

I. Read II Corinthians 6:3-10

- A. To establish the context of verse 3, begin with verse 1a, "And working together with Him..." The Apostle Paul is declaring that in the course of doing the work of the ministry, he and his associates are being careful not to give "offense in anything." Read Romans 9:31-33, 1 Peter 2:6-8, and 1 Peter 2:12 and explain why Paul says he was being careful not to "give offense", yet he and Peter clearly declare that Christ's gospel is offensive to many.
- B. In verses 4-5, Paul explains that his ministry has been difficult. List the difficulties or challenges he cites.
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 - 10.

There is a *large and loud* segment of evangelicalism, particularly associated with popular televangelists, that claim serving God in faithfulness and obedience *always* brings the blessings of prosperity and good health. Often referred to as the Word of Faith Movement, the Health and Wealth Gospel, or Prosperity Preaching, how does their teaching compare with Paul's description of his ministry?

Read Matthew 5:10-12 and John 16:33 and explain how the words of Christ compare with Paul's description of trials while serving God.

How are Christ's words recorded in Acts 9:15-16 fulfilled in II Corinthians 6:4-5?

Should Paul's circumstance be considered to be unique?

- C. In verse 6-7, Paul describes the manner in which he tried to carry out his ministry. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and explain how he could respond to the trials and tribulations as he did.

Read Ephesians 5:18 and discuss how it supports the point above.

- D. In verses 8-10, Paul continues to explain the difficulties he faced, particularly in contrasting the reality of the blessing of God with the trials of this world. Read James 1:2-4 and discuss how the brother of Christ describes the same sort of thing.

Look at II Corinthians 6:8-10 and identify the nine contrasts listed there.

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