

# Apply The Word

[www.crosswaypa.org](http://www.crosswaypa.org)



## Message Info

### Title:

Now Is the Time

### Speaker:

Doug Plank

### Date:

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:11–6:13

**Theme:** Now is the time to receive God's grace; open your heart wide.

**Introduction:** The Lord is at hand, and time is of the essence. Yet, even with the clock ticking, it is a weakness of the human condition that we habitually put off important things. Our souls require something of power and substance to hold us fast upon the most important things. The gospel carries all the weight and gravity we need in the worldly windstorm that surrounds us.

Paul makes three calls in this passage to awaken the Corinthians to the priorities and goodness of the gospel:

### 1. Be compelled (5:11–15)

- The Corinthians were prioritizing the externals, leading to a sort of "Christianity Lite."
- Paul combats this by reminding Corinth of Christ's coming judgment, which must stir up the fear of God.
- The gospel is made sweetest in the hearts of those who fear the Lord the most.
- In addition to the coming judgment, Paul also highlights loving Christ's sacrifice as something that anchors the soul in the windstorm of life.

### 2. Be reconciled (5:16–21)

- Fleshly regard for Jesus ignores or distorts two critical components of the gospel: (1) the need for new creation and transformation, and (2) the need for reconciliation through atonement.
- Verse 17 shows the effect of regarding Christ with a rightly-oriented heart—the old has passed, the new has come.
- Likewise, verses 18–21 reveal that right regard for Christ means we fully embrace his message of reconciliation, even the uncomfortable parts.

### 3. Now is the time (6:1–13)

- Paul squarely teaches that anyone who holds off on repenting is going about life in vain.
- Paul shares his story to show the shape of a life that comes from the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Paul's hope in 2 Corinthians 6 is our hope; we have all we need in Christ.

### Questions:

1. In your life, how do you see the connection between fearing God and the sweetness of the gospel?
2. How do you see "fleshly regard" of Christ (ignoring or distorting his reconciliatory work) crop up in your own life?
3. How are you encouraged and filled with hope from Paul's testimony (6:4–10)?