

EVENING DEVOTIONS

Monday, 16 March 2026

Text: 2 Corinthians 6

Title: "Not to receive the grace of God in vain" 2 Corinthians 6:1

INTRODUCTION

1. The Grace of God

- a) For salvation Ephesians 2
- b) For service Ephesians 3
- c) In suffering 2 Corinthians 12

2. The danger of receiving the grace of God in vain

- a) Where the grace of God is taken for granted
- b) Where there is no fruit forthcoming
- c) Where the desired goal is not realised
- d) Where there is a turning away from God to follow the dictates of the heart

AN EXAMPLE WHERE GRACE WAS GIVEN IN VAIN

² Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—

³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.

⁴ Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this *very* day.

⁵ And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.

Deuteronomy 29:2-5

1. Manifestation of the grace of God

- a) The plagues that fell on Egypt but not on Goshen
- b) God's protection in great trials, signs and great wonders
- c) God's provision for 40 years

- d) But the children of Israel did not have a heart to perceive, nor the eyes to see nor the ears to hear
- e) The grace of God was received in vain

2. The Danger continues to be

- a) Real
- b) Relevant
- c) Resulting in Grace received in vain

A DANGER HIGHLIGHTED TO THE GALATIAN CHURCH

1. Paul ministered in Galatia

2. The Church floundered after a while and became unstable and unsettled

3. Grave statements of concern expressed

a) Turning away to a different gospel

⁶I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9

b) Suffered in vain

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

⁴ **Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed *it was* in vain?**

Galatians 3:1-4

c) Labouring in vain

⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

⁹ But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years.

¹¹ **I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain.**

Galatians 4:8-11

DANGER HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

1. Believed in vain

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—**unless you believed in vain.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

- a) The Corinthian church had begun so well
- b) The members were highly gifted
- c) But carnality crept in
- d) They were in danger of believing in vain!

2. Not in vain

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O Death, where *is* your sting?
O Hades, where *is* your victory?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

- a) Faith in the Lord includes belief in the hereafter
- b) There is life after death
- c) The challenge is to be steadfast and immovable
- d) To abound in the work of the Lord knowing that our works are not in vain

A STIRRING PERSONAL TESTIMONY

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

¹¹ Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

1. Paul's personal testimony

- a) The least of the apostles
- b) Not worthy to be called an apostle

2. The grace of God given

a) This grace was not given in vain

b) Laboured more abundantly through the grace of God

OUR CHALLENGE

1. Much grace has been bestowed on us

2. Let not God's grace be given in vain

3. Overcome all challenges in life