

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 6:1-2**.
- B. When life turns sour, many times we find ourselves thinking that God has forsaken us. We begin to ask ourselves, "What has God done for me... lately?"
- C. My lesson this morning has two parts, one part this morning and the other part tonight:
  - 1. What has God done for us... lately?
  - 2. What have we done for God... lately?
- D. When a person is always taking from others, and tries one more time, a person might ask of him, "what have you ever given to me?" We do an awful lot of taking from God, and still sometimes ask this question of what has God done for me lately?

## I. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION.

- A. Scripture texts: 2Corinthians 6:1a; 5:16-21.
- B. The 2Cor. 6:1 passage says, "And working together with Him..."
- C. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. As we attempt to preach the good news to others we are trying to reconcile them to God.
- D. Four things occur according to 2Cor. 5:16-21:
  - 1. We recognize no one according to the flesh,  
Worldly standards do not matter, nor race, color, etc., we see all as souls who need God.
  - 2. We become a new creature in Christ.
  - 3. The apostles (and us) have been given the ministry of reconciliation not counting men's sins against them.
  - 4. As the apostles were ambassadors, sent by X, we have been sent by the great commission to preach to every creature.
- E. What has God done for us... lately? He has given us a wonderful job to do, preach the gospel.

## II. GOD HAS HEARD OUR CRY FOR HELP.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 6:2a.
- B. There are two great questions in the scriptures that I think everyone asks at one time or another. Sometimes these questions are asked in despair and frustration, sometimes fear and ignorance, sometimes in love and honest inquiry.
  - 1. The first question is; "Who art thou Lord?"  
Think of how tragic it would be if a person searching for Jesus Christ and for the truth couldn't find it because they don't exist? See Acts 9:5.
  - 2. The second question is; "What must I do to be saved?"  
The tragic thing about this question is that not enough people are asking it. They either don't care, or they will try to find salvation their own way.
- C. God hears our cry for help. He will answer our prayers unto Him. Cornelius is proof that God hears the prayer of a sinner, and 1Peter 3:12 shows God listens to the righteous.
- D. What has God done for us lately? He listens and responds to our needs when asked.

## III. GOD HELPS US WHEN WE NEED IT.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 6:2b.
- B. God gives, hears and helps. °
- C. It is not scriptural to say "God helps the man who helps himself." It is better to say, "God helps the man who sees his need for help" (Mt. 5:3).
- D. A great promise is found in Hebrews 2:16. God gives help to the seed of Abraham.

- E. As Xians, are a mixture of belief and unbelief. We believe in the Bible, God, and JC as the Son of God, but sometimes have trouble in believing in the promises and doctrines of God.
- F. We can concur with the man who had the demon possessed boy, "I believe, please help my unbelief" (Mk. 9:24).
- G. Help means mercy and grace (Heb. 4:16).
- H. What has God done for us lately? He has given help in times of need. May we learn to better recognize our needs.

### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. We have seen three things that God has done for us:
  - 1. He has given us the ministry of reconciliation (the greatest work to do).
  - 2. He has given us His ear when we cry out to Him. He listens.
  - 3. He has given us help in both good times and bad.
- B. Now, knowing what God has done, and will do for us, brings us to the next question; what have we done for God lately? We shall explore that question tonight.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.