

September 5, 2021

You Better Work: And The Time Is Now What Are You Doing?

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

We are workers together with God, so we beg you:
Do not let the grace that you received from God be for nothing.
For God says through Isaiah:

“At the right time I heard your prayers.
On the day of salvation I helped you.” (Isaiah 49:8)

I tell you that the “right time” is now, and the “day of salvation” is now.

We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault will be found with our ministry. And in every way we show we are servants of God: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God. We use our right living to defend ourselves against everything. Some people honor us, but others blame us. Some people say evil things about us, but others say good things. Some people say we are liars, but we speak the truth. We are not known, but we are well known. We seem to be dying, but we continue to live. We are punished, but we are not killed. We have much sadness, but we are always rejoicing. We are poor, but we are making many people rich in faith. We have nothing, but really we have everything.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Frederick Buechner*

There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the challenge is to find out which is the voice of God, rather than of society, or the super-ego, or self-interest. By and large, a good rule for finding out is this: The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do, and (b) that the world most needs to have done. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deepest hunger meet. Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need.