

Did I Receiving God's Grace in Vain?

II Corinthians 6:1-13

Introduction - Paul's greeting – Grace and Peace to you from God...sets the stage for the rest of the letter to the church.

Special Note: Grace that brings Salvation is much more than _____ so I can go to heaven. Grace involves the redemption of my whole self, the transformation of my lifestyle, my circumstances, my heart attitudes, my experiences. This is putting Romans 12:1 into action. People today, experience little _____ because they relegate saving grace only to the initial act of repentance and faith. It's like the child at the beach who fills his little bucket with water and says to his father, "Look, I have the ocean in my bucket." Grace is so much more than the little portion of it that brings me to Christ.

Compare: Eph. 1:3 – blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ

Eph. 1:7 – the riches of God's Grace

Eph. 2:7 – incomparable riches of His Grace

Col. 1:6 – understanding God's Grace in all its truth

Review

Chapter One - taught me not to _____ of trouble on myself by complaining and feeling sorry for myself. God's Grace comforts me in my trouble for the purpose of preparing me to comfort you – which will result in your salvation. (1:4-7)

It is my turn to comfort you; it may be your turn tomorrow. These are what I call _____. These troubles that threaten me help me to focus on relying on God, not myself. God's gracious favor (Grace) brings deliverance and resurrection (1:11)

God's Grace helps the believer to conduct himself in the _____, and sincerity that are from God. I live and act, not in the embrace of worldly wisdom, but immersed in the Grace of God (1:12) that affects every area of my life.

Chapters 2-3 - taught me not to _____ the power of God's Grace that is available for the spreading of the Gospel. As "the aroma of Christ" we are the fragrance of life to those being saved. I do not peddle the word of God for personal gain, but speak as one sent from God. As a "letter from Christ," my life _____ the realities of the Redemptive Grace of God. As "one with an unveiled face," my life reflects the glory of the Lord who has put his Holy Spirit in me and who transforms me into His likeness.

Chapter 4 - taught me that it is the Grace of God that saves the lost, whose minds are blinded by Satan. God the Creator makes his light shine in our hearts to bring us to Christ. As a "clay pot," I have nothing to offer – the treasure of

the Gospel of Grace is from God so that the times of pressure, perplexity, persecution, and danger that I face might demonstrate the power of God's Resurrection Grace in my life, for your benefit and redemption. Along with me, you should _____ as the Grace of God reaches more and more people.

Chapter 5 - taught me that God's Grace not only has something special planned for me in eternity, but makes me to want to please him in every way here on earth because of the cleansing judgment coming when I stand before Christ in that day. There is no sacrifice too great, not trouble too painful, as the Grace of God as demonstrated in the Love of Christ for a lost world, compelling me to live totally for His glory. As an _____, I appeal to you to enter fully in to the Redeeming Grace of God that changes you into a new reconciled creation.

Chapter 6 - teaches me today not to treat the Grace of God lightly. Don't _____ the Grace of God – don't let the Grace of God to be in vain by thinking that it only affected you once, when you put your faith in Christ, but in all the circumstances of your life, let the Grace of God be demonstrated – glory in it.

My character and behavior should _____ with the magnitude of God's Grace. Paul testifies that there are no sacrifices too great for him as he demonstrates his love for the church. He desires them to be fully immersed in the full power of God's redemptive Grace.

Therefore he _____ things that threaten him physically:

General issues: troubles, hardships, distresses

Specific problems: beatings, imprisonments, riots

Voluntary ministry: hard work, sleepless nights, hunger

He endures character issues that challenge him mentally:

Purity, understanding, patience and kindness

He demonstrates God's grace in the spiritual world:

Endurance in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in truthful speech, and in the power of God with weapons of righteousness.

It doesn't matter what he faces – he stands firm in the Grace of God which saves him every day.

Glory or dishonor, bad report or good report, genuine, yet regarded as impostors, known, yet regarded as unknown, dying, and yet we live on, beaten and yet not killed, sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, poor, yet making many rich, having nothing, and yet possessing everything - God's Grace covers it all. This is God's Grace in Action - I want the same thing operating in your life with no limitation.