



# — SECOND — CORINTHIANS



*The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People*

Part 25—“Commending Ourselves as God’s Servants”— 12 May 2024

## Introduction:

Paul and his co-workers are ministers of the New Covenant promises of salvation in Christ and so they do not lose heart even as they live in difficult circumstances, knowing that they will stand before Him one day to receive their eternal reward. This gives them a new perspective in terms of how they view others and themselves. They serve Christ as His ambassadors, proclaiming the Gospel all people. Because they know God and are known by Him, how they conduct their ministry should serve as an example to others.

**Main Point:** As those who have experienced New Covenant \_\_\_\_\_, our lives can be lived in such a way that we show ourselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

- Paul exhorts to the Corinthians to continue to apply the grace of God that they received in salvation to all circumstances. (6:1-2)

### Observations:

1. The appeal comes from both them and the \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 5:20)

*“appeal”*—*παρακαλέω (παρακαλέω)*—to urge strongly, appeal to, exhort, encourage.

2. Their appeal is focused on how the Corinthians will \_\_\_\_\_ in light of God’s grace to them.

*“receive the grace of God”*

*“in vain”*

⇒ The grace of God includes the ‘message of reconciliation’ \_\_\_\_\_ God but also the ministry of reconciliation where believers live \_\_\_\_\_ grace in relation to one another.

“It is unlikely that Paul implies that their acceptance was only superficial...It is more likely that he has in mind how easily these people were influenced by others...He does not want the lives of those who responded positively to the gospel to be marred by entertaining criticisms of that gospel or the one who brought it to them.” —Colin Kruse

3. Paul then grounds his appeal in a quotation from Isa. 49:8 which he then applies to them.

Isa. 49:8 (LXX)—Thus says the LORD: *“In a favorable time I listened to you; and in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,*

### Context of Isaiah 49

- \* Isa. 49:1-13 is one of the ‘Servant Songs’ which anticipate the coming of the ‘Servant of the LORD,’ the Messiah.
- \* The Servant of the LORD is prepared and set apart to fulfill the purposes of God (49:2-3)
- \* Specifically, He will restore Israel and will be a light to the nations (49:5-6). He will Himself embody the (New) covenant promises of God by which He will graciously accomplish salvation (49:8)
- \* He will ultimately restore Israel as a nation and Creation as a whole (49:9-13)

⇒ Paul’s application of the passage to the Corinthians shows that the promised salvation of God in accordance with His very great and precious \_\_\_\_\_ in the New Covenant has come to them.

⇒ Because they are ‘in Christ,’ the Corinthians have had their sins forgiven and have received the righteousness of God. How then will they live?

**Key Point:** A recognition that ‘now’ is the day of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ motivates us to proclaim the Gospel but also consider what it means to live the Christian life in light of that grace.

- Paul then describes how he and his ministry partners have commended themselves as God’s servants because of His grace to them in Christ. (6:3-10)

### Observations:

1. They show themselves to be God’s servants by trying not to give any unnecessary \_\_\_\_\_.

*“obstacle”*

⇒ Although Christ is the ultimate judge of their ministry, it is their desire that \_\_\_\_\_ would not be able to fault them for how they have conducted themselves.

2. At the same time, they sought to \_\_\_\_\_ by their conduct that they are servants of the Lord Jesus.  
*"We commend ourselves"*—συνίστημι (*synistēmi*)—to bring together as friends or in a trusting relationship by commending/  
 recommending; to present, introduce/recommend one or oneself to someone else

*"by great endurance"*—ὑπομονή (*hypomonē*)—the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty.

**General Difficulties:**      *"afflictions"*                      *"hardships"*                      *"calamities"*

**Specific Difficulties:**      *"beatings"*                      *"imprisonments"*                      *"riots"*

**Voluntary Difficulties:**      *"labors"*                      *"sleepless nights"*                      *"hunger"*

*"in the power of God"*

*"with the weapons of righteousness"*

**Righteous Character:**      *"purity"*                      *"knowledge"*                      *"patience"*                      *"kindness"*

*"kindness"*                      *"the Holy Spirit"*                      *"truthful speech"*

⇒ The indwelling of the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them to be characterized by the righteousness of God even as they endured the varied difficulties of living as God's servants.

*"Ministry with weapons...is: (i) ready for an attack from any quarter, (ii) armed with weapons of offense (a sword for the right hand) and defense (a shield for the left), (iii) carried out in both prosperity (the right hand) and adversity (the left hand)."*—Colin Kruse

*"through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise"*

⇒ These are the various circumstances of life that have afforded to them the \_\_\_\_\_ to show themselves to be Christ's servants.

3. He concluded with series of statements that contrast how their ministry could be assessed from a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective with what is actually \_\_\_\_\_ from the perspective of one who is 'in Christ.'

<i>"treated as imposters"</i>	→	<i>"yet _____"</i>
<i>"as unknown"</i>	→	<i>"yet _____ - _____"</i>
<i>"as dying"</i>	→	<i>"behold, we _____"</i>
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<i>"as sorrowful"</i>	→	<i>"yet always _____"</i>
<i>"as poor"</i>	→	<i>"yet making many _____"</i>
<i>"as having nothing"</i>	→	<i>"yet possessing _____"</i>

**Key Point:** Living as God's servants will at times mean that we are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ even as we serve Him faithfully.

### Concluding Thoughts

- To live as Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ means that our experiences in the world will at times mirror His own!

2 Cor. 1:5— For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

- We must remember the things that are true of us now because we are ' \_\_\_\_\_ !'

2 Pet. 1:3-4—<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.



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