

Love, for the Day is Near (*Part 2*)

Romans 13:8-14

Thought for the Day: In light of the Lord's soon return, let us commit ourselves to glorifying God and advancing His kingdom by loving one another and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Romans chapters 12 through 16 (and especially 13:8-10) teach us that the most important and impactful way that we can proclaim the character and works of God to a lost and dying world is by loving others.

11 And do this understanding (knowing) the present time.

- Two different Greek words translated "time":
 - *Chronos* – "chronology" – refers to the passage of time, like time on a sundial or days on a calendar.
 - *Kairos* – refers to the quality or characteristics of a particular period of time.
 - Example: "We are living in spiritually dark days here in America!" (2 Timothy 3:1-2)
- Paul is saying we need to know and understand the character, the quality, the kind of time that we are living in.
 - He is referring to the day (vs. 12) of Christ's imminent Return—the day when our salvation will be brought to its full completion.
 - In light of the Lord's soon return, we need to: 1) Wake up (vs. 11); 2) Clean up (vss. 12-13); and 3) Grow up (vs. 14). (*Warren Wiersbe, Be Right, p. 157*)
 - In light of the Lord's soon return, we need to: 1) Watch expectantly; 2) Wait patiently; and 3) Work diligently. (*Dr. John MacArthur, The Second Coming, p. 165*)

What is it that we need to know or understand about the present time?

- We need to acknowledge that the present time Paul was writing about is now nearly 2,000 years in length!
 - For 2,000 years the Church has been waiting and watching for the Lord's Return.
 - The temptation is to join the scoffers who say, "Where is this coming He promised?" (2 Peter 3:3-4)
 - The temptation is to question Jesus' promise to return. (John 14:1-3)
- There is something about the character and quality of the present time that should motivate us to love one another and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (vss. 8-10; cp. James 5:8-9).
 - The soon return of the Lord should motivate us to get along with one another!
 - Why? Because we're going to give an account to the Judge!

In addition to loving others, understanding the present time should also motivate us to:

- 1) Vs. 11 – Wake up from our slumber
- 2) Vs. 12 – Put aside the deeds of darkness
- 3) Vs. 12 – Put on the armor of light

- 4) Vs. 13 – Behave decently, as in the daytime
- 5) Vs. 13 – Not behave indecently, as in the nighttime: engaging in orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality, debauchery, dissension and jealousy
- 6) Vs. 14 – Clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ
- 7) Vs. 14 – Not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature

Two Things We Need to Understand About the Present Time:

- **Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed (vs. 11)**
 - Our salvation is drawing near—but it is not yet complete!
- **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here (vs. 12)**
 - The “day” that Paul is referring to is the day of our completed salvation—the day of our Glorification when we see Christ.

Salvation is a “Complete Package”

Three Aspects of Salvation & Holiness		
Justification: God declares that those who put their faith in Jesus Christ are righteous in His sight – Romans 5:1	Sanctification: Growth in holiness; becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ – Hebrews 12:14 <i>NASB</i>	Glorification: Fully set apart unto God in heaven; complete conformity to the character of the Lord Jesus Christ – Romans 8:28-30
Positional Holiness “In Christ”	Practical / Personal Holiness “For Christ”	Perfect Holiness “From Christ”
Faith in Christ Romans 3:21-24	Focus on Christ Heb. 12:1-3, 10; 2 Cor. 3:18	Fulfillment through Christ 1 John 3:1-3
Past: I have been saved from the Penalty of sin	Present: I am being saved from the Power of sin	Future: I will be saved from the very Presence of sin
Forgiveness of Sin	Freedom from Sin	Finished with Sin
Standing (Position)	State (Condition)	Station (Destination)
Point	Process	Point
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