



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application for my life today ?

Survey of the Book of 2 Corinthians

1. The writer : This letter reveals who wrote it more than any other book of the Bible. It is signed two times by the apostle Paul (1v1 & 10v1). The style is also, without any question, that of Paul. It is obviously a follow up letter to 1 Corinthians.
2. The date : Many internal evidences indicate a date late in the life of Paul. Fourteen years at least have passed since his conversion (12v2). His mission with Silas and Timothy is in the past (12v14 & 13v1). And Titus has already returned from the second collection of financial aid for the saints in Judea (Ac11v27à30, 2Cor7v8 & 12v18). On the other hand, Paul is not in prison (9v4 & 13v2), but with Timothy (1v1) and Titus (7v6). The date is most likely the year 57 AD.
3. The readers : As in the first letter to the Corinthians, a readership much larger than the local church is addressed (1v1, 9v2 & 11v10). But, the major part of the letter is to answer the problems at Corinth (1v17, 23, 2v3, 6, 3v1, etc.) Many of the members of the assembly of believers were far off "the way" (5v20, 6v1, 13v17 & 7v1) and some were even unconverted (10v12 & 11v13). The need for every Christian to examine himself makes it a letter for any local church today !
4. The divisions : Six self-portraits to study carefully...
 - The testimony of our conscience, ch1-2
 - The treasure in our earthen vessel, ch3-4
 - The tent we inhabit, ch5-6
 - The tenderness in our heart, ch7-9
 - The temptation to boast, ch10-12
 - The test of self-examination, ch13
5. The key word : The first person pronoun "I" is used 122 times and in its plural form "we" it is used 219 times (not counting when the writer speaks of himself).
6. The message : "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy : for I have married you to one husband, that I may present you as a pure virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11v2
7. The application : "But he that glories, let him glory in the Lord." 2 Corinthians 10v17