



2nd Corinthians 6:1-2
Pastor Vincent B. Ligon
Sunday, September 18th, 2016
"Back To Church Sunday"
WELCOME

INTRODUCTION – 2ND Corinthians 6:1-2

What Time Is it in Your Life? Is it time to discover hope in the mist of life's struggles, or is it time to find your purpose. Now is the time for change. Now is the time of God's favor, now is the time for His salvation

I. NOW'S THE TIME.....

A. For.... HOPE

1. Secure Hope – Hebrews 6:19

We often think an anchor is just used to keep a boat in one place, that only happens in calm waters. An anchor isn't actually tied onto anything; it merely holds a boat in a general area by preventing it from drifting too far. But, more important is an anchor is used to stabilize a boat in inclement weather. This heavy object creates a drag through the water, slowing the boat down. It also can prevent a boat from turning sideways to the waves and being overwhelmed by them.

The writer in Hebrews tells us that our hope in God is our anchor in life, and it's a **GOOD, FIRM, AND SECURE** hope.

2. What Is "Hope"?

Our ordinary use of "hope" implies uncertainty – we hope for something. BUT, our hope is in the Lord. Biblical hope is a confident expectation, a sure desire. Our hope is in the One who controls the waves.

Question(s)

What in your life feels firm and secure? What do you hope in and for?

B. FOR...GRACE

1. Saving Grace – Ephesians 2:8-9

Free samples at the grocery stores, free bags of goodies at a conference, free T-shirts at an outdoor event. Isn't free stuff great? And yet free quickly became hard for us to accept in our society. We like things that we've earned. We like things that make a statement to others about us, we like looking good, we like to boast about what we have done and how we got there.

But the Grace of God puts an abrupt halt to all of that thinking and motivation. Here in this book of Ephesians the writer Paul again is teaching us something very important. And that is.... **Wait For It! It's all about God, and has nothing to do with Us.**

Note Ephesians 2:8-9 again

In other words, it, Grace was freely give as a gift that none of us deserved, and therefore, none of us can boast about how we got it. No boasting, all God.

Wait, check this out!

2. This Grace is Only Through Jesus Christ – John 1:16-17

John 1:16-17

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

16 Yes, the Word was full of grace and truth, and from him we all received one blessing after another, grace in place of grace."17 That is, the law was given to us through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Our one-time gift from God is ongoing, overflowing, limitless flow, of Grace, which never runs out.

Ephesians 3:20
Amplified Bible (AMP)

²⁰ **Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us,**

This is what the Grace of God has been, and will continually be. In **John 1:16-17** the writer John said, The undeserved gift of salvation through Jesus Christ was and still is "grace in place of grace", the next scene in God's unfolding story of true love and redemption (the act of making something better or more acceptable) for the world.

REVIEW

Now's The Time.....for HOPE

Now's The Time..... for GRACE

C.....FOR THE CONNECTION – John 15:5

1 Corinthians 12:27

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

27 Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body.

In an article Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Church in California: 5 Reasons Why Christians Need a Church Family. Pastor Warren stressed that being part of a church family is essential to fulfilling God's purposes for one's life.

"You cannot fulfill the five purposes (worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism) on your own. Life is not a solo act. You were created for community," wrote Warren.

"The only way you can fulfill God's five purposes in your life is with people in your life who are giving you spiritual input. You need a church family!"

Pastor Warren added that a major reason for this need is that "the church helps you center your life around God" and that **"God didn't put you on Earth to live a self-centered life."**

"His purpose for you is to build your life with him at the core. You were planned for God's pleasure. He made you to love you, and he wants you to love him back," continued Warren.

"Can you see that God meant for you to be a part of a church family? When you are, it helps you focus and center your life around God so that you can fulfill His purpose for you."¹

CLOSED –

What Time Is it in Your Life? Is it time to discover hope in the mist of life's struggles, or is it time to find your purpose. Now is the time for change. Now is the time of God's favor, Now is the time for His salvation...

Now's The Time.....for HOPE
Now's The Time.....for GRACE
Now's The Time.....for the CONNECTION

Don't let this time slip pass you ...THIS TIME!

Visit; www.emmausbfc.org

Email Us; emmausbfc@gmail.com

¹ Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/rick-warren-5-reasons-why-christians-need-a-church-family-169523/#vf8jZ4uXhBh0cvyq.99>