

2Corinthians – Week 20

I. Quiz

II. Review (2Cor. 5:17-21)

- A. The term “*new creation*” is an affirmation of what Paul said earlier regarding transformation:
- i. 2Cor. 3:18 (ESV), “*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit*”
 - ii. The old is gone; the new has come!
 1. What we value and how we behave has changed and continues to change!
 2. The past is dead! We no longer live for sin, but for Christ (cf. 1Cor. 6:9-11)!
- B. Paul identifies himself as an ambassador of God.
- i. An ambassador is someone chosen by a government to represent it.
 - ii. In this case, Paul was merely a mouth piece of God, proclaiming the message of the gospel, begging people to be reconciled to God!
- C. The message of reconciliation is this:
- i. Although Christ was sinless (Heb. 4:15; 1Peter 2:22; 1John 3:5), He became sin, that is, He bore our sins in His body (1Peter 2:24).
 - ii. He did this so that we may become God’s righteousness
 1. That is, that we are accepted as righteous in His sight, that is, forgiven by the death of Christ and justified through His resurrection (cf. Rom. 4:25)!
- D. Continuation: Chapter 6
- i. 2Cor. 6:1 (ESV), “*Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*”
 1. The term “grace” here is referring to God’s reconciling work in Christ (cf. 2Cor. 5:19).
 2. Paul took this warning to heart...
 - a. In an earlier letter, Paul told the Corinthians...
 - i. 1Cor. 15:10 (ESV), “*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*”
 3. We know that the Corinthians received the grace of God when they believed and were baptized (cf. Acts 18:8).
 - a. But now, Paul warns them not to allow the grace of God to become ineffectual in them!
 - b. Earlier in 2Cor. 5:14-15, Paul said that Christ died for us so that we might live for Him.
 - i. It is this very grace that instructs us to live godly lives (cf. Titus 2:11-12).
 - ii. But it appears that some of the Corinthians were associating themselves with idols (2Cor. 6:14ff).
 - iii. And verse 3 implies that some of the Corinthians were discrediting Paul’s ministry as opposed to upholding it.
 4. God’s grace is supposed to produce a change of lifestyle! (cf. Romans 2:4).
 - a. But it seems that some of these Corinthians were allowing negative influences affect them!

- ii. 2Cor. 6:2 (ESV), “*For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”
 - 1. Paul quotes Isaiah 49:8 to stress the importance of responding quickly and positively to the grace of God because the “*favorable time*” will not last forever!
 - 2. The Context of Isaiah 49
 - a. God’s Servant
 - i. This servant is despised by the nations!
 - ii. He makes him to be a light for the Gentiles
 - iii. He gives him as a covenant to the people!
 - iv. Who is this mystery servant?
 - 1. It is Jesus the Messiah!
 - 2. According to Hosea 11:1 and Mt. 2:15 – Jesus is Israel!
 - b. In a favorable time I listened to you
 - i. This refers to God hearing the prayers of Messiah regarding a sinful world in need of salvation!
 - 1. At the acceptable time, when animal sacrifices would be no more, God heard Christ’s prayer...
 - a. Hebrews 10:5-7 (ESV), “*Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’*”
 - 2. God helped Christ in the day of salvation...
 - a. God was with him while he was in the body.
 - b. God rescued him from the grave and received him at His right hand in Heaven (cf. Acts 2:22-24).
- 3. Paul takes this passage and explains its fulfillment:
 - a. “*Now is the favorable time*” refers to the new covenant era which was inaugurated by Christ’s death (Heb. 9:15).
 - i. Now is the time that God will show mercy to those who hear and receive His message of reconciliation (the gospel)!
 - ii. Now is the time to be acceptable to God!
 - b. “*Now is the day of salvation*”
 - i. Now is the time to repent and be forgiven!
 - ii. Now is the time to allow the grace of God to become effectual in you!
- 4. Paul goes on to address his behavior and the hardships of the ministry in verses 3-11. We will discuss this next time.