

Summary of 2 Corinthians 6-8

In chapter 6, Paul appeals to the Corinthians not to receive the grace of God in vain. He explains that now is the day of salvation and describes the realities of authentic ministry—marked by endurance through hardships, purity of character, truthful speech, and reliance on God’s power. Paul paints a vivid picture of gospel paradoxes: sorrowful yet always rejoicing, poor yet making many rich, having nothing yet possessing everything. He then makes a deeply personal appeal, urging the Corinthians to open their hearts to him as he has opened his to them. The chapter closes with a call to holiness, warning against being unequally yoked with unbelief and reminding believers that they are the temple of the living God, called to be set apart for Him.

In chapter 7, Paul continues his relational appeal and reflects on the Corinthians’ response to his earlier, painful letter. Though the letter caused sorrow, Paul rejoices because it led to repentance and spiritual renewal. He distinguishes between worldly sorrow, which leads to death, and godly sorrow, which leads to repentance and salvation. Paul celebrates the Corinthians’ eagerness to clear themselves, their renewed obedience, and their restored relationship with him. The chapter highlights the fruit of repentance: joy, comfort, reconciliation, and strengthened relationships within the body of Christ.

Chapter 8 shifts to the theme of generosity, using the Macedonian churches as an example of joyful, sacrificial giving. Despite extreme poverty, they gave generously and willingly, driven by grace rather than obligation. Paul emphasizes that generosity flows from the grace of God and points to Jesus as the ultimate model: though He was rich, He became poor for our sake so that through His poverty we might become rich. Paul encourages the Corinthians to follow through on their earlier desire to give, stressing that God values readiness and willingness, not equal amounts. The chapter frames generosity as an act of worship, trust, and partnership in God’s work, rooted in the gospel itself.

Reflection Questions

1. Paul urges the Corinthians not to receive the grace of God in vain. What does it look like in your life to actively live out God's grace rather than merely acknowledge it? How might we receive it in vain?
2. In chapter 6, Paul describes ministry marked by hardship, endurance, and integrity. How do difficulties in your life reveal what you truly rely on and what kind of witness you are giving?
3. Paul says believers are the temple of the living God and calls them to holiness. Where might God be inviting you to create greater spiritual separation from influences that compromise your devotion to Him?
4. Paul makes a vulnerable appeal for open hearts and restored relationships. Are there relationships in your life where pride, fear, or past wounds are keeping your heart closed?
5. In chapter 7, Paul distinguishes between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow. How can you tell the difference in your own life when you experience conviction or regret?
6. What fruit of repentance—changed attitudes, renewed obedience, restored relationships—do you see in your life, and where might repentance still be needed?
7. In chapter 8, the Macedonian churches gave generously despite poverty. What does their example reveal about the relationship between joy, trust in God, and generosity?
8. Paul points to Jesus, who became poor so that we might become rich. How does the gospel shape the way you view money, possessions, and generosity?
9. Paul emphasizes willingness rather than equal amounts in giving. What does your current pattern of generosity reveal about your heart, priorities, and faith in God's provision?