

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Wednesday Sermon

Date: October 20, 2021

Text: Romans 13:8-14

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Subject: Children of the day

In verses 1 through 7 of the 13th chapter, we considered these things:

1. That every soul is to be subject to the higher powers (authorities).
2. That there is no power (authority) but of God – the powers (authorities) that be are ordained of God.
3. That the ordained powers are the ministers of God to us for Good.
4. That for this cause, we should pay tribute for they are God's ministers waiting on this very thing.
5. We are to give all their dues; tribute to whom tribute; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Now, we come to chapter 13, verses 8 through 14.

Romans 13:8 (KJV) *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

Owe no man any thing, -- Including the civil magistrates. Let us pay our taxes. Also to owe nothing to any other man, but make good every obligation. We owe our wives, husbands, and children – let us pay up. We owe our boss and our neighbor – let us work honestly and love our neighbor. Sometimes debt cannot be avoided in carrying on worldly business, yet men ought to pay them as soon as they are able. Many an honest man may be in debt, and by one providence of God or another be disabled from payment,

which is a grief of mind to him; but for men diligently to run into debt, and take no care to pay, but live upon the property and substance of others, is scandalous to them as men, and greatly unbecoming to us who name the name of Christ.

Striving to now owe any man, would>

(1.) teach men to be *industrious*, and this would commonly prevent the *necessity* of contracting or making debts.

(2.) It would make you and I *frugal*, (wise use of money and goods) *economical*, and *humble* in our views and manner of life.

(3.) It would teach us to bring up our children in habits of industry – that is, teaching them and being sure they know how to work and take care of what is in their hands. The Bible often enjoins that – consider these passages.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Proverbs 24:30-34 (KJV) I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; **31** And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. **32** Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction. **33** Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: **34** So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 (KJV) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Ephesians 4:28 (KJV) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

(4.) Life as a child of God would produce sober, chastened views of the purposes and reasons of life, of the great design of living; and would take off the affections from the splendor, gaiety, and extravagances which lead often to the contraction of debts,-- consider these passages and think of applying them to our lives consistently.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (KJV) *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

1 Peter 1:13 (KJV) *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

1 Peter 4:7 (KJV) *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

Titus 2:12 (KJV) *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

1 Peter 3:3 (KJV) *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;*

1 Timothy 2:9 (KJV) *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

(5.) Our life as a child of God would put a period to the vices and unlawful desires which now prompt men to contract debts. That is, we are to *"love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*—1Jo. 2:15-16. The love of this world and worldly things cast many a person into debt – big debt!

(6.) Our lives as a child will make us *honest* in paying our just debts. It would make us conscientious, prompt, friends of truth, and disposed to keep our word – always!

So – brothers and sisters, we are to owe no man anything--

but to love one another: -- Love is a debt which can, never be fully discharged. We should feel that we owe this to all men; and though by acts of kindness we may be constantly showing love for others, yet we should feel that it can *never* be fully met while there is opportunity to do good.

Galatians 6:9-10 (KJV) *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

For he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. -- In what way this is done is stated in the 10th verse.

Romans 13:10 (KJV) *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

The law in relation to our neighbor is said to be simply that we do no *ill* to him. Love to him would prompt to no injury. It would seek to do him good, and would thus fulfil all the purposes of justice and truth which we owe to him.

Romans 13:9 (KJV) *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Matthew 22:36-39 (KJV) *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Romans 13:10 (KJV) *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: -- That is, the man that truly loves his neighbor, will neither invent nor devise ill against him, nor do any to him. He will not injure his person, nor defile his bed, nor deprive or defraud him of his substance; or do hurt to his character, bear false testimony against him, or covet with an evil covetousness anything that is his.

Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. -- Because love does no harm to another, it is therefore the fulfilling of the law: implying that all that the law requires is to love others. The law of God on this *subject*, or in regard to our duty to our neighbor, requires us to

do justice towards him, to observe truth, etc. *All* this will be met by *love*; and if men truly *loved* others, all the demands of the law would be satisfied. We know this is taught in the law, but it is also taught in a much stronger way in the New Covenant.

Romans 13:11 (KJV) *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.*

And that, knowing the time, -- Taking a proper *awareness* of the time. Taking just views of the shortness and the value of time; Brethren, knowing the time, we can see the day approaching:

That now it is high time to awake out of sleep: -- This speaks of the carnal security and drowsy frame of spirit which sometimes comes to the children of God, in a backwardness to our duties, and a slothfulness in the performance of them. This results in a lukewarmness about the cause of Christ.

For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. – No matter how long ago we may have believed in Christ as our sin-bearer and savior, our salvation—as we put off this vile body and are given our house from heaven is far closer than the day we first believed.

Romans 13:12 (KJV) *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 armour of light.*

The night is far spent, -- The night of our being “dead in sins” is past. We have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous light and are light in the LORD.

The day is at hand: -- We are no longer children of the night, but children of the day – let us walk as children of light.

John 8:12 (KJV) *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

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Ephesians 5:8 (KJV) *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, -- This commandment follows as surely as we are born of God. Let you and I not piddle with the works of darkness – but cast them off and away from us – because we are light in the Lord. As his church, we are the light of the world, a city which cannot be hid.

And let us put on the armour of light. – That is, let us put on the armor which God gives us:

Ephesians 6:13-18 (KJV) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: **18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Romans 13:13 (KJV) ***Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.***

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; -- Providing all things honest; thinking and meditating on things honest; with an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience. Providing for honest things in the sight of all men.

Not in rioting and drunkenness, -- Rioting comes from a Greek word which means "reveling, indulging in excessive feasting." The word drunkenness is intoxication either by alcoholic beverages or by other things which "stupefy, render unconscious or delirious; to madden or deprive of the ordinary use of senses or reason with a drug or alcoholic liquor; to inebriate; to make drunk." In other words, avoid all places of becoming a winebibber or riotous eater of flesh.

Proverbs 23:20 (KJV) *Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:*

not in chambering and wantonness, -- Chambering is to be luxurious or effeminate; lewdness or sexual indulgence—OED; wantonness is lasciviousness and unchasteness; extravagance or unbridled luxury.

not in strife and envying. --Strife is contention, quarrels and dispute – arguments. Envying is the condition of: feeling uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine at another's prosperity; to fret or grieve one's self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.

Romans 13:14 (KJV) *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, -- to put on Christ, and which indeed seems to be the true sense of the phrase here, is not only to exercise faith in him as the Lord our righteousness, and to make a

profession of his name, but to imitate him in the exercise of grace and discharge of duty; to walk as he walked, and as we have him for an example, in love, meekness, patience, humility, and holiness.

And make not provision for the flesh, -- The word *provision* here is that which is used to mean preparation for future wants. It means, that we should not make it an object to gratify our lusts, or study to do this by laying up anything beforehand with reference to this purpose. The word *flesh* is used here evidently to denote the corrupt propensities of the body – evil desires.

To fulfil the lusts thereof. -- With reference to its corrupt desires. The gratification of the flesh seems to be the object of this present generation. Living in luxury and licentiousness, people make it their business to multiply and prolong the means of fleshly indulgence. It is right; yea, it is a Christian duty, to labor to make provision for all the *real* needs of life. But the real wants are few; and, with a heart disposed to be pure and moderate, the necessary wants of life are easily satisfied, and the mind may be devoted to higher and purer purposes.