

Put on the Armor of Light
Romans 13:11-14
September 28, 2022

The nature of the time (11-12a)

11 “Besides this...”

1. Refers back to the teaching in verses 8-10 on loving each other as the fulfillment of the law
2. The apostle will now give another reason for loving each other

11 “...you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

1. Salvation is the great subject of this epistle
2. The apostle has taught on the past, present, and future phases of our salvation
3. Previous teaching on future salvation in Romans:
 - **5:9-10** (cf. **2:5** “the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.”)
 - **8:16-19, 23-25, 29-30**
4. Parallel teaching on future salvation:
 - **1 Th. 5:8-9** “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”
5. Refers to the salvation Christ will give us at His return

“you know the time”

- The time between our Lord and Savior’s first and second comings

“the hour has come for you to wake from sleep”

1. Lit, **NASB** “it is already the hour”
2. There is an urgency to what we as believers are called to do
3. In that culture, the time to wake from sleep was dawn
4. We are to now live in the way that is proper for daytime, which Paul will explain

12a “The night is far gone; the day is at hand.”

1. **NASB** “The night is almost gone, and the day is near.”
NIV “The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.”

2. The day that “is near” is the day of future salvation that “is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (11), the day of Christ’s return and our future “with the Lord” (1 Thess 4:17)
3. The present age that will be brought to a close with Christ’s second coming is called “the present evil age”
 - **Gal. 1:4** “[Christ] gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age...”

Main idea: It is already the hour to spiritually wake from sleep, because our future salvation is drawing near.

Summons to action in light of the time (12b-14)

12b “So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

- Sanctification is about replacement (cf. Eph 4; Col 3)

Question: What did chapter 1 teach about spiritual darkness?

Job spoke of the connection between evil and darkness in **Job 24:13-17**

The works of darkness characterize this present evil age, and are anything that fails to conform to the light of God’s glory (cf. 3:23)

This is an instruction in sanctification

“cast off”

1. Repentance
2. Forsaking and renouncing
3. Putting to death

“the armor of light”

1. Similar metaphors
 - **2 Cor. 6:7** “...the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left...”
 - **Ephesians 6:11, 14-17**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:5-8**
2. Here, it is the opposite of “the works of darkness”
3. The armor of Christlikeness (verse 14a)
4. The armor fit for those who belong to the coming King

The Christian life is a spiritual battle, and we are to rise to the occasion

- A battle that will end in victory when Christ returns

13 “Let us walk properly as in the daytime...”

1. As is proper for those who belong to Christ’s kingdom and who live in the light of His presence
2. As is proper for those who “belong to the day” (1 Thess 5:8)

13 “...not in orgies and drunkenness...”

- “Orgies” can refer to sexual orgies, wild partying, brawls, and rioting

13 “...not in sexual immorality and sensuality...”

1. “Sensuality” refers to the gratification of desire without regard to the restraints placed on us by God
2. Doing what feels good and pleasurable without restraint
3. In the sexual realm, it refers to gratifying one’s sexual desires apart from one’s spouse

13 “not in quarreling and jealousy.”

1. “quarreling” can also be translated “strife” (NASB), “discord” (NET), “dissension” (NIV)
2. “jealousy” can also be translated “envy” (NKJV)

These are “works of darkness,” and come from a selfish or self-centered heart that wants to have one’s own way in relation to God, and in relation to others.

14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

1. There is a sense in which this occurred at conversion
 - **Gal. 3:27** “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
2. And there is a sense in which this is a responsibility in sanctification (as in this verse)
3. This is what sanctification is about
4. Goes hand-in-hand with 8:29 and 12:2
5. In the NT, sanctification is not presented to us as obeying a law code, but putting on the character of our Lord and Savior who is at work in us

14 “...and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

1. We studied the flesh in chapter 7
2. “desires” can also be translated “lusts” (NASB)

3. **James 1:14–15** “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Question: What are some ways in which we make provision for the flesh to gratify its desires?

Summary: In light of the coming of Christ...

1. Cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light
2. Walk properly as in the daytime
3. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh

Victory in this spiritual battle can be had through Christ (ch 6)!

Augustine’s *Confessions*, VIII.28-30