

Today Is The Day

- *II Corinthians 6:1-10*

- **If you are glad to be in the Lord's House this morning, say Amen! I appreciate you being here & I trust that today we will allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts as we discuss the topic of taking advantage of the opportunity given to us.**
- **PRAYER**
 - If I had some information that could make you extremely rich today, what kind of friend would I be if I chose not to tell you? Maybe I was too afraid you wouldn't believe me, so I just chose not to say anything.
 - With so much uncertainty in the world today, many have taken the motto of "making the most of the moment".
 - I could not agree with that phrase anymore.
 - Being around sickness & death causes you to appreciate life a little more perhaps & certainly causes you to give everything you have for the moment, b/c both saved & unsaved alike would agree, we are not promised tomorrow.
- **In speaking of the brevity of this life, I hope it causes us to:**
 - Spend more time with our families,
 - Take the time to say, "I love You", to those you hold dear,
 - Say a kind word or do a kind deed while you still have the opportunity.
 - But above all, may it cause us to evaluate our relationship with God in this moment.
- **In the book of Ephesians, Paul is writing to the church at Ephesus in an effort to encourage them & motivate them in their ministry.**
 - In chapters 6 & 7, Paul makes an appeal & seeks to explain his ministry.
 - He has told his readers that, in spite of trials, his was a triumphant ministry and a glorious ministry, and that he could not ever think of quitting. In other words, he made the most of his ministry.
 - His enemies had accused him of using the ministry for personal gain, but he had proved his ministry to be sincere and based on faith in God. All that remained now was to challenge the hearts of the Corinthians and assure them of his love and his love for others.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **This is a text that is generally made use of in appeals to those who are not Christians, but as we read the verses preceding and following the text, you will see that it is an appeal as well to those who are already Christians.**
 - To those that are unsaved, the message of salvation is the sweetest message that they will ever hear, but may the message of salvation remind us that it is also the sweetest message we have to proclaim.
 - This church from the eyes of many may seem "Old-Fashioned", extremely conservative, and even some might say too narrow minded when it comes to issues like convictions, standards, & especially salvation.
 - But I believe that this Bible is God's Word, I believe His path & His instructions are clear when it comes to salvation. His way was not meant to be convenient to us nor was it meant to be treated in a way that we could manipulate as needed.
 - I can reason with myself that I am good enough to achieve salvation on my own, but that's not scriptural.
 - I can decide for myself what is right or wrong, but that's not obeying God's Word.

- If you are here this morning & you have rejected the blood of Christ as payment for your sins b/c you feel like you are good enough or you have plenty of time, I would urge you to look at the truth of the scriptures.
- Jesus Christ paid a high price for our salvation! It cost Him leaving Heaven's throne, being beaten, taking our sin upon Himself, and giving of His life for the world. That is a price that is deserving of honor & our commitment to Him.
 - Salvation is a general word that we use, but it has a very broad and extensive definition. It means for one thing that we are justified. If you realized the meaning of this word justification, it would change your life.
 - It means to stand before God as if you had never sinned. It means to have every sin put away. It means to stand in God's sight with your life as clean and white as snow.
 - Every sin that you have committed, however small or big you think it is, has been paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - His blood didn't just cover the major sins, not just the sins of the righteous, not just the sins of good people, but it covered the sins of the world.
 - And by accepting His death as payment for your sins & trusting in Him as your Lord and Savior, we can stand before a Holy God as if we had never sinned. That's amazing, is it not?
 - It also means redemption. I want you to catch a vision of the marvelous thing that is yours when you accept Jesus Christ. "We are redeemed, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ."
 - I was on the internet the other day & I saw 2 cars that for all practical purposes was like many other cars on the road today. Look at these 2 cars:
 - They both have 4 wheels,
 - They both have a steering wheel,
 - They have seats to sit in,
 - They have headlights & taillights,
 - They both have an engine, doors, radio, etc.
 - But I was astounded at the price of the car on the right! The owner was asking \$370,000.
 - This price represented the owner's estimate of the value of this car.
 - You may be here this morning & you don't consider yourself very valuable b/c you are looking through the world's eyes. They don't own you. The world didn't create you.
 - As an unsaved person, you may think God could never love you enough to forgive you of your sins. But my friend, that's the very reason that Jesus gave His life ... not b/c you were good enough, but b/c God loved you that much!
 - As a Christian, you may say that your life is not worth very much, but b/c you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, you are EXTREMELY valuable.
 - In the sight of God you are worth more than all the gold in the hills, all the diamonds in the fields, all the wealth that this world has to offer.

- What about the gift of forgiveness? I wished we could get to the point in our lives where we could begin to really appreciate the value of forgiveness. That is in part the value of this great salvation.
 - When someone offends us, we are instructed to forgive them. But though we may forgive them, there are instances where it is very difficult to forget what has been done.
 - One of the most amazing things about God's forgiveness is not just that He forgives us when we ask, but that He remembers it no more!
 - When our sins are blotted out, He holds no grudges against us, AMEN!
 - He puts my sins behind Him, casts them into the depths of the sea, as far as the east is from the west, never to be remembered anymore.
 - That is how precious this salvation is. Salvation means redemption. It means justification. It means divine forgiveness and forgetfulness of sin. No wonder it was so easy for Paul to boldly proclaim, "Behold, now is the day of salvation."
- **If you are here this morning & you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, I want you to know that God loves you today & He has no intention of you dying in your sin. He did not create you to go to hell. He loves you so much in fact that He gave of His Only Son so that you might be set free!**
 - If you don't know Him today, our prayer is that you will think very seriously about this time that you have today & we trust that you will take advantage of the greatest choice you will ever make ... accepting Christ & His death as payment for your sins.
- **But what does this text mean to us as Christians? It takes on the meaning that now is the day to present salvation to others. Now is the day to tell them about it. To-day is the day to announce it to your children, to tell it to your classmates. Now is the day when a business man should speak to his employees and tell them about salvation. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."**
 - Do you believe that God hears our prayers?
 - Do you believe God is able to answer our prayers, even though they may seem small to us?
 - Do you believe God can honor our requests if they are according to His will?
 - When is the last time you prayed for God to send someone to you in need of Christ?
- **We build churches so that people can hear the Gospel, we send missionaries to foreign fields so that others can hear the Gospel, but what are you doing?**
 - "I give my tithes to the church Pastor." Well that is obeying God partly, but what are you doing with the Gospel message?
 - "I try to help people in their time of need." Excellent, you are being a good servant which God requires of us, but what about the message of the cross.
 - There are people surrounding you every day that are starving to hear the truth.
 - They know you go to church.
 - They see you carry your Bible from time to time.
 - You may even pray in public over your meals.
 - You talk like you care about people.
 - But you never take the time to share with them the Gospel message. Why?
- **In studying God's Word, you will see that Jesus never met people by coincidence. He was always planning these meetings, anticipating to meet their need.**
 - The woman at the well. (John 4:3-7)
 - The lame man at the pool.

- The blind man.
- Jarius' daughter.
- Even Lazarus.
- Were all of these instances just coincidences? No, everywhere Jesus went He sought to impact people & share with them the love of God. Everywhere He went, He sought for opportunities to share with them & increase their faith in God.
- **If you are saved this morning, I will remind you that you are still here on this earth for a reason. God has a plan for you, and part of that plan includes spreading this glorious Gospel.**
- **It is a strange thing that though we know how men may become Christians, and have their sins forgiven, our lips are so often sealed. It is easy to talk about almost everything under the sun, but when we begin to talk about Christ, we become uncomfortable & shy away many times. Why do we not talk freely and urgently about Christ, eternity & hell?**
 - "Pastor, it's not my place to judge?"
 - God has already judges us b/c we all have sinned & the payment for that sin is death. (Rom 3:23; 6:23)
 - "But what if they reject me?"
 - They rejected Christ, they hated Him. As a matter of fact, Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." – John 15:18
 - Parents, how many of you have spoken to your children about Jesus Christ?
 - You say the minister will win them, or the Sunday School teacher, or the children's church worker. I would be ashamed if I thought anybody in this world had more influence with my children than I. If we teach our children how to be model citizens, get a good education, work hard & we never tell them about Christ, we have failed!
 - Many of you have some close friends today that don't know Christ. If you cared anything about them at all, you would seek an opportunity today to share with them the Gospel. More importantly, b/c we love Christ we are compelled to share with others.
 - II Corinthians 5:14 – "For the love of Christ constraineth us;"
- **It is said of Mr. Moody that he never let a day go by without speaking to somebody about Christ. He went to bed one night and could not sleep. Twenty minutes after eleven, and still no sleep. A quarter to twelve, and he was still awake. He had not kept his promise. He arose and dressed himself, and rushed out of the house. As he turned the corner he ran into a man and Mr. Moody shouted out to him: "Are you a Christian?" The man said: "None of your business." Mr. Moody said: "Why, yes, it is my business." The man squared himself up and said: "If it is your business, then I know your name. Your name is D. L. Moody." It was a marvelous thing that a man could be so true to Christ, so loyal to his Master, that a man who met him in the dark knew who he was when he spoke about the Savior.**
- **I do not know whether I will ever preach again, that's why I must take this opportunity to say, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."**
 - If you are here this morning & you have never accepted Christ, why don't you take Him? Sir, ma'am, why don't you take Him today? Why don't you accept my Savior?
 - Christian, what is keeping you from sharing the greatest message this world will ever know, that Jesus Saves? Will you commit to share it today?