

“Now and Not Yet”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

I always feel like I am living in the middle of those two—the Now and the Not Yet—the present and the future! This can be frustrating! If I am too concerned about the future I will be frustrated at the idea of “not knowing” and having to wait! If I am living too much just in the present I will get frustrated and anxious because of my vulnerability to the rollercoaster of daily life when it is not seen in the “bigger” picture.

So I live in the “now” and the “not yet”!..... But I am not alone..... nor am I in charge!

Those are two critical differences Jesus brings into my “now” and “not yet” living. Through faith in the “presence” of God in my life which is made possible only through Jesus and by “surrendering” in faith daily I can navigate and even begin to make sense of this “now and not yet” life I am living.

Contemplate and discuss the reality, joy and frustration of the “now and the not yet”-ness of life? Which way do you tend to lean? What about when you get anxious? How does “patience and waiting” fit into this “now and not yet” tension?

Recount our discussion of Paul from Sunday in Acts 24-26 and discuss what his “now and not yet” tension must have been like!

The following Scriptures help me surrender to God’s timing in my life of now and not yet. It takes patience, waiting, perseverance and surrender that only He can produce in us. Its all good—but not easy! Spend some time gleaning from these verses “gifts from God” for you today as you live in the “now and not yet”!

Ephesians 5:15-20

Psalm 27 (Make special note of the 1st verse and the last two! What resources are given in the psalm to make the “waiting” in verse 14 possible.)

2 Peter 3:8-15

“ACTS : Part III”

Deployed into Chains...When God..... When?

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - July 25-30

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart and offloading your heart of stifling, burdens, guilt, worry etc.!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention. As you read and reread keep asking God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond? Keep talking it over with Him—chew!
- 4) Pray (and journal) everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Acts 24:22-27

Tuesday: Psalm 27

Wednesday: Acts 26:1-18

Thursday: Acts 26:19-32

Friday: 2 Peter 3:1-11

Saturday: Ephesians 5:15-20