

Come out & be Separate

2Corinthians 6:4-18

God has made us ambassadors of Christ--given the ministry of reconciliation. We are co-laboring w/ Jesus bringing others to faith, salvation & reconciliation. Paul warns-not to receive God's grace in vain.

Headlines: "\$2 million lotto ticket, world's most expensive book marker".
The 1yr time limit is up to claim \$2 million for the winning # Lotto ticket. Speculated it bought stuck in book & forgot about. Deadline to claim \$2 million was up. The would be millionaire neglected to check the # on the ticket, losing what he could have had. Bought the ticket in vain. 'Now is the acceptable time today is the day of salvation'. Don't let salvation be in vain, God paid the price so you could be forgiven of sin & have a home in heaven—wages of sin is death but the gift of God.....

And for believers let not grace be in vain and neglect our calling as ambassadors of Christ working together w/ Him to bring reconciliation to those separated from God.

4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left

Commending ourselves-standing together as Gods servants—It's not cake walk--Paul describes his service to Christ—He starts w/ what keeps him, his resolve-*much endurance*-ability to face & bear up under whatever is thrown at him. **Internal trials** 1-*afflictions*-physical pressure that weighs us down, sorrows & disappointments that have crushing effects. 2 *Hardships*-painful events in life, distress over lost love & setbacks. 3 *Distresses*-*lit* a too narrow place, army caught in narrow pass & can't maneuver- Problems of life closing-**panic attacks**-no breathing room.

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External trials-1 *Beatings*-physical suffering--**Foxes book of Martyrs** ‘*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church*’. 2. *Imprisonments*-Paul in prison no fewer than seven times—true in every church age. 3. *Tumults*-violent mobs Ephesus, Lystra,

John Wesley ‘The mob came pouring down like a flood; to attempt speaking was vain; for the noise on every side was like the roaring of the sea. They dragged me along till we came to the town-when seeing the door of a large house open, I attempted to go in; but a man catching me by the hair pulled me back into the middle of the crowd. They did not stop till they had carried me thru the main street from one end of the town to the other

Our **calling** 1 *Labors*-working to point of exhaustion. 2 *Sleeplessness*-prayer & peril-concern for salvation & wellbeing of others **Paul/Silas**. 3 *Hunger*-no food because no support-**times of abased & abound filled going hungry Phil 4:12**

Character 1 *Purity*-Greeks defined as ‘**careful avoidance of all sins against God**’ Free from anything that defiles. ‘**blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God**’ **Matt 5:8**. 2 *Knowledge*-of things of God, what pleases Him. Not theological eggheads but applying what we know to practice living. 3 *Patience*-bearing w/ others when wronged, insulted, treated bad. Roman army had unconquerable spirit even if lost the battle.

Heart issues:1 *Kindness*-opposite of harsh--puts others at ease-devastates to cause pain in others. Thinks more highly of others than self—these kind of christians are easy to love & be around. 2 *In Holy Spirit* w/o we can do nothing, amazed when God use us to accomplish His word/will. 3 *Genuine love*-agape-no matter the cost seeks highest good of others.

Equip for work 1 *Word of truth*-gospel power of God for salvation w/ ability & strength to declare it. 2. *Power of God* only power we have **2Cor 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your**

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servants for Jesus' sake.. 3 Weapons of righteousness for right & left. Sword in right for offense, shield in left for defense.

, 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

Paradox worldly view of Christians vs God & the saved have to say...

Glory vs dishonor.....evil report vs good report.....called deceivers vs true.....unknown vs well-known....dying vs yet we live.....punished vs not put to death.....sorrowful vs always rejoicing.....poor vs making many rich....having nothing vs possessing all things.

11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. 12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. 13 Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also.

Speaking freely is speaking as Christ would speak---free and truthful not demeaning and critical. Agape is key. They were restrained in love, children are selfish—'mine'. Paul is exhorting carnal believer to grow in that love God has given and be unrestrained. Paul the example. Maybe restrained because of the following verses. If hang out w/ a skunk your going to smell like a skunk. Hang out w/ hard hearted worldlings and you will be like them.

1Jn 2: 15Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

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14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Marriage marry only in the Lord 1Cor 7:39.

Business, unequally yoked biblical values vs worldly ones—if to get ahead by defrauding customer eventually will defraud business partner.

Room mates morals, music, ministry---

Good fathers want the best for their children—don't want kids to hang out w/ those that will lead astray or draw away from family ties, fill mind false information—Notice: in-formation or fall into rank, in a row, in order

These are facts provided, vital pieces of learning, data, details, news not opinion—man has opinions God has news, facts, enlightenment, intelligence. So what is conveyed has basis in truth not opinion or error