

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Marks Of The Ministry"
2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Study-9

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry:
2 Corinthians 5:20-21

2 Corinthians 6-9 Paul's Exhortation To The Church: So it is just one step forward for him to appeal to the Corinthians to be reconciled to himself and to receive God's grace. 2 Corinthians 6:1

Paul has a strained relationship with the Corinthians: **2 Corinthians 6:11-13;**
2 Corinthians 7:2

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Need To Receive The Grace Of God's Salvation Which Comes With God's Empowerment."

1. Verses 1-2 Receive My Ministry
2. Verses 3-10 Living The Ministry

1. Verses 1-2 Receive My Ministry

2 Corinthians 6:1 And Paul has just spoken about the ministry of reconciliation.

working together with Him, - ministry is people serving together.

we also urge you - Paul is appealing to them. He is begging them to be right with God.

not to receive the grace of God in vain— How can the grace of God be in vain? Grace is the power to forgive and power to enable!

Is my heart tender toward God? working together with Him,

Is my heart right with other believers? working together with Him,

2 Corinthians 6:2 Isaiah 49:8 God the Father speaking to His Son saying that I have helped you!

THE DAY OF SALVATION That was when Jesus arrived and ministered. It was the day of salvation. He came for the purpose of saving the lost. **behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"** Salvation is in the present tense! It is now or maybe not ever!

2. Verses 3-10 Living The Ministry

2 Corinthians 6:3

4 Things That Made Paul's Ministry A Biblical Ministry:

- 1. Verses 3-4 Paul's Ministry Was Before God: giving no cause for offense in anything, this word **offense** – *"to lead to error, or to lead to sin."***

so that the ministry will not be discredited, *"to blame or find fault with"*

Luke 4:23 'Physician, heal yourself! Judgment begins with us!

2 Corinthians 6:4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, notice where Paul seeks his commendation from? It is from God as a servant of God.

- 2. Verses 4-5 Paul's Hardships In The Ministry: in **much** endurance, **(Dealing with things)** Patience; notice **in much, Endurance** - it is hanging in there, we don't quit, not just pastors, it is never easy!**

in afflictions, Patience in afflictions, the trials, sufferings under pressures.

in hardships, Financial and physical hardships that result from everyday life. Life is filled with hardships! **Philippians 4:19**

in distresses, *"No room to turn around, in a corner"*

2 Corinthians 6:5 in beatings, Paul physically wiped. Paul was beat for his faith in Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**

in imprisonments, For the gospel, it was for righteousness.
Ephesians 3:1 I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

in tumults, riots, mob violence. Paul was born for controversy. Revival or riot! **Act 16:22 Philippi**

in labors, *Fatigue cause by strenuous work.* If you don't like work or are lazy, you will not be effective as a minister. **Ministry is hard work.**

in sleeplessness, The ministry and serving Jesus is intense!

2 Corinthians 11:28 there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

in hunger, Times without food because of ministry. There can be a neglecting of the body, a sacrificing of the needs of self in order to serve and minister to others! **Mark 6:31**

3. Verses - 6-7 Paul's Response To Hardships: 2 Corinthians 6:6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

in purity, Paul's purity in character, becoming pure through the adversity, not bitter, or tainted by the hardships of the ministry!

in knowledge, Knowing the truth. That this is the anchor of my soul! Knowing that in hardships, God loves me! That they are working for us, not against us.

in patience, long suffering, has to deal **(with people.)** That you are long fused! That you can endure difficult people.

in kindness, (gentleness) "*grace in action*" it is the act of kindness toward your enemies. God demonstrated this towards sinners.

Titus 3:4-5

Patience holds back vengeance, gentleness bestows mercy. This is positive, it is actions towards others.

in the Holy Spirit, the power is not self-generated, but it comes through God. **The ministry is beyond us! It is impossible.**

in genuine love, as opposed to pseudo imitation love. **Romans 12:9**
Let love be without hypocrisy.

2 Corinthians 6:7 in the word of truth, - this is opposed to deception and lies.

Notice, love the people and share the Word with them!

in the power of God; it is God, it is not the educated learned minister, or the talented orator, clever little illustrations but dependence on God.

by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,
We can be tricked into taking matters into our own hands. Attempting to even the score.

right hand - carry the sword (Defense)

and the left - carry the shield (Offense)

4. Verses 8-10 The Paradoxes Of Paul's Ministry: 2 Corinthians 6:8

by glory and dishonor, that people will praise you and some will curse you.

by evil report and good report; He is great, he is terrible. They can attempt to mar your reputation, but they cannot harm your character.

Acts 6:15 Council saw his face like the face of an angel.

regarded as deceivers and yet true; Our world is so lost they think Christianity is insanity.

2 Corinthians 6:9 as unknown yet well-known, A movie star dies, and all stands still.

as dying yet behold, we live; Dying to ourselves and our desires. Pride being taken out! At the same time shining for the Lord!

as punished yet not put to death, a life given to God is a life under attack. God knows what we can take.

2 Corinthians 6:10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, what a gamut the ministry entails.

as poor yet making many rich, Acts 3:6

as having nothing yet possessing all things. This is not our home.

Application:

1. Is God's Grace In Vain In My Life? Has God's Grace Changed My Life?
2. Am I Growing In The Likeness Of Jesus Christ?
3. Am I Growing In Relation To The Family Of God?
4. Do I Really Strive For Character Over Comfort?
5. Am I Willing To Sacrifice For The Kingdom Of God?