

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 9 - Paul's Hardships - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

2CO 6:1 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 favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."
I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

2CO 6:3 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; [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 dishonor, 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.

2CO 6:11 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - Paul's Hardships - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

107. Why did Paul try to persuade the Corinthians to respond to God's Word? (6:1)
108. Why should we listen carefully to the message about Christ? (6:1-2)
109. What is the connection between the credibility of Christianity and the people who call themselves Christians? (6:3)
110. Whose authority did Paul claim? (6:4)
111. What does this passage say about Paul's attitude toward the ministry of sharing the gospel? (6:4)

112. What does this passage say about the cost of being Christ's disciple? (6:4-10)
113. What price did Paul pay for following Christ? (6:4-10)
114. What kind of weapons did Paul use? (6:7)
115. How did the accusations against Paul differ from the reality Paul experienced as an ambassador for Christ? (6:9-10)
116. In what way was Paul poor yet rich? (6:10)
117. To what lengths did Paul go to show his love for the Corinthians? (6:11-13)

Lesson 10 - Do Not Be Yoked with Unbelievers - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

2CO 6:14 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."*

2CO 6:17 "Therefore come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you."

2CO 6:18 "I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 10 - Do Not Be Yoked with Unbelievers - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

118. Who were the "unbelievers" Paul described? (6:14)
119. Why is it wrong and dangerous for Christians to be bound together with unbelievers? (6:14-16)
120. How did Paul balance encouragement with warnings in this passage? (6:14-7:1)
121. In what way are Christians unique? (6:16)

122. Why is it important for Christians to be separate from non-Christian influences? (6:16-18)

123. What did Paul warn Christians not to do? (6:16-18)

124. On what condition does the Lord receive people? (6:17)

125. What does God call His people? (6:18)