



Daily Bible Habit

II Corinthians

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Focus Points...*For II Corinthians 6*

Stop And Consider...

- * How saving faith can so easily be lost if we let the forces of the world “soften” our conviction of the truth of God’s Word

Listen...

- * To Paul’s urgent pleading with the Corinthians that they do not believe “in vain.”

Prayer:

Lord, I thank You for giving me saving faith. As I consider Paul’s words to the Corinthians in chapter six, move my heart with a passion to do all I can to ensure that I have not believed in vain. In Your name I pray. Amen.

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Commentary:

An evangelist’s greatest concern is that those who believe not give up their faith. Paul, the evangelist, expressed that concern in his Letters to the Corinthians, and especially II Corinthians 6.

“As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.”
(6:1)

Nothing can discourage an evangelist more! In I Corinthians 15:58 Paul reminded the Corinthians that their work for the Lord was not “in vain.” Yet the loving passion which Paul demonstrated in his Letters to the Corinthians—and all Christians—underscored his greatest fear: that his work would all be in vain.

Note the extent to which Paul went to ensure that he had done all he could to keep the Corinthians from giving up their faith.

- 1) He put no stumbling blocks in their way (6:3)
- 2) He avoided anything that would discredit his ministry (6:3)
- 3) He endured persecution, et al. as a way to commend and validate his ministry and passion for the Corinthians (6:4)
- 4) He demonstrated understanding, kindness and “sincere love” in the Spirit (6:6)
- 5) He spoke the truth (6:7)
- 6) He spoke with the power and authority of God (6:7)
- 7) He experienced sorrow over their sorrows (6:8)
- 8) He made many “rich” in the grace of God, though he served in poverty and humility (6:10)

In all his ministry, Paul “withheld nothing” from anyone so that they might believe...and his work would not be in vain (6:12).

Was Paul resentful, hurt or angry because of his enormous sacrifice of love for the Corinthians?

Not at all! He wanted the Corinthians to understand the loving sacrifice and the hardships he endured on their behalf. If they would understand that, Paul hoped that they would respond with a like passion, to protect and preserve their faith.

What threatened their faith? Worshiping idols! They blurred, ignored and outright denied the barrier between right and wrong, light and darkness, good and evil (6:14). Instead of being distinctively Christian, their witness was blurred and indistinguishable from unbelievers.

“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” (6:17)

Paul’s calling to the Corinthians to reclaim the barrier between right and wrong has been a challenge for all Christians of every age. We wrestle with it today in our own lives.

C.S. Lewis once said, “If you want to know the power of evil, just try being good.” Paul, by his remarkable efforts in his fight against evil, knew how difficult it was to be good. If their believing was not to be in vain, they needed to take up arms against Satan and embrace the necessity of spiritual warfare.

Have you embraced spiritual warfare? Or have you allowed Satan to blur the boundary between right and wrong, good and evil, light and darkness...and Jesus and Satan?

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, in the politically correct world in which I live, Satan often causes me to give up my resolve for God’s will. Empower and enliven my faith today so that I may take up Your cross, follow You and embrace the battle against evil in all its forms. Give me Your Spirit that I may be faithful to Your Word and fight the fight of faith wherever the battleground may be. In Your powerful name I pray. Amen.

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