

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – PUT ON CHRIST

--ROMANS 13:11-14--

INTRODUCTION:

Paul in chapters 12-13 has been teaching us about the Christian life, what constitutes a disciplined, obedient, Spirit-controlled life. He began with a right relationship to God which means offering our body to Him as a living sacrifice, then when we are in right relationship to God, Paul teaches what a right relationship to others looks like. Whether that be believers or unbelievers, enemies or civil authorities, friends, or neighbors. We are to love them which fulfills God's law. Paul's teaching is about our sanctification, the ongoing spiritual growth and to work of the Holy Spirit to make us like Christ.

Paul sums up this teaching on sanctification by speaking about the urgency of the times, he exhorts us to get up or wake up, get dressed and keep putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. He uses the Lord's soon return to encourage us to pursue the righteous living he has described.

I. GET UP (Romans 13:11-12a)

- a. There is something that is already _____ about our spiritual life and something that should be true about it.
- b. Paul in this passage is going to tell us to put on Christ, but many New Testament passages speak of us as already clothed with Christ and His righteousness and so it is important that we make a distinction between _____ and sanctification.
- c. Paul writes, "*Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from _____; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near.*" (Romans 13:11–12a, NASB95)
- d. He begins this passage with the phrase, "_____ *this...*"
- e. Paul then refers to knowing the time, he is not referring to chronological time, but to a time period, the era, or the _____ that we live in. (John 14:2-3)

- f. Many in the church because it was never taught to them or they were wrongly taught God's Word have little _____ in spiritual things.
- g. When Paul writes that our salvation is nearer to us than when we believed he is speaking about the _____ of our salvation.
- h. Paul had spoken of this earlier in this letter in Romans 8:23 when he said, "*And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, _____ eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*" (Romans 8:23, NASB95)
- i. Paul goes on and states, "*The night is almost gone, and the day is _____.*" (Romans 13:12a, NASB95)

II. GET DRESSED (Romans 13:12b-13)

- a. With the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ made fresh in our minds, Paul now writes, "*Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and _____ the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.*" (Romans 13:12b–13, NASB95)
- b. Paul says lay aside the deeds of darkness and dress for the day, put on the armor of _____. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- c. Once we are clothed in this armor we are to _____ properly as in the day, we are to conduct ourselves as if the day of Christ's coming is already here.
- d. Paul then returns to the negative and contrasts the behavior of the day with _____ of darkness.

III. KEEP PUTTING ON CHRIST (Romans 13:14)

- a. Paul ends this chapter by exhorting us to _____ Christ. (Philippians 3:12-14; 1 John 3:2-3)
- b. Paul contrasts putting on Christ and putting _____ sin. He exhorts as we "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ*" and His righteousness to "*make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*" (Romans 13:14, NASB95)

- c. But as a Christian, we do not at any time have to give in to sin's _____. (Galatians 5:16)

CONCLUSION:

In this closing passage of Romans 13 Paul really gives us the reason that he has been teaching us how the disciplined, obedient, Spirit-controlled Christian is to live, he was urging us to grow in Christ, to be conformed to Christ by the sanctifying work of the Spirit. All that Paul has taught us in chapters 12-13 is only possible if we are putting on Christ continually and not giving provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Paul teaches us that our incentive, our hope, what makes putting off of the deeds of darkness and putting on the armor of light worth it is understanding the significance of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that it could be at any moment and that each day lived is one day closer to His return. This is why it is worth going to battle each day against the forces of evil, this is why it is worth putting on Christ and giving no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again! *“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* (1 John 3:2–3, NASB95)