

The Day of Undivided Attention

2 Corinthians 6

FOR OUR CONSIDERATION:

TODAY is that Day (Verses 1-2)

- The Apostle Paul writes to the Church in Corinth this “Part II” of his ongoing pastoral ministry to them.
- Since “Part I”, a good percentage of them have forgotten that their salvation comes with partnership with GOD and fellowship with Christ and with one another.
- Paul says that they are co-laborers with GOD, don’t take GRACE in vain.
 - Taking grace in vain is often the blemish of overly-religious people
 - Those pre-occupied with self-righteous as opposed to
 - Those whose hearts have been pricked by gratitude to the degree that they realize nothing about us is worthy of what WHO GOD is and WHAT GOD can do. Nevertheless,
 - Gratitude allows them to appreciate WHO GOD is to the degree that they appropriately “handle” everybody and blessing.
- He cites the prophet Isaiah where the LORD GOD shares that it was in the “Day” of the Lord’s favor and in the day of salvation that GOD both heard and rescued the people of GOD.
 - Paul declares that as it was then, so it is Today. Today, is the day of the Lord’s favor and today is the day of salvation.
 - Favor is given at the sole discretion of GOD.
 - It is the reward of the faithful. (Those filled with and informed by Faith).
 - Salvation (in this season), is for both *souls* and *systems*.

Beyond Reasonable Doubt; Listen Up! (Verses 3-13)

- There is a saying: “Familiarity breeds contempt”.
 - Unfortunately, this was one of the issues in the freshly planted Church in Corinth.

- Not only were some of the local and regional church leaders too familiar with Paul and becoming less respectful and attentive to the teachings and application of the Christian faith.
 - Contending philosophies and hazardous lifestyles caused major conflict and rendered harmful options other than a life informed by the fruit of the Spirit.
- Paul then takes the next ten verses to share with them how it is that he has been presented to them -to lead and establish them.
 - To this point, he doesn't display his resume, he shares his suffering.
 - Paul shares the duality of the Christian experience.
 - The highs & lows.
 - The joys and pains.
 - The gains and the losses.
 - ALL of it, is a part of the journey. And, too much attention or energy in one space alone will make us incomplete; becoming half of what GOD has favored and saved us to be!
- All of this, in addition to being intentionally affectionate toward them. Engaged, committed and caring.
 - In light of his consistency, Paul implores them, begs them, to TRUST and EMBRACE him but what is more, to trust and embrace the Message of the One who sent him.

Separate, Not Equal (Verses 14-18)

- As their Apostolic Father, he creates the imagery of how incompatible certain extremes really are.
 - In the same way, that which Paul casts as incompatible is likewise inappropriate.
- We are the children of GOD. The people of light.
 - There is no compromise.
 - There is casual communion.
 - *AND, religion, if you're not careful, will cause you to be void of relationship with GOD.*
- What are we to do? How do we avoid or dismiss such confusion and dysfunction within the body of Christ and our individual lives?
 - *He refers again to the prophetic, namely out of Isaiah 52 & Ezekiel 20.*
- As we move toward the new normal, this means that the old normal must become extinct. Done away with. Terminated.

- It is in the newness of this REST, that the Lord will honor His commitment to send revival and to allow for the miraculous among us.
 - GOD will be our GOD and we will GOD's people.
- ***GOD demands our undivided attention...***