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Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Title: *At your service*

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

**Paul wrote before about not offending in
2 Corinthians 6:3. People look for
reasons to discredit you. To the extent
possible, be careful not to give them one.**

**We have freedom in Christ, but we
should use discretion too. He's made the
same point before to these folks: 1
Corinthians 10:28-33**

**Be careful not to offend, especially if
doing so will impact opportunities to
evangelize: Romans 14:13-23**

**Be careful not to offend, especially if
doing so will impact opportunities to
evangelize: 1 Corinthians 8:4-13**

Paul writes that he and others are approved (2 Corinthians 6:4) as ministers of God. Others weren't, since they did what they did with the wrong motives or were enemies of the cross.

**Remember how he addressed
self-commendation?**

**2 Corinthians 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians
5:12-14**

**The word minister means to serve.
Paul's focus and our focus should be
first and foremost on our duties. That
service can come with a great deal of
issues, which Paul recounts (2
Corinthians 6:4-5).**

One part of Paul's list includes afflictions, and hardships, and distresses and beatings, and imprisonments, and tumults, and labors, and sleeplessness, and hunger. It's a difficult life.

**Later in this book, Paul recounts some
of the same list: 2 Corinthians 11:22-31**

We should be prepared to suffer some of the same afflictions in this life. It's a life ultimate in service to God.

1 Peter 4:1-5; 1 Peter 4:12-17

**The afflictions he and others saw,
though many, are light in comparison to
what they help bring about: 2**

Corinthians 4:15-18

**Paul turns to the many graces we enjoy
in 2 Corinthians 6:6-7. They were
produced via the trials he suffered. He
deserved nothing from the list, and we
don't either.**

**His list: purity, knowledge, patience, in
kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love,
the word of truth, the power of God; the
weapons of righteousness for the right
hand and the left.**

The last three verses of our passage (2 Corinthians 6:8-10) detail the bad actors who levied accusations against Paul and others. We'll focus on two aspects of that list today.

1) Paul mentions that he and others were poor but yet made many rich (2 Corinthians 6:10). That's a juxtaposition tied to the example that Christ left for us.

**Jesus Christ became poor for our sake,
that we might be rich: 2 Corinthians
8:8-12; Ephesians 1:15-21**

**2) Paul also mentioned having nothing
and yet all the same time having all
things. He lost a great deal for the sake
of the cross, but the things that
mattered, he had: Philippians 3:4-11**

Be careful not to offend those who are so often looking for reasons to discredit you and the gospel of the cross. We have a great deal of freedom, but discretion is key.

Paul and the others were servants, and they suffered a great deal. We will too, but try to keep your eyes forward even amid those trials.

**If you remember nothing else,
remember that the trials Paul + others
undertook brought about wonderful
gifts from God. They were light
afflictions by comparison, and we
should see them as such.**