

Week of August 5-11

NOW

Scripture Reading: Read 2 Corinthians 6

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No matter how many languages you use, it still means the same thing:

NOW!

It's the point Paul is making to the church at Corinth in the opening verses of 2 Corinthians chapter 6: *"I tell you, **now** is the time of God's favor, **now** is the day of salvation."* We are living in an age where the good news of Jesus Christ is available to all who will respond to the Spirit's conviction and open their hearts by faith to the gospel. It is a message of life and salvation. It is a message of hope and grace. It's a message that Paul did not want anyone to miss: *"As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain."*

For those reading this who do not know Jesus, today is the day of salvation. You are living in a time when the gospel is being preached around the globe. Don't miss this day of opportunity. Don't ignore the call to repent like the world did at the time of Noah. Repentance was preached up to the time the door of the ark was closed by God and then it was too late. The "now" time had passed for that generation and they perished in the flood. According to Peter, God's judgment by fire is coming. Now is the day of salvation. Don't miss the grace that is being offered to you. Repent now while it is still "now" time.

For those reading this who do know Jesus, we too are urged not to receive God's grace in vain. The call to believers is a call to holiness and righteous living now as Paul makes clear in the second half of today's chapter reading: *"For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.' 'Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.' 'I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'" We have been given "now" time to live a holy life.*

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Reread the last few verses of 2 Cor 5 to see how they connect to what Paul has to say in the opening verses of chapter 6. Also, reflect on Paul's questions in 2 Cor 6:14-16 in light of your life to determine what might need to change in the way you live your faith. Pray that you might use your "now" time to enter into a right relationship with Christ and to surrender your life to him in holy living.

Take-a-way: *Knowing Christ and living for Him is the best use of "NOW" time!*