

# Letters to the church in...



# Corinth

**Focus:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-18

## Lesson 23-The Spirit of Victory—Climbing from the Mire

- **Being faithful in the Ministry and in our lives (v.1-4)**
  - (v.2) **“...Now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation”—the acceptable time when God always calls us to obey Him and listen to Him is NOW. He always calls us to follow today. “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:15). “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). “There’s no time like the present,” as some say!**
    - **Notice what happened with Paul (Acts 22:16)** Paul was ready and needed to take the next step now.
    - **Notice what happened in Nebuchadnezzar’s case (Daniel 4:27-31)** Procrastination led to disaster! **Delayed obedience is still disobedience!** David said, **“...I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments” (Psalm 119:60)**
    - **Notice what happened with Felix, the Roman governor (Acts 24:24-27)** We have no record of Felix ever making a personal commitment to Jesus Christ! And now he has been laid to rest in his grave (for around 2000 years now).
    - **Jesus and John the Baptist always reminded men of the shortness of time and the urgent matter of getting their lives right with God and man. “Repent [and believe the gospel], for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)**
    - **The people in the days of Noah’s flood just thought life would go on forever as usual, “...and they knew not, until the flood came and took them all away...” (Matthew 24:38,39). –The days went on, but they hadn’t gotten their lives right with God until it was too late. Mercy closed! Let us not grieve the Spirit, but surrender to the Lord’s pleadings (John 16:8).**
  - (v.3)—**The Ministry... “Giving no offense in anything...”** (this principle goes for any Christian. When we take on the name of Christ, others will judge Him by how we act. Don’t be afraid to follow Christ or to make a full profession in following Him. But be faithful to Jesus!). **1 Timothy 3:2; 4:12** tell us how a minister should **“be blameless”** and always striving to set a good **“example”** for the people of God!
- **Living and Laboring through trials by the grace of God—Being Overcomers (v.5-10)**
  - **The sufferings, trials, and exertions of the apostles are faithfully recorded here.**
  - (v.7) **“...by the word of truth”—God’s way of ministry to us (John 17:17; Hebrews 4:12).** We are to **“preach the word...”** which purifies and cleanses our souls (2 Timothy 4:2-5). **“...by the power of God” (v.7)—by the Holy Spirit Paul ministered! (v.7)—always keep the faithful armor of righteousness on too. We should not depart from it to the “right hand**

or the left!”—we’ve got to keep a straight path! Satan will try to knock us of the path from any side he can get access.

- (v.8) counted as “deceivers” by some, yet they were true and honest!
- **Paul makes a Loving and Tender Appeal to the Corinthians (v.11-13)**
- **God’s call to separation and distinction from the sinful world (v.14-18)**
  - There are differences between the believing world and the unbelieving. We are not to be the same as the world!! **We are to be “...a chosen nation, a Royal priesthood...” (1 Peter 2:9)**—we are to stand out and to be different!!—walking in the light of God’s Holy Word.
  - **(v.14)** Especially in marriage or business contracts, etc., we should be very careful about this matter!! We should not put ourselves into an “unequally yoked” kind of position! God commands us this way for a reason! Two oxen with different minds who are connected will go nowhere good unless one starts to compromise with the will of the other! “You shall not make marriages with them...for they will...” **(Deuteronomy 7:3,4). “Can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).**
  - (v.17) **We are not to partake of the unclean and sinful things of this world.** “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...for...” (1 John 2:15-17).
  - The world, “...**they think it strange that you run not with them...**” (1 Peter 4:2-5)
  - If we want the closeness and presence of God’s Spirit to be in our lives, we must be different from the sinful world around us.

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Would you like to live by the grace of God, following His word faithfully, and overcoming the sinful things of this world? \_\_\_\_\_ (the victory can be ours through Jesus Christ)**