**DANGER IN DELAY**

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. “Now is the day of Salvation” (2 Cor 6:2).

 A. SALVATION: “*saving of man from the power and effects of sin*”.

 1. Reference: [Webster’s 7th Collegiate Dictionary]

 B. SALVATION: “freed from the law or rule of sin” (Rom 6:7; 8:1 – 3).

2. SALVATION (once received) is described as having [**4**] characteristics (2 Cor 6:2).

 A. One has become a new CREATURE in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

 B. One has been RECONCILED to God (2 Cor 5:18).

 C. One has received FORGIVENESS of SIN (2 Cor 5:19).

 D. One has received God’s GRACE (2 Cor 6:1).

 1. SALVATION as “grace unto you” (1 Pet 1:2, 5 – 9)

3. Why is “today” or “now” the time?

 A. As the old song says, “There’s danger and death in delay”.

**BODY:**

**1. DANGER OF DEATH**

 A. The living should keep in memory death is coming (Ecc 7:2; Heb 9:27, 29).

 B. One is just a “step” between life and death (1 Sam 20:3).

 1. Perhaps that “*step*” is an hour, a day or a week.

 2. There are many ways for LIFE on earth to be swiftly taken.

 C. One thing for certain about this earthly life…is its [un]certainty (Jas 4:13, 14).

 D. Experiences of LIFE should convince us of the [un]certainty of LIFE.

 1. Reports in newspapers constantly remind us of death.

 2. Deaths in our families should make us consider the matter more seriously.

 E. This is ***NOT*** being morbid; it is being realistic!

**2. DANGER OF SIN HARDENING THE HEART**

 A. If there were ***NO*** danger of death, it would still be foolish to put off OBEDIENCE.

 1. Because SIN can harden the heart (Heb 3:12, 13).

 B. The “*conscience*” (Heb 10:2) can be seared (1 Tim 4:1 – 4).

 C. One can get “past feeling” (Eph 4:19).

 D. Erring Christians face the same danger (Heb 6:4).

 E. If one knows to obey Jesus, now is the TIME because tomorrow is ***NOT*** promised.

**3. DANGER OF BEING UNPREPARED FOR CHRIST**

 A. His Coming is certain (Jn 14:1 – 3; Ac 1:10, 11; 2 The 1:6 – 9).

 B. When? (1 The 5:1 – 4)

 1. For the UNPREPARED, Christ will come as a “thief in the night”.

 2. Christians do ***NOT*** know when the Lord will come; live in a state of preparation.

 C. Peter wrote of scoffers [False Teachers] (2 Pet 3:1 – 11).

 1. One who refuses to obey the gospel believes another opportunity awaits.

 A. Felix / King Agrippa (Ac 24:25; 26:28).

 B. The erring Christian believes one will have TIME to return to one’s first love.

 1. But, that is ***NOT*** always true.

 D. One must believe and obey God’s Word, then the danger of delay is ***NOT*** a concern.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Paul shows the seriousness of the situation (Isa 49:8). Remember the [4] characteristics.
2. The Bible teaches the present time is the time for men to obey the gospel; Be Faithful.
3. The gospel is offered today to those who must believe and obey to be saved (Heb 5:8, 9).