

TALK 6 – Dan Fennell

2 Corinthians 6:1-18

Paul pleads on God's behalf for people to be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:20). He makes a special plea for the Corinthians not to receive God's grace in vain since now is the time for salvation. (2 Cor 6:1-2) The "day of salvation" – Isaiah 49:8 – has arrived.

It is always later than we think.

Paul continues his Corinthian correspondence, focussing on the **'approved'** nature of his ministry. He has acted commendably in the physical sufferings that he has endured and the spiritual graces he has displayed. Conflicting reactions towards him and bad reports by others all serve to confirm his ministry (6:3-10).

PAUL'S MINISTRY APPROVED (3-10)

He commends himself as a minister of God in all things (3-4a)

- a. Physical sufferings endured as a minister (4a-5)

'Have you no wound no scar?

Can he have travelled far who has no wound, no scar?'

Amy Carmichael

'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.' (Acts 14:22)

'There is a "divine must" woven into the fabric of following of Jesus. Misunderstanding the purpose of hardship for our growth in godliness, enthusiastic seekers of Jesus, like the rich young ruler, prioritize self-interest and personal safety above taking up their cross and following the Crucified One (Matthew 19:26).' (The World of the Word, 14)

- b. Spiritual graces demonstrated as a minister. (6-7)
- c. Conflicting reactions and reports by others. (8)
- d. Contrasting experiences as a minister. (9-10)

Paul appeals with an open heart.

Will the Corinthians open their hearts to him?

BE OPEN (11-18)

Paul's openness towards the Corinthians (11)

He has spoken freely (11a) and his heart is wide open. (11b)

The Corinthians likewise need to be open. (12-13)

Paul appeals to them to reciprocate by being open to him (13)

'Grace means we have nothing to prove and nothing to hide.'

BE SEPARATE (14-18)

Don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers so we might enjoy the promise of eternal fellowship with God as Father (6: 11-18).

Believer–Unbeliever (14a;15b) Righteous–Lawless (14b)

Light - Darkness (14c)

Christ – Belial (15a)

Temple of God & Idols (16a) God with his People (16b)

Therefore...Come Out (17)

And...Come In (18)

(Revelation 18:4-5)

(Revelation 21:3;17)

'Come further up, come further in!'

Jewel in C.S. Lewis' The Last Battle

My Thoughts:

My Oughts: