

A window with a grid pattern, showing raindrops on the glass and a view of green trees outside. The text is overlaid on the right side of the window.

When the Rains Come

A study of 2 Corinthians

A window with a grid pattern. The glass is covered in rain droplets. Outside the window, there are green trees and a bright sky. The text "When the Rains Come..again" is overlaid on the right side of the window.

When
the
Rains
Come..again

A study of 2 Corinthians





When the Rains Come

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...the relationship between

'suffering'

and

'the power of the Spirit' ...

***in the midst of moral, societal and
interpersonal conflict***

As devoted followers of Jesus...
we look at the Scriptures for what it tells us
about..

What is true about God?

What is true about us?

What are we instructed to obey?

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What is true about God?

Based on understanding who He is...

What is true about us?

based on understanding who we are...

What are we instructed to obey?

this is how life really works!!!

II Corinthians 1:3-4

The umbrella statement of this letter revealing the character of God and it's implications for our character and the life He has called us to:

II Corinthians 1:3-4

The umbrella statement of this letter revealing the character of God and it's implications for our character and the life He has called us to:

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**
- 4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

II Corinthians 5

Character

Call

Core

Control

Creation

Character

**Character of God is such that we can
know Him,
admire Him,
and trust Him
in a way that changes everything about
the trajectory of our lives.**



Call
**Our call is to be
ambassadors,
persuaders,
spokesmen
that God can use to communicate and
demonstrate the ministry of reconciliation**

When the Rains Come

Core

The core of the gospel is crystal clear that the righteousness of God is only possible through the work of Christ who became sin our our behalf so that righteousness could be imparted to us by His grace.

Control

We relinquish control of our live to Christ, whose love is the only source of real life and through whom we have died along with Him, so that we can live along with Him.

Creation

**We have become a new creature in Christ,
a desperately needed experience
in light of the dead end road we found
ourselves on paved with
the road kill of our sin.**

II Corinthians 5:20-21

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,

God making His appeal through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21

For our sake He made Him to be sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

II Corinthians 6:1-13

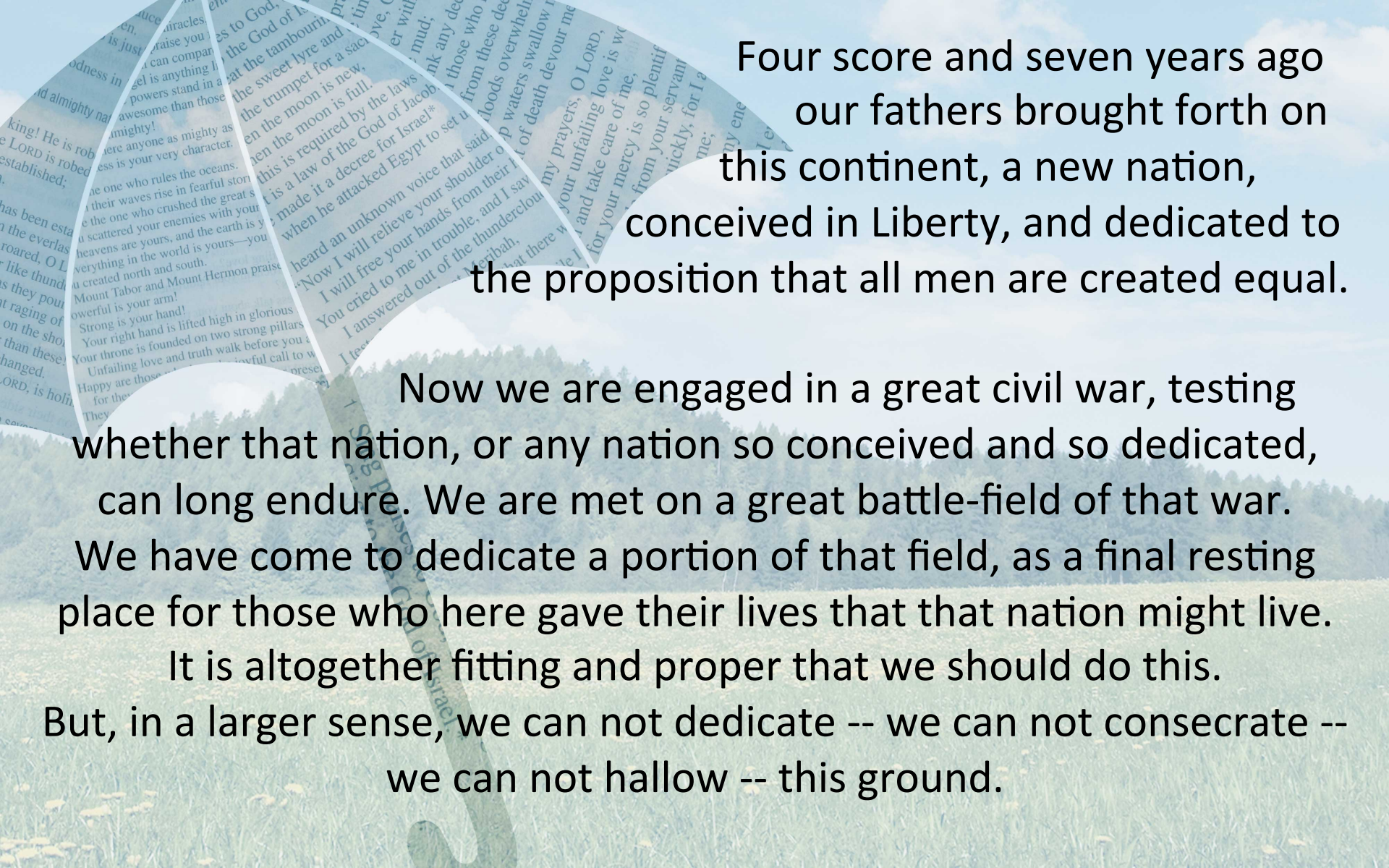
- 1 Working together with Him, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
- 2 For He says,
 “In a favorable time I listened to you,
 and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”
Behold, now is the favorable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

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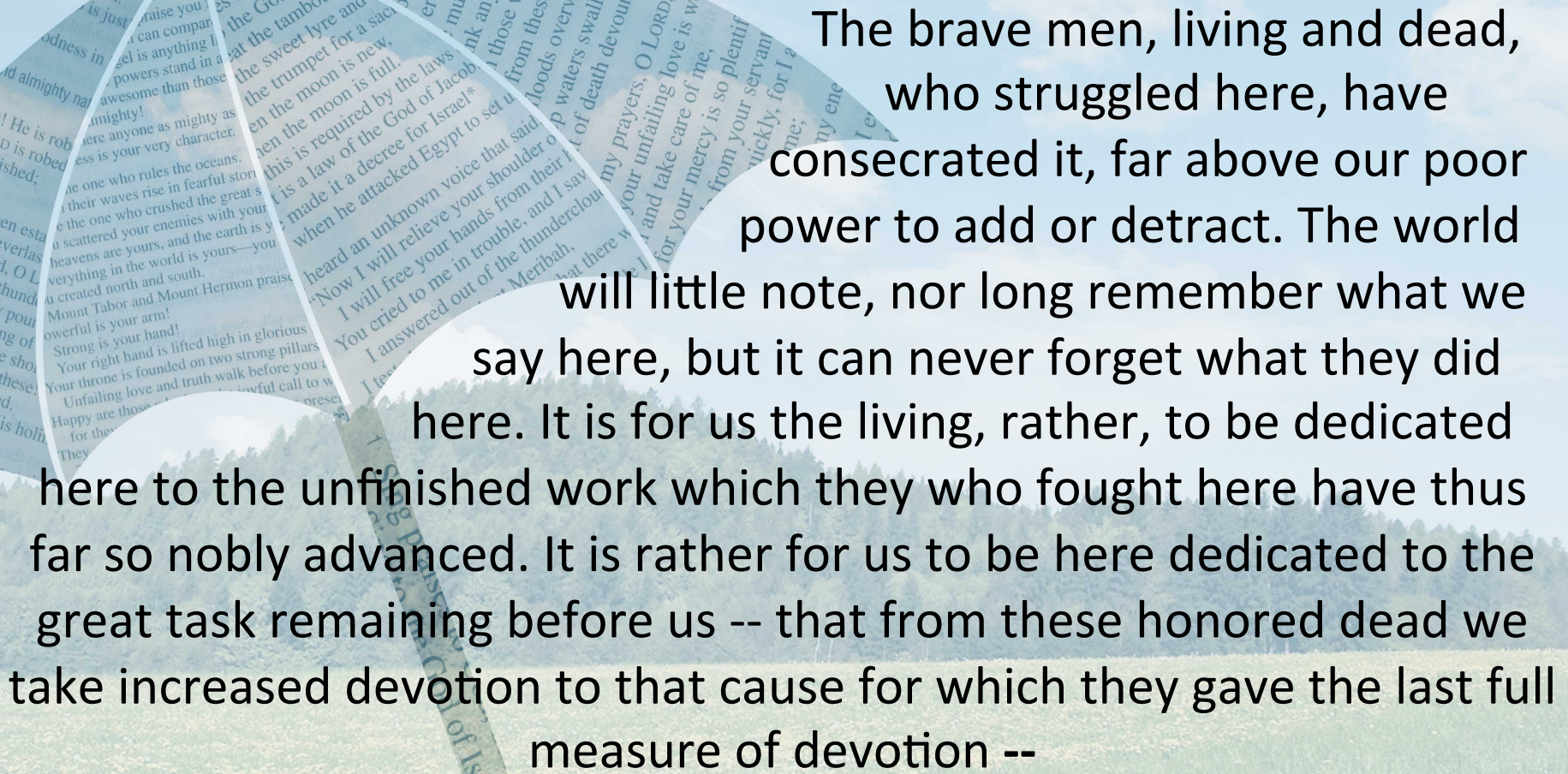
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Four score and seven years ago
our fathers brought forth on
this continent, a new nation,
conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to
the proposition that all men are created equal.

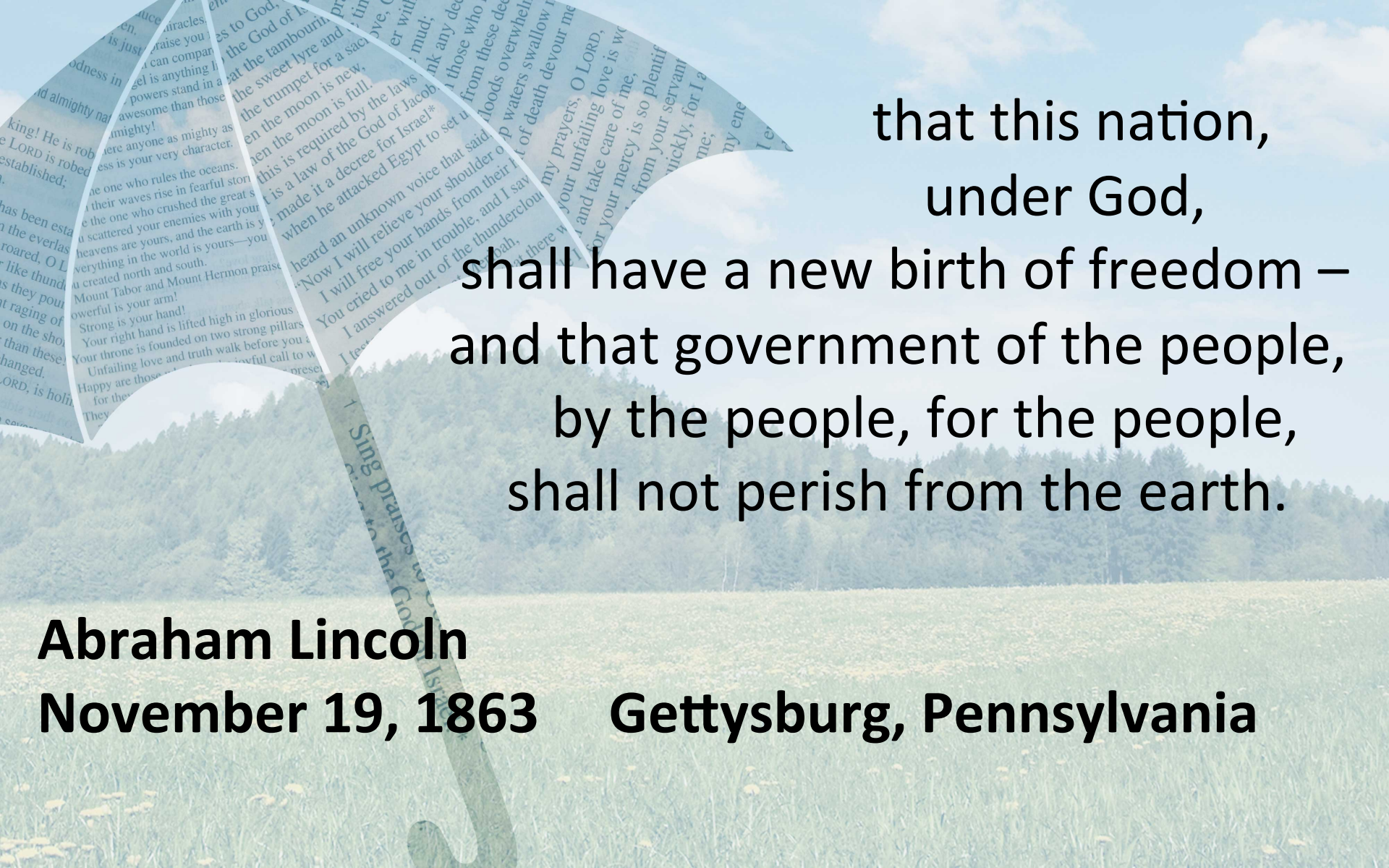
Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing
whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated,
can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war.
We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.
But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate --
we can not hallow -- this ground.



The brave men, living and dead,
who struggled here, have
consecrated it, far above our poor
power to add or detract. The world
will little note, nor long remember what we
say here, but it can never forget what they did
here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated
here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus
far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the
great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we
take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full
measure of devotion --

**that we here highly resolve
that these dead shall not have died in vain --**



that this nation,
under God,
shall have a new birth of freedom –
and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

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TODAY MATTERS

II Corinthians 6:1-13

- 3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may
be found with our ministry,
- 4 but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every
way: by great endurance,
in afflictions,
hardships,
calamities,
- 5 beatings,
imprisonments,
riots,

II Corinthians 6:1-13

labors,
sleepless nights,
hunger,

II Corinthians 6:1-13

labors,
sleepless nights,
hunger,

II Corinthians 11:23-27

...far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I

received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through sleepless night; in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

II Corinthians 6:1-13

- 6 by purity,
knowledge,
patience,
kindness,
the Holy Spirit,
genuine love,
- 7 by truthful speech,
and the power of God;
with weapons of righteousness
for the right hand and for the left;

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Ephesians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.

II Corinthians 6:1-13

8 through honor and dishonor,
through slander and praise.

We are treated as imposters, and yet true;

9 as unknown, and yet well known;
as dying, and behold, we live;
as punished, and yet not killed;

10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

II Corinthians 6:1-13

II Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;

always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

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HOW WE LIVE MATTERS

II Corinthians 6:1-13

- 11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians;
our heart is wide open.
- 12 You are not restricted by us,
but you are restricted in your own affections.
- 13 In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

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OUR HEARTS MATTER



So.....therefore.....what now?

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Embrace the 'dignity' for which we all were created.

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Take seriously the grace of God for us and for others.

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Take seriously the grace of God for us and for others.

Measure carefully the events of our days.

Do not get distracted nor discouraged by the difficulties of our lives, knowing that God is using them.

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Take seriously the grace of God for us and for others.

Measure carefully the events of our days.

Do not get distracted nor discouraged by the difficulties of our lives, knowing that God is using them.

Exam honestly the 'openness' of our hearts toward the things of God and the people of God.

So.....therefore.....what now?

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Life Matters

Do not get distracted nor discouraged by the difficulties of our lives, knowing that God is using them.

Exam honestly the 'openness' of our hearts toward the things of God and the people of God.

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