

## New Morning Magical

### Choose LIFE!

We are in the 2 Corinthians, chapter 6 today.

1 Now, working together, we are also entreating you not to receive the grace of God for naught.

If you remember all that we explored yesterday in chapter 5, you can see why the Apostle Paul followed up with this admonition: *“Whatever you do, don’t make God’s grace count for nothing!”* This is no small matter. Through Christ, the Father has provided every opportunity and reason to trust Him. After Yeshua’s sacrifice, the Father’s greatest evidence of His favor toward us is His grace. We can’t earn it, because He covers us with it freely. Those who fail to recognize its importance, or don’t receive it fully, discount, dishonor, and disrespect Him; and they insult Yeshua and His sacrifice on their behalf.

2 For He is saying, "In a season acceptable I reply to you, and in a day of salvation I help you." Lo! Now is a most acceptable era! Lo! Now is a day of salvation!

Paul is quoting Isaiah here and then he adds, *“It’s time, y’all! Salvation is at hand!”* We could say the same today: It seems high time for our deliverance out from our dying condition and into our incorruptible, immortal bodies.

Jump down now to verse 14 to the end of the chapter:

14 Do not become diversely yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness? Or what communion has light with darkness?

15 Now what agreement has Christ with Belial [*or Baal*]? Or what part a believer with an unbeliever?

16 Now what concurrence has a temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, according as God said, that I will be making My home and will be walking in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

17 Wherefore, Come out of their midst and be severed, the Lord is saying. And touch not the unclean, and I will admit you,

18 and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.

Two major points here:

1. Remember that the Corinthian ecclesia was made up mostly of former pagans, whose boundaries, where they had any, were quite liberal. Their discernment about how to protect their spiritual integrity was probably very lacking, and Paul had his hands full seemingly, to keep them on the right track. Keeping this context in mind will keep you from misunderstanding and misapplying verses like these. That said . . .
2. Watch your associations, because it's easy to become familiar with people who can cause you to stumble, especially if you care what they think, or if you admire them in some way that influences your walk with the Lord.

Paul begins Chapter 7 as he ended Chapter 6:

1 Having, then, these promises, beloved, we should be cleansing ourselves from every pollution of flesh and spirit, completing holiness in the fear of God.

That's pretty plain, isn't it? Something I've said before, which I continue to recommend highly, is to turn off the news media. Your mind doesn't need polluted by the constant barrage of negativity. You don't need to put yourself in the path of anything that could steer you off your path in holiness.

BTW: The "*fear of God*" that we see in this first verse of chapter 7 is a constructive quality that we should understand. "Fear" contains the idea of respect, but it's much more than that. Fear of God doesn't mean living afraid of Him; rather, it means according Him all honor, worship, praise and glory as the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing, and everywhere present Deity. To love Him is to fear Him properly, to respect Him utterly, never forgetting that He creates and destroys with a breath. Fearing the Father simply means recognizing the difference between Who He is and who we are, which is even more than we can comprehend.

Now we move to verse 10:

10 For sorrow according to God [***or Godly sorrow***] is producing repentance [***or leads to repentance***] for unregretted salvation, yet the sorrow of the world [***or worldly sorrow***] is producing [***or leads to***] death.

We face the challenge of worldly sorrow or grief on a daily basis. The challenge is that we may rarely recognize it before it threatens to carry us off in its swell. The death of a friend, family member – even a pet – can send us into a downward spiral of grief without resolution. Exposure to media stories can do the same thing. The concept – the unspoken social requirement – of sympathizing with others produces an almost irresistible force that threatens

to pull you in, like a rip current in the ocean. The truth is, if we look objectively, that no one feels better after any of these encounters; quite the opposite. Worldly sorrow looks noble, but it isn't and it doesn't solve anything; instead it just hangs like a cloud over anyone in its grasp.

Godly sorrow works the other way around: It produces a change of behavior and even character (which runs far deeper than behavior). It may allow you to EMPATHIZE with others, rather than sympathize, which keeps you above the grief while aware of it at the same time. You can comfort without going down yourself. When godly sorrow strikes you, you are compelled to make changes because you can see a better way, a solution, so you don't get stuck in grief.

Worldly sorrow leads to death, while Godly sorrow leads to life. Watch for the differences in how you feel during countless situations you encounter every day. To me, the key is simply to walk above wherever most of the rest of the world is walking.

That's a good place to stop for today, so until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;  
May Yahweh light up His face toward you  
and be gracious to you;  
May Yahweh lift His face to you  
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN