

2 Corinthians Chapter 6

THE GRACE OF GOD

2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

1 Corinthians 4:21 KJV What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

Christian Faith or Empty Belief?

2 Corinthians 6:1-18 NIV (1) As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive **God's grace in vain**. (2) For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

Paul is positive about the Corinthians but warns them not to take God's grace for granted. We all are expected to make sure that our faith is genuine.

Christian Experience can be a Struggle

(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;

How does our understanding of servants of God match with Paul's?

Christian life must stay true

(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; (8) through glory and dishonour, 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.

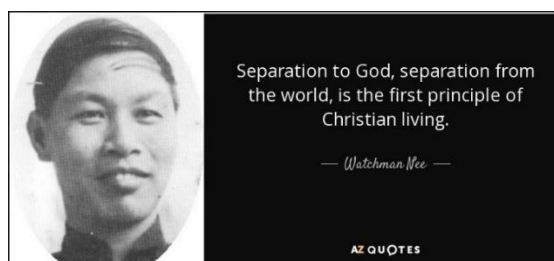
(11) We have **spoken freely to you**, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. (12) We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. (13) As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

It seems that the Corinthians had a low opinion of Paul. He felt that they withheld love and friendship from him when he was open and loving towards them.

Christian life requires character

John 17:15-18 NIV My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. (17) **Sanctify** them by the truth; your word is truth. (18) **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.** (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? 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: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (17) "Therefore come out from them and be **separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." (18) "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Being in the world as witnesses for Jesus is God's purpose. Christ's prayer provides us with protection against being spoiled. However, we need personal decision about avoiding bad connections and relationships that will corrupt us. We need to be separate through being different not distant. We need surrender to the Father's will not self-will.



Saved?

Servants?

Sincere?



Separate?

Surrendered?