

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 6:1-10)

1. Is it possible to receive the grace of God in vain?

Yes: *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain" (II Corinthians 6:1).*

- Be good stewards of God's grace (**I Peter 4:10**). To keep from receiving the grace of God in vain, do what's expected (**I Corinthians 15:10**).
- "Workers together with Him", ties back to being ambassadors for Christ (**II Corinthians 5:20**; cf. **I Corinthians 3:9**).
- Grace teaches us to be godly people zealous of good works (**Titus 2:11-14**).

2. Does God want us to put off our salvation to another day?

No: *"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)" (II Corinthians 6:2).*

- This is where this quote comes from: **Isaiah 49:7-8**.
- God is a today God (**Proverbs 27:1**, **Hebrews 3:13**, and **James 4:13-15**).

3. Were Paul and Timothy concerned about keeping their work blameless?

Yes: *"Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed" (II Corinthians 6:3).*

- As much as possible, they didn't want to become an obstacle for anyone coming to Christ (**I Corinthians 9:16-23** and **I Corinthians 10:29-33**).
- It is impossible to never offend anyone. This was true even of our Savior (**Matthew 13:53-57** and **I Peter 2:5-8**).
- The goal is to be without blame (**Philippians 2:14-16** and **II Peter 3:14**).

4. In what things did Paul and Timothy set themselves to be approved in? (Be prepared to discuss each of these things Paul listed.)

All things, including: *"(4) But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, (5) In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; (6) By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, (7) By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, (8) By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; (9) As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; (10) As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (II Corinthians 6:4-10).*

- Approved in all things (**Romans 14:17-18**, **I Thessalonians 2:3-11**, and **II Timothy 3:10-12**).
- Approval is to be of God, not self or others (**II Corinthians 10:12**; **10:17-18**).
- The main point of all of the following is that nothing we face is an excuse to act in a bad manner (**I Peter 4:11-16**).
- Below are some of the things they were approved in and by:
 - Approved in much patience [enduring] (**Romans 5:2-4** and **James 1:12**).
 - Approved in afflictions (**James 5:10-11** and **I Peter 5:8-9**).
 - Approved in necessities (**Acts 20:34-35**, **II Corinthians 11:9**, and **Philippians 4:11-13**).
 - Approved in distresses (**II Corinthians 12:10**).
 - Approved in physical persecution (**Matthew 5:44**; cf. **Acts 7:51-58**).
 - Approved in labors (**I Corinthians 15:58** and **I Timothy 4:8-10**).
 - Approved in watchings (**Mark 14:38** and **II Timothy 4:5**).
 - Approved in fasting (**Matthew 6:16-18**).
 - Approved in purity (**I Thessalonians 2:10** and **I Timothy 4:12**).
 - Approved in knowledge (**Colossians 1:9-10** and **II Timothy 2:14-18**).
 - Approved in longsuffering (**Colossians 1:11** and **II Timothy 4:2**).
 - Approved in kindness (**Colossians 3:12**).
 - Approved BY the Holy Ghost (**John 16:7-8** and **I Corinthians 12:3**).
 - Approved BY unfeigned love (**Romans 12:9**, **Ephesians 6:24**, and **I Peter 1:22**).
 - Approved BY the word of truth (**John 17:17**).
 - Approved BY the power of God – which comes back to the word (**Romans 1:16**).
 - Approved BY the armor of righteousness on both sides (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).
 - Approved BY honor and dishonor (**I Corinthians 4:9-13**).
 - Approved BY evil (**Luke 6:26**, **Acts 24:5**, and **Romans 3:8**) and good reports (**Acts 10:22** and **III John 12**).
 - Approved BY false reports [deceivers, yet true; unknown, yet known; dying, yet alive, sorrowful; yet rejoicing, etc.] (**Matthew 5:10-12** and **I Peter 3:14-17**).