

Billy Graham, John Ankerberg, Ron Rhodes claim 2 Cor. 6:2 limit the time of salvation to this life

written by Alfred Persson | September 12, 2023



Nowhere does the Bible teach that we will have a second chance to receive Christ and be saved after we die. This is one reason why the Bible says, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). I pray that you will take this warning very seriously.-Billy Graham

Over 20 verses implicitly or explicitly refer to a literal or figurative "second chance": 1.) All who obey Christ's voice in the grave rise to life: "All who are in the graves will hear His voice "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life" (John 5:28-29); 2.) All passing the Judgment after death eagerly wait for salvation: " It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...those who

eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation". (Heb. 9:27-28); 3.) Departed Spirits in prison give the answer of a good conscience to Christ's preaching: "He went and preached to the spirits in prison...an antitype... now saves us— baptism...the answer of a good conscience toward God" (1 Pet. 3:19-21); 4.) Gospel also preached to the dead so they could live according to God in the Spirit: "For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might...live according to God in the spirit (1 Pet. 4:6 NKJ)." See also Dt. 32:39; 1Sam. 2:6; 2Sam. 22:5-7; Ps. 16:10-11; Ps. 30:3-6; Ps. 40:1-3; Ps. 49:12-15; Ps. 56:13; Ps. 68:18-20; Ps. 69:13-18; Ps. 71:19-23; Ps. 86:13; Ps. 102:18-22; Ps. 116:1-9; Hos. 13:14; Jon. 2:1-10; Zec. 9:9-11; Mt. 12:30-3; Rm. 11:25-3; 1 Cor. 5:5; Eph. 4:8-10; Rev. 20:12:

Paul wasn't limiting "the time of God's favor" or "day of salvation" to those living in the 1st century Corinthian Church, he was pleading the Corinthians reject the false gospel of the Judaizers (2 Cor. 3:12-16; Gal. 3:1-6) who were adding Mosaic Law to the Gospel , rendering faith "vain" (2756 κενός kenos empty) of effect. "Now" was a good time for them to repent (2 Cor. 5:20-21; 6:1-2).

The "time of God's Favor" is always "now", unlimited by time or place. All repenting in Isaiah's Day whom Paul quoted (Isa. 49:8), or today would find God favorable to their appeal. It follows the opportunity is also not limited by place, whether one is alive in Corinth, or departed in Hades...If they repent, that too is in the "now", an "acceptable time" to God.