

2022: A JOINT VENTURE: THE EMPOWERED PARTNERSHIP

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Titus 2:11-15

- The Empowered Partnership: we are working together with Him, we are all co-laborers...fellow workers with God...this is a joint venture.

1 LABORING TOGETHER [as God's fellow workers] with Him then, we beg of you not to receive the grace of God in vain [that merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence on souls and turns them to Christ, keeping and strengthening them—do not receive it to no purpose].

2 For He says, In the time of favor (of an assured welcome) I have listened to *and* heeded your call, and I have helped you on the day of deliverance (the day of salvation). Behold, now is truly the time for a gracious welcome *and* acceptance [of you from God]; behold, now is the day of salvation! 2

Corinthians 6:1-2 AMPC

- “As cooperators with God Himself” ...Phillips
 - “Sharing in His work” ...NEB
 - “As men who are working with God” ...Beck
 - ...” God’s own words are: in the hour of My favor I gave heed to you; on the day of deliverance I came to your aid...” NEB
 - ...” Now is the time for acceptance! Now is the day of deliverance.” TCNT
- God’s grace (see v1 above).
 - God’s unmerited favor

1Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. **Romans 5:1-2 NASB**

- ...” the experience of God’s grace in which we now live.” TEV
- ... “an introduction into that state of favor with God in which we stand... “ Weymouth N.T.
- God’s adequacy.

9And He has said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NASB**

- The desire and power to do the will of God.

For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. **Philippians 2:13 NASB**

- Jesus the source of grace and truth.

14And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15John *testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ” 16For of

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His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*. 19This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **John 1:14-19 NASB**

- Don't receive God's grace in vain: empty without purpose or without result.
 - This is not empowered or a partnership
- A new creature, a new partnership and old 'nullifiers'.
 - The new creation/creature and the partnership.

14For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. 17Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:14-21 NASB**

17 Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

18 But all things are from God, who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]. **2**

Corinthians 5:17-21 AMPC

- A new being, a new creation, a new creature, a new person, in a new world.
- The new partnership...
 - Love lifts us to the correct conclusion...my life is hidden with Christ in God. (v14)
 - We are free to be His by virtue of His death and resurrection. (v14-15)
 - 'New eyes' to see a new way! (v16-17)
 - New ministry: reconciliation. (v18)

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- The new ministry defined...because of Jesus' substitutionary death, God does not count our trespasses and sins against us. Amazing! (v19)
 - New commission: we are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God with new 'credentials'. (v20)
 - The new creation reality...by grace we have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (v21)
- The same old nullifiers the enemy tries to offer.

We have been FREED!

6knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7for he who has died is freed from sin. **Romans 6:6-7 NASB**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **Galatians 2:20 NASB**

Religion/Law vs the new creation

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. **Galatians 5:6 NASB**

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. **Galatians 6:15 NASB**

The TRUE new you...not a make-over of carnality... renewed to a true knowledge.

20But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. **Ephesians 4:20-24 NASB**

20If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22(which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence. **Colossians 2:20-23 NASB**

9Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, 10and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. **Colossians 3:9-10 NASB**

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. **Titus 2:11-15 NASB**

- The new creation, new partnership guidelines: or how not to nullify the grace of God. **Titus 2:11-15**
 - God's grace is here to save us from Hell, from sin, and from ourselves! (v11)
 - God's grace saves us via teaching us and instructing us.
 - He often does this by showing us the richness and value of what is godly.
 - His grace teaches us to deny worldly desires... "Love not the world". (v12)
 - One of His best teaching tools is to 'un-mask' this world system and let us see how hollow, dark, and fleeting it all is.
 - He also opens up His powerful presence to us and allows us 'to drink from the river of His delights.'
 - His grace teaches us to live sensibly. (v12) (see also II Timothy 1:7)
 - His grace teaches us to live righteously and godly in the 'now'!

[After all] the kingdom of God is not a matter of [getting the] food and drink [one likes], but instead it is righteousness (that state which makes a person acceptable to God) and [heart] peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Romans 14:17 NASB**

- His grace teaches us to put our hope in Jesus and to have eternal perspective. (v13)
- His grace reminds us that we have been redeemed from every lawless deed. (v14)
- His grace instructs us that we are a part of a people that the Lord redeemed for Himself...for His own possession. (v14)
- His grace teaches us to be energized for good deeds. (v14)