CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

2 Corinthians Chapter 6 —
Now Is the Day of Salvation

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

2 Corinthians Chapter 6 flows directly from the end of Chapter 5.

Paul had just said that believers are ambassadors for Christ.

God makes His appeal through them:

“Be reconciled to God.”

Now Paul applies that appeal to the Corinthians themselves.

They had received God's grace.

But Paul urges them not to receive it **“in vain.”**

God's grace should change their lives.

And there is urgency.

“Now is the day of salvation.”

Then Paul describes what his ministry has really been like.

He gives one of the most moving lists in the Bible.

Endurance, troubles, beatings, prison, riots, sleepless nights, hunger.

Purity, kindness, the Holy Spirit, sincere love.

Honor and dishonor.

Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.

Poor, yet making many rich.

Having nothing, yet possessing everything.

This was not the picture of a self-promoting leader.

It was the picture of a true servant of God.

Then Paul opens his heart.

He has held nothing back.

He asks the Corinthians to open their hearts to him in return.

Finally, Paul gives a strong call to holiness.

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.”

Believers are God's temple.

They must not be bound together with what is opposed to God.

And God gives a beautiful promise:

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters.”

The chapter moves through four movements:

- Do Not Receive God's Grace in Vain (verses 1–2).
- Commending Ourselves as God's Servants (verses 3–10).
- Paul's Open Heart (verses 11–13).
- Be Separate from the World (verses 14–18).

The central truth of 2 Corinthians 6 is:

Today is the day to respond to God's grace, and those who belong to Him are called to faithful service, open-hearted love, and holy separation, as the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

I. NOT IN VAIN

2 Corinthians 6:1 — As God's Co-Workers

“As God's co-workers, we urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

Paul continues his appeal from Chapter 5.

“As God's co-workers.”

Paul worked together with God in the work of reconciliation.

What an honor.

“We urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

The Corinthians had received God's grace.

But Paul was concerned.

They were divided.

Some were questioning Paul and the gospel he preached.

Some were being drawn toward false teachers.

Paul did not want God's grace to make no difference in their lives.

Grace is not meant to be received and then ignored.

It is meant to transform.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 3:9

> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

Hebrews 12:15

> See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and spoil many.

Galatians 2:21

> I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Spiritual Principle

God's grace is meant to change our lives, not to be received and ignored.

Application

Is God's grace making a real difference in how you live?

II. NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

2 Corinthians 6:2 — The Time of God's Favor

“For He says: “In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is the time of God's favor; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Paul quotes Isaiah 49.

“In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

In Isaiah, God promised a time when He would show favor and bring salvation.

Paul says that time has arrived.

“Behold, now is the time of God's favor.”

Not someday.

Now.

“Behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Jesus came.

He died and rose.

The door of salvation is open.

But the opportunity will not last forever.

Paul says **“behold”** twice.

He wants them to pay attention.

Today is the day to respond.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:8

> This is what the LORD says: “At the time I chose to show favor, I answered you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.”

Luke 4:19

> to announce the year of the Lord's favor.

Hebrews 3:15

> As it has been said: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

Spiritual Principle

The time to respond to God's grace is now.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Tomorrow is not promised; today is the day of salvation.

Application

Is there something God is calling you to respond to today?

Do not wait.

III. NO OFFENSE IN ANYTHING

2 Corinthians 6:3 — That the Ministry Not Be Discredited

“We give no offense in anything, so that our ministry may not be discredited.”

Paul explains how he conducted himself.

“We give no offense in anything.”

Paul was careful not to put any unnecessary obstacle in anyone's path.

The gospel itself offends proud hearts.

But Paul never wanted his own behavior to be the reason people rejected it.

“So that our ministry may not be discredited.”

A servant's bad behavior can bring shame on the gospel.

Paul guarded his life so that nothing would hinder the message.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 10:32

> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks, or the church of God.

Romans 14:13

> So let's stop judging one another. Instead, decide never to put anything in the way of a brother or sister that would make them stumble or fall.

Titus 2:8

> and in speech that is sound and cannot be criticized, so that anyone who opposes you will be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us.

Spiritual Principle

Our lives should never be the reason someone rejects the gospel.

IV. GREAT ENDURANCE

2 Corinthians 6:4 — Troubles, Hardships, Distresses

“Instead, in everything we commend ourselves as servants of God: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in distresses,”

Paul now gives his real credentials.

The false teachers had letters of recommendation.

Paul had something else.

“In everything we commend ourselves as servants of God.”

His life was his recommendation.

And it begins with:

“In great endurance.”

Endurance is the ability to keep going under pressure.

It is the first mark of a true servant.

Then Paul lists three kinds of pressure he endured.

Troubles—general difficulties.

Hardships—situations that could not be avoided.

Distresses—being squeezed into tight places with no way out.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 11:23

> Are they servants of Christ? I am speaking like a madman, but I am more so. I have worked much harder, been in prison more often, been beaten more severely, and faced death again and again.

1 Corinthians 4:1

> So people should think of us as servants of Christ and as those trusted with the secret truths of God.

Romans 5:3

> Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces endurance,

Spiritual Principle

The mark of a true servant of God is endurance under pressure.

V. BEATINGS AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

2 Corinthians 6:5 — What Paul Suffered

“in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, and fastings;”

Paul continues with specific sufferings.

Beatings.

Paul was beaten with rods and whipped many times.

Imprisonments.

He was jailed for preaching the gospel.

Riots.

Mobs rose up against him in many cities.

Labors.

He worked hard with his hands and in ministry.

Sleepless nights.

He went without sleep because of work, worry, and danger.

Fastings.

He often went hungry.

These were not signs that Paul was failing.

They were signs that he was faithful.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 11:25

> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I spent a night and a day in the open sea.

Acts 16:23

> After they had been severely beaten, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was ordered to guard them carefully.

2 Corinthians 11:27

> I have worked hard and often gone without sleep. I have been hungry and thirsty and often without food. I have been cold and without enough clothing.

Spiritual Principle

Suffering for the gospel is not a sign of failure but of faithfulness.

VI. PURITY, KINDNESS, AND SINCERE LOVE

2 Corinthians 6:6 — The Character of a Servant

“in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love;”

Paul now turns from what he suffered to the character he showed.

Purity—a clean and holy life.

Knowledge—understanding of God's truth.

Patience—putting up with people and problems without giving up.

Kindness—treating others with goodness.

The Holy Spirit—living by the Spirit's power.

Sincere love—real love with no pretending.

Notice that hardship did not make Paul bitter.

It revealed the fruit of the Spirit in his life.

Cross References

Galatians 5:22

> But the fruit the Spirit produces is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

1 Timothy 4:12

> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers in your speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

1 Peter 1:22

> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for one another, love one another deeply from the heart.

Spiritual Principle

Hardship reveals the character the Spirit has produced in us.

Application

When you face hardship, does it bring out bitterness or the fruit of the Spirit?

VII. THE WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Corinthians 6:7 — In the Right Hand and the Left

“in the word of truth, in the power of God, with the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;”

Paul names his resources.

“In the word of truth.”

He relied on the gospel, God's true message.

“In the power of God.”

Not his own strength.

“With the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left.”

A Roman soldier carried a sword in his right hand for attack.

He carried a shield in his left hand for defense.

Paul was fully equipped for both.

His weapons were not worldly.

They were righteousness—living rightly and trusting God's righteousness in Christ.

Cross References

Ephesians 6:11

> Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:14

> So stand firm, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist and the breastplate of righteousness in place.

Romans 6:13

> Do not offer any part of your body to sin as a tool for wickedness. Instead, offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and offer every part of yourself to Him as a tool for righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons.

VIII. GLORY AND DISHONOR

2 Corinthians 6:8 — Genuine, Yet Regarded as Impostors

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

Paul now gives a series of contrasts.

“Through glory and dishonor.”

Sometimes Paul was honored.

Sometimes he was shamed.

“Bad report and good report.”

Some spoke well of him.

Some spread lies about him.

Paul kept serving either way.

“Genuine, yet regarded as impostors.”

Paul was a true apostle.

But his critics called him a fraud.

A faithful servant does not live for praise or quit because of criticism.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 4:10

> We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, but we are dishonored!

Matthew 5:11

> You are blessed when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things about you because of Me.

1 Peter 4:14

> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Spiritual Principle

A faithful servant keeps serving whether praised or criticized.

IX. DYING, YET WE LIVE

2 Corinthians 6:9 — Unknown, Yet Well-Known

“unknown, yet well-known; dying, yet we live on; punished, yet not killed;”

More contrasts.

“Unknown, yet well-known.”

To the world, Paul was a nobody.

But he was well known to God and to the churches.

“Dying, yet we live on.”

Paul faced death again and again.

Yet God kept him alive.

“Punished, yet not killed.”

Paul was beaten many times.

But he was not destroyed.

God's power kept him going.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 4:10

> We always carry in our bodies the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

Psalm 118:18

> The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not handed me over to death.

2 Corinthians 1:9

> In fact, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God, who raises the dead.

Spiritual Principle

The world may see weakness, but God sees and sustains His servants.

X. HAVING NOTHING, YET POSSESSING EVERYTHING

2 Corinthians 6:10 — Sorrowful, Yet Always Rejoicing

“sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, yet possessing everything.”

Paul ends the list with three of the most beautiful contrasts in Scripture.

“Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

Paul knew real sorrow.

He wept.

He grieved.

But underneath the sorrow was a joy that never left.

Joy in Christ.

“Poor, yet making many rich.”

Paul had little money.

But he gave people the riches of the gospel.

Eternal life.

Forgiveness.

A relationship with God.

“Having nothing, yet possessing everything.”

Paul owned almost nothing.

But in Christ, he had everything.

Every believer is rich in Christ, no matter what they own on earth.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 3:21

> So stop bragging about human leaders. Everything belongs to you.

Philippians 4:12

> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether having plenty or having little.

James 2:5

> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Hasn't God chosen people who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to receive the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?

Spiritual Principle

In Christ, believers can be sorrowful yet joyful, poor yet rich, having nothing yet possessing everything.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The world measures riches by what you hold; God measures them by Whom you have.

XI. OUR HEART IS WIDE OPEN

2 Corinthians 6:11 — Speaking Freely

“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open.”

Paul's tone becomes very personal.

“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians.”

Paul rarely addresses a church by name in the middle of a letter.

Here he does.

He is speaking directly to them.

He has been completely honest.

“Our heart is wide open.”

Paul had held nothing back.

He loved them deeply.

His heart had room for every one of them.

Cross References

Ephesians 6:19

> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, God will give me the right words so that I can boldly make known the secret truth of the good news,

2 Corinthians 7:2

> Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, corrupted no one, and taken advantage of no one.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

> We loved you so much that we were glad to share with you not only God's good news but our own lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

Spiritual Principle

True ministry flows from an open, loving heart.

XII. RESTRICTED IN YOUR AFFECTIONS

2 Corinthians 6:12 — The Problem Is Not Paul

“You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections.”

Paul gently points out a problem.

“You are not restricted by us.”

Paul was not holding back his love.

“But you are restricted in your own affections.”

The Corinthians were holding back their love for Paul.

Their hearts had become narrow and closed.

The problem in the relationship was not on Paul's side.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 12:15

> So I will gladly spend everything I have and even spend myself for you. If I love you more, will you love me less?

1 John 3:17

> If someone has enough to live on and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no pity, how can God's love be in him?

2 Corinthians 7:2

> Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, corrupted no one, and taken advantage of no one.

Spiritual Principle

Closed hearts hinder fellowship more than anything outside us.

XIII. OPEN YOUR HEARTS ALSO

2 Corinthians 6:13 — As to My Children

“As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open your hearts also.”

Paul makes a tender appeal.

“As a fair exchange.”

Paul had opened his heart to them.

Now he asks them to do the same.

“I speak as to my children.”

Paul was their spiritual father.

He spoke with a father's love.

“Open your hearts also.”

Love should be returned.

Fellowship should flow both ways.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 4:14

> I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you as my dear children.

3 John 1:4

> Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are living in the truth.

Galatians 4:19

> My dear children, I am again going through the pain of childbirth for you until Christ is formed in you.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy relationships in the church require open hearts on both sides.

Application

Is there someone in your church who has opened their heart to you, but you have kept yours closed?

XIV. DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED

2 Corinthians 6:14 — Light and Darkness

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what communion has light with darkness?”

Paul now gives a strong command.

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.”

A **yoke** was a wooden beam that joined two animals together to pull a plow.

The Law of Moses said not to yoke an ox and a donkey together.

They were different animals.

They walked at different speeds.

They would pull in different directions.

Paul uses this picture for believers.

Believers should not be bound in close partnerships with unbelievers where they would be pulled away from Christ.

This includes marriage.

It can also include business partnerships or other close commitments that would compromise a believer's faith.

It also seems to apply to the false teachers who were drawing the Corinthians away.

It does **not** mean believers should avoid all contact with unbelievers.

In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul said that would mean leaving the world.

Believers are called to love and reach unbelievers.

But they must not be **yoked**—bound in a way that pulls them away from God.

Paul then asks five questions.

“What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?”

“What communion has light with darkness?”

They are opposites.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 22:10

Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.

Ephesians 5:11

Have nothing to do with the worthless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be fooled: “Bad company ruins good character.”

Spiritual Principle

Believers must not be bound in close partnerships that pull them away from Christ.

Key Truth

Love unbelievers.

Reach unbelievers.

But do not be yoked to anything that pulls you from God.

XV. CHRIST AND BELIAL

2 Corinthians 6:15 — What Does a Believer Share?

“What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?”

Paul continues his questions.

“What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?”

Belial was a name for Satan.

It means **worthlessness.**

Christ and Satan are complete opposites.

There can be no agreement between them.

“Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?”

In the deepest spiritual sense, believers and unbelievers follow different masters.

They live for different purposes.

They are headed in different directions.

Cross References

1 Kings 18:21

> Elijah went before all the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

1 Corinthians 10:21

> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too. You cannot share in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Matthew 6:24

> No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Spiritual Principle

No one can be fully devoted to Christ while bound to what opposes Him.

XVI. THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

2 Corinthians 6:16 — I Will Dwell in Them

“What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them; I will be their God, and they shall be My people.””

Paul asks his final question.

“What agreement has the temple of God with idols?”

Corinth was full of temples to idols.

God's temple and an idol's temple could never go together.

“For we are the temple of the living God.”

Believers are God's temple.

God lives among His people.

Then Paul combines several Old Testament promises.

“I will dwell in them and walk among them.”

God's presence among His people.

“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

This is the heart of God's covenant.

From the beginning, God's plan was to live with His people.

In Christ, that plan is fulfilled.

Cross References

Leviticus 26:12

> I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people.

Ezekiel 37:27

> My dwelling place will be with them. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

1 Corinthians 3:16

> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives among you?

Spiritual Principle

Because God lives among His people, they must keep His temple holy.

Key Truth

God does not just visit His people.

He lives with them.

XVII. COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE

2 Corinthians 6:17 — I Will Receive You

“Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.””

Paul quotes Isaiah.

“Come out from among them and be separate.”

In Isaiah, God called His people to leave Babylon and its idols behind.

Paul applies this to believers.

Separate yourselves from sin and idolatry.

This is not about leaving the world physically.

It is about refusing to share in the world's sin.

“Touch no unclean thing.”

Keep yourselves pure.

“And I will receive you.”

God does not just call us away from sin.

He calls us to Himself.

He welcomes us.

Separation from sin is really separation to God.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:11

> Leave! Leave! Get out of there! Do not touch anything unclean! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the LORD's holy things.

Jeremiah 51:45

> Come out of her, My people! Run for your lives! Escape the fierce anger of the LORD.

Numbers 16:26

> He warned the people, “Move away from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything that belongs to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.”

Spiritual Principle

God calls His people to separate from sin so that they can draw near to Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Holiness is not just turning away from sin; it is turning toward God.

XVIII. A FATHER TO YOU

2 Corinthians 6:18 — My Sons and Daughters

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Paul ends with one of the most beautiful promises in the Bible.

“I will be a Father to you.”

God is not a distant ruler.

He is a Father.

“And you shall be My sons and daughters.”

Notice that Paul includes **daughters.**

In the Old Testament promise to David, God spoke of a son.

Paul widens it to include every believer, men and women alike.

All are God's children.

“Says the Lord Almighty.”

The One who makes this promise is all-powerful.

The Almighty God becomes our Father.

This is why holiness matters.

We are not just following rules.

We are living as children of a holy Father.

Cross References

2 Samuel 7:14

> I will be his Father, and he will be My son. When he does wrong, I will correct him with the rod of men and with blows from human hands.

Jeremiah 31:9

> They will come weeping, and I will lead them as they pray. I will guide them beside streams of water on a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am Israel's Father, and Ephraim is My firstborn son.

Revelation 21:7

Whoever overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God, and he will be My child.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord Almighty adopts believers as His sons and daughters.

Key Truth

You are not just forgiven.

You are family.

XIX. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 6

1. God's Grace Must Not Be Wasted

“Now is the day of salvation.”

Principle:

Salvation is urgent—today is the day to respond.

2. True Ministry Is Proven in Trials

“In great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in distresses.”

Principle:

Hardship, endurance, and sincerity display the power of God at work in His servants.

3. Christian Joy Transcends Circumstances

“Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

Principle:

Believers may appear sorrowful and poor, yet in Christ they rejoice and possess everything.

4. Open Hearts Are Needed

“Open your hearts also.”

Principle:

Paul calls for mutual love and genuine fellowship among believers.

5. Separation from Sin Is Required

“Come out from among them and be separate.”

Principle:

God's people are His temple, called to holiness, distinct from idolatry and unbelief.

6. God Adopts His People

“You shall be My sons and daughters.”

Principle:

Through Christ, we are welcomed as sons and daughters of the Almighty Father.

XX. THE MARKS OF A TRUE SERVANT

Verses 4–10 give Paul's true credentials.

What He Endured

- Troubles, hardships, and distresses.
- Beatings and imprisonments.
- Riots.
- Hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger.

The Character He Showed

- Purity and knowledge.
- Patience and kindness.

- The Holy Spirit.
- Sincere love.

The Resources He Used

- The word of truth.
- The power of God.
- The weapons of righteousness.

The Paradoxes He Lived

- Genuine, yet regarded as impostors.
- Unknown, yet well-known.
- Dying, yet living.
- Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.
- Poor, yet making many rich.
- Having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The true servant's credentials are not written on paper but on a life of faithful endurance.

XXI. UNEQUALLY YOKED

Verses 14–18 call believers to holiness.

What the Command Means

Believers should not be bound in close partnerships that pull them away from Christ.

Where It Applies

- Marriage, which is the closest partnership of all.
- Close business or personal commitments that would compromise faith.
- Spiritual alliances with false teaching or idolatry.

What It Does Not Mean

- It does not mean avoiding all contact with unbelievers.
- It does not mean being unkind or proud toward them.
- It does not mean leaving a marriage that already exists, as Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 7.

Five Contrasts

- Righteousness and lawlessness.
- Light and darkness.
- Christ and Belial.
- Believer and unbeliever.
- The temple of God and idols.

Key Truth

Believers are called to be in the world, loving it, but not yoked to it.

XXII. GOD'S PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE

Verses 16–18 combine several Old Testament promises.

God's Presence

“I will dwell in them and walk among them.”

God's Covenant

“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

God's Welcome

“I will receive you.”

God's Fatherhood

“I will be a Father to you.”

Our Adoption

“You shall be My sons and daughters.”

Key Truth

The call to holiness is wrapped in the promise of God's presence and fatherly love.

XXIII. WHAT 2 CORINTHIANS 6 TEACHES ABOUT GOD

He Shows Favor

“Now is the time of God's favor.”

He Saves

“Now is the day of salvation.”

He Works Through His Servants

“As God's co-workers.”

He Lives Among His People

“I will dwell in them and walk among them.”

He Is a Father

“I will be a Father to you.”

He Is Almighty

“Says the Lord Almighty.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Almighty God who calls us to holiness is the loving Father who welcomes us home.

XXIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does it mean to receive God's grace “in vain”?

To receive grace but let it make no real difference in how we live.

Question 2

Why does Paul say “now is the day of salvation”?

Christ has come, and the door of salvation is open.

People should respond today, not put it off.

Question 3

Why was Paul careful not to give offense?

He did not want his behavior to discredit the gospel or keep anyone from Christ.

Question 4

What kinds of suffering did Paul endure?

Beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger.

Question 5

What character did Paul show in his suffering?

Purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, and sincere love.

Question 6

What are the “weapons of righteousness”?

Spiritual weapons for attack and defense, rooted in God's righteousness and right living.

Question 7

How could Paul be “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing”?

He felt real sorrow, but his deep joy in Christ never left him.

Question 8

How could Paul have nothing, yet possess everything?

He had few earthly possessions, but in Christ he had every spiritual blessing.

Question 9

Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to open their hearts?

He had opened his heart to them, but they were holding back their love for him.

Question 10

What does it mean to be “unequally yoked”?

To be bound in a close partnership with unbelievers that pulls a believer away from Christ.

Question 11

Does this mean believers should avoid unbelievers?

No.

Believers are called to love and reach unbelievers.

They must not be bound in ways that compromise their faith.

Question 12

What should 2 Corinthians 6 change about the way Christians live today?

2 Corinthians 6 should cause believers to live:

- Responding to God's grace today.
- Guarding their lives so they do not discredit the gospel.
- Enduring hardship with faithfulness.
- Showing the fruit of the Spirit in hard times.

- Rejoicing even in sorrow.
- Opening their hearts to one another.
- Avoiding partnerships that pull them from Christ.
- Living as children of the Almighty Father.

XXV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians 6 asks several important questions.

Is God's Grace Changing My Life?

Or am I receiving it in vain?

Is There Something I Need to Respond to Today?

Am I putting off what God is calling me to do?

Does My Life Help or Hinder the Gospel?

Is there anything in how I live that might keep someone from Christ?

How Do I Handle Hardship?

Does it bring out bitterness or the fruit of the Spirit?

Do I Have Joy in Sorrow?

Is my joy rooted in Christ, not in circumstances?

Is My Heart Open to Others?

Or am I holding back love?

Am I Unequally Yoked?

Is there a partnership pulling me away from Christ?

Do I Live as God's Child?

Do I remember that the Almighty is my Father?

XXVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Having Nothing, Possessing Everything”

The world counts riches by what you own.

Houses.

Money.

Possessions.

Reputation.

Paul had almost none of these.

He was poor.

He was often hungry.

He was beaten and mocked.

The world would say he had nothing.

But Paul said he possessed everything.

Why?

Because he had Christ.

In Christ, he had forgiveness.

He had eternal life.

He had a Father in heaven.

He had a home that would last forever.

He had joy that suffering could not take away.

This creates a powerful principle.

The richest person in the world is not the one with the most possessions.

It is the one who has Christ.

Principle:

If you have Christ, you have everything that truly matters.

XXVII. FINAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians Chapter 6 calls believers to respond to God's grace today.

It shows what true ministry looks like.

It calls for open hearts.

And it calls God's people to be holy.

Paul did not just preach this.

He lived it.

Through beatings and sleepless nights.

Through honor and dishonor.

Through sorrow and joy.

2 Corinthians 6 therefore reminds us:

Never receive God's grace in vain.

Never put off responding to God.

Never let your life discredit the gospel.

Never close your heart to God's people.

Never be yoked to what pulls you from Christ.

The church does not need people who look impressive.

It needs:

Servants who endure.

Hearts that are open.

Lives that are holy.

And children who know their Father.

The same God still calls:

Tell people that now is the day of salvation.

Tell people that God offers favor and help.

Tell people that in Christ they can have everything.

Tell people that God wants to be their Father.

And as you live:

Respond to grace today.

Endure with joy.

Open your heart.

Live as God's child.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the grace You have poured out on us.

Thank You that now is the time of Your favor and now is the day of salvation.

Thank You for faithful servants who endured hardship to bring the gospel to us.

Thank You that in Christ we can be sorrowful yet always rejoicing.

Thank You that we can be poor yet making many rich.

Thank You that we can have nothing yet possess everything.

Thank You that we are Your temple and that You dwell among us.

Thank You that You are our Father, and we are Your sons and daughters.

Forgive us when we have received Your grace in vain.

Forgive us when we have put off responding to You.

Forgive us when our lives have discredited the gospel.

Forgive us when we have closed our hearts to others.

Forgive us when we have been yoked to what pulls us away from You.

Help us respond to Your grace today.

Give us endurance in hardship.

Fill us with purity, patience, kindness, and sincere love.

Open our hearts to Your people.

Keep us holy and separate from sin.

And help us live every day as children of the Lord Almighty.

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Behold, now is the time of God's favor; behold, now is the day of salvation.” — 2 Corinthians 6:2

Central Truth

Today is the day to respond to God's grace, and those who belong to Him are called to faithful service, open-hearted love, and holy separation, as the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6 in One Sentence

Paul urges the Corinthians not to receive God's grace in vain because now is the day of salvation, describes the endurance and character that mark true servants of God, pleads with them to open their hearts, and calls them to holy separation as the temple of the living God and the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.