



2 Corinthians Ch 6

July 7, 2024

Module 5, Room 1



Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *June 23, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 4*
- ✓ *June 30, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 5, **Celebration, FRC grounds***
- ✓ *July 7, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 6*
- *July 14, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 7*
- *July 21, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 8*
- *July 28, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 9*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *IDF doing mop-up in Rafah and Gaza*
- *Possible Hostage deal is in the works*
- *Claim that the end of the war in Gaza is near, and it will move north*
- *Hezbollah is hitting Israel with 40 or more rockets a day, starting fires, and forcing evacuations*
- *Israel is hitting harder and more guided attacks to eliminate enemy leadership, with success*
- *Israel is readying for a full-scale war with Hezbollah, being joined by Iran and its proxies*
- ***Two late developments** – Maybe close to a deal with Hamas, Egypt's President fired most of his Sr Staff & Leaders. Something is happening in Egypt, but I don't know what*

US/World

- *The Presidential Debate – Fallout and Foreign View*
 - *World was watching, Democrats are churning – some closing ranks*
 - *End of Biden era now widely anticipated, 7 months to go*
 - *How will China, Russia, N Korea, and Iran take advantage?*
- *Big Argument about PM Netanyahu addressing a joint session of Congress on July 24th*
 - *I think there is NO CHANCE he will not come, and I think his talk will solidify Israel's support in Congress*
- *Talk of replacing Biden at the Convention some thoughts...speculation rampant*
 - *If he resigns president early, we get Kamala Harris*
 - *If he says he will not run again, he serves out his time, and a replacement is named at the Convention, but with only 2 months to campaign. Expect a raucous convention in Chicago in mid-August*
 - *If he declines to go away, the Democrats have already selected him, and it will just play out*
- *Court cases against Trump are weakening after Supreme Court Rulings*
- *4th of July Celebrations in NY was a protest by hundreds of Hamas Sympathizers*

Last Week...

- *We picked up in 2 Cor Ch 5 and finished it*
- *We covered again the*
 - *The Joy and Judgment to come (5:1-10)*
 - *The New Creation (5:11-19)*
 - *Ambassadors for Christ (5:20-6:2)*
- *Today we will cover:*
 - *A Blizzard of Troubles (6:3-10)*
 - *An Open Heart of Love (6:11-13)*
 - *Knowing when to Leave (6:14-7:1)*

Before we read the chapter

- *Paul begins with a statement that defines roles within the church. Many believe we **as sheep** have little responsibility for the mission of the church, It is the Pastor, leader, teacher, or evangelist who does the work.*
- *We see ourselves as supportive fans in the stands, and the players on the field are the ones who play the game. Books have been written, like **Not A Fan**, that describe this belief and how to address it.*
- *Understanding our real role as believers is critical to the mission of the Church, the Kingdom of the Lord, and our own faithfulness to the Word and calling of God.*

2 Cor Ch 6:1-2 *Roles and Responsibilities*

6 *As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.* ² *For he says,*

***"In the time of my favor, I heard you,
and in the day of salvation, I helped you."*** (Isa 49:8)

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Remember Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2 Cor Ch 6:1-2 Understanding these verses

There are several things to make sure we understand in these first 2 verses:

1. ***We are not fans in the stands, we are co-workers in the Kingdom*** with God, so in addition to being witnesses, telling what we see and know about God and Christ, we are co-laborers in the fields of the Kingdom.
 - ***What does this mean in a practical matter for us?*** It means that all of the functions of the church are shared by the people of God in the church. Witnessing, mentoring, sharing, praying, helping, teaching, comforting, doing life with other believers, and bringing nonbelievers to the Lord.
 - ***But we are Sheep and not shepherds.*** The Bible is very clear on that as it describes our relationship to the Lord. Doesn't that translate to the paid staff? The ministers, the Pastors, the teachers?

Let me use a saying that I heard J Vernon McGee use as a quote from a pastor friend of his...

Shepherds do not make new Sheep...Sheep make new Sheep

- *While I agree with this from a physical standpoint and understand the larger point it is making...Pastors/ Teachers/ Leaders in the church are also sheep under the Great Shepherd and we are co-workers in the fields of the Lord.*
- *Each of us who claims Christ as our Lord bears responsibility and ability through our gifts to contribute to the work of the Lord.*

2 Cor Ch 6:1-2 Understanding these verses

2. **Not to receive God's Grace in Vain** – We have been given the grace and mercy from the Lord to become children of God. We also have duties and responsibilities that come with this great blessing. **Don't fail to follow your end of the covenant with God.**
3. **How does this look today?** William Barclay makes an analogy of parents who sacrifice to give their children a good education, a solid and Christian upbringing, health, love, tenderness, forgiveness, and every other thing possible to equip them to face life. What if the children feel no gratitude, never feel an obligation to be worthy of it all, and never thank or praise their parents for their sacrifices? Refuse guidance and make their way in foolishness in life. Certainly, we can understand that this frustrates the grace given to them, and in a more profound thought, we understand our failures when it is God and not our parents.
4. **Paul quotes Isaiah 49:8.** This verse points out that God **heard us** in an accepted time... and saved us. The verse reminds us that the best time for God to hear and save us is NOW. Not later.

Now is the time for salvation.

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

*These are the things that press like high pressure (thlipsis) that burden our hearts; burdens that cannot be avoided because they are part of life itself; and **anxiety** of being squeezed as if in a narrow passageway.*

2 Cor Ch 6:6-7

Paul's Hardships - *Mentally*

⁶ in purity, understanding, patience, and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness In the right hand and in the left;

- **Purity** – It is hard to remain pure before the Lord. Our nature is fallen, and even when we are a new creature it takes mental discipline to remain pure in His sight
- **Understanding/Knowledge, patience (longsuffering), and kindness** – These attributes are a daily effort to do the deliberate work of practicing these things. *Know your Bible, be patient with others, and be kind*
- **In the Holy Spirit and sincere Love** – We cannot do what the Lord wants us to do or be without the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is folly to try and do the things of God while in the flesh. **Sincere** Love is not a fake caring but a genuine expression of a Loving Heart and attitude.
- **In truthful speech with the weapons of righteousness** – In Christian history, the weapons of the Lord are the Truth of the Word (RH), the shield of Faith (LH) and the well-lived life in the face of trouble, riots, prisoner of the state, and other things the ungodly do to the saints. “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”

2 Cor Ch 6:8-10

Victorious Endurance

⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

It is always something...yet we persist and glory in the Lord

2 Cor Ch 6:11-13 *Open Heart and Mind*

*¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, **and opened wide our hearts to you.***

*¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, **but you are withholding yours from us.***

*¹³ **As a fair exchange**—I speak as to my children—**open wide your hearts also.***

Paul pleads for a fair hearing and exchange for himself from the Corinthians.

2 Cor Ch 6:14-16 *Warning against Idolatry*

*¹⁴ Do not be **yoked together** with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

*¹⁶ What agreement is there **between the temple of God and idols**? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: (Lev. 26:12; Jer. 32:38; Ezek. 37:27)*

***“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”***

2 Cor Ch 6:17-19

Actions to take...

¹⁷ Therefore,

*“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.*

*Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.” (Isaiah 52:11; Ezek. 20:34,41)*

¹⁸ And,

*“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.” (Isaiah 52:11; Ezek. 20:34,41)*

2 Cor Ch 7:1 Final thoughts from Paul on Idolatry

*7¹ Therefore, **since we have these promises**, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.***

Final note: the scripture references are listed so you can see the verses Paul was quoting from, but remember, these were not contained in a portable Bible at the time but were large scrolls. Paul quoted from Memory and the references were added later by an editor. Paul was more concerned with the essence of the message rather than an exact quote.

Next Week

- *Read 2 Cor Ch 7, and come back to discuss*
- *Pray for God to move in the US, Israel, and the leaders*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and your friends both inside and outside of the church. **Pray for healing for those in grief.***
- *Be thankful that God has placed you in this day and time and commit your will to doing His Will.*
- *Pray for those who don't know the Lord to come to Him*
- *Pray for each of us to take our role seriously in the coming storm*