

## **2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (NIV)**

1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. 3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

It's hard for me to read this portion of God's Word and not immediately be a little skeptical. That list that Paul starts in verse four and continues on through verse ten is really over the top. Certainly Paul is using that literary device we know as hyperbole or making a mountain out of a mole hill. Certainly Paul couldn't have had all of this happen in his ministry; or could he?

That's our human nature isn't it, to be skeptical? Isn't that what Adam and Eve did in the Garden? Isn't that what Satan was trying to get Jesus to be? We have a hard time believing something that sounds so outrageous it couldn't possibly be true. But everything Paul describes in these verses is very much real and very, very true.

God has indeed helped us. God has given us salvation! He did that through his Son, Jesus. He did it simply because he loved us and not because we had any claim to it. It was grace that we have received! And we continue to receive it to this day.

That's why Paul could endure everything he describes. Notice how he goes from the lowest of lows to the highest of highs. Even when the world was beating him down, when they were skeptical of his message, when they lied about him, ignored him, tried to kill him; Paul lived on rejoicing and possessing everything because he had God's grace! Nothing and no one could take that away from him.

Jesus has endured all things for us. He's given us life and salvation by grace through faith. This gift of God is ours free of charge. It is more valuable than all the gold and silver in the world. We all have this grace of God through faith in Jesus. Dear Christian, when life's problems seem overwhelming, when the world seems to be opposing you at every turn; remember the words of Paul! Now is the time of God's favor! Now is the Day of Salvation! Your God has helped you by giving you everything you need for life eternally! Now!