

## 2 Corinthians 6

Paul continues a defense of his preaching at Corinth

### 2 Corinthians 6.1-10

**V1** - Is it possible to receive the grace of God and lose it? Yes

-What group of first century Christians fell from grace? The Galatians (*Gal. 5.4*)

**V2** – Summarize v 2 – We are to do what is right as soon as we learn the truth

-If we were deathly sick and the doctor prescribed a certain medicine that would save our lives, would we delay taking it for days (weeks, months, years, etc.)? Absolutely not

– we would take it immediately

-Do we have any examples in the book of *Acts* of people wanting to be baptized immediately?

-Jews on the Day of Pentecost – *Acts 2.41*

-Ethiopian eunuch – *Acts 8.36* – "Look! Here is water!"

-Paul – *Acts 9.18*

-Cornelius and his household – *Acts 10.47-48*

-Philippian jailer – *Acts 16.33*

-See also: *Matt. 8.22* – The man who wanted to bury his father first

-What did Christ say to that man? Let the dead bury the dead – you follow me!

**V3** – Paul did not want to do anything that might discredit his work as a missionary

-1 *Cor. 2.1* – not in cleverness of speech (not like politicians today)

-2 *Cor. 2.17* – not peddling the word of God (not using the gospel for making money)

-2 *Cor. 4.2* – not adulterating the word of God (not compromising to be popular)

**V4-6** – Negative aspects of his preaching?

-endurance (patience)

-afflictions, hardships, distress (and remember his thorn in the flesh)

**V5** – Beatings and imprisonment (at Philippi – *Acts 16.22*)

-tumults, riots, etc.:

-*Acts 13.50* – Antioch of Psidia

-*Acts 14.5* – Iconium (Jews and Gentiles)

-*Acts 14.19* – Lystra

-*Acts 16.22* – Gentiles at Philippi

-*Acts 17.5* – Thessalonica

-*Acts 18.12* – Corinth

-*Acts 19.23ff* – Ephesus

-*Acts 21.17ff* – Jerusalem

-labors (maybe a reference to work with his hands (at Corinth))

-sleeplessness and hunger (so he could preach for free)

**V6-7** – Positive aspects of his preaching career?

-purity (clean conscience)

- knowledge
- patience, kindness, Holy Spirit, in genuine love

**V7 – In ancient warfare, what weapon was held in the right hand?** Sword (of Spirit)

- Define the sword of the Spirit:** Word of God (*Eph. 6.16*)
- What was in the left hand?** The shield of faith (*Eph. 6.16*)

**V8 – Two ways people looked upon Paul?** Bad report and deceiver, or good report and the truth

- We can begin to appreciate the problems that Paul had faced

**V9 – Unknown?** No standing in the world at large

- Dying?** On many occasions death seemed certain

**V10 – Sorrowful...rejoicing**

- Poor...yet making many rich
- How?** With the gospel

**V1-10 – The trials of an ambassador of Christ**

- What is the role of the ambassador of a country?** He represents his home country

## **2 Corinthians 6.11-13**

**V11 – Explain: "I have told you my innermost feelings"** – Paul had laid it all "on the table"

- Paul had a deep and abiding love for the Christians at Corinth

**V12 – No lack of love from Paul's side**

- If there were any problems between Paul and the Corinthians, whose fault was it?** The Corinthians

**V13 – But love has to be a two-way street**

## **2 Corinthians 6.14-18**

**V14-16 – NASB 1995 ed. – Do not be bound together with unbelievers....**

ASV: *Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers...*

RSV: *Do not be mismated with unbelievers....*

NEV: *Do not unite yourselves with unbelievers....*

KJV: *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers....*

NIV: *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers....*

ESV: *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers....*

-A reference to *Deut. 22.10 – You shall not plow an ox and a donkey together*

-**Why not?** They do not work well together

-**What 5 questions did Paul ask to emphasize his point?**

-Righteousness and lawlessness?

- Light and darkness?
- Christ and Belial?
- What has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
- What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?
- What is the answer to all of these questions?** There is no common ground between a believer and an unbeliever

**-What are some areas of life where this applies?**

1. Marriage (two are to become one flesh)

-Paul in *1 Cor. 9.5* said that he had the right to take a believing wife

**-What are some problems in a marriage of a Christian and a non-Christian?**

1. Where will the children go to church?
  - Eph. 6.4* – to raise children in the Lord
2. Where will the adults go to church? (Frequently a third church is chosen)
3. *1 Cor. 7* – Marriage partners are to help each other

-We should encourage our young people to date and marry Christians

**-Have you ever known a Christ wife married to a non-Christian husband who recommended that to her children?**

-Even if by the grace of God the husband might someday be converted, she still would not recommend such a marriage to her children

2. Business

-*Psalm 37.24* – The righteous will not be seen begging bread

-Restaurant – to serve alcohol or not?

-Drug store – to sell pornographic magazines, cigarettes, etc.?

3. Social life

**-What problems arise in having a close friend who is not a Christian?**

-What movies to see, what kind of entertainment will they participate in

-We should urge Christians to marry Christians, but it is not a commandment

-*1 Cor. 7.14-15* – those married to non-Christians were not commanded to separate

-*1 Pet. 3.1* – Christian wives are to try to convert their husbands

**V 17-18 – Paul's conclusion?** Be separate from the world

-*1 Cor. 5.10* – to be in the world, but not of the world

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