

February 20, 2010

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

Many of us act like we are going to live forever.

Even if we intellectually know that we are mortal, we usually assume death is far down the road and that we can deal with it later. As we get older, the reality of our human life-span increases, and life-threatening illnesses and injuries bring death close to home. We say farewell to loved ones and acknowledge that our time is coming, but it's not here yet.

So we put off important conversations. We put off changes we should make in our lives. We let our priorities get out of order, making stuff and things more important than people.

The apostle Paul, writing his second letter to the Corinthian church, seems to think the Corinthians are acting the same way. Pay attention to the urgency of today's reading: "we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.... now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!" (emphasis added)

What have you put off? What have you been waiting to do at a more "acceptable time."? Have you put off your devotional life (prayer, Bible reading and study, etc.)? Have you put off answering God's call to serve, because now is not a good time? Have you put off an opportunity to share your faith or to invite a friend to join you at church?

Most importantly, have you put off accepting God's grace and claiming God's promise of salvation. Don't accept God's grace in vain, by not giving yourself fully to God. Let today be the day!

In prayer, receive the gift of salvation. Accept the grace God offers you through Jesus Christ, and promise to serve and follow Jesus as your friend, Lord, and Savior.

Also pray for your pastors and worship leaders as they prepare for tomorrow's services.