

# “A REALISTIC PORTRAIT OF MINISTRY”

*(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)*

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*Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 11*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: September 17, 2017*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:



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## Photo Edit Software



**NEITHER IS REALISTIC!**



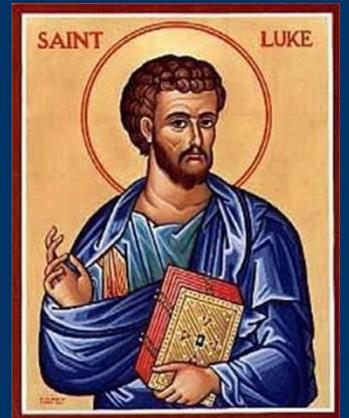
# I. SOME FAMILIAR CONCEPTS OF MINISTRY

**First**, many think ministry is an ivory tower existence.



**Second**, many think of ministry as a place of public manipulation and exploitation.

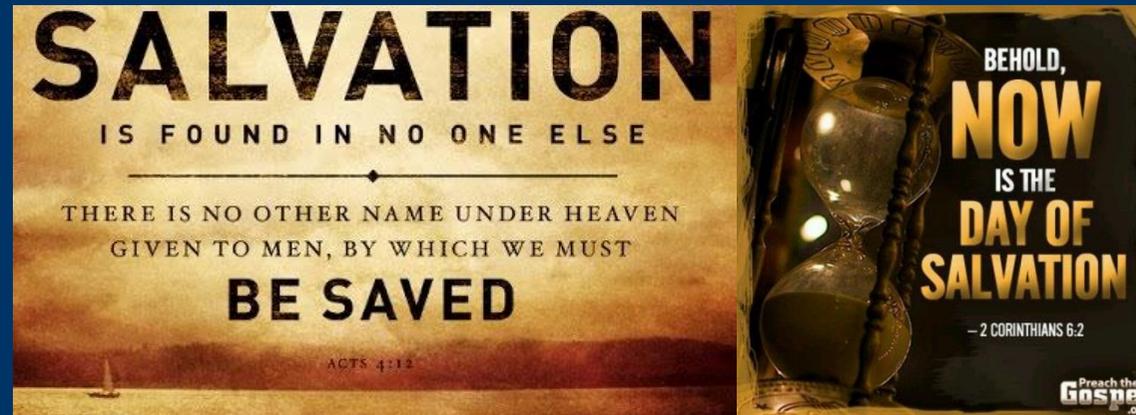
**Third**, many think ministry is for a few selected elite who have arrived spiritually and are models of perfection.



# II. SOME NECESSARY COMMANDS TO MINISTERS

## A) First Command

**2 Cor. 6:1** *As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in **the day of salvation** I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*



## II. SOME NECESSARY COMMANDS TO MINISTERS

### *B) Second Command*

*2 Cor. 6:3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be **discredited**. 4a*  
*Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:*



*Stumbling Block*



# III. REALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MINISTERING

## A) Face Realistic Circumstances

**2 Cor. 5:4b** ...in great **endurance**; in troubles, hardships and distresses; **5** in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;



- 1) There were inner struggles
- 2) There was the external treatment
- 3) There were the private disciplines of commitment



# III. REALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MINISTERING

## B) Forge Realistic Qualities

**2 Cor. 5:6** ...in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; **7** in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

### Realistic Qualities:

- In purity, understanding, patience and kindness
- In the Holy Spirit
- In sincere love
- In truthful speech
- In the power of God
- In the weapon of righteousness



# III. REALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MINISTERING

## C) Forecast Realistic Results

**2 Cor. 5:8a** ...through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report;



or DISHORED BY MAN



# III. REALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MINISTERING

## *D) Formulate Realistic Images*

**2 Cor. 5:8b** ...genuine, yet regarded as impostors; **9** known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; **10** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.



# CONCLUSION:



A large group of people over the age of ninety five were asked the question,

*"If you could live your life over again, what would you do differently?"*



- A) I would reflect more...***
- B) I would risk more...***
- C) I would do more... that will live on after their death.***

# CONCLUSION:



A large group of people over the age of ninety five were asked the question,



- 1. What do you see?***
- 2. What would you paint over if you had the chance?***
- 3. What is your life amounting to?***
- 4. Are you playing everything safe?***
- 5. Will anything you're doing now live on after your death?***



# CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it important for minister to cultivate a good image in private and public?*
- 2. What are some false image people perceive of a minister?*
- 3. What are some myths when you think about Ministry?*
- 4. What are some common criticisms you heard about ministry?*
- 5. Why is it necessary for minister to follow God's command?*
- 6. Why is it so crucial for ministers to be realistic when they are in the ministry? Share the importance of each realistic characteristic of ministering.*



*Scripture References:*

*2 Corinthians 6:1-10*