

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 6:1-2

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

IF I HAD ONE MORE CHANCE

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Born Again, New Life, Re-Creation, Regeneration

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 6:1-2

It's a true story,

One that I will never forget. I and another pastor on staff at the time were at a national prayer event in Orlando Florida. The night before flying back home I had a dream and it was really weird. I had dreamt that we were getting onboard and settling in for the flight. We took off and out over the gulf of Mexico toward L.A. – about an hour into the flight, there was a huge explosion in the plane and it began to descend - - just then I jumped up and began to preach the Gospel. Some people onboard raised their hands while others sat silent.
– it was amazing !!!

Let me tell you something, after having a dream like that,

I had total peace about getting on that flight the next day.

(but I did call lisa from the airport to tell her my dream and if it was from God to tell people about it at my memorial service)

In the previous Chapters - Paul began to defend his motive for being in the ministry. Legalists set out to undermine him and discredit him. They could not defeat the message, so they went after the messenger.

With any effective work or ministry,

Attacks will be a constant. The Bible makes it clear that for the Christian, our warfare is not limited to humans – but most often pits us up against spiritual forces and powers not of this world.

1 Thess. 2:18

Therefore we wanted to come to you - even I, Paul, time and again – but Satan **hindered** us.

ἐγκόπτω **egkopto**, *ing-kop'-to*; **hindered** means “to cut into, to trip up, to not let pass, to impede or to detain. to be tediously relentless.

Why Would Satan Care About Church Work ?

Because a church, a spirit-filled church
is an invincible weapon in the hand of Almighty God.

Matt. 16:13-18

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”** :14 So they said, **“Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”** :15 He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** :16 Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** :17 Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter (Petros = piece of rock), and on this rock (Petra = massive rock) I will build MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.**

Have You Noticed This Before ?

Hell has Gates – You Cannot Successfully Attack with Gates.
You Can Only Defend with Gates.

And So Hell is Being Attacked Every Moment

of Every Day By the Power of the Gospel of God. By the Christian, By the Church of the Living God.

(Satan Never Has a Good Day – Never)

IF I HAD ONE MORE CHANCE

1.) Don't receive the **grace** of God in vain

v. 1

DO NOT RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

1a.) what does that **look like**?

v. 1

We then, as workers together *with Him* also **plead with you** not to **receive** the **grace** of God in **vain**.

Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that He had been the one to have led them to Jesus Christ.

Listen Church - The Legalist, the Judaizers, could only lead them to rules, regulations and the traditions of men and then ultimate lordship of themselves, the judaizers.

Man-Made Legalism - Wars & Struggles Against Divine Grace

(1) We then, as workers together *with* **(2) Him** also **plead with** **(3) you** **vain**

κενός kenos, *ken-os'*; emptiness. into a vacuum. something existing, but having no meaning or purpose.

What Does This **Look Like** in Life ?

Paul's Apologetics to the Athenians @ Mars Hill, Greece

Acts 17:32

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed,

There was a vacuum in their hearts and minds

Acts 26:24

Now as he thus made his **defense**, (*apology*) **Festus** said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are **beside** (*detached*) yourself! Much learning is driving you **mad!** (*mania – a maniac*)

Again - there was a vacuum in the heart and mind of Festus.

DO NOT RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

1b.) What does that **sound like?**

v. 1

We then, as workers together *with Him* also **plead with you** not to **receive** the **grace** of God in **vain**.

Plead παρακαλέω **parakaleo**, *par-ak-al-eh'-o*; to call near, invite, invoke

Grace χάρις **charis**, *khar'-ece*; divine influence upon the heart, making a man acceptable, favored, gifted. An object of God's affection

Gal. 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Gal. 2:16

knowing (understand, grasp, lay hold of this) that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

DO NOT RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

What does that sound like?

DO NOT RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

1c.) What does that **mean ?**

v. 1

We then, as workers together *with Him* also **plead with you** not to **receive** the **grace** of God in **vain**.

not to **receive** the **grace** of God in **vain**.

Is to live a life that is contrary to Biblical revelation. To live in such a way that what you are doing – contradicts the Bible.

Satan Knows This is a Very Powerful Area of Victory for Him.
Satan, The Devil Tried it on Jesus Christ;

Matt. 4:8

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

DANGER - God's Grace Can Be Rejected, Neglected & Ignored.

Rejection on the grounds of;

"I cannot believe that stuff. I will not believe it"

Neglect on the grounds of;

"I'm busy about trying to make ends meet. I have a family, bills, issues..."

Willful Ignorance on the grounds of:

"I'm just too reasonable, too logical, to believe in God and Jesus"

Prov. 1:24-26 NLT

"I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. 25 You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. 26 So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you -

Luke 12:8

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Acts 13:46

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but **since you reject it**, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life**, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

not to **receive** the **grace** of God in **vain** **ALSO MEANS**
that we as Christians must **press-on** and **into the person of** Jesus Christ.

Approach To Landing:

That we as Christians – need God's grace more and more as we approach our destination. There may be 10,000 miles behind and the runway may be in sight – but we're not in heaven yet – now is not the time to take stupid pills.

Col 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

IF I HAD ONE MORE CHANCE

2.) Now is the acceptable time

v. 2a

NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

2a.) God made today the appointment

v. 2a

For He says: "In an **acceptable** time I have **heard** you,

Acceptable

δεκτός dektos, *dek-tos'*; propitious, approved, the appointed or sanctioned moment of time.

IF I HAD ONE MORE CHANCE

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found, **Call** upon Him while He is near.

Heard

ἐπακούω epakouo, *ep-ak-oo'-o*; with intentional, devoted listening. to be straining to hear. i.e. = "Listen. What was That? Listen. Did You Hear Something, Listen, Listen"

Interesting That Paul is Quoting an Old Testament Verse and Encouraging the Corinthians with It. It's About Israel's Future Salvation and the Coming Hope of the Jewish People.

Is. 49:8

Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You;

Have any of you heard What the Gospel Is ?
(have you heard it?)

every time you've heard the Gospel – it was a God ordained,
God appointed - God sanctioned privilege !!!

“In an **acceptable** time I have **heard** you,
NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

2b.) God made today the **issue v. 2a**

And **in the day of salvation** I have **helped** you.”

Paul is Still Quoting Isaiah 49

in the day of....

In the revelation of it. In the visitation of it. In that moment of opportunity implying you have the mental capacity. The reason and logic, the faculties to decide.

Salvation

σωτηρία soteria, *so-tay-ree'-ah*; it's in the feminine gender = meaning with a mighty rescue, a great deliverance, by an overwhelming act I save.

helped

οηθέω boetheo, *bo-ay-theh'-o*; to bring or to run with aid. to bring relief and assistance in the arms.

Deut 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the (His) everlasting arms;

NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

2c.) God made today the **moment v. 2a**

Behold, **now** is the **accepted time**

How many of you have ever been in an accident – a good one ?
(how much preparation did you have before it happened ?)

warnings are a great help -

But Satan is a Gradualist.

He is always about getting you to wait to decide until tomorrow,
until there is no more tomorrows left. – *anonymous*

IF I HAD ONE MORE CHANCE

3.) Today is **the day** of salvation v. 2b

TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

3a.) So get ready to **open your eyes** v. 2b

behold, (*take a look*) now is the day of salvation.

Isaiah 45:22

“**Look** to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth!

TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

3b.) So get ready to **open your heart / mind** v. 2b

behold, **now** (right now) is the day of salvation.

**Right Now - is there a deep, unshakable peace inside of you ?
The Seat of Your Emotions – Your Feelings – Your Insides**

TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

3c.) So get ready to **open your mouth** v. 2b

behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass That whoever
calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’

Jer. 29:12-13

Then you will **call** upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jer. 33:3

“**Call** to Me, and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

Rom 10:8 ESV

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who **call** on him.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

————— *End of Study* —————

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