The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 8
2 Corinthians 6:1-10

1 Working together with Him, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God **in vain**.
2 For He says,
"In a favorable time
I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation
I have helped you."
Isaiah 49:4-8
Behold, now (is) the favorable time;
behold, now (is) the day of salvation.
3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,
4 but as servants of God
we commend ourselves in every way:
by great endurance,
in afflictions,
in hardships,
in calamities,
5 in beatings,
in imprisonments,
in riots,
in labors,
in sleepless nights,
in hunger;
6 by purity,
by knowledge,
by patience,
by kindness,
by the Holy Spirit,
by genuine love;
7 by truthful speech,
by the power of God;
with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
8 through honor and dishonor,
through slander and praise.
(We are treated)
as impostors, and yet (are) true;
9 as unknown, and yet well known;
as dying, and behold, we live;
as punished, and yet not killed;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

REVIEW/CONTEXT

2:12-17	Christian ministry that is centered on Jesus Christ will always be triumphant before God.
3:1-6 (Pt. 1)	The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is a glorious reality of the Gospel.
3:7-18 (Pt. 2)	The ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ is far better and more glorious than the ministry of the Old Testament Mosaic Law.
4:1-6 (Pt. 3)	The gospel of Jesus Christ brightly reveals the glory of God.
4:7-18 (Pt. 4)	Christians can persevere through suffering in gospel ministry because of God's glorious promises.
5:1-10 (Pt. 5)	The gospel of Jesus Christ gives Christians a confident courage regarding eternal life.
5:11-15 (Pt. 6)	Both the fear of the Lord and the love of Christ should control Christians as they pursue Gospel ministry for the sake of Jesus Christ.
5:16-21 (Pt. 7)	The Gospel of Jesus Christ creates eternal life and eternal reconciliation.

EXPOSITION

BIG IDEA: *God's grace enables Christians to have Gospel ministries of integrity.*

I. We must live within the boundaries of God's grace as we minister the Gospel. (6:1-2)

- Isaiah 49:4-8

II. We must maintain a testimony of integrity as we minister the Gospel. (6:3)

III. We will receive God's commendation if we patiently endure and persevere through hardships as we minister the Gospel. (6:4-10)

- "commend" ("to give approval") – 3:1; 4:2; 5:12; **6:4;** 7:11; 10:12, 18; 12:11

- Christians are "servants (ministers) of God" and must live for His approval or commendation. **(6:4a)**

- Christians must realize and embrace the truth that they will face affliction from the world if they are faithful in Gospel ministry. Christians must also recognize and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit as they face affliction in Gospel ministry. **(6:4b-8a)**

- While Christians will be falsely accused and treated dishonorably by those who hate the truth, Christians are comforted in affliction because this world does not define their eternal reality. **(6:8b-10)**

LOOKING AHEAD: *Next section is 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1*