**2 Corinthians 6**

*Paul describes himself as a minister (servant) of God. He calls upon the Corinthians to be holy, and to avoid unequal yoking with evil. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Ministry, Appeals, and Admonitions **(1:3-7:16)**
2. The Ministry of the New Covenant **(2:12-7:16)**
	1. Ministry of Reconciliation **(5:12-6:10)**
		1. A Plea for Receiving God’s Grace **(vv. 1-2).**
			1. Do not receive it in vain **(v. 1).**
			2. The time to receive it is now **(v. 2).**
		2. A Description of Paul’s Blameless Ministry **(vv. 3-10).**
			1. He has conducted himself blamelessly, not giving reason for offense **(v. 3).**
			2. His actions commend him as a minister of God **(v. 4a).** *Which actions include:*
				1. Sufferings endured as a minister of Christ **(vv. 4b-5).**
				2. Fruits of Christ exhibited in his ministry **(vv. 6-7).**
				3. Outer reports/perceptions in contrast with the truth **(v. 8).**
				4. Paradoxical experiences in his ministry **(vv. 9-10).**
	2. Call to Holiness – Proper Response to the Ministry **(6:11-7:4)**
		1. A Plea for Open Hearts **(vv. 11-13).**
			1. Paul has spoken freely to them concerning his motives, and care for them in spiritual things. He has made room for them in his heart **(v. 11).**
			2. The separation between Paul and the Corinthians is not caused by him, but them **(v. 12).**
			3. He appeals to them as a father to a child, *“you also be open”*  **(v. 13).**
		2. A Plea for Holiness **(vv. 14-7:1).**
			1. Do not be unequally joined with unbelievers **(v. 14a).** *Why* **(vv. 14-18)?:**
				1. Righteousness and lawlessness have no *fellowship*.
				2. Light and darkness have no *communion*.
				3. Christ has no *accord* with Belial.
				4. Believers and unbelievers have no *part* together.
				5. Temple of God and idols have no *agreement*.
				6. You are the temple of God, as God dwells in you **(v. 16).**

Reception by God requires separation from uncleanness **(v. 17).**

Then God will be our Father **(v. 18).**

* + - 1. Having the promises of reconciliation to God, and fellowship with Him, we are to work toward perfecting holiness **(7:1).**

**Questions**

1. What does it mean to *“receive the grace of God in vain”* **(v. 1)?**
2. What is the proper reaction to those who preach, teach, and uphold the truth **(vv. 11-13)?** *(Including all: elders, preachers, teachers, spouses, parents, etc.)*
3. What is *“fellowship,”* and how does that affect our relationships **(vv. 14-18)?**