

1  **II Corinthians 6**2  **II Corinthians 6:1-8**

We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. 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. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true;

3  **II Corinthians 6:9-15**

as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things. O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. 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?

4  **II Corinthians 6:16-18**

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." Therefore, "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."

5  **Paul's Methods and Ministry**

1 - We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain.

- "Plead with you" -- *exhort you*
- "In vain" -- *to no purpose*
- "Not to make God's kindness in being reconciled to you through Jesus Christ useless by neglecting to walk according to the new life He has given you in Him."
  - "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away." *John 15:2a*

6  **Paul's Methods and Ministry**

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.

- *Isaiah 49:8* -- "In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You."

- *This is addressed to the Messiah (the Servant of the Lord).*
- *God promises to invest Him with spiritual power, that He may be a light to Israel and to others.*
- *Thus now is the time when God is dispensing His favor to Christ, and through Him to men.*

#### 7 Paul's Methods and Ministry

- 3 - We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.
- *"Offense" -- anything which causes someone to fall.*

#### 8 Paul's Methods and Ministry

- 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;
- *"We commend ourselves" -- Paul and his co-workers recommended themselves to those to whom they ministered by behaving in a manner becoming to those who are ministers of God.*
  - *The first way in which Paul and his co-workers recommended themselves to the believers was by their endurance of suffering.*

#### 9 Paul's Methods and Ministry

- 6 - by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,
- *The second way in which Paul and his co-workers recommended themselves to the believers was by manifestation of God grace working in their lives.*

#### 10 Paul's Methods and Ministry

- 7 - by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
- *The third way in which Paul and his co-workers recommended themselves to the believers was by demonstrating the truthfulness and sincerity of their ministry.*

#### 11 Paul's Methods and Ministry

- 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.
- *The fourth way in which Paul and his co-workers recommended themselves to the believers was by persevering in the face of opposition to their ministry, and thus overcoming evil with good.*

#### 12 An Exhortation to Holiness

11 - O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.

- *Paul loved the Corinthians despite their sometimes churlish behavior toward him.*

### 13 An Exhortation to Holiness

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.

- *The Corinthians' problem was not that Paul was unloving toward them but that they were so toward him.*

### 14 An Exhortation to Holiness

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?

- *The Corinthians can best demonstrate the loving-kindness they should have toward Paul by being more careful about the purity of their Christian walk.*
- *"They are yoked together with unbelievers, who enter into close companionship with them."*
- *"Belial" -- A transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning worthlessness or wickedness*

### 15 An Exhortation to Holiness

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."

- *As God in the Old Testament had promised to dwell among His people Israel, He now promises to dwell within believers, who are now to be His temples.*

### 16 An Exhortation to Holiness

17 - Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

- *"Come out from among them and be separate" -- Though we must live among unbelievers in this world, we are not to fit in with them or be in close fellowship with them.*
- *"Do not touch what is unclean" -- as Old Testament priests and Levites were not to defile themselves ceremonially by touching certain forbidden things, so believers are not to defile themselves morally by partaking of activities that God has forbidden.*

17  **An Exhortation to Holiness**

18 - "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

- *This draws on several passages in the Old Testament.*
- *2 Samuel 7:14; Isaiah 43:6; Ezekiel 11:20; Ezekiel 14:11; Ezekiel 37:27*
- *It assures us that our obedience to God is not a yoke of bondage or a long list of onerous restrictions, but a blessed enjoyment of the closeness and love of our heavenly Father.*