

SIXTH STUDY

BE RECONCILED TO GOD METHOD AND CONDITIONS OF APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (II Corinthians 6:1-10; ref. Isaiah 49:8)

Paul exhorts his fellow workers, together with him, as God's partners, not to take the grace of God lightly. It seems some were guilty of this, taking the grace of God for themselves, but not living a godly life.

6:1 *Receive not the grace of God in vain.*

Paul unquestionably believed that a believer could receive the grace of God and experience salvation (v. 2), and afterwards, through spiritual carelessness or deliberate sin, abandon the faith and life of the gospel and again be lost. All people must be exhorted to be reconciled to God and receive His grace (5:20). Those who receive God's grace must be exhorted not to receive it in vain (cf. vv. 14-18). ¹

II Corinthians 6:2 - (*For He [the Lord] saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation I have succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* [Isaiah 49:8])

Any wrong move that is contrary to the Word of God in operation, in a Christian's life, will cause problems for the ministry they represent. So Paul gives them a warning in v. 3.

1. Full Life Study Bible, p. 395 notes.

To be "unequally yoked" is to team up with those who do not love the Lord and live a holy life, or get involved with those things of darkness.

4. Where the Lord God Almighty says in II Corinthians 6: 17, *Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing*, He adds 3 promises to these conditions. What are they? (II Corinthians 6:17,18).

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

1. What was Paul's warning? II Corinthians 6:3)

This writer has seen this in operation where a member of a missionary team, or ministry, either caused confusion or did an act such as smoking, or drinking, or made what looked like sexual advances toward another: and the ministry was blamed and lost its effectiveness.

Paul goes no to say that in everything we do we must try to show that we are true ministers of God (II Corinthians 6:4).

2. (a) Paul says, in what he and any minister for Christ must endure; and names 10 of them.

Name at least 4 (II Corinthians 6:4,5).

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

(b) According to II Corinthians 6: 6-10 Paul writes by what attitude these sufferings should be experienced. What 4 do you think would be the hardest for you to experience?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

3. In II Corinthians 6:14-18, Paul makes some comments about not being unequally yoked with unbelievers. Take the next two pages (if you need

them) to explain what you think he is saying, and why you think it would be hard for you to live close to God if you were unequally yoked to anything or anyone.

[illegible]