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2 Corinthians 6
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By Dan Maines

2 Corinthians 6

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain, for He says, "At a favorable time I listened to you, and on a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is "a favorable time," behold, now is "a day of salvation."

- † Paul warns against receiving grace without transformation.
- † Salvation is not postponed, but present in Christ.
- † Isaiah 49:8 is fulfilled in Christ, showing the urgency of the

new covenant age.

2 Corinthians 6:3-4

Giving no reason for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in difficulties.

† Ministers must live blamelessly to avoid discrediting the gospel.

† Endurance through trials validates true ministry.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 5) remembered Paul's sufferings, proving his faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 6:5

In beatings, in imprisonments, in mob attacks, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger.

† Paul recounts the cost of ministry, revealing the hardships endured for Christ.

† Josephus (Antiquities 20.9.2) recorded mob violence in Judea, similar to what Paul faced.

2 Corinthians 6:6-7

In purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God, by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left.

† Spiritual character and the Spirit's power mark Paul's ministry.

† True weapons are righteousness and truth, not worldly strength.

2 Corinthians 6:8-10

By glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report, regarded as deceivers and yet true, as unknown and yet well known, as dying and yet behold, we are alive, as punished and yet not put

to death, as sorrowful but always rejoicing, as poor but making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

† Paul shows the paradoxes of ministry. Outwardly weak, yet spiritually rich.

† Suffering is transformed into joy and abundance in Christ.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Magnesians 12) spoke of Christians as poor in the world's eyes yet rich in Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:11-13

Our mouth has spoken freely to you, Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. Now in the same way in exchange, I am speaking as to children, open wide your hearts to us also.

† Paul pleads for open-hearted relationship.

† Love is mutual, but the Corinthians were withholding theirs.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers, for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness? Or what harmony does Christ have with Belial, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?

† Believers must not be bound with unbelievers in spiritual compromise.

† The call is to holiness and separation from darkness.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 3.13-4.26) also contrast light and darkness, echoing Paul's words.

2 Corinthians 6:16

Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them, and I will be their

God, and they shall be My people."

† Believers are the true temple of God, fulfilling Old Testament promises.

† The destruction of the physical temple in AD 70 confirmed this new reality.

† Josephus (Wars 6.4.8) described the temple's destruction, underscoring its passing away.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean, and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

† Paul calls for separation from idolatry and unclean practices.

† God promises His fatherly presence to those who are His people.

† Early church leaders like Tertullian (On Idolatry 15) emphasized rejecting idolatry as essential to Christian life.

How it applies to us today

† 2 Corinthians 6 calls believers to live holy lives, refusing compromise with the world.

† The church is God's temple, indwelt by His Spirit, not bound to a building.

† Trials, paradoxes, and sacrifices mark true ministry, yet they reveal God's power and grace.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the call to holiness remains, as we are sons and daughters of the living God.

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

Source Index

† Isaiah 49:8 - favorable time of salvation

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 5 - Paul's sufferings

remembered

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9.2 - mob violence in Judea

† Ignatius, Letter to the Magnesians 12 - Christians poor yet rich

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 3.13-4.26 - contrast of light and darkness

† Josephus, Wars 6.4.8 - destruction of the temple

† Tertullian, On Idolatry 15 - separation from idolatry

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