

# “The Grace of God in Vain?”

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

(Parentheses ( ) are verses in 2 Corinthians 6)

### 1. The Grace of God in vain (1-3)

1. Salvation. Isa. 49:1-8
2. Laboring once saved. 1 Cor. 15:10; Romans 2:4, 6:1.
3. Our labor can be in vain if not based on the gospel.  
1 Cor. 15:14.
4. Our labor is not in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58.
5. Our labor can be in vain if opposed. Gal. 2:2.
6. Our labor can be in vain if rejected. 1 Thess. 3:5.
7. An offense can discredit. Here, in vs. 3.  
Paul knew the message of the cross would offend 2 Cor. 2:16,  
1 Cor 1:18, he would be considered a fool 11:16, but he didn't  
want to be a “stumbling block” (offense) because of his sin or  
self-serving conduct.

### 2. Commendations (4-7)

Commendations the Corinthians looked for in ministers: external letters (3:1), self-recommendations (5:12), or religious credentials (11:22) were not real compared to the Spirit (Rom. 2:28-29).

List of accusations against Paul from Corinthian false teachers:  
2 Cor. 1:12-1:13; 1:17-19, 23, 2:1; 4:2; 4:5, 7, 15; 10:10; (1 Cor.  
1:17, 2:1, 2 Cor. 11:6); 2 Cor. 11:5, 12:11.

(Continued ↪)

### 2. Commendations (continued)

#### 9 Endurances (4-5)

afflictions  
hardships  
distresses  
beatings  
imprisonments  
tumults (Acts 16:19-23)  
labors  
sleeplessness (Ps. 16:7, 63:6, 119:148, Lam. 2:19)  
hunger (2 Cor. 11:27)

#### 9 Weapons (6-7)

purity (Phil 4:8, 1 Tim. 5:22, James 3:17, 1 John 3:3)  
knowledge  
patience  
kindness  
Holy Spirit  
genuine love (Rom. 12:9)  
word of truth (2 Cor. 2:17, 4:2)  
power of God (1 Cor. 2:5)  
weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left  
(Rom. 13:12, 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Eph. 6:11-17)

### 3. 9 Dichotomies (8-10)

dishonor (1 Cor. 4:10) and glory  
evil report (Rom 3:8) and good report  
regarded as deceivers and yet true  
as unknown and yet well-known (by God most importantly  
1 Cor. 8:2-3, 2 Tim. 2:19)  
as dying yet behold, we live  
as punished, yet not put to death  
as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing  
as poor, yet making many rich (Eph. 3:8)  
as having nothing, yet possessing all things  
(1 Cor. 3:21-23, Eph. 1:3)