

Baptist hour messages

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GOD'S TIME

BAPTIST HOUR

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Scripture: Psalm 119:126

The Bible tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.

Before our Lord came into the world God was at work preparing the way for the coming of his Son. He now through his Holy Spirit works in the hearts of men and women bringing conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment, persuading them to turn from their evil way and trust in Christ for salvation.

The fact that God works in the affairs of men is known to all Christians. There are many times, however, in personal experience when we come to special occasions for God to work.

When we have sinned we are aware it is time for God to work. The experience of sin leaves us without alibi. There is no logic in glossing over and pretending in the sight of God. He knows not only what we have done but the motives behind our actions. There is no value in blaming others and seeking to evade the responsibility which rests upon oneself.

A person stands upon the right ground in confessing, "I have sinned."

TRUE REPENTANCE

Unless there is true repentance, our sins remain unforgiven. God cannot save a man with an unrepentant, unbelieving heart.

Whenever we turn to God in earnest

faith, trusting him for salvation, repenting of our sins, we find that God's grace comes into our lives and we are transformed.

There is peril in delaying acceptance of Christ. When we become aware of our sin we ought at that very moment to turn from it and trust in Christ for salvation.

We also find it is time for God to work when we face heavy responsibility. Decisions have to be made. Work has to be done which is beyond our strength and resources.

Some people undertake to live merely within the framework of their own abilities, training, and resources. The better way to live, however, is to link one's life with God and draw from him the power that is needed to do what he would command.

In the crises of our lives when we face discouragement, disaster, or defeat, it is then for God to work. These misfortunes need not overwhelm us. They will certainly cast us down if we look to ourselves; but if we are rooted and grounded in faith, we can be upheld by the mighty power of God working within us.

Let any person who is today cast down in his experience and facing despair so that he feels there is no hope look unto the Lord and find what God can do. Our extremity gives opportunity for God to work in our lives only that which is possible through divine grace.

DAY OF OPPORTUNITY

This is a singular time in the history of the world for God to work. We are

alleged danger. The world is divided into material things which can ease man's way aware that we live in a day of unparalleled opportunity. Progress of science makes possible production of many of the of life. It is, however, a time of unparhostile camps, and the threat of modern warfare is as a great cloud hovering over civilization.

It is a time of misery and tragedy in human experience. Poverty, illiteracy, disease blight the lives of millions of people throughout the world. Those millions now are demanding a better way of life.

It is a day of worldwide spiritual hunger when the hearts of men cry out for hope and strength. It is a time when people want peace, but they are aware that peace is far away.

We should keep in mind that God works through his people. He is ready for the salvation of mankind, for God would have none to perish. The parable of the prodigal son makes us know how the heart of God yearns over those who are lost.

Although the heart of God longs for every man to turn away from sin and come for salvation, it is necessary for the message of that salvation to be borne by others. The gospel must be proclaimed throughout the world. God works through His word borne by his people and applied to the hearts of those who hear by the Holy Spirit.

The gospel must not only be proclaimed throughout the entire world, but it must be demonstrated. Lives devoted to the Master must through ministries of love and mercy in places of human need make clear to the eye of unbelieving men what the tender compassion of Jesus means.

Throughout the world people need to see demonstrations in the lives of their fellow man that God can transform us when we turn by faith unto Jesus Christ for salvation.

It is through demonstrating in the world what God can do through transformed lives that the light is made to shine and people are led from their sin.

The gospel also must be applied. We need to remember that our own country is recognized throughout the world as the land wherein Christianity has done a major work. Everything in our land is under careful scrutiny of the rest of the world. Whatever is done here becomes world news.

It becomes very urgent, therefore, that the gospel be applied to very aspect of life in America in order that our witness on a world scale might be powerful.

It brings us sorrow to remember that recent figures describing the crime rate indicate that the growth of crime in America is four times the rate of the nation's population. This ought not to be in a land as remarkably blessed as our country.

In meeting every issue that we face we should do so boldly and earnestly in order that the world may see how the gospel of Christ applied to human problems can bring solutions and blessing.

We are called in this generation to an all-out effort to give the gospel to the world as never before.

It is time for God to work in many hearts. There are those who ought to yield themselves to God in response to his call to definite service. There are those who realize that Christ has been shut out of their hearts through unbelief. It is time for them to trust in Christ as Saviour repenting of sin. It is time for all of us to dedicate ourselves more completely to him who loved us and gave himself for us.

If we will draw nigh unto God, he will draw nigh unto us. If we recognize that this is our time to obey God and trust him, we will find it is God's time to do his work in the world. Our generation can be saved from a day of danger, despair, and tragedy, and be transformed into a day of remarkable blessing if we so yield ourselves to God that He can work as his redemptive heart longs to do.