

The recent movie, *Lincoln*, portrays the 16th president's final months in office. It's difficult to imagine the stress Abraham Lincoln felt as a young nation fought a bloody civil war.

The Apostle Paul might have dealt with similar emotions as he sought to guide the church in Corinth. Established by Paul's missionary activity, the church soon experienced division and immorality not recorded anywhere else in the New Testament.

We looked at Paul's initial existing letter to Corinth in our fall quarterly and now we take a look at 2 Corinthians. We see the heart of the apostle in a time of great stress and we learn more about him personally in this letter than in any other. He shares his burden for the churches and what it means to have an apostolic ministry.

Some topics continue from 1 Corinthians. Early in the letter there appears to be some resolution to the division that was in evidence in the first letter but by the end of 2 Corinthians Paul is again addressing serious problems. In 1 Corinthians Paul wrote of an offering for the saints in Jerusalem. In 2 Corinthians he writes more about what it means to be a cheerful giver.

Thank you again to all of our writers for contributing their services. Also to Daniel Smead for all the work he puts into this quarterly.

Greg Demmitt

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The Truth Seekers Adult Quarterly is published quarterly by the Church of God General Conference, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400; McDonough, GA 30253; 800-347-4261. The price is \$4.75 each plus shipping and handling. Prices are subject to change without notice.