

2 Corinthians 6:1-18 **Our pure lives commend us as ministers of God**

Do not receive the Grace of God in vain – Now is the Day of Salvation

¹ We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you."
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Our example of ministry

³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. ⁴ But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, ⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Call to openness

¹¹ O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. ¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

Come out from among them and be separate

¹⁷ Therefore

"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

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Facts Revealed:

Do not receive the Grace of God in vain – Now is the Day of Salvation [2 Corinthians 6:1-2]

✠ We as coworkers with Christ plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

✧ It is possible to receive the Gospel message in vain as expressed by Jesus saying:

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine**, and **does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ Now everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine**, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."
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✧ Paul quotes Isaiah:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you."

[Isaiah 49:8]

✧ Paul's application:

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

✧ To receive the Gospel message effectively we must believe it and act on it in obedience to the teachings of Jesus.

✧ To receive the Gospel message without believing and acting on it is to receive it in vain.

Our example of ministry [2 Corinthians 6:3-10]

✧ We do everything possible to avoid offending in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

✧ By our example we commend ourselves as ministers of God. We have been faithful:

✧ Patience, tribulations, needs, distresses, stripes, imprisonments, tumults, labors, sleeplessness, fastings, purity, knowledge, longsuffering, kindness.

✧ By the Holy Spirit, sincere love, word of truth, power of God.

✧ Our armor is righteousness on the right and on the left.

✧ We are viewed with honor and dishonor.

✧ We have been reported with evil report and good report.

✧ We have been accused as being deceivers, yet we remain true.

✧ We are unknown, yet well known.

✧ We are under the threat of death, yet we live.

✧ We are chastened, yet not killed.

✧ We experience sorrow, yet always rejoicing.

✧ We are poor, yet we make many rich.

✧ We have nothing, yet we possess all things.

Call to openness [2 Corinthians 6:11-13]

✧ We have spoken openly to you and our hearts are open toward you.

✧ You are not restricted by us, but by your own affections.

✧ We therefore ask you to be open to us.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers [2 Corinthians 6:14-16]

✧ It is not fitting for believers to be unequally yoked with unbelievers in marriage or business.

✧ For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?

✧ And what communion has light with darkness?

✧ And what accord has Christ with Belial?

✧ Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

✧ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

✧ God has said:

"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." [Leviticus 26:12]

✧ This has been the desire of the heart of God from the beginning and remains so to the end.

[Exodus 5:1, 6:7, Leviticus 26:12, Psalm 50:7, Jeremiah 7:23, 11:4, 24:7, 30:22, 31:1, 31:33, 32:38, Ezekiel 11:20, 14:11, 34:30, 36:28, 37:23, 27, Hosea 2:23, Zechariah 8:8, 13:9, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Hebrews 8:10, Revelation 21:3]

Come out from among them and be separate [2 Corinthians 6:17-18]

- ✠ "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."
- ✠ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."