

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

2Cor 6:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Throughout 2Corinthians, Paul defends his apostleship and always with a view to getting people to accept Jesus as the Christ and to live according to His will.
- B. In chapter 6 he makes an impassioned plea for salvation of his hearers (or readers) that begins with a sentence packed with meaning for us.
- C. Let's explore 2Cor 6:1

DISCUSSION:

I. THE PARTNERSHIP - "WITH HIM"

- A. Paul notes the partnership he and his fellow apostles had.
- B. Why would God want man's help? He doesn't need it Acts 17:24-25
- C. Also clear that there is a partnership that works
 - 1. From the beginning of the spread of gospel Mk 16:20
 - 2. And throughout the spread of the early church, God worked with people to accomplish His purposes. Phil 1:19
 - 3. Paul wanted the Philippians to know that their prayers were part of the working alliance they had with God.
- D. Paul makes it clear that when we work, God works. Phil 2:12-13
- E. No one grows spiritually from his own effort only. There is a work that God does as each one conforms more and more to the image of God's Son through the word of God.
- F. The more you do and speak for God, the more He will enable you to work for and with Him. 1Pet 4:10-11 an awesome privilege to be co-workers with God!

II. THE ACTION - "WORKING WITH HIM"

- A. There is work to be done!
 - 1. "Work" is a four letter word to some but it's a reminder that the Christian life is one of activity.
 - 2. Many warnings for lazy, lethargic people! Prov 6:6,9; 20:4
- B. Work shows faith - it is an indicator that you believe God and want His will to prevail. Jas 2:18
- C. Work shows character Matt 5:16; 1Pet 2:12,15

- 1. It's not enough to say Jesus is your Lord, you must show it by all you do. Matt 7:21
- 2. Each good thing shows men, fellow Christians, and God Himself that we are His but it takes DILIGENCE and EFFORT! Rom 12:11
- 3. Brief account of accomplishments of congregation

III. WARNING - DON'T RECEIVE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

- A. How does one receive God's grace in vain?
 - 1. Word vain means emptiness, useless, or to nullify.
 - 2. We can take the pleas and the work of the son of God and make it ineffective.
- B. By falling back into sin Heb 6:4-6
 - 1. The work of Christ on the cross was to give us the power to overcome sin.
 - 2. How must Son of God feel when His own abandon Him for the sin He died to save them from?
- C. By failing to assemble Heb 10:23-31
 - 1. Folks can make all excuses they want, but Scripture is clear.
 - 2. This willful sin tramples Jesus, insults the Spirit and mistreats the blood of the covenant.
- D. Demas an example
 - 1. Once called a fellow worker Philemon 24
 - 2. But now, a deserter. 2Tim 4:10
 - 3. Obviously for Demas, grace of God meant nothing
 - 4. It could just as easily happen to you or me.

IV. URGENCY - "WE URGE YOU..."

- A. "Beseech", "plead with you" (NKJ)
- B. There is a pressing need to listen and heed Paul's pleadings because of the danger of falling away.
- C. Contrary to what we think, none of us knows the length of our lives. The best we can do is GET ready, then STAY ready! 1Jhn 2:28-29
- D. Be confident, be ready.

CONCLUSION:

- A. So much instruction packed into one sentence!
- B. Heed Paul's invitation. - For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2Cor 6:2 (NKJV)
- C. Why do you wait?