

Let The Bible Speak Series

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Now Is The Time, This Is The Place, We Are The People

This morning we want to read from 1 Corinthians 6 verse 2 "For He says In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Now is the time. What a challenging statement. Often we are tempted to wait until later to do the things that are demanding and necessary. This scripture indicates the danger in such a practice. All too often people have a tendency to put off until tomorrow what needs to be done today. Although there are some things that are so unproductive, and so unimportant, and so unnecessary that it doesn't make much difference if they are ever done or not, yet there are other things of such great importance that they dare not be delayed for a week or even for a day:

...some surgeries dare not be delayed, lest gangrene set in, they must operate now
...some accident victims dare not delay in receiving medical treatment, lest they die. They must be treated now

...fireman dare not delay when called to a fire, lest they arrive too late to save anything.

...emergencies call for quick and prompt action right Now, and not later. Later could be very costly. This same precious truth applies to our spiritual lives as well:

2Cor.6:2 "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation."

Isa.55:6 "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

Now and not later is often God's plan, purpose and will for our lives. As far as God is concerned, NOW is the time for you... ..to reach out to Him...to put your trust in Him, ...to hold to his hand...to believe and obey his word...to seek his face...to stand upon his promises. Some people, if they don't do it now, may "never" do it at all. Felix (Acts 24:25) waited for a more "convenient" season, but we never read where one came. Some things cannot wait for a more "convenient season" they require immediate attention.

There are times when even a single moment carries the weight of eternity in it, and if we fail to take advantage of the privileges offered then, we may never have another opportunity. Now is the only time we really have. Yesterday can never be recalled, and tomorrow may never get here, therefore if we are going to do what needs to be done, we must do it now. If you need...to repent of your sins, Now is the time to do it---Acts 17:31...to make some restitution, Now is the time to do it ...to submit yourself to God, Now is the time to do it---James 4:7 "...resist the devil..."...to change your lifestyle, Now is the time to do it---Rom.6:17-18 "But God be thanked" Furthermore, if you are wanting to become...a more dedicated Christian, now is the time to do it...a better worker for the Cause of Christ, now is the time to do it...a better husband or wife, now is the time to do it--Eph. 5:25 "husbands love your..."...a better son or daughter, now is the time to do it-- Eph.6:1-2 "children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right."

Now is the time to mend broken homes where parents are not working together in rearing their children and making the church first in their lives. Now is the time to take a stand

for the truth. The truth that shall make us free Jno.8:31, the truth as God reveals it in his word Jno. 17:17. Now is the time to oppose the change agents of our day who would rework and redo the church, changing not only her mission, but her program of work and worship as well. Now is the time to restore the church to a saving agency instead of a recreational society, a glorified lions club. We never know for sure about tomorrow, we only have assurance for today. We never know which step will be our last step We never know when our heart will beat its last beat Therefore, we must do now what needs to be done...while we still have time...while we are still able to do whatever needs to be done...while your heart is still tender...while God is still in mercy lingering NOW IS THE TIME.

II. This Is The Place. Genesis 28:16 "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." (Jacob)_Mark 9:5 "And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here..."_Eph.3:21 "to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever." Some people spend too much time looking for "the right place" but never seem to find it. If such an attitude describes you, then you need to remember that, Whatever: ...you need from God, you can find it here--in the church...you are searching for, it is right here--in Christ, in the church...whatever your life is void of...whatever your soul hungers for, whatever...your heart yearns for, you can find it here--in the church There is absolutely no need for you to go any place else in order to receive these things. They are available right here. No need to look in: The world, Denominationalism, Digression If you are looking for:...peace of mind...for joy unspeakable...for love and understanding...for assurance...for genuine forgiveness---Your Can Find It Here Furthermore, if you are needing.....answers to questions...solutions to problems...strength to overcome...armor to defeat Satan...wisdom to carry on, and...courage to win the battle, You Can Find It Here. Why run to and for in a continual search that, thus far, has only led to disappointment? Why fear the possibility of never receiving what you are desperately needing? Why go from place to place, only to return with little or no results, when it is available to you right here in this place? (Note the Prodigal Son) If Your life needs to be changed, it can be changed right here---Rom.6:17-18; if your morals need to be adjusted, they can be adjusted here---2Cor.5:17. If your faith needs to be increased---Rom.10:17 if your spiritual eyes need to be opened, if your heart needs to be touched---It can be touched here. Why not discover what many others have already found, that here:...the fountain of Christ's precious blood still flows--Zech. 13:1 "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness." ...the word of God is still "living and powerful" Heb. 4:12 ...the gospel is still the power of God to save Rom. 1:16...the songs of Zion are still sung and...the Lord is still worshipped and praised on a regular basis. As a matter of fact, you will not find another place, like this place, and since "now is the time," you may not have time to look for another place...where your sins can be forgiven...where your soul can be revived...where your prayers can be answered...where your marriage can be mended...where your enemy can be defeated, and...where you can find hope for the future.

III. We Are The People.

1Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar

people..." Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world; and preach the gospel to every creature." If something needs to be done, then, We need to do it. We dare not leave it to chance or someone else. If sinners need the gospel, then it is our responsibility to preach it to them. No one else will. If problems involving the church, need solving, we must do our part to solve them. Others may be relying on us. If there is a "gap" that needs to be filled, then we must fill it, and not wait for someone else who may not fill it either. Ezek. 22:30 "...sought a man to stand in the gap..." What ever others may, or may not do, We must not.....overlook Our responsibilities...dismiss Our possibilities...neglect Our opportunities...avoid Our obligations...forget Our business...hide from Our difficulties and We must not...ignore Our problems--for in so doing, we not only fail ourselves, our brethren, our children, but we fail Our Lord. We cannot afford to wait for somebody else: ...to teach our children the things of God-- We must do it. Eph. 6:4 "Fathers provoke..." Deut. 4:10 "...that they may learn to fear Me all the days other live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."

...To take care of the church's financial needs. That is our duty. 1Cor.16:1-2

...to claim the promises that God has for his people...to reach out to lost souls in our community. We must reach out to them We cannot wait for somebody else to reveal the love, mercy and grace of God, we must be willing to reveal it through our lives. We can't wait for someone else to challenge and oppose all the changes taking place. We must all get involved. ALL not just preachers and leaders, but ALL for:

...some may never hear unless we tell them...some may never be helped unless we help them...some may never be reached with the gospel unless we reach them...some may never come to church, unless we bring them...some may never be victorious unless we encourage them WE individually...are to be the light of the world Mt.5:16

...are to be the salt of the earth...are to be an example of the believers 1Tim.4:12

...are to be "on fire" for the Lord...are to be faithful to the church...are to be holy in our life style Rom. 12:1-2 Instead of checking others over and criticizing their efforts, we need to keep check on ourselves. For most of us, that will be enough to keep us fully occupied. We as a church:...are to fulfill the will of God...bear one another's burdens ...be strong in the Lord...worship God in spirit and truth. We are to gather together, we are to pray together, we are to sing together, we are to worship together, we are to stand together, we are to rejoice together, and we are to work together. Therefore whatever others may or may not do, We must never: ...surrender to the enemy...yield to temptation...let down our standards...rely on "mans" wisdom...resort to the flesh or...cater to the world forget our vows and commitments to God Yes, we are the people. We simply can't leave it up to others. We can't let down, and we better not give up. Although others:...may lose the race...may deny the faith...may ignore the warnings of God's word...may avoid the lost...may neglect the need...may fail the Lord---- We can't. The Church of God stands today facing a desperate crisis. It is just as it was in the stirring days of the Revolutionary War When the Continental army was surrounded by hired Hessians on every side. Tom Paine, sitting in the light of his flickering campfire, extracted a fagot that had burned out, and scrawled upon his drum head, "These are the times which try men's souls." That night General Washington looked at his snowbound

troops and gave this terse order "Put none but Americans on guard tonight." Before us and around us on every side are such circumstances and conditions as will cause the church to go down underneath the weight of our own apostasy. Now is the time, this is the place, and We are the people.