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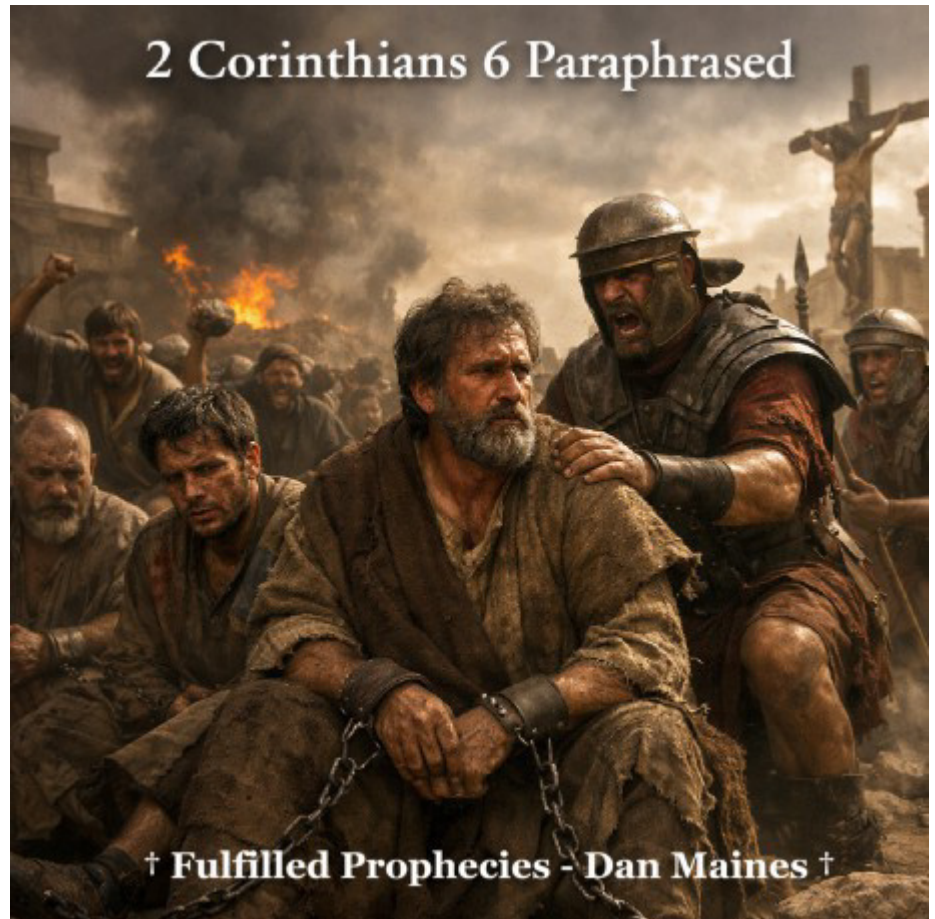
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2 Corinthians 6 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

2 Corinthians 6 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul continues urging the Corinthians not to waste the grace that God has given them. He reminds them that the time of salvation had arrived in their generation, and that the ministry of the apostles came with hardship, endurance, and faithful service.

† This chapter shows the urgency of the gospel during the transition period before the judgment of Jerusalem. The apostles were calling people out of the old covenant world

before its final collapse in AD 70.

† The message is clear, God had opened the door of reconciliation, and people needed to respond while that door stood open.

2 Corinthians 6:1

Working together with God, we urge you not to receive His grace and then treat it as if it meant nothing.

† Paul reminds believers that grace is not something to ignore or take lightly. It demands a response of faith and obedience (Romans 6:1-2).

† The apostles saw themselves as laborers with God in the work of reconciliation, calling people into the new covenant life (1 Corinthians 3:9).

† The warning shows that people could hear the gospel yet fail to embrace it fully during that critical generation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says, At the time I showed you favor I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the time of favor. Now is the day of salvation.

† Paul quotes Isaiah to show that the promised time of salvation had arrived in his own generation (Isaiah 49:8).

† The apostles consistently taught that the fulfillment of God's promises was happening in their lifetime (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† This urgency shows that the prophetic timetable was active and moving toward its climax in the first century.

2 Corinthians 6:3

We make sure that we place no obstacle in anyone's path, so that no one can criticize the work we are doing.

† Paul lived carefully so the gospel would not be discredited by his conduct (1 Corinthians 9:12).

† The integrity of the messenger was essential because the apostles represented Christ Himself.

† Their conduct demonstrated that the new covenant ministry

was honorable and trustworthy.

2 Corinthians 6:4

Instead, in everything we do we show that we are servants of God, enduring hardships, troubles, and difficulties with patience.

† Apostolic ministry was marked by suffering rather than comfort (Acts 14:22).

† Their endurance confirmed that their mission came from God and not from personal ambition.

† The early church recognized suffering as part of faithful service in the kingdom.

2 Corinthians 6:5

We have been beaten, imprisoned, and surrounded by riots. We have worked to exhaustion, gone without sleep, and endured hunger.

† Paul is describing the real cost of preaching Christ in the Roman world (Acts 16:23).

† These hardships showed the depth of dedication the apostles had to their mission.

† Their suffering also fulfilled Jesus' warnings that His messengers would face persecution (John 15:20).

2 Corinthians 6:6

Yet we continue in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, showing genuine love.

† Paul contrasts outward suffering with inward spiritual strength.

† The Spirit empowered the apostles to demonstrate Christlike character despite opposition (Galatians 5:22-23).

† Genuine love was the mark of the true servants of Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:7

We speak the truth of God, and the power of God works through us. We carry the weapons of righteousness in both our right hand and our left.

† The apostles relied on truth and righteousness rather than worldly power (Ephesians 6:14).

† The imagery of weapons shows spiritual warfare against deception and unbelief.

† Their defense and offense were both grounded in God's righteousness.

2 Corinthians 6:8

We are treated with honor by some and dishonor by others. Some praise us while others accuse us of being deceivers, yet we remain faithful.

† The apostles experienced both acceptance and rejection depending on their audience.

† Truth often produces divided reactions among people (Acts 17:32).

† Despite criticism, the apostles continued their mission.

2 Corinthians 6:9

We are treated as if nobody knows us, yet we are well known. People think we are dying, yet we keep living. We are punished, yet we are not destroyed.

† The world often overlooked the apostles, but God fully knew them (1 Corinthians 4:9-13).

† Their survival through persecution showed God's sustaining power.

† Their lives illustrated the paradox of suffering and victory in Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:10

We appear sorrowful, yet we are always rejoicing. We seem poor, yet we enrich many people. We have nothing, yet we possess everything.

† This describes the spiritual wealth believers possess even in hardship (Matthew 5:12).

† The gospel brought eternal riches to others through their preaching.

† Their joy came from the kingdom of God rather than material circumstances.

2 Corinthians 6:11

Corinthians, we have spoken openly to you, and our hearts are wide open.

† Paul emphasizes the sincerity of his relationship with the Corinthian believers.

† His openness reflected genuine pastoral care.

† The apostles did not hide their intentions or manipulate their audience.

2 Corinthians 6:12

You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own feelings.

† Paul explains that any distance between them was not caused by the apostles.

† The Corinthians themselves had allowed their affections to become divided.

† Spiritual growth requires openness toward those who teach truth.

2 Corinthians 6:13

Now in return, I speak as to children, open your hearts to us also.

† Paul urges them to respond with the same love he had shown them.

† Mutual affection strengthened unity within the church.

† Spiritual family relationships were central to the early Christian communities.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not bind yourselves together with unbelievers in ways that place you under their influence. For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? What fellowship can light have with darkness?

† Paul warns believers not to compromise their faith by forming spiritual alliances with unbelief.

† The contrast between light and darkness reflects the difference between the old covenant world and the new

covenant life in Christ (John 8:12).

† The call is for spiritual separation from corrupt influences.

2 Corinthians 6:15

What harmony can exist between Christ and Belial? What share does a believer have with an unbeliever?

† Paul uses strong contrasts to show the incompatibility between Christ and evil.

† Belial was a Jewish term representing wickedness or rebellion against God.

† The believer's identity is rooted in Christ, not in the systems of the world.

2 Corinthians 6:16

What agreement can there be between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, I will live among them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

† Paul declares that believers themselves are now God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† This reflects the shift from the physical temple in Jerusalem to the living spiritual temple of God's people.

† The promise echoes covenant language from Leviticus and Ezekiel about God's dwelling with His people.

2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore come out from among them and separate yourselves, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will welcome you.

† This call echoes the prophetic warnings for Israel to separate from corruption (Isaiah 52:11).

† In the first century context, believers were leaving the old covenant system that was approaching judgment.

† The church was being formed as a distinct holy people.

2 Corinthians 6:18

And I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and

daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

† God promises a restored family relationship with His people.

† Through Christ, believers receive the full status of children of God (Romans 8:15).

† This fulfilled the covenant promise that God would dwell with and adopt His people.

Historical References

† Josephus described the turmoil of Judea leading up to AD 70, confirming the intense pressures believers faced during this generation.

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles endured extreme suffering while faithfully spreading the gospel throughout the Roman world.

† Eusebius recorded the persecution and hardships experienced by the early church, showing the accuracy of Paul's descriptions of apostolic trials.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are reminded that God's grace is not something to ignore. It calls us to live faithfully.

† Believers today still represent God's temple, meaning our lives reflect His presence.

† We are called to separate from corruption and live as God's people in the world.

† The faithfulness of the apostles encourages us to endure hardship with the same dedication.

† Christ still invites people to respond to the grace that has already been revealed.

Q & A Appendix

Q What does it mean to receive God's grace in vain?

A It means hearing the gospel but failing to respond with faithful obedience (Hebrews 2:1-3).

Q Why did Paul say now is the day of salvation?

A Because the fulfillment of the promised salvation had arrived during the apostolic generation (Isaiah 49:8; Hebrews 1:1-2).

Q Why did the apostles suffer so much?

A Their suffering confirmed the authenticity of their mission and fulfilled Jesus' warnings about persecution (John 15:20).

Q What does it mean that believers are the temple of God?

A God's presence now dwells within His people rather than in a physical building (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Q Why did Paul warn about being unequally yoked with unbelievers?

A Because spiritual compromise can weaken faith and lead believers away from righteousness (Ephesians 5:11).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 2 Corinthians 6

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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