

LIVE 2017: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

April 23-March 6, 2017

Intro

This week we start a short, two-week series on 2 Corinthians 6:1-13. Following Easter, this series is meant to briefly examine the after-effects of the resurrection in our lives. Looking at this passage we want to ask, "Jesus raised from the dead; now what?"

This passage is smack in the middle of Paul's discussion about the reconciliation we have through Christ (and the ministry of reconciliation given to believers) and what it means for the church to be the dwelling place of God. Paul takes this aside to urge the Corinthians to receive the life-altering grace of God. He explains his fear that the Corinthians would hear of the grace of God in vain because they are restricted in their affections. (2 Cor. 6:12)

This restriction is reminiscent of the parable of the soils when Jesus spoke about the seed of the Good News falling in among brambles. (Matt. 13:1-9) As the seed sprouted, the brambles choked out the sprouts. Later in that chapter Jesus explained that the thorns in his parable are the "cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches." (Matt. 13:22) Paul explains in 2 Cor. 6 that the Corinthians have been restricted in their affections by a number of things and run the risk of hearing about the grace of the Lord and not receiving it. Similarly, we today have countless cares and deceitful idols that would restrict our hearts from responding to the grace of God.

To us also Paul would say, "widen your hearts." (2 Cor. 6:13)



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Week 1: 2 Corinthians 6:1-3

April 23, 2017

Discussion

- **Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-3**
- Why do you think Paul sounds so urgent here?
- **In this passage Paul quotes from Isaiah 49. Read Isaiah 49:8-16**
- What does Isaiah 49 tell you about the heart of the Lord for his people?
- How are the promises mentioned here fulfilled in Jesus?
- **Look back at 1 Corinthians 6.** Why is Paul worried that the Corinthians would “receive the grace of God in vain”?
- What are some ways that you under appreciate the promises fulfilled in Jesus?
- How can we cultivate gratefulness for the grace we’ve received from God?
- **Look at verse 3.** How can we remove obstacles in the way of others receiving the grace of God?



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Week 2: 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

April 30, 2017

Discussion

- **Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13**
- Why does Paul list out all these things in verses 4-10?
- Based on discussion last week, what problem do you think Paul is addressing in verses 1-13?
- **Look at verse 12.** What do you think it looks like to be “restricted in your..affections” towards the Lord?
- How have you experienced this issue of “restricted affections” before?
- In what areas of your life do you need to “widen your heart” to God?
- How can we build up our affection for the Lord in genuine ways?
- How can others help us as we seek to build up our affection for the Lord?



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