

## Romans 13:11~14

Paul closes out the last part of this section, by exhorting us to live our lives in expectancy of our Lord's return. This is one of the best descriptions of what it means to live by faith. The theme throughout this letter is, "*the just shall live by faith.*" The faith is more than just knowing facts about the bible, I mean we believe that Jesus is God's Son, that he came and died for us on the cross, and that he arose the third day. But that's not the end of our faith; Jesus said he would come back for us. Jesus is coming again!

Listen, it is the *expectancy* of His return that spurs righteous living... I'm afraid that this aspect of salvation is sometimes neglected and overlooked in the teaching of the gospel. The final phase of our redemption, the fulfillment of our salvation is dependant on Christ return...*right?* If Christ does not come back, there will be no resurrection of the dead; they'll be no meeting in the air, they'll be no new kingdom, and so on. Our "*hope*" is that Christ will come back for His church, His bride! We often overlook this aspect, and kind of have the mindset that it's a done deal, just as long as you "believe" the story of Christ, that he died for you, and rose again, that seals it. That salvation is complete, now we just wait till we die, when we will go to heaven...end of story.

But that's not true...according to the scripture, and as Paul says here, (*now is our salvation nearer than when we believed*)...there is yet a final phase of the salvation plan that is yet to be fulfilled, and that being the return of Christ for His people. Do you realize, that if Christ does not come back, all of this is in vain? My hope in Christ is that he will not leave me in the grave!

To manifest Faith in Christ is to yield our life to Him...it's *to live for Him!* Those who do not live for Him *show no faith* in Him...*right?* It's the only thing that separates me from the rest of this world. Those of this world live for self, they live for here and now only. They may say they believe, but they obviously don't realize that when Christ comes in judgment, He will be bringing judgment on just such a people. Those who lived for self, those who followed their own will and desires rather than repenting, and turning to Christ and yield their lives to Him!

(2Peter 3) Many think we are crazy...many see us as fanatics... many even scoff...

<sup>1</sup>*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep...*

The word he uses for time, does not refer to chronological time, as in hours, days, weeks or years...but rather refers to time in era or age. An example would be, "*this generation,*" or during a specific "*period of time,*" like the "*Roman period,*" or the "*Mid-evil period,*" time used to describe large sections of history.

Here, Paul describes all of history, from the very beginning of time, to the end of time, using the analogy of a *single night*. Here, the hour hands on the clock represent periods, and eras in history. The picture here is, that of nighttime, a time when every one are sleeping, and it's way up into the morning hours, not far from the break of day. A new day is about to begin, thus, he exhorts men to get up and get dressed, and get ready.

<sup>12</sup>*The night is far spent...* The *night* represents the *time of darkness*... The time when darkness reigns and sin abounds. It refers to the time period of man's sin and rebellion against God. It is the *time of the world*, and the god of this world, Satan. It describes the time between the fall of man, the time when Satan deceived Adam and Eve, until the time that the Lord comes to take over the earth and establish His kingdom.

...the day is at hand... The day is a reference to the time of light... The arrival of the *light* will mark the end of the time of darkness, a reference to the coming of the Lord. It marks the time in which the darkness comes to an end. The time of Satan's dominion, the time of man's rebellion and sin, will come to an end, giving way to a time of Judgment, glory and righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armor of light.

Knowing what time it is...its time to wake up and **get ready** for the dawn of a new day!

"Cast off" and "put on" are references to the changing of clothes. Paul says we need to "wake up" and get dressed. We need to take off our nightclothes, and put on our day clothes, it's almost time for the "SON" to rise!

Beloved, knowing that our Lord is coming soon, knowing that he will be here shortly, it is imperative that we be up and *ready* to go! Listen, only those who are up and dressed will be ready to go. For all who are not ready to go, all who are still in their nightclothes won't be ready!

(Matthew 24:42~51) The *Unwatchful* Servant...

(Matthew 25:1 ~13) <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

**Are you ready?** There won't be time to get ready when that day comes, it will be too late! Are you "waiting" (Living) in anticipation of the Lord's coming... Those who had no oil gave little thought...

<sup>12</sup>The night is far spent, the day is at hand... Paul says the Lord will be here shortly, men everywhere need to wake up, and get ready! It's late in the night, the night is almost past, and it's almost time for the "Son" to rise. When the light of day breaks the horizon, all who are *not dressed* and ready to go, all who are yet in their nightclothes, will perish! Only those dressed and ready will escape the coming judgment.

(Vs 13~14) Paul explains his analogy, he explains his point, what he means by getting dressed, what he means by casting off the nightclothes, and putting on the day clothes.

<sup>12b</sup>... let us therefore **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk honestly, as in the day; **not in** rioting and drunkenness, **not in** chambering and wantonness, **not in** strife and envying. <sup>14</sup>But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

<sup>13</sup>Let us walk **honestly**, as in the day... Paul exhorts that we are to live in a way that earns the respect and esteem of others. It speaks to integrity. Honestly seems to emphasize that we not try to hide anything, not doing things under the *cover of darkness*, so that no one else can see. But rather, we are to live both day and night as though we were exposed by the light of day! The lost of this world are pictured as those who walk in the night! While we, who follow Christ are pictured as those who walk as in the day. The world's lifestyle is described here as darkness of night, while ours is described as the light of day.

Verse 15 could be stated...<sup>13</sup>Let us walk honestly, as in the day; **not in dishonesty**, as in the night...

The “*rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife and envy,*” that Paul refers to here are references to the *deeds of darkness*. They are all reference to a life lived to the *flesh*. The *flesh* is the name that Paul uses throughout his letters, in referring to the *sinful nature* that is within man. The *flesh* is the name ascribed to the self-will and self-desire of man, which is opposed to the will of God. Listen, that’s what Jesus came to save us from! By turning from the flesh, our own self-will and desires to yield our lives to His will and desires is what separates us from the rest of the world! The whole world lives to the flesh, they live to self-will, self-desire...

Here in Paul’s analogy, those who *live to the desires of the flesh* are those who are asleep, those who still have their nightclothes on. While those who live in submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, are those who have *gotten up* and *gotten dressed*, putting their *day clothes* on.

And the main point is, we do so while it is yet night! Which manifest genuine faith that they truly believe that the Lord is coming, and that He will be here shortly. In this analogy, those who live to the flesh, those who are “asleep” simply manifest they don’t believe the Lord is coming... for if they really believed He was coming, they’d get up and get dressed.

<sup>13</sup>*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in dishonesty, as in the night...* <sup>14</sup>*But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*

“*Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*” is an exhortation to clothe ourselves *in righteousness*. It is a call for us to walk in righteousness, in the midst of an *unrighteous* world. Using the analogy, it is a call to shed all the nightclothes, by no longer walking in the desires of the flesh, by no longer living for the here and the now, and to put on our day clothes by walking in the spirit of Christ...being led by the spirit of God.

Are you ready to go?

If you’re not *walking in humble submission to Jesus Christ as Lord* of your life... you are not ready! Walking in humble submission to Christ and His will is the very definition of faith! Paul says it declares us to be the “*Children of the day.*” It reveals the fact that we believe He’s coming...