

I. Read II Corinthians 6:1-2

- A. In verse 1, an important and principled perspective toward doing the work of the church is expressed. In the context of chapter 5, verse 21 (recall that chapter divisions were not in the original Greek), “working together” (NAS) means working with God. The Apostle Paul understood that his work was a joint endeavor between him, his associates, and God Himself. We must not infer that Paul saw himself as being on the same level with God, for such a thought would have been abhorrent to God’s Apostle. Nevertheless, he understood that God was using him to accomplish His purposes. Read the following Scripture verses and explain how they convey the same idea.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

Romans 12:3-5:

Ephesians 4:11-12:

Romans 10:9-15:

- B. In the last part of verse 1, Paul writes, “we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain” (NAS). This may mean some have failed to respond appropriately to the gift of salvation in Christ. At the least, Paul is suggesting that some believers may fail to live up to the full potential of God’s gracious gift of redemption, particularly in terms of being salt and light and growing to maturity. Consider the following verses and discuss how they might reflect this sort of failure.

Hebrews 5:11-14:

Psalms 107:2:

Jeremiah 23:1-4:

- C. Teacher Bill Gothard defines grace as “the desire to do God’s will and the power to do it.” Discuss how this definition of grace puts greater responsibility on the believer.
- D. In verse 2, Paul is speaking eschatologically of our age which the Old Testament prophecies explained would be a time of universal redemption in Christ. Peter quoted the prophet Joel in Acts 2:17-21, explaining that in these “last days” God would “pour forth” His “Spirit” upon all mankind.” Further, that during this age God would do great wonders in order to accomplish His work of redemption, and as a consequence, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” How might this increase the believer’s responsibility not to “receive the grace of God in vain”? What should believers be doing in this age?

There is a secondary application of the phrase “behold, now is the day of salvation.” It is a personal and particular application. How should we understand that personal application? Read Psalm 103:6-9.