

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NASB95

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain-

[2] for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION HELPED YOU. " Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"

Paul is writing to people he cares deeply about.

He helped to establish the church in Corinth and led many people there to faith in Christ.

These verses appeal to those who believe not to receive God's grace in vain, insisting that the day of salvation has come.

NOW IS
— **THE DAY TO** —
BELIEVE



**There are three (3) significant things in these 2 verses
that I want to share with you this morning.**

1

**God's
Work**

2

**God's
Grace**

3

**God's
Time**

I. GOD'S WORK

"As Workers together with Him"

There is something good and important in WORK itself, that God wants us to be workers together with Him.

Both the work and the workers are important.

Paul sees himself as a co-worker with Jesus Christ.

They are partners, and Jesus has given us the **MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION** (2 Corinthians 5:18).

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" This is the **WORK** - the ministry of reconciliation.

Reconciling man to God.

AMBASSADORS for Christ - workers together with Him.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NASB95 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us;..."

The king delegates power and authority to the ambassador and reveals his agenda to the ambassador, and then the king expects the ambassador to fulfill that agenda.

It is not our work that God helps us with.

It is His work that He asks us to do together with Him.

Application: God wants us to be workers together with Him in the Kingdom, as ambassadors who fulfill His agenda. Doing the ministry of reconciliation.

II. GOD'S GRACE

"not to receive the grace of God in vain-"

The Greek for "urge" or plead is parakaléo, meaning, to call upon someone to do something, to exhort, admonish or beseech with a stronger force.

It is an **APPEAL** to unbelievers not to ignore God's grace.

It is an **EXHORTATION** to nominal Christians to mature in their faith.

It means to live up to the demands of the gospel.

"GRACE" is God's undeserved favor.

People receive God's totally undeserved gift.

God has paved the way for people to be reconciled to him.

All they need to do is respond to the announcement of this Good News.

How can anyone accept God's favor **"in vain"**?

VAIN may refer to:

(1) falling away from a profession of faith that was apparent but not genuine and therefore going into eternity apart from Christ **(1 John 2:19)**

(2) not developing Christlike character nor doing good works because of a life of **"backsliding"** and therefore having one's works burned at the judgment seat of Christ.

In **1 Corinthians**, Paul had warned the Corinthians not to build hay and stubble on the sure foundation he himself had laid: the gospel truth that Jesus Christ saves.

He warned that their work would be put through the fire of judgment.

A person whose work was destroyed would still be saved but would suffer great loss (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

To receive the grace of God in vain means to receive the goodness and favor of God, yet to hinder the work of grace in your life.

It is to receive the favor of God and to fail.

1 Corinthians 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I LABORED MORE ABUNDANTLY than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

After receiving grace we must work in faithfulness, diligence and excellence.

Grace is given freely, but how we receive grace will help to determine how effective the gift of grace is.

Luke 7:47 is a principle, where Jesus explains that a person's capacity to love is directly proportional to their awareness of the magnitude of forgiveness they have received. **"He who is forgiven much, loves much."**

It highlights that deep gratitude for mercy fuels great love, which is often contrasted with loving little due to a lack of awareness of our own need for grace.

Grace is not given because of any works, past, present or promised; yet it is given to encourage work.

God gives His grace, we work hard, and the work of God is done.

Is God supposed to do the work or am I supposed to do it?

"Yes!" God does it and we do it.

"If I neglect my end of the partnership, God's grace doesn't accomplish all that it might and is therefore given in vain."

Application: We need God's grace everyday. Yesterday's grace is totally inadequate for the burden of today, and if we do not learn to lay hold of heavenly resources every day of our life for the little things as well as the big things, we soon become stale, barren, and fruitless in the service of God.

III. GOD'S TIME

Isaiah 49:8 NASB95

"Thus says the LORD, 'In a favorable time I have answered You, And in a day of salvation I have helped You; And I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages;'"

The prophet Isaiah predicted a time when God would save his people.

God would release them from bondage and clear a path for them to return to their land and restore their fortunes.

God would do all this so that the whole world would know that he was Israel's Savior and Redeemer.

The Hebrews who had heard Isaiah's message long ago would have understood this as a prediction that God would one day bring the Israelites back out of their exile in Babylon.

By quoting and applying **Isaiah 49:8**, Paul wants to give us a sense of urgency.

God has an acceptable time for us to be redeemed and be restored.

God has a day of salvation.

It is time to get His favor.

It is the day to believe and be saved.

Repeated statement: Now is **"THE TIME OF GOD'S FAVOR and THE DAY OF SALVATION."** Today is what matters most to God.

Illustration: **"the present."**

- God had a present.
- He gave us time and salvation.
- God had sent Jesus to the earth.
- It was the right time.
- Jesus died on the cross to save all who believe in him.
- It was the day of salvation.

God offers salvation to all people.

Many people put off making a decision to receive God's salvation, thinking that there will be a better time—but they could easily miss their opportunity.

There is no time like the present to receive God's forgiveness.

Today is the day when God has revealed his great plan of salvation.

CONCLUSION:

Let us carefully evaluate all of our actions because we know we will have to stand before God one day.

We should test ourselves to see if our faith is genuine and, at the same time, to not sin.

Those who had already accepted Jesus, should live up to their profession of faith.

There is a time in God's economy when He listens to sinners and responds to those who are repentant.

However, there will also be an end to that time.

We should never think that there is always time so we can delay.

Jesus is the Present, the gift you need today.