

Being Used of the Lord

II Corinthians 6:1-18

2/24/02

Intro

- What God is doing in Africa!
 - What a Christian believes.
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In the last chapter, Paul has given us some of the most powerful truths of our faith; that we walk by faith and not by sight, that we should let the love of Christ control us, that in Christ all things become new, and finally that God has given us the Word of reconciliation.

That last truth becomes the focus of these verses we are studying today. If we are called to be ambassadors for Christ, then we can clearly see that God wants to use us in reconciling the world to Himself.

This chapter then, is very powerful because here Paul very practically tells us how we can be used of the Lord. What does He want to do in our lives to use us?

These verses give us insight into being used of the Lord to accomplish His purpose through us.

Vs 1- Working together with Him... now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

I. Let the grace of God count for something in our lives.

A. Giving no cause for offense in anything.

- Live in such a way that we ourselves give no one reason to be kept back from finding the Lord.
- But in everything commending ourselves as servants of the Lord.

Illus- The professor who embarrassed me in class... ended well.

- The gospel may offend, but we shouldn't.

Illus- Some people have the attitude that they don't care what people think, but we are ambassadors for Christ. We should care what people think about Jesus.

B. Commending ourselves as servants of God.

- In...endurance, afflictions, hardships.
- By...
- As...unknown, yet well known.

C. These are different qualifications than most people think.

- These qualifications are more important than seminary degrees.

II. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

A. We are to be *yoked* with Christ.

- *“Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden.”*

- The yoke of the Lord is easy.
- Most people do not like yokes, but have big yokes of burden from the world.
- Jesus came that we should have life and have it abundantly.

B. We are NOT to be linked up with people who are not yoked with Christ..

- Either in marriage, or in business, or...
- Not just are they Christian, but are they yoked with Christ?

Illus- Deut 22 gives warnings about mixtures. IE) Vineyards, fabrics, and not to yoke an oxen with an ass.

- It causes too many problems.

Illus- Jehoshaphat did well most of his life, until he went into a partnership deal with the King of Israel; then his ships sank.

C. What about if you're married to a non-believer now?

- Peter says to wives married to non-believers, "Who knows, you may win your husband over by your good behavior."
- If you have made a covenant, then keep it.
- Paul says, "If your unbelieving husband wants to stay, let him stay."

D. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit

III. Let Him Father you.

A. "I will be their God, and they will be my people."

- God here is speaking vision to us.

Illus- Like a husband would speak vision about relationship.

B. "Come out and be separate."

- Some people think God doesn't want us to have any fun!
- Yes He does. He just knows that what is fun today is death tomorrow.
- Does this mean that we can't associate with anyone of the world?

Illus- Jesus was called the friend of sinners. But when Jesus entered their world, their world was greatly impacted by His presence.

The question is who is impacting who...

C. Look at the desire of the Father to BE a father to us.

Illus – Taco Bell vs. a fine Mexican restaurant; clean up so we can go.

Conclusion

The Lord wants to accomplish so much through us and give a deeply fulfilling life, if we would only let Him.