

## Exegetical Notes – 2 Corinthians 6:3-13

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**(From verse 4 to verse 10 in this passage is one Greek sentence. This sentence is extremely hard to translate into English and is equally hard to deal with in Greek.)**

### 2 Corinthians 6:3-13

#### Verse 3

***We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.***

- Verse 2 of this chapter ends with the resounding phrase “NOW is the day of salvation.” There is a sense of ultimate urgency here. There is no time to waste. Now is the moment for those who do not believe to hear the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. If those who believe do not act now to fulfil the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) souls will be lost and people will die an eternal death. If Christians do not act as they should, people will go to hell!
- Therefore, the Body of Christ must put aside all nonsense and personal preference and work to win dying souls. Christians, including the Apostle himself, MUST put aside anything that would discredit the call of Christ upon them. Christians must sense the urgency of the time and so be careful not to cause anyone to stumble or fall.

#### Verses 4-10

***<sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always***

***rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.***

- In this very difficult sentence (verses 4-10 are one sentence), Paul “commends” himself. The word means that he reveals himself to those who read this. He is showing them what he is. He does not speak with pride. He is simply telling them, showing them, who he is.
- He proclaims himself to be a “servant” of God. He is not Paul the great evangelist. He is not Paul the great Apostle. He is Paul the SERVANT. The Greek word is “doulos.” It means SLAVE. He belongs to God through Jesus Christ, and he does what he does at the command of his Master.
- He is not the “doulos” of the Corinthian Church. He is the servant of God.
- Because he is God’s servant, he has had to endure certain things that he would not have chosen to endure otherwise. He lists them. Among those things He has had to endure as God’s slave are: troubles, hardships, distress, beatings, imprisonment, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. WOW! This, because he is God’s slave!
- Paul has endured these things as God’s slave in purity, understanding, patience, and kindness, through the enabling presence of the Holy Spirit. His love, even for those who persecute him and say evil about him, is sincere. He speaks the truth in the power of God.
- His weapon in this battle to please God is righteousness. He does not seek personal ease or satisfaction. His goal is neither comfort nor wealth. He does not seek to please himself, but God who is his MASTER.
- The reaction of the world and even those in the Church is mixed. Some give him proper respect, others treat him with dishonor. In some circles, he is held in good report. In others, people say all kinds of bad things about him. Some even say he is an imposter, not a Christian at all. He is openly known by some and not understood at all by others. He is seen as death by some, but others know he is alive in Christ. He has been beaten down, but he is still kicking. Though he sorrows in the rejection of Christ by some, perhaps even because of him, he is always rejoicing in what God is doing and accomplishing through him. Though he himself is poor, he has made many people rich by preaching the Gospel to them. Those he has nothing of value in the eyes of the world, he would give everything, even his own life, for his Master, Jesus Christ.
- This is what it means to say that Jesus is LORD, Boss.

### **Verses 11-13**

***<sup>11</sup> We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. <sup>12</sup> We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. <sup>13</sup> As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.***

- Paul has spoken openly to the members of the Church in Corinth. In so doing, he has shown them his love for them. He has tried to help them become all that Christ wants them to be. He is doing what God has instructed him to do.
- But they are criticizing his efforts and refusing to follow his lead. In not trusting him to be leading them in the direction God has chosen, they are showing that they do not trust him. They are not showing him their affection.
- He asks them to be fair! He asks them to stop working against him and accept him as the leader God has chosen for them. He asks them to open their hearts to him as he has opened his heart to them. He asks them to assume that God knows what he is doing in making Paul their leader.

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