

# **Grace Not In Vain**

**II Corinthians 6:1-10**

# Spiritual Entropy

## – Worship

- What's all about Him becomes all about us...

## – Prayer

- Intimate communion degenerates into meaningless ritual...
- Or: *'Your will be done...'* becomes *'Do what I want...'*

## – The goodness and grace of God

- Most clearly evident when the sun shines...
- The 'Prosperity Gospel'

## Spiritual Entropy

### God's Corrective in II Cor 6:1-10

The truest evidence of God's deep work of grace in the believer's life is not seen in the presumed 'blessings' of health, wealth and happiness but in the grace of endurance that sustains you in the midst of sickness, poverty and adversity.

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# Bringing the Text to Light

## – The Exhortation (Vs. 1-2)

- “co-laboring” with God
- “in vain” – lacking the intended results
- Salvation in the present tense

## Bringing the Text to Light

- The Exhortation (Vs. 1-2)
- The Back Story (Vs. 3-4a)
  - Paul, God's messenger, defends himself lest God's message also be rejected – for then all would be 'in vain.'
  - Defense: in the midst of incessant troubles was God's incessant and sufficient grace!  
**1:3-5, 8-10; 3:4-5; 4:7-11; 11:24-30; 12:7-10**

## Bringing the Text to Light

- The Exhortation (Vs. 1-2)
- The Back Story (Vs. 3-4a)
- Great Endurance (Vs. 4b-10)
  - The grace of ‘great endurance’ is how ‘grace not in vain’ looks in practice!
  - The ability to bear things triumphantly in a way that transfigures them, changing the nature of tribulation into strength and glory.

## Bringing the Text to Light

### Applying II Cor 6:1-10 to Life

The truest evidence of God's deep work of grace in the believer's life is not seen in the presumed 'blessings' of health, wealth and happiness but in the grace of endurance that sustains one in the midst of sickness, poverty and adversity.

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