# Walking through treacle 8. Minister in brokenness

## 2 Cor 5:20-6:13

# Holding standards

## Many Christians believe that they can only serve in the church if they are living a reasonably Christian life

### Many others betray this as their view when they face a difficulty

## This passage says there’s another perspective

### Grace is the way…

#### Pride and grace cannot exist in the same space

# God wants intimacy with you

## His desire is for you and Him to walk through life and eternity together

## Getting there is a one-way process

### Relying on the rescue and grace of God

#### You take on His values

#### You conform to His glory & His righteousness

#### You take on His priorities

#### You become part of His kingdom

### Once you get that straight life becomes simpler

#### Without this mindset you will not understand 6:3-10

# God’s servants are His fellow-workers

## Servants are not God’s equal

### We are those who join in with the work of God

# God’s kingdom is about you receiving

### You received God’s favour

### You received God’s salvation

## He is the God of GRACE

### Salvation starts with Him

### Salvation belongs to Him

#### This is where Paul started the Corinthians on the journey of faith in Christ

## Paul’s description of life tells us he was expecting no favours from God because He decided to follow Jesus

### This is the mindset of those sold-out to follow Jesus

# Servants of God

## Don’t wait until they are perfect before they serve

## Rely on God’s grace

## Serve in brokenness

## Serve because they have received

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Receiving God’s grace

## How is it possible to ‘receive God’s grace in vain’ (6:1)

## Why do you think Paul quotes Isaiah then ADD ‘Now is the time…’

### What do you think changed the indefinite (and reflective) to the definite?

# Ministering to people

## In what ways can we put ‘stumbling-blocks’ in people’s path towards God?

### How can they be minimised?

## How does Paul ‘commend himself in every way’?

### Why does this NOT lead to pride?

## Compare this passage (6:3-10) to 1 Cor 13:1-8

### What do they have in common?

### To what extent do you agree that stumbling-blocks boil down to a lack of love?

#### Explain your answer

# Brokenness

## To what extent does brokenness imply uselessness or worthlessness?

### Can a Christian show both brokenness and pride in maturity?

#### Explain your answer

## How does brokenness make us better servants?

### What does brokenness do to our attitude to ourselves and to others?

## How do you think Peter’s brokenness from his denial of Christ (Jn 13:31ff; 18:15ff; 21:15ff and Mk 16:7) make him a better pastor:

### To those who had denied Christ?

### To those who had fled when persecuted?

# God’s values and attitudes

## To what extent do you agree that a follower of Christ must abandon their own priorities and values for those of Christ?