

Question: Which of the two meanings (instrumental, or an experience passed through) is indicated in verse 8a?

2 Cor 6:8a _____

Question: Finally, these constructions are followed by nine profound PARADOXES that characterize the Christian life. List them in order from verse 8b through verse 10.

(Read 2 Cor 6:8b-10.)

As _____ and yet _____

As _____ and yet _____

As _____ and yet _____

As _____ and yet _____

As _____ yet _____

As _____ yet _____

As _____ yet _____

II CORINTHIANS

PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Part 11 – 2 Cor. 6:1-10 Trials and Paradoxes of the Christian Life

Warm-up: Was there ever a time in your life when you suffered some kind of *humiliation* because of your Christian faith? Have you experienced concrete *losses* (financial or otherwise) owing to your confession as a Christian? If so, how have these affected the way you live and how you think about yourself and your life?

Question: In chapter 6, Paul begins by referring to himself and his fellow evangelists as “workers together with him.” With whom? What does he mean? To answer, look back a few passages:

2 Cor 5:20 _____

Question: Paul has presented the gospel to the Corinthians. What is his plea at this point?

2 Cor 6:1 _____

Question: we know from Scripture that the word of God is “swift and powerful,” and that it accomplishes what the Lord pleases. Then how is it possible to “receive the grace of God in vain”?

Hebrews 4:1-2 _____

Question: Verse two of chapter 6 is a quotation from Isaiah 49:8. It is something of a parenthetical remark, and its meaning is clear. when is the right time for ANYBODY to receive and believe the gospel?

2 Cor 6:2 _____

Question: What does Paul say he has been careful *never* to do?

2 Cor 6:3 _____

Question: In fact, every part of Paul’s and his fellow evangelists’ behavior aims at the exact opposite – what is that?

2 Cor 6:4a _____

There is a definite and very beautiful structure to verses 4b through 10. They describe in detail the various trials and experiences that the apostles had endured in their Gospel ministry. Let’s take a close look at this structure, looking first at the ten nouns enumerated verses 4b-5.

Question: Of these ten, the first is the only one with an adjective attached – it is an overarching category that encompasses the following nine. What is that first, overarching category?

2 Cor 6:4b _____

Question: List the following nine experiences the apostles endured – experiences that endured MUCH PATIENCE:

2 Cor 6:4b _____

Question: What do you notice about these three items? Are they *general categories* of afflictions, or are they specific afflictions?

Question: What are the next three “experiences to be patiently endured” in the Gospel ministry?

2 Cor 6:5a _____

Question: What do you notice about these three items? Are they *general categories* of afflictions, or are they specific afflictions?

What are the next three aspects commonly encounter in Paul’s Gospel ministry?

2 Cor 6:5b _____

Question: What do you notice about the above three? How do they differ from the preceding six?

Question: The word “BY” (Greek *dia*) occurs 11 times in verses 6-8a. The Greek word *dia* can have an instrumental meaning (e.g., “I solved the mystery *by means of* deduction”) or it can indicate something that is passed through (e.g., “I went to L.A. *by way of* Omaha”) Which of these meanings do you think is appropriate in verses 6-7?

2 Cor 6:6-7 _____