

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 6

Lesson 8

2 Corinthians 6 is a call to the believer to walk a consistent Christian life. In this chapter, Paul begins by exhorting the believer to *not receive the grace of God in vain*- to receive not in vain the privileges of belonging to Jesus. Pay careful attention to the wisdom Paul reveals as he challenges us to live the separated life.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Chapter 6 of 2 Corinthians has been divided into two paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-10

Verses 11-18

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the sixth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, Spirit, yet, what (as it appears in a question).

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 6. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. The term of conclusion *therefore* appears in verse 17. What conclusion did Paul make and what was his conclusion based upon?

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

1. Moving from his plea to be *reconciled to God* in chapter 5, Paul begins chapter 6 with another plea. What is it?
 - a. The word *vain* here can be described as "without purpose". *You have received the grace of God; do not let it go for nothing* NEB. The believers in Corinth faced two ways of thinking that were contrary to God's purpose in bestowing grace. According to the following verses, what were they?
 - 1.) Romans 6:1

How does having the attitude that it's O.K. to sin because God will forgive you take away from what Jesus did on the cross?
 - 2.) Galatians 2:21

How does an emphasis on keeping the law rather than depending on God's grace take away from what Jesus did on the cross?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 6:2. Paul wrote of the *accepted time* and the *day of salvation*. What three-letter word did he use to indicate when that time is?
 - a. This not only speaks of the act of being saved, but of the call to appropriate God's grace in our daily walk. What is the warning of Hebrews 3:13,15?
 - b. What have you experienced when you put off acting on something God has shown you?
3. How have you found the following statement of Alan Redpath's to be true: "Yesterday's grace is totally inadequate for the burden of today, and if I do not learn to lay hold of heavenly resources every day of my life...I soon become stale, barren, and fruitless in the service of the Lord."

*For grace is given not because we have done good works,
but in order that we may be able to do them.*

- Saint Augustine of Hippo

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

1. Paul determined that no one would be hindered in their faith by anything he did. He wanted to show them that he was a true minister of God. In what situations did Paul choose to be a good example? See verses 4 and 5.

a. How does this challenge you?

2. Using verses 6 and 7, record the behaviors or the "tools" that he chose.

Challenge: Explain the phrase *by the Holy Spirit*.

3. 2 Corinthians 6:8 and 9 express the diversities of ways that Paul was viewed by people. The New Living Translation begins this section with the words – *We serve God whether people honor us or despise us...* Why is this important for anyone who wants to effectively minister to others?

4. 2 Corinthians 6:10 reveals the paradoxes of ministry; how it may seem on the outside, but is not how the minister sees it. Record the paradoxes below:

As _____, *yet always* _____;

as _____, *yet making many* _____;

as *having* _____, *and yet possessing* _____.

a. Describe the advantages of knowing and serving Christ over the riches of the world.

b. What do the following verses teach us about our priorities?

Psalm 84:11

Proverbs 16:16

Matthew 6:33

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

1. *Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you. Our hearts are open to you. If there is a problem between us, it is not because of a lack of love on our part, but because you have withheld your love from us. I am talking now as I would to my own children. Open your hearts to us!*
2 Corinthians 6:11-13 NLT Summarize Paul's plea.

- a. As Paul saw it, the problem between him and the believers in Corinth was that they had withheld their love. What are some things that might have kept them from fully committing to him?

 - b. How might the Corinthian's *lack of love* for Paul have lessened the effectiveness of his ministry to them?
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2. In what ways might entertaining the doctrines of false teachers or compromising with the ways of the world cause believers to have divided hearts?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

1. Paul begins this section with a command. What was it?
 - a. What word does he use to describe this "yoking"? (It starts with the letter "u" 😊)

2. Following the command to *not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers*, Paul proves his point through a series of questions. Record the questions below.

Verse 14:

1.

2.

Verse 15:

1.

2.

Verse 16:

1.

3. How is the believer described in verse 16?

- a. What did Paul say about this in 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19?

1.) *Therefore* according to 1 Corinthians 6:20, what are we to do?

4. Why is it wrong and dangerous for Christians to be bound together with unbelievers?

- a. This verse is often applied to the marriage relationship. What other relationships does this command include?

5. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 are quotations from Isaiah 52:11 expressing God's heart for His people to be separate. What responsibility do we have as those whom God graciously *dwells in, walks among,* and calls *His people*?

6. What does God call His people in 2 Corinthians 6:18?

- a. What does it mean to you to be God's *daughter*?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 6

1. Paul challenges us with the words *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* Why is it important that we do not put off or ignore what God has prompted us to do?
2. What did you learn from Paul's example in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10?
3. Considering how the Corinthian believers challenged and discounted Paul's ministry, what did you learn from Paul's plea in verses 11-13?
4. How should Christians balance their involvement with non-Christians?
5. What are some of the possible consequences of an *unequally yoked* relationship?
6. What have you learned from this lesson about a life that does *not receive the grace of God in vain*?

*For ye were sometimes darkness,
but now are ye light in the Lord:
walk as children of light:
- Ephesians 5:8 KJV*