**SECOND CORINTHIANS SIX**

**“THE DAY OF SALVATION”**

2 Corinthians 5 ended with one of our favorite verses, V21. We even sing it in some of our worship songs… **5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

LOOK… This is the best news ever! That God and His Son, Jesus Christ would agree together for Jesus to come to earth as a human baby and live a sinless life; then to accept the cross and becoming our sin in order to save us… We cannot have been more blessed… “We then,” Paul says in Chapter 6…

**2 Corinthians 6:1** We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain.

* IE, DO NOT miss this opportunity… Do NOT mess it up… Try to change it… Earn it… Do NOT receive it in vain…

**DO IT NOW!**

2 For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." **ISAIAH 49:8** Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

* For me… I accepted the Lord as soon as I understood that I needed to! I wasn’t exceptionally smart – I was a kid! BUT… I knew that I wanted whatever the Lord was offering to me.
* SO… IF YOU are waiting to give yourself wholly to God… DO NOT WAIT! You are promised no tomorrows.
* WHY DO people wait? Because they WANT to sin some more… ☹
* **Chuck Smith** – Every person in hell is there because they went past the time of God’s appointed moment for them to accept His offer. **DO NOT WAIT!**

3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. **CEV** - We don't want anyone to find fault with our work, and so we try hard not to cause problems. **PAUL? Cause trouble?**

**HERE IS HOW MUCH WE LOVE YOU**

4 But **in** all *things* we commend ourselves **(Behave)** as ministers of God: **in** much patience, **(Mandatory for Ministers)** **in** tribulations, **in** needs, **in** distresses, **(stressful situations)** 5 **in** stripes, **in** imprisonments, **in** tumults, **Riots** **in** labors, **2nd jobs** 2 **in** sleeplessness, **in** fastings; 6 by purity, **Temptations** **by** knowledge, **by** longsuffering, **by** kindness, **by the Holy Spirit**, **by** sincere love, 7 **by** the word of truth, **by the power of God**, **by** the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 **by** honor and dishonor, **by** evil report and good report; **as** deceivers, and *yet* true;

**ANONYMOUS APOSTLE**

9 **as** unknown, and *yet* well known; **as** dying, and behold we live; **as** chastened, and *yet* not killed;

**IN** these things… **BY** these things… **AS** these things…

**PENNILESS PATRON**

10 **as** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; **as** poor, yet making many rich; **as** having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

**PAUL’S HEART WAS WIDE OPEN**

11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. **Paul spoke very plainly and simply to them.**

12 You are not restricted **Constrained** by us, but you are restricted by your *own* affections.

* IE, **We have NOT held back on you , BUT you have held back on us…**

13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to **MY** children), you also be open.

***WHY? Because he is about to say something very important…***

**TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**

14 **Do not** be unequally yoked **(Teamed up)** together with unbelievers.

**THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD**

…For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? **DEVIL** Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

* IF you have ever been in business with an un-believer who wanted to cook the books and became offended when you refused to… You have done business with the DEVIL! **It IS NO FUN!**

**RATS ON THE PULPIT**

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you 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." **LEV 26:12**

* This principle applies to marriage… business partnerships… And friendships…
* We could spend hours swapping stories about couples… business disasters and weird friends tempting us to cheat, lie, steal, and look the other way – RIGHT? We will not waste the time other than to say – **AVOID THESE AKWARD SITUATIONS** and do not get “Yoked” or tied together with people who do NOT serve the Lord.
* How many of you would stay in this room IF I told you that there was a rat loose in here…

**SEPARATION IS SANCTIFICATION**

17 Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."

**WHAT WOULD DAD DO?**

18 "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

**COURSON** – A great reason we are not to be unequally yoked is because of the desire of the Father. "Separate yourself from the unbeliever, and you will be My sons and daughters," He says. Does this mean that if we are unequally yoked in marriage or business, we are not His children? No. We who have opened our hearts to Jesus Christ are children of the Father regardless. But if we are linked to the world, it limits His ability to be a Father to us. Think of it this way…

If I wanted to take my family out to dinner, but my kids were all muddy from playing outside, I'd say, "I want to take you out to dinner. Go wash up."

Now, if they responded by saying, "We don't want to wash. We like this mud," they'd still be my children, but I couldn't take them out for dinner.

So, too, God says to us, "I will be a Father to you, taking you great places, doing wonderful things for you if you're separate and clean. If you're not separate, you're still My child, but I can't do for you what I would have done in and with and through you had you separated yourself from the world."

Let God be the Father He wants to be to you and your family by separating yourself from unclean partnerships and relationships, activities and priorities. As you do, never lose sight of the yoke He carried, when, in the Person of Jesus Christ, He carried the Cross on which He would shed His blood for you.