



Welcome to
**New Beginnings
Community Church**

A part of Grace Communion International

God Reigns over Hardships

2 Cor 6:1-13



2 Cor 6

**:1 So, as we work together with God,
we appeal to you in particular: when
you accept God's grace, don't let it
go to waste! :2 This is what he says:
I listened to you when the time was
right,
I came to your aid on the day of
salvation.**

**Look! The right time is now! Look!
The day of salvation is here!**



2 Cor 6

:3 We put no obstacles in anybody's way, so that nobody will say abusive things about our ministry. :4 Instead, we recommend ourselves as God's servants: with much patience, with sufferings, difficulties, hardships, :5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, going without food, :6 with purity, knowledge, great-heartedness, kindness, the holy spirit, genuine love,



2 Cor 6

:7 by speaking the truth, by God's power, with weapons for God's faithful work in left and right hand alike, :8 through glory and shame, through slander and praise; as deceivers, and yet true; :9 as unknown, yet very well known; as dying, and look – we are alive; as punished, yet not killed; :10 as sad, yet always celebrating; as poor, yet bringing riches to many; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.



2 Cor 6

:11 We have been wide open in our speaking to you, my dear Corinthians! Our heart has been opened wide! :12 There are no restrictions at our end; the only restrictions are in your affection! :13 I'm speaking as though to children: you should open your hearts wide as well. That's fair enough, isn't it?



Bad things that happened to Paul

Troubles

Imprisonment

Hard work

Dishonor

More beatings

Hardships

Being ignored

Riots

Sleepless nights

False Claims

Sorrow

Distresses

Hunger

False accusations

Near death experience

Poverty

Beatings



Not only did Paul continue to participate in ministry despite the awful things that happened to him, but he spoke boldly about how God blessed him and brought him through his trials. For each negative thing that happened, Paul presented something God did to not only counteract the bad thing, but completely overshadow it.



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We have to develop the humility to resist being the interpreter of our story, deciding what is “good” and what is “bad.” Instead, we should seek God’s help in understanding the things that happen to us, trusting him with our very lives.

When it comes to God, it seems like we always find what we are looking for. If we are looking for a god who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love, we will find him, despite our circumstances.

Similarly, if we are looking for a god who is cruel, untrustworthy, distant, and oppressive, we will find him, despite evidence to the contrary. This is our curse from the time of the fall of humanity—our ability to see God and fellow humans clearly is greatly diminished.



Our perspective is closely related to our faith. In fact, perspective is how we see things as a result of our faith. Faith is a relational term, rooted and grounded in who God is, as revealed by Jesus Christ. We Christians need to pay attention to our perspective, because it indicates who we believe God to be.

Even more important than what we believe about God is what he believes about us. From the moment God created humanity, he called us “good.” He determined that we were worthy of adoption in Christ, and he has not wavered from that belief, despite us providing mountains of evidence to the contrary. Christ put on human flesh because God believed we were worth saving. It is God’s beliefs about us that makes new life in Christ possible. We are changed and transformed because of what God believes about us. As Christians, it is essential that we regularly hear what God believes about us.

