

2 Corinthians 6

Title ideas:
Come Out with Jesus!
Do not be Unequally
Yoked!
The Temple of God!

2 Corinthians 6:1-18

Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 3:9 - For we
are God's fellow workers;
you are God's field, you are
God's building.

¹We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also
4903 – be a
fellow worker

Notes:
Verses 1 & 2 are a continuation of
the last chapter – God and Paul are
pleading with them to be reconciled
to God.

‘workers together’ – we are in this
together.

“...you have been assenting to God's
saving purposes: do not let in be in
vain.” (Hughes, 2006) page 127

plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in
1209 -

To hear the gospel message of
reconciliation through the cross of
Christ is to receive the grace of God
– to remain unbelieving is to receive
it in vain – to no saving effect.

Paul knew that most of the people in
Corinth had been reconciled to God –
but he also realized that some
hearing his message had not
responded to the Holy Spirit. Some
had rejected his message because
they couldn't believe he was an
apostle and go through the trials that
he did. They wanted a gospel that
didn't include suffering. They
attributed Paul's suffering to God's
displeasure.

vain.

2756 – without
anything, empty-
handed, without
result, without
purpose

Scriptures:

² For He says: “*In an acceptable time I have heard*

Isaiah 49:8 - In an acceptable time
I have heard You, and in the day
of salvation I have helped You; I
will preserve You and give You as
a covenant to the people, to restore
the earth, to cause them to inherit
the desolate heritages;

Notes:

‘day of salvation’ – the day spoken
of by the prophet Isaiah (49:8) in the
reconciliation of the cross.

you, and in the day of salvation I have helped

4991 -
deliverance

you.” Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold,

2144 – truly
favorable

now *is* the day of salvation.

Scriptures:

³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry

4349 – obstacle,
stumbling block –
‘A cause of an
accidental misstep
which threatens
(or actually
results in) a fall.’

Notes:

Paul had just said in the previous
chapter that his was a ministry of
reconciliation. Jesus was the source
of reconciliation – God made Him
sin so that we so that we could be the
righteousness of God. Faith is the
means of reconciliation – believing
that Christ’s work on the cross makes
us right with God. It is not something
we do – God is the sole active agent
in reconciliation – our role is to
respond in faith.

may not be blamed.

3469 - criticized

Scriptures:

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Acts 20:22-23 - And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

Acts 14:21-22 - And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

⁴ But in all *things* we commend ourselves as

4921 – 'To present as worthy of regard, kindness, or confidence.'

ministers of God: in much patience, in

1249 - servants

5281 – steadfast endurance

tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

Notes:

'patience' or steadfast endurance may be the manner in which they do the following things.

These are all the things we use to recommend ourselves to you.

General troubles – tribulations, needs, distresses.

Scriptures:

⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in

labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

Notes:

Troubles from others – stripes, imprisonments, tumults (riots).

Self-inflicted troubles – labors, sleeplessness, fastings.

"Pau's sufferings did not disqualify him. Rather, they proved the authenticity of his faith and commitment." (Hughes, 2006) page 133

In all Paul's troubles, he did not quit or curse God. He steadfastly endured everything that came his way for the privilege of sharing the hope of reconciliation with others.

Scriptures:

⁶by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by

Notes:

Paul then describes the graces that enabled him to patiently endure the storm of trouble that surrounded his life.

Paul tells that the Holy Spirit in his life and the gifts from the Spirit are what empowered Paul to live such a radical life even in the midst of real suffering.

kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

James 3:1 - My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

⁷by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the

Notes:

'armor' might be better translated as 'weapon'.

"The righteousness of God is both a declared status and a way of life – the way a righteous person lives." (Hughes, 2006) page 135

The most powerful weapon you have against the evil in this world is a righteous life.

Paul had the ministry of reconciliation – given to Him by Jesus Himself.

The ministry is a character profession – righteous living must be at its heart. Nothing harms the ministry more than moral or ethical failure.

Those who are called by God to lead God's people bear an immense responsibility by virtue of their calling and knowledge of the Scriptures (James 3:1).

'right hand – left hand – prepared for attacks from any direction.

Steadfast endurance is empowered by righteous living. Paul then goes on to declare what it will carry him through.

armor of righteousness on the right hand and on

3696 – tool, weapon

the left,

Scriptures:

⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good

Notes:
'seven paradoxes of endurance'
Hughes – page 135

Verses 8-10 are a declaration of
victory over troubles steadfast
endurance walking the Spirit-
empowered graces and righteous
living.

report; as deceivers, and yet true;

Scriptures:

⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and

Notes:

behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;

Scriptures:

¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet

Notes:

making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet*

possessing all things.


Scriptures:

¹¹ O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you,

4750/455 – “mouth + open” – ‘To speak straightforwardly and honestly without reserve or secretiveness; conceived of as opening one’s mouth to another.’

Notes:

Paul has opened his heart to them to reveal his inner motives for the ministry.

 our heart is wide open.

Scriptures:

¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are

4729 – restrict one’s affection for

Notes:

restricted by your own affections.

4698 – a deeply felt compassion – the bowels

Scriptures:

¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to

children), you also be open.

Notes:

“It is the same for us today. We commend the gospel to our families and the church and the world by our faithful endurance. The call to follow Christ is a call to endure in sufferings, by the graces of the Spirit, through righteousness, riding in triumphant, exultant paradoxes of Christ, thereby demonstrating that our faith in Christ is real and that he is worth our full allegiance.” (Hughes, 2006) page 137

Scriptures:
Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2 Corinthians 4:6 - For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with

2086 – be
mismatched

unbelievers. For what fellowship has

571 – one who
does not believe
the gospel

righteousness with lawlessness? And what

communion has light with darkness?

2842 – “koinonia”
- fellowship

5457 -

4655 – evil world

‘righteousness – lawlessness’ – they are righteous based on the reconciling work of Christ. The lawless are those who live according to their own laws and not in holiness.

‘light – darkness’ – Believers have the light of God within them (2 Cor. 4:6). Darkness = not having the light or truth of God

Notes:

Paul has been defending his ministry against those who are coming into the church in Corinth and influence the Corinthians away from the gospel that Paul gave them. In this verse, Paul is questioning the salvation of those people. Any other gospel than the one Paul taught was a false gospel and could not save either those who preach it or those who hear it.

“It is of utmost importance that we understand and believe that the greatest danger to the church is not from without but from within.”
(Hughes, 2006) page 139

The greatest threat to the modern church is not from a liberal worldview in the culture, but from a liberal worldview within the church. This is fueled by biblical ignorance, an absence of holiness and reverence in worship, and ethical accommodation and compromise with the world.

While this can be applied to marriage and business contracts, its primary application is within the church.

One area to watch out for is music. We don't play Hillsong or Bethel Music songs. It is not that the songs themselves are bad, but the theology of the churches producing those songs in. In fact, they teach outright heresy. Some of their practices even seem demonic.

Anyone ever hear of the practice of grave-sucking (or grave-soaking)? It is the practice of laying upon the grave of a Christian, usually one of great influence in the kingdom and being imparted with their spiritual gifting and power. If you are wondering where that is in the Bible – it isn't - it is necromancy and it is demonic.

This is not a call to ban all unbelievers from the church. Unbelievers need to be in the church – that is where they will hear the gospel and stop being unbelievers. It is a call not to allow unbelievers to influence the gospel that is being taught in the church.

It is sad to say, but not all pastors or ministry leaders are saved, they are not actually believers. They have a Christian vocabulary and even live something that resembles a Christian life, serving in a church or ministry. We must be ever diligent to know the spiritual state of those we allow to lead the church.

Scriptures:

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or

4857 –
agreement,
harmony

955 – name of a
pagan god

Notes:

what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

Scriptures:
Jeremiah 31:33 - But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

16 And what agreement has the temple of God

4783 – joint agreement

Notes:

'I will dwell in them' = personal intimacy with God.

'My people' = personal association

with idols? For you are the temple of the living

2198 -

God. As God has said: *"I will dwell in them and*

Exodus 29:45 - I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

walk among them. I will be their God, and they

shall be My people."

Scriptures:
Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

17 Therefore “*Come out from among them and be*

Isaiah 52:11 - Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.

Notes:
Christians are called to be different than their culture.

‘I will receive you’ – personal acceptance

separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is

unclean, and I will receive you.”

Scriptures:
Revelation 18:4 - And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

18 “*I will be a Father to you, and you shall be*

Isaiah 52:11 - Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.

Notes:

2 Peter 3:11-12 - Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

My sons and daughters, says the LORD

Almighty.”