

# An Outline of the “Letter of Tears”

*As found at 2 Corinthians 10:1--13:13*

## 1. Address, Salutation, and Thanksgiving [Lost]

(It is believed that the original introduction to this letter was either lost before the scribe, who originally copied the letters from Corinth, did the scribal work, or there may not have been a formal opening to the letter. This second theory is likely only if we consider this a quickly hand-written letter, and therefore not characteristics of the rest of Paul's letters, which were dictated.)

## 2. Defense of Paul's Apostolic Authority [10]

- a. Rejection of the charge of cowardice [10: 1-6]
- b. Reply to the charge of weakness [10:7-11]
- c. Defense of his right to "boast" [10:12-18]

## 3. Concerning Justifiable Boasting [11:1--12:13]

- a. Reason for this foolish indulgence [11:1-6]
- b. Response to the charge of refusing gifts of money [11:7-15]
- c. Plea to accept the folly of his boasting [11: 16-21]
- d. Paul's boasting rooted in suffering and weakness [11:22--12:10]
- e. Conclusion [12:11-13]

## 4. Concerning Paul's Imminent Visit [12:14--13:10]

- a. Announcement of visit [12:14-18]
- b. Paul's fear of finding Corinthians unrepentant [12:19-21]
- c. Sharp apostolic warning [13:1-10]

## 5. Conclusion [13:11-13]