

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 6:1-18

Lesson 12

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review II Corinthians 5:11-21. How does the recognition that God created you for a special purpose affect you today?
 - a. If you could go anywhere in the world as an *ambassador for Christ*, where would you choose to go and why?
 - (1.) As His *ambassador* what would your message be?
2. This week's study of II Corinthians 6:1-18 should inspire and challenge us as Christians to live for the Lord and serve Him without compromise. In these verses the exhortations, personal examples and thought-provoking questions Paul addressed to the Corinthian church remain both practical and relevant today. From Chapter Six choose and record one of Paul's:
 - a. exhortations
 - b. personal examples
 - c. questions
3. Begin your verse by verse study of II Corinthians 6 with prayer. Include any specific needs you may have in relationship to your lesson. Remember to thank the Lord for hearing and answering. Write your prayer here.

*Happy are people of integrity, who follow the law of the LORD.
They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in His paths.
When I learn Your righteous laws, I will thank You by living as I should.*

Psalm 119:1,3,7 NLT

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 6:1,2

1. Chapter Six of II Corinthians begins with a solemn appeal from Paul. What was it?
 - a. *Receive not the grace of God in vain* denotes to no purpose; without using it; without the life being affected by it. Identify one way this could happen by completing the following phrase from II Corinthians 5:15:

that they which live should not henceforth _____

- b. With II Corinthians 6:1a in mind read I Corinthians 3:9a. What does it mean to you to be a *worker together with Him*?

(1.) Record the instruction and promise of I Corinthians 15:58.

2. Read II Corinthians 6:2. Pause and think about this: *Behold, now is the day of salvation*. In what way does the urgency of this speak to you?
 - a. What can you do to get the message of salvation to others?
3. Think of someone you know who is unsaved. Pray he or she will respond to the grace of God and receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ at this *accepted time*.

*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.*
I Corinthians 15:10 NKJV

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 6:3-10

1. Through II Corinthians 6:3-10 Christians are given an excellent example of commitment and conduct for ministry. Consider verses 3,4a NLT: *We try to live in such a way that no one will be hindered from finding the Lord by the way we act, and so no one can find fault with our ministry. In every thing we do we try to show that we are true ministers of God.* Paul's statement of integrity as a minister of Christ should be ours too. What *things* could interfere with our living this way?
 - a. Share one or two resources you have for dealing with these interferences.

2. Paul sought to conduct himself in a blameless manner. II Corinthians 6:4a NIV: *Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way.* Paul confirmed this through three lists that began with *in*, *by*, and *as*. Write the phrases from verses 4b-10 that begin with:
 - a. *in* (vs. 4,5)
 - (1.) How would enduring these things commend Paul as a minister of God?


 - b. *by* (vs. 6-8a)
 - (1.) Choose a phrase that especially stands out to you and tell why.

 - c. *as* and *yet* (vs. 8b-10)
 - (1.) Link this list with Philippians 4:11. What do you see?

3. How does Paul's commitment, character and conduct inspire you as a servant of the Lord?

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 6:11-13

1. Sense Paul's heart toward the Corinthians as you read II Corinthians 6:11-13. (Use other versions, if you desire.) How did he feel about them?
 - a. Even though many of the Corinthians withheld their love how, does II Corinthians 12:15 reveal the depth of Paul's love?
2. Observe II Corinthians 6:13 NLT: *I am talking now as I would to my own children. Open your hearts to us!* What influence should Paul's love have had on the Corinthian believers?
3. Christians are to love one another. In your own words write what the following verses say about this:
 - a. John 13:34,35
 - b. Ephesians 5:2
 - c. I John 3:18

*If I have not charity, if love does not flow from me, I am nothing.
Jesus reduce me to love.
-selected *

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 6:14-18

1. Observe Paul's command to these believers by printing II Corinthians 6:14a.
 - a. Define a *yoke* and its purpose.
 - (1.) In light of this explain the meaning of verse 14a.
 - b. In what ways might a believer be *yoked* to an unbeliever?
 - c. Why would being *yoked* to an unbeliever be an impediment to a Christian's walk?

2. To help Christians understand the rationale behind the principle of II Corinthians 6:14a, Paul asked five penetrating questions in II Corinthians 6:14b-16a. Observe each question as you complete the following chart:

<i>What</i>	<i>hath</i>	<i>with</i>
1. <i>fellowship</i>	<i>righteousness</i>	<i>unrighteousness</i>
2.		
3.		<i>Belial</i> is a word for satan
4.		
5.		

- a. Share any conclusions you draw from this.

Challenge: Do these verses mean we are to isolate ourselves from unbelievers? Why or why not?

3. Print in all capital letters the compelling reason we should *not be yoked together with unbelievers* according to II Corinthians 6:16. Selah.

F__ Y__ A__ THE T_____ OF THE L_____ G__

- a. What does I Corinthians 6:19,20 say about this?

- b. Ponder what *God hath said* as you record II Corinthians 6:16b here.

4. Read II Corinthians 6:17,18. According to verse 17 what action are Christians to take in response to verse 16?

- a. Separation is two-fold: turning away **from** the world and **unto** the Lord. What glorious benefit of separation is promised in II Corinthians 6:17c,18?

- (1.) How does the promise of intimate fellowship with the Father motivate you today?

