



Icebreaker

What is the oldest, most beat-up item you use every single day?

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Read It

Read 2 Corinthians 6:1–7:1.

Explore It

1. How does Paul describe his relationship with God in verse 1?
2. According to verse 2, when is the "acceptable time" and the "day of salvation"?
3. What reason does Paul give in verse 3 for trying to "put no obstacle in anyone's way"?
4. List at least five of the hardships Paul mentions in verses 4–5 that "commend" or prove his ministry.
5. What are the five rhetorical questions Paul asks in verses 14–16 to show that believers and unbelievers shouldn't be "yoked" together?
6. According to 7:1, what two things should believers do because of God's promises?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Don't Hit "Snooze" on God

Read 2 Corinthians 6:1–2.

Are you a pro at procrastinating? If you're not sure what that means, it's basically the "I'll do it later" trap. It's when your teacher gives you a month for a huge project, but you find yourself staring at a blank Google Doc the night before it's due, wishing you'd started weeks ago.

The thing is, we don't just procrastinate on homework—we do it with God, too.

We often feel God tugging at our hearts. Maybe it's a nudge to finally open your Bible, a prompt to pray for a friend, or an idea to serve at church. But then... life happens.

- "I'm too busy with practice."
- "I have way too much homework."
- "I just need some 'me time' to scroll through TikTok or YouTube Shorts."

Before you know it, that nudge is gone, and you've put God on the back burner.

In the Bible, the apostle Paul describes himself and his friends as "**working together with Him [God]**." Think of it like **synergy**—it's like being part of a championship team where the coach (God) invites you to get in the game. You aren't just doing chores for Him; you are partnering with Him.

Because of this, Paul is pretty intense. He warns people not to "receive the grace of God in vain."

What does "in vain" mean? It doesn't mean you lose your salvation. It means you're letting God's power and love go to waste. It's like having a high-end gaming PC but only using it as a paperweight. If you stop listening or start making excuses, you miss out on the growth and the "fruit" God wanted to produce in your life.

Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah to make a point: God's timing isn't "someday."

The "right time" to follow God's lead isn't after you graduate, or when your schedule clears up next month, or after you finish one more video. The right time is the exact moment He speaks to your heart.

Don't wait until the "night before" to start your journey with Him. Start now.

7. **We all have that one thing we always put off until the last minute (cleaning our room, a specific subject in school, etc.). What is that for you, and why do you think you avoid it?**
8. **Paul calls believers "God's partners." How does it change your view of chores, schoolwork, or helping others to know you are "working together" with God?**
9. **Receiving grace "in vain" is like having a high-end gaming PC and using it as a paperweight. In what ways do we sometimes "waste" the potential God has put inside us?**
10. **Paul says God's clock always says "Now." Is there something you feel like God has been asking you to do (like apologizing to someone, praying more, or helping a friend) that you've been putting off? What is one small step you can take toward that today?**

Day 3 — Today's Theme: The "Damaged Package" Paradox

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3–10.

Have you ever ordered something online, only to have it show up with the box crushed, ripped, or looking like it went through a blender? What's your first move? You probably take a photo, hit "Return Item," and send it back. We don't want "damaged" stuff.

In our world, we're taught to hide the dents. We use filters to look perfect and only post our "wins" on our stories. But in God's kingdom, the rules are totally different.

The apostle Paul had a "resume" that would make most people cringe. If he were applying for a job today, he wouldn't list a fancy degree or a million followers. Instead, he pointed to his "damaged boxes." His credentials included:

- **Time in prison**
- **Surviving riots**
- **Being beaten**
- **Sleepless nights and hunger**

By the world's standards, Paul looked like a "damaged package." Most people would have rejected him or told him he was doing something wrong. But Paul saw it differently.

Paul's life was full of **paradoxes**—things that seem like they shouldn't make sense together, but they do. He described his life as:

- **"Dying,"** yet he was more **"alive"** than ever.
- **"Poor,"** yet he was **"making many rich"** through the gospel.
- **"Having nothing,"** yet **"possessing everything."**

He showed that being "real" for Jesus doesn't mean your life is a perfect, filtered photo. It means that even when you are **"struck down,"** you aren't **"destroyed."**

Authenticity > Perfection

Paul's secret wasn't that he was a superhero who never felt pain. His **authenticity** (being the real deal) came from the fact that his inner joy didn't depend on his outward circumstances.

If your happiness depends on your grades, your sports stats, or how many people liked your last post, you're going to be on a rollercoaster. But if your joy comes from Jesus, you can be "damaged" on the outside and still be full of life on the inside.

11. **A paradox is something that seems like it shouldn't be true, but it is (like "the more you give, the more you have"). Which of Paul's paradoxes in verses 8–10 do you relate to most (e.g., feeling "unknown" by people but "well-known" by God)?**
12. **Paul says his suffering actually proves his ministry is the "real deal." Why is a student who stays faithful during a hard season often more "believable" than one who only follows Jesus when life is easy?**
13. **Is there a "damaged" part of your life right now—something you're struggling with or embarrassed by—that you could actually use to help someone else? How does sharing your struggles make you more "real" (authentic) to your friends?**

Day 5 Today's Theme: The Sacred Separation

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1.

The "Pull Down" Effect

Think about this: If I had two students, one standing on a chair and one standing on the floor, and they grabbed hands, who would have the easier job? Would it be easier for the person on the chair to pull their friend up, or for the person on the floor to pull their friend down?

Gravity wins every time. It is much easier to pull someone down than it is to lift them up.

Life works the same way. When you choose your inner circle—the people you date or the best friends you share your deepest secrets with—who they are matters. If you're trying to follow Jesus but your closest partner doesn't share that goal, they are more likely to pull you away from your faith than you are to pull them toward it.

What is a "Yoke"?

In the Bible, the apostle Paul talks about not being **unequally yoked**. A yoke is a heavy wooden beam used to connect two oxen so they can pull a plow together.

- **The Match:** If you pair two strong, fast oxen, they work perfectly.
- **The Mismatch:** If you yoke a powerful ox with a tiny donkey, they'll just walk in circles. They aren't headed in the same direction, and they'll both end up frustrated.

Paul isn't saying you can't be friends with people who don't believe in Jesus. He's saying you shouldn't enter into "binding" relationships—like marriage or a serious dating relationship—with someone who doesn't share your core values. It's hard to build a life with someone if you're both pulling in opposite directions.

Living as a Temple

The goal here isn't to hide in a Christian bubble and never talk to anyone else. It's about knowing your value.

The Bible says you are a **"temple of the living God."**¹ That means God's spirit lives in you! Because you belong to Him, He calls you to stay away from things that mess with your head or your heart. We don't clean up our lives just to make God love us—He already does. We do it because we are His sons and daughters, and we want to live like it.

18. Why do you think it's naturally easier to pull someone down than to pull them up? Does that feel true in real life, or just in physics?

19. Paul says we shouldn't be "unequally yoked," but he doesn't say we can't be friends with people who believe different things. Where do you draw the line between a friend and a binding partnership?

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This study was written by Pastor Mario Arindaeng, based on the adult study by the VBC pastoral team.

¹1 Corinthians 6:19–20