Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

1-2 CORINTHIANS

This commentary explains *1 and 2 Corinthians* passage by passage, following Paul's argument. It uses a variety of ancient sources to show how Paul's argument would have made sense to first-century readers, drawing from ancient letter-writing, speaking, and social conventions.

The commentary will be of interest to pastors, teachers, and others who read Paul's letters, because of its readability, firm grasp of the background and scholarship on the Corinthian correspondence, and its sensitivity to the sorts of questions asked by those wishing to apply Paul's letters today. It also will be of interest to scholars because of its exploration of ancient sources, often providing sources not previously cited in commentaries.

Craig S. Keener is a professor of New Testament at Eastern Seminary, a division of Eastern University. His previous twelve books include three award-winning commentaries: *The Gospel of John: A Commentary, A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*, and *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*.

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter <u>More information</u>

NEW CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY

GENERAL EDITOR: Ben Witherington III

HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT EDITOR: Bill T. Arnold

EDITORIAL BOARD Bill T. Arnold, Asbury Theological Seminary James D. G. Dunn, University of Durham Michael V. Fox, University of Wisconsin-Madison Robert P. Gordon, University of Cambridge Judith Gundry-Volf, Yale University Ben Witherington III, Asbury Theological Seminary

The New Cambridge Bible Commentary (NCBC) aims to elucidate the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures for a wide range of intellectually curious individuals. While building on the work and reputation of the Cambridge Bible Commentary popular in the 1960s and 1970s, the NCBC takes advantage of many of the rewards provided by scholarly research over the last four decades. Volumes utilize recent gains in rhetorical criticism, social scientific study of the Scriptures, narrative criticism, and other developing disciplines to exploit the growing edges in biblical studies. Accessible, jargon-free commentary, an annotated "Suggested Reading" list, and the entire New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) text under discussion are the hallmarks of all volumes in the series.

PUBLISHED VOLUMES IN THE SERIES Exodus, Carol Meyers Judges and Ruth, Victor H. Matthews 1–2 Corinthians, Craig S. Keener The Letters of James and Jude, William F. Brosend II Revelation, Ben Witherington III

FORTHCOMING VOLUMES Genesis, Bill T. Arnold Deuteronomy, Brent Strawn Joshua, Douglas A. Knight 1–2 Chronicles, William M. Schniedewind Psalms 1–72, Walter Brueggemann and Patrick D. Miller Psalms 73–150, Walter Brueggemann and Patrick D. Miller Isaiah 1–39, David Baer Jeremiah, Baruch Halpern Hosea, Joel, and Amos, J. J. M. Roberts The Gospel of Matthew, Craig A. Evans The Gospel of Luke, Amy-Jill Levine and Ben Witherington III The Gospel of John, Jerome H. Neyrey The Letters of John, Duane F. Watson Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

1–2 Corinthians

Craig S. Keener Eastern Seminary



© Cambridge University Press

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

> CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521834629

© Craig S. Keener 2005

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2005

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Keener, Craig S., 1960– 1–2 Corinthians / Craig S. Keener. p. cm. – (New Cambridge Bible commentary) Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 0-521-83462-7 (hardcover) – ISBN 0-521-54243-X (pbk.) 1. Bible. N.T. Corinthians – Commentaries. I. Title: First–Second Corinthians. II. Title. III. Series. BS2675.53.K44 2005 227'.2077 – dc22 2004024994 ISBN-13 978-0-521-83462-9 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-54243-2 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-54243-x paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLS for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this book and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

Contents



List of Abbreviations	page xi
I. INTRODUCTION TO CORINTH AND 1 CORINTHIANS	1
Proposed Backgrounds	2
Ancient Letters	5
Corinth	6
The Particular Situation and Paul's Response in 1 Corinthians	8
II. SUGGESTED READING FOR CORINTH AND	
1 CORINTHIANS	11
Paul and Philosophy	11
Rhetoric and 1 Corinthians	11
Politics and 1 Corinthians	12
Social Setting of 1 Corinthians	12
Primary Sources for Corinth	13
Studies of the Local Situation in Corinth or Its Church	13
Ancient Letters	13
Paul and Jewish Tradition	14
Theology	14
Commentaries	14
Sample Articles and Monographs	16
III. COMMENTARY ON 1 CORINTHIANS	20
1:1–3: Paul's Greeting	20
1:4–9: Paul Thanks God for the Corinthian Christians	22
1:10–12: Demand for Unity	23
1:13–17: Not a Gospel about Preachers	26
1:18–25: God's Foolishness and Human Wisdom	27
A Closer Look: Paul's Use of Rhetoric	29

vii

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

viii	
1:26–31: Boast in Christ, Not in Status	31
Bridging the Horizons	32
2:1–5: Converted by "Weak" Speech	34
A Closer Look: Paul's Critique of Rhetoric	35
2:6–13: Human Wisdom versus Wisdom from the Spirit	37
2:14–3:4: Spirit-People versus Mortals	39
3:5–4:5: Eschatological Evaluation	41
4:6–21: Personal Appeal to Humble Themselves	44
Bridging the Horizons	47
5:1–13: Disciplining the Sexual Offender	47
6:1–8: Christian versus Secular Courts	51
6:9–11: Leaving the Former Life	53
A Closer Look: Arsenokoitēs and malakos	54
6:12–21: The Sanctity of the Body, or, Why Christians Should Not	
Sleep with Prostitutes	56
A Closer Look: Sex in the Cities	58
Bridging Horizons	59
7:1–9: Sex within Marriage	61
A Closer Look: Marriage, Celibacy, and Paul	63
7:10–16: Staying Married	64
7:17-24: Remaining Content with One's Situation	65
7:25–35: Unmarried Life Simpler	67
Bridging the Horizons	69
7:36–40: Betrothed Virgins and Widows	70
8:1–13: Knowledge and Idol Food	72
A Closer Look: Idol Food	75
9:1–27: Paul Relinquishes the Right of Support	76
A Closer Look: Teachers' Support	79
10:1–22: Eating Idol Food Supports Idolatry	83
10:23–11:1: Concluding Summary and Arguments on Idol Food	88
11:2–16: Sexual Modesty in Church	90
A Closer Look: The Need for Head Coverings	91
11:17–34: Abusing a Sacred Fellowship Meal	95
A Closer Look: Symposia and the Lord's Supper	96
12:1–11: Gifts from the Spirit	99
12:12–30: One Body, Many Members	102
Bridging the Horizons	105
12:31–13:13: The Criterion for Employing Gifts	106
14:1–25: Prophecy More Useful than Tongues	111
14:26-40: Instructions for Order in Worship	115
Bridging the Horizons	120
15:1–11: Jesus Rose	121
A Closer Look: Ancient Views on Resurrection	122

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

Contents	iX
15:12–34: Eschatological Resurrection of Believers	125
15:35–58: Nature of the Resurrection	129
Bridging the Horizons	135
16:1–12: Plans and Instructions	135
A Closer Look: Paul's Collection	138
Bridging the Horizons	138
16:13–24: Conclusion	139
IV. INTRODUCTION TO 2 CORINTHIANS	143
Genre	143
The Situation in 2 Corinthians	143
Opponents	144
Unity?	146
V. SUGGESTED READING FOR 2 CORINTHIANS	152
Situation	152
Theology	152
Other Questions	153
Commentaries	153
Articles and Monographs	154
VI. COMMENTARY ON 2 CORINTHIANS	156
1:1–11: Epistolary Introduction	156
1:12–22: Paul's Reliability	158
A Closer Look: Fickleness	159
1:23–2:11: Discipline and Forgiveness	160
2:12–13: Paul's Concern for Titus	162
2:14–17: God Sent Paul	163
3:1–18: Revealing the Greater Covenant's Glory	165
A Closer Look: Letters of Recommendation	166
A Closer Look: Divine Transformation through an Image	170
Bridging the Horizons	171
4:1–15: God's Glory in Weak Vessels	172
4:16–5:10: The Inner Person's Future Hope	176
A Closer Look: Souls and Heavens	177
5:11–6:10: Persevering Ambassadors of Reconciliation	181
6:11–7:4: Plea to Join God's and His Ambassadors' Side	190
A Closer Look: An Interpolation in 6:14–7:1?	192
A Closer Look: Belial	194
7:5–16: Repentant Response to Paul's Letter	197
8:1–15: Examples of Sacrificial Giving	200
A Closer Look: Equality	205
Bridging the Horizons	206

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

х

Contents

8:16–9:5: The Delegations	208
A Closer Look: Chapter 9 a Separate Letter?	210
9:6–15: Sowing God's Gifts, Reaping God's Praise	212
10:1–18: The Meek Letter-Writer versus His Challengers	215
A Closer Look: Rhetorical Expectations	218
A Closer Look: Self-Boasting	221
11:1–21a: Forced to Folly	223
A Closer Look: Corrupting Eve (11:2–3)	225
Bridging the Horizons	230
11:21b-33: The Fool's Boast in Sufferings	232
12:1–10: The Fool's Boast in Visions	236
A Closer Look: Paradise and the Third Heaven	239
12:11–18: Concluding Appeal and Summary	241
12:19–13:10: Paul's Visit	244
13:11–13: Closing Greetings	246
Author Index	249
Scripture and Apocrypha Index	253
Index of Extrabiblical Jewish and Christian Sources	
Other Greco-Roman Sources	279
Subject Index	

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

Abbreviations

Ś

AB	Anchor Bible
AGAJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des
	Urchristentums 18
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt
BA	Biblical Archaeologist
BAFCS	The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting, 6 vols., ed. B. W.
	Winter (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans; Carlisle: Paternoster
	Press, 1993–1996)
BDAG	A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT and Other Early Christian
	Lierature, by W. Bauer, rev. and ed. F. W. Danker, 3rd ed.
	(Chicago: University of Chicago, 2000)
BZ	Biblische Zeitschrift
CAH	Cambridge Ancient History (1966)
DNTB	Dictionary of New Testament Background, ed. Craig A. Evans
	and Stanley E. Porter (Leicester; Downers Grove, IL:
	Inter-Varsity, 2000)
ExpT	Expository Times
GRBS	Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies
HTR	Harvard Theological Review
JBL	Journal of Biblical Literature
JETS	Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
JPFC	The Jewish People in the First Century, 2 vols., ed. S. Safrai and
	M. Stern (Assen: Van Gorcum; Philadelphia: Fortress,
	1974–1976)
JSNT	Journal for the Study of the NT
JSNTSS	Journal for the Study of the NT Supplement Series
JTS	Journal of Theological Studies
LEC	Library of Early Christianity, ed. W. A. Meeks
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCB	New Century Bible

xi

Cambridge University Press 0521834627 - 1-2 Corinthians Craig S. Keener Frontmatter More information

xii

List of Abbreviations

NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentaries
ΝονΤ	Novum Testamentum
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NT	New Testament
NTS	New Testament Studies
OCD	Oxford Classical Dictionary (2003 ed.)
OJRS	Ohio Journal of Religious Studies
OT	Old Testament
RB	Revue Biblique
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLRBS	Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SJTOP	Scottish Journal of Theology Occasional Papers
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
TynB	Tyndale Bulletin
VigC	Vigiliae Christianae
WTWB	The Westminster Theological Wordbook of the Bible, ed. Donald
	E. Gowan (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003)