

## Chapter 6

v.1 In chapter 5 Paul tells us that we are to plead with people to accept Jesus' salvation and now he says that he in turn pleads with us as a fellow worker with God not to receive the things of God to no purpose.

v.2 Quotes Isaiah 49 in which God is speaking to the Messiah and says that the time of salvation has come, we are now in that period when men may be saved. Now is the time we are acceptable to God through what Jesus has done on the cross.

\* Now is the time

- now is the only time we have to work- we can't say those were the good old days or I'll be effective when...

- now may be the only time we ever have

- now " Give my testimony "

- some I've talked with are now in heaven, some are now in hell

v.3 there will always be those who are offended but we are to give no offense

v.4 & 5 – trials in ministry-Paul lists circumstances that we will encounter as we minister

v.6 & 7 -walk in ministry- Paul lists how we are to maintain our walk

- sincere love- unfeigned or unhypocritical love

- armor on right ( offensive/sword ) left (defensive/shield )

v.8 & 9 – reactions to ministry - Paul lists contrasting reactions that people will have to us

v.11-12 - We put no rules or regulations on people, you are free to minister, what restricts us is our own desires for the things of the world.

v.14 – *Deuteronomy 22:9-11 "You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled. (10) "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (11) "You shall not wear a garment of different sorts, such as wool and linen mixed together.*

contrast with workers together with God in verse 1- yoked- working together-

- unequally yoked together with unbelievers— This is a military term: keep in your own ranks; do not leave the Christian community to join in that of the heathens. The verb eterozugein signifies to leave one's own rank, place, or order, and go into another; and here it must signify not only that they should not associate with the Gentiles in their idolatrous feasts, but that they should not apostatize from Christianity; and the questions which follow show that there was a sort of fellowship that some of the Christians had formed with the heathens which was both wicked and absurd, and if not speedily checked would infallibly lead to final apostasy.

But Paul means much more here than only marrying an unbeliever. It really applies to any environment where we let the world influence our thinking. *When we are being conformed to this world and are not being transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom\_12:2)*, we are joining together with unbelievers in an ungodly way.

This speaks especially to the issue of influence. Paul is not suggesting that Christians never associate with unbelievers (he makes this clear in 1Co\_5:9-13). The principle is that we are to be in the world, but not of the world, like a ship should be in the water, but water shouldn't be in the ship! But if the world is influencing us, it is clear we are unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And this unequal yoke, or ungodly influence, may come through a book, a movie, a television show, a magazine, or even through worldly Christian friends. Most Christians are far too indiscriminate about the things they allow to influence their minds and lives.

We all like to believe that we can be around ungodly things as much as we want, and that we are strong enough to ward off the influence. But we must take seriously the words of Scripture: *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits" (1Co\_15:33)*. It needs to come back to the simple question from *Rom\_12:2* : *are we being conformed to this world or are we being transformed by the renewing of your mind?*

- fellowship= partnership

- communion= koinonia

- accord- same root word as chord in music- Belial - Hebrew transcript for worthless- in Jewish writings it was used as a proper name for Satan or sometimes the antichrist

- part- participation, joining in with

- agreement- voting the same, giving consent to

\* The world will do everything they can to make you compromise and then will despise you when you do.

v.17 Come out, don't touch the dirty things- God has called us to be special and set apart for his purposes. don't receive this grace in vain.

*(1 Th 5:23-24 NKJV) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. {24} He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.- Are we prepared to face the standard of these verses ?*

7:1 Therefore cleanse yourself from the filth of the world

Others can, you can't