

If I say NBA or NFL player, what picture comes to mind? How about CEO or FBI? Each of these individuals possesses certain qualities, talents or characteristics that are easily distinguishable for the area of expertise they are involved in. As we study 2 Corinthians 6, let's focus on the distinguishing qualities that others should recognize in our walk of faith as followers of Christ.

Pray and ask God to open your heart to all he has for you today. Please read the chapter twice, and then begin the study guide. Go back and read 2 Cor. 5: 20-21 Paul referred to believers as ambassadors for Christ. An ambassador is one who is sent to represent and speak on behalf of the one sending them. In 2Cor. 5:18 Paul tells us, as believers, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are called by God to proclaim the gospel to everyone, every time we have the opportunity. In 2 Cor. 6:1, we see Paul encouraging believers to share the truth and to earnestly desire to see others accept it. This would be the fruit of all his labor with them.

1. In verse 2, Paul quotes Is. 49:8. What truth does he want the Corinthians (and us) to focus on?
2. Who sets the times and the seasons? Who has it always been?
3. Look at verse 2; underline the two things God has done for us at just the right time? You might read Prov. 1:20-23; Is. 55:6; Heb. 4:7
4. As you read verse 3 how concerned do you believe Paul is with his own personal testimony?  
Do you recall our study of 1 Cor. 8; the subject was whether it was right to eat meat offered to idols? He made the point that an idol is nothing and therefore meat offered to an idol had not been changed in anyway. But Paul also tells them if the food I eat is offensive to someone else and causes them to stumble then I will not eat meat.
5. How concerned are you with what others observe as they watch you daily? Are you more concerned about the liberty and freedom you live in now that you are forgiven and a child of God or more concerned with how what you do might be perceived by those who are watching you?
6. Notice verse 4, how does Paul refer to himself? What is the attitude of a heart like this?
7. What do you know about servants?
  - a. Come when they are \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Go where they are \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Do what they are \_\_\_\_\_

Ultimately, what reveals or exhibits the faithfulness of a servant of Christ is how they follow him. God's glory is never more apparent to those around us than when suffering and opposition comes our way and we respond with trust. Matthew 5:16, God is then glorified.

8. Have you had an opportunity recently to stand strong in the truth you know about God in spite of a trial you may be going through? You may actually still be walking through this trial. **Read Ps. 27** below. Then answer the question, as a child of God what should my response be to the trials, sufferings and conflicts I go through?
9. Highlight what the Psalmist declares he will do. Vs. 3,6
10. Highlight what he asks the Lord to do for him in vs. 11.
11. Highlight vss. 13 &14 and write them in your own words.  
The word "wait" in verse 14 is translated from the Greek word *Qavah* #6960 which means to wait, to look for eagerly. It is waiting with a sense of anticipation.

### **Psalms 27**

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamps against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arises against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! 8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." 9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. 12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. 13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!*

Back to 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

12. How does Paul express his waiting on the Lord in verse 4? What a testimony to the power and grace of God working in his heart.
13. Make a list of the trials that Paul had experienced in verses 4-5. Look these up, define them in greater detail.

**4** *but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5** beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;*

14. According to verses 6-7, how was he able to go through all this with “great endurance”?
15. Write a sentence or two explaining how each of these 9 qualities would have been beneficial to his “great endurance”.

**6** *by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; **7** *by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;**

16. Read Eph. 6:10-17. What are the two weapons listed 1-offensive and 1-defensive.
17. Paul is fully equipped for whatever situation would come his way; how does he describe some of the ways he has been treated, verses 8-10? Do any of these sound familiar to you?

Paul has opened his heart to them now it is their turn to open their hearts; he proved his love for them. A person who truly loves you will share the truth in order to spare you future pain.

18. What is the warning in verse 14?
19. What is a yoke and what was it used for? Who are the two persons that Paul was referring to in verse 14?
20. Having given the command to “not be unequally yoked” Paul supports it by stating five reasons, underline them in the text below. We often hear this verse quoted as it has to do with marriage and friends but what are some other areas where this verse would apply.?

**14** *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a*

*believer share with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols?*

In verses 16-18 the apostle Paul quotes the Old Testament to further instruct believers. Since we are the dwelling place of God we are commanded to separate ourselves from anything unclean.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** *"...as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.""*

**1 Cor. 3:17** *...For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

Go ahead and read 2 Cor. 7:1 also. It goes along with what we studying, the importance of personal purity.

21. What are the promises that Paul is referring to in 7:1?  
(hint: look for God's four "I will" in 6:16-18)
22. What have you learned from this study of chapter 6 that you can apply to your walk of faith?
23. What is the most important step you will take today to align yourself with the truth you have seen?
24. What is standing in the way of your personal holiness and God's desire to bless you?
25. Please take some time to sit and quietly examine your heart. Where are you being lured by the world away from God's desire for you?