

DSBC

DESERT SPRINGS BIBLE CHURCH

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II CORINTHIANS 5:17-6:13

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! ¹⁸Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." ²¹He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, we also appeal to you, "Don't receive the grace of God in vain." ²For he says:

At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!

³We are not giving anyone an occasion for offense, so that the ministry will not be blamed. ⁴Instead, as God's ministers, we commend ourselves in everything: by great endurance, by afflictions, by hardships, by difficulties, ⁵by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times of hunger, ⁶by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷by the word of truth, by the power of God; through weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, ⁸through glory and dishonor, through slander and good report; regarded as deceivers, yet true; ⁹as unknown, yet recognized; as dying, yet see — we live; as being disciplined, yet not killed; ¹⁰as grieving, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet enriching many; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken openly to you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened wide. ¹²We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³I speak as to my children; as a proper response, open your heart to us

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What do you think the author means when he refers to himself and others as ambassadors for Christ?
2. What do you think it means to "receive the grace of God in vain"?
3. What do you think the author means when he says he is "not giving anyone an occasion for offense, so that the ministry will not be blamed"?
4. The author calls his readers to endurance and mentions a series of hardships. How does he call them to endure these hardships?

YOUR NEXT STEP

What is a step that you can take to apply today's teaching?

NOTES
