Corinth: 10.1-13.15)



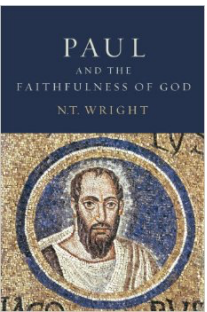
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- Theology-in-context: travel reports
 - Section 1, perspective from Asia: “We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia...” (2 Co 1.8)
 - Section 2, perspective from Troas: “When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ a door was opened for me in the Lord...” (2 Co 2.12)
 - Section 3, perspective from Macedonia: “When we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way...” (2 Co 7.5)
 - Section 4, perspective from upcoming trip to Corinth: “I beg of you that when I am present I may not have show boldness with such confidence...” (2 Co 10.2)



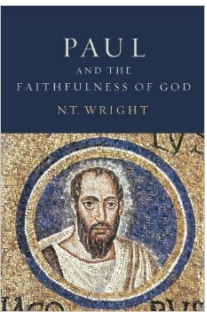
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- Theology-in-context: giving and financial matters
 - Paul expected Titus to come to Troas — *with money from Corinth*
 - Why I put ch. 7 with chs. 8-9
 - Pairs joyful response to faithfulness with expectation of future faithfulness



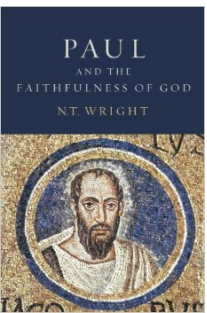
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- Theology-in-context: rhetoric and suffering
 - Nature of the opposition: Jewish-Christian “missionaries” from Jerusalem
 - Took money for service
 - Impressive use of rhetoric
 - Claimed freedom from suffering



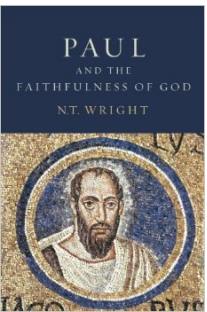
Exploring 2 Corinthians

- “My desire is for each of us to truly understand the Kerygma-Didache on which we are built. I don’t want any of us to be building our lives on a secondary tradition that is ‘stuck’ in that era of time. We don’t live in the time of Protestant Reformers, we live today, in a world that is asking questions about meaning/purpose and by building our lives on the Teachings of Christ and His Apostles, we will be able to provide answers to our present world.”



Discussion

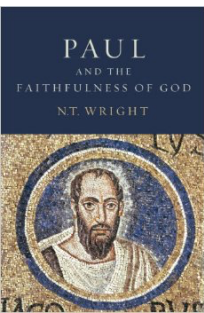
- What things have you learned in the last two weeks of exploring the Corinthian letters?
 - Has your process of reading changed or improved?
 - As we continue to master the scriptures, how do we know if we are holding onto secondary traditions?
 - In what ways does understanding the intention of 2 Corinthians, help us do Theology in Culture?
-



Realistic View of The Work

Sharing in our Sufferings – The Work is Death

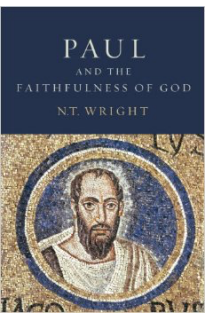
- 1:7 – And our hope about you remains firm, because we know that, just as you've shared in our sufferings, so you will also share in our comfort
- 1:8-9 - ...the load we had to carry was far too heavy for us; it got to the point where we gave up on life itself. Yes, deep inside ourselves received the death sentence.
- 4:7-12 – But we have this treasure in earthenware pots...we are under all kinds of pressure, but we are not crushed completely; we are at a loss, but not at our wits' end; we are persecuted but not abandoned



Realistic View of The Work

Sharing in our Sufferings

- 6:3-10 – We put no obstacles in anybody’s way...we recommend ourselves as God’s servants with; much patience, sufferings...hard work, sleepless nights, going without food...by speaking the truth for God’s faithful work...as unknowns, yet very well known; as dying and yet alive; as punished, yet not killed; as sad, yet celebrating...
- 11:27-28 – I toiled and labored; I’ve burned the candle at both ends...I have all this daily pressure on me, my care for all the churches

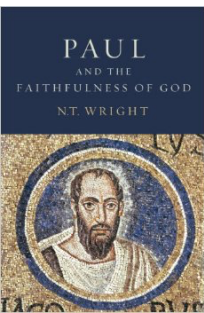


Sharing in our Sufferings

- 7:5 ...when we arrived we couldn't relax or rest. We were troubled in every way; there were battles outside and fears inside.

A realistic view of the work, it takes a lifetime of work to get networks of churches to understand and implement the Way of Christ and His Apostles.

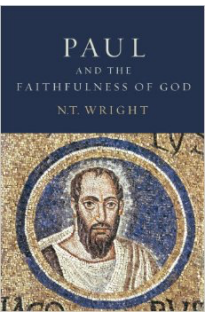
A simple life on the farm, only thinking about the weather and crops, is an unrealistic view.



Ever Changing Travel Plans

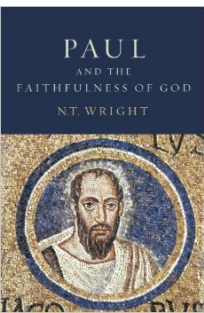
- 1:15-18 – I was quite sure of this. That’s why I wanted to come back to you...Was I just fooling around when I was making plans like this? Was I concocting schemes...God can bear me faithful witness that our word to you was not a mixture of yes and no.

Always trying to prioritize, managing the calendar, communicating well with everyone.



Completing Giving, Let our boasting be Proven!

- 8:10-12 – Let me give you serious advice on this; you began to be keen on this idea and to start putting into practice a whole year ago; it will now be greatly to your advantage to complete your performance of it. If you do so, your finishing the job will be on the same scale as your eagerness in wanting to do it...At the present time your abundance can contribute to their lack, so that their abundance can contribute to your lack.



Completing Giving, Let our boasting be Proven!

- 9:2-4 – For I know your eagerness, and indeed I boasted about it to the Macedonians, saying that Achaëa had been ready since last year. Your enthusiasm has stimulated most of them into action. I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you in this respect may turn out to be true, so that you made be ready, just as you said you were. Otherwise, imagine what it would be like if people from Macedonia came with me and found you were not ready! That would bring shame on us...

