

Romans 13:11–14
Wake Up! And Get Dressed!

Monday, April 22, 2024 • Read Romans 13:11–14

Questions from the Scripture text: What do we know (v11)? What do we know that it's time to do? What is nearer? Than it was when? What is far spent (v12)? What is at hand? What should we cast off? Who includes himself in this? What should we put on? Who includes himself in this? How should we walk (v13)? As at what time? In what six ways should we not walk? What (Whom!) must we put on in order to do this (v14)? For what must we make no provision?

How can Christians shake off complacency in their lives? Romans 13:11–14 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christians combat complacency by consideration of what has begun in them, and Who He is that is doing it.**

You know the time; it's time to get out of bed (v11a)! The apostle has described Christian living as love unto God, brother, and neighbor. The apostle has described Christian living as, therefore, fulfilling one's role as a gift in the church and in the several relations into which God has placed us in this world. The apostle has described Christian living as keeping the commandments of the law.

And now the apostle describes Christian living as waking up. The imagery is borrowed from Isa 60:1–3, which follows the "Awake, awake!" of Isa 51:17, 52:1, which we have studied together recently. But the idea is that when we first believed (v11b), the first rays of the light of God's glory in Christ shone upon us. The dawn of heaven broke upon us. We began seeing His light, and we began our progress toward the promise of what we would be when the full sun shines. The fullness of our salvation hastens toward us; our salvation is nearer than when we first believed—and nearer, ever nearer, still.

The Christian who is not living as a living sacrifice to God, as a gift to his congregation, and as a beacon of good to his neighbors (even enemies and magistrates), is like that lazy person who knows that it's time to get up, but wants to keep on going as if it is still nighttime. But the night is far spent (v12a). It's time to get up. Our clothes are laid out for us—"the armor of light" (v12b). We have all of the wonderful truth, from the first 11 chapters, about righteousness through faith, and peace with God, that assures us of the completion of salvation (cf. Eph 6:13–17). There can be no more beautiful or functional attire than that which the Lord has provided for us. Shall we not put it on? Does it not coax us from our slumber? The strengthening brightness of the new day matches perfectly the clothing that God has provided for us.

So, the apostle urges us to wake up and walk: "let us walk properly as in the day." Hopefully, you are not so wicked, dear reader, as to devote your life to partying, drunkenness, unfettered immorality, and extreme immorality. Those first four items in the list in v13 inform the last two. Strife and envy among believers is so offensive to God that He puts it in such a list as this! Indeed, there is no neutrality. There is only the binary option of that which is from Christ and that which is from the flesh. Lazy living, defaulting to what comes easily from your former nature, comes from the same place as all of those other horrible things. So, have done with all of it!

Especially since we have been given such a glorious alternative: put on the Lord Jesus Christ. The glory of our clothing from v12 becomes even more clear when it is described in personal terms in v14. We do not merely put on truths or doctrines in the Christian life; we put on a Person. We embrace our shared life with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our clothing not only in our justification, where He is our worthiness before God, but also in our sanctification, where a joint life with Him is what produces our ever-brightening character and conduct. How can we, upon whom such a day has dawned—we who belong to the light of the next world—continue living in the darkness that belongs to this world? He Who has begun this good work (Who has made His dawn to break upon us!), will bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus (when that sun will shine in full strength!). Wake up!

In what ways has your own living as a sacrifice unto the Lord been a reflection of the heavenly life which has begun in you in Jesus? In what ways has your own living as a gift unto your congregation been a reflection of the heavenly life which has begun in you in Jesus? In what ways has your own living as a beacon unto your neighbor been a reflection of the heavenly life which has begun in you in Jesus? By what means has the Lord given us to see the light of His glory? By what means has the Lord given us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ? What use are you making of these means?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for saving us out of our darkness and death, and into Your light and life. Truly, by bringing us to faith in Christ, You have made the light of the knowledge of Your glory to begin to shine in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ. Now grant that Your Spirit would make our conduct, also, to shine more and more brightly by dressing our lives in His light and His life, we ask through Him, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP104A "My Soul, Bless the Lord!" or TPH540 "Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 13, beginning in verse 11 and going through verse 14. These are God's words. And to do this knowing the time that now it is high time to awake out of sleep. For now, our Salvation is nearer. Than when we first believed. The night is far spent the day as a hand.

Therefore let us cast off, the works of darkness. And let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness. Not in lewdness and lust not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.

To fulfill its lusts. So for the reading of gods, inspired and inerrant word.

The passage starts out saying and this referring to, What has come? Before. Described Christian Living, as love unto God, and to brother, and to neighbor, Love unto God as a Living. Sacrifice, love unto our brother. Recognizing that God, by making us members of Christ and one another has made each of us a gift.

To the others in the body in the role. That Has given us within the body. And loving our neighbor by being a beacon, a demonstration before him of what is good, what God says, is good and we live, according to what God says is good and then our neighbor sees it and benefits from it and finds that we are very determined to be at peace within as far as it depends on us.

So that even neighbors who are enemies find that we do not repay evil for evil but we overcome evil with good and even neighbors who are our magistrates find that we are the best subjects. The best inspectors of their Authority that they have under them. Described. The Christian Life, the response to the grace of God and the working out of the fruit of the grace of God in our life, in those ways.

Noting that as we love God with all our hearts on mind and strength. And as we love our neighbor as ourselves, we will be keeping the Commandments of God. So the Commandments of God are not merely arbitrary rules for us to follow. They are the expression of God's character.

They teach us the implications of God's character. They teach us the applications in our lives. Of the implications. Of God's character. And all of this because we are those children of God that chapter 8 was talking about who are going to be ultimately fully revealed at the resurrection. The Redemption of our bodies that adoption that is coming.

We are those children of God, whom he loved in the son. And has determined in that love to conform us to the image of the son, so that he might be the firstborn among many Brethren. And so, there is this, glorious Everlasting, brilliant bright. Reality. With God, as father.

And Christ as the firstborn and the many Brethren whom the Lord has determined to adopt in Christ that At the last day and forever, after we will shine like the sun Those whom he justified, he also glorified. And so, the Apostle here, Uh, having talked about the Christian Life in terms of Duty to God and brother and neighbor and enemy and magistrate, having talked about the Christian Life in terms of Loving the Lord.

Our God, with all our heart soul, mind and strength is expressed when with respect to neighbors, especially in loving our neighbors, as ourselves as a fulfillment of The Obedience to these Commandments. That he now talks about the Christian Life using a metaphor a word picture of waking up. He says a Christian is somebody who knows what time it is.

There are those who live in utter Darkness. They are as it were blind. When the Sun starts to rise. Um, they don't notice. Um, They cannot see its race and so they continue in their Darkness, a Christian mustn't. Do that. A Christian is someone who has begun to see the light of the knowledge of the glory of God?

This is what happens. Second Corinthians 4 tells us when God removes the Veil from the heart and he acts in his Almighty power, in the same Almighty power, in which he acted at creation. When he said, let there be light. Works in that same Almighty power and Redemption. So that second Corinthians 4 says, he who Uh made the light from the darkness or spoke the light from the darkness has caused.

Now the light of the knowledge of his glory to shine in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ. And so a Christian as someone who, at least in part what a Christian is. Is that he is someone who has Upon him, the light of the Dawn of the Everlasting glorious day.

Has begun to shine upon us. And in that case, we should wake up. Um, the Apostle Borrowing this image from Isaiah 60. Verses one through three.

Where we read arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon you. For behold the darkness shall cover the Earth and deep Darkness. The people but Yahweh will arise over you and his glory will be seen upon you. The Nations shall come to your light and Kings to the brightness of your rising and so forth.

But he describes Coming to know Jesus Christ in terms of the sun rising upon us. And this of course, in Isaiah, 60 follows. What we have recently heard in Isaiah 51, verse 17 and Isaiah 52. Verse 1 where we had those double commands, awake awake, He said in each of those places.

And so now the Apostle says in Romans 13 and do this knowing the time, That now it is high tide. It is now time. To awake out of sleep. For now, our Salvation is nearer than when we first believed, so the Christian begins to see The light of the knowledge of the glory of God and the face of Jesus Christ and the more that he learns about God, the more that he learns about Christ.

The more he comes to know Christ, the more the Holy Spirit gives him to grow in Christ. The more light that he sees So he's addressing us, isn't he? Uh, like addressing somebody who saw the light at first, but really just wanted to keep sleeping. Um, And now, The light is getting brighter and Fuller as the sun continues rising and The dawn is progressing and promising us that very soon.

It will be full day. And that's what he's talking about. The beginning of verse 12, the night is far spent the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off, the works of darkness. And let us put on the armor of light. And so we have clothing set out like someone who sets out their clothing before the night before they're going to do something.

And Now the sun is rising, and there's clothing that is set out for us that matches, this daytime that is coming the armor. Of. And it reminds us, of course, as Ephesians 6 also does, That. Uh, light and living as light in this world is A battle. And so it's described to us as the armor.

Of light. But it matches the new life that we have in Jesus Christ, it matches the Eternal and holy life that is to come. And that's how we are to be living. A Christian who is not living his life as a Living Sacrifice for God. A Christian who is not.

Uh, living his life, as a gift to the rest of his congregation, a Christian, who is not living as a Beacon of goodness. In front of the rest of the watching. Is a Christian who is trying to stay asleep. Who's trying to live in darkness? Now, this is the place where Uh, the metaphor takes a turn.

Because when he talks about doing what belongs to the darkness, he doesn't just talk about sleep. As if it's something neutral. He talks to us actually in pretty shocking terms in verse 13. It's a little bit watered down in our English translation and the terms are shocking enough that even When I described them to you.

I will only use generalized terms or translations. But he says, let us walk properly as, in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness. And the word revelry means the worst sorts of wicked parties. That people have. Then he says, not in lewdness. Which is an unrestrained form. Of. The worst immorality.

And lust, which is translating a word that means The most intensely expressed. Uh, and Jointly. Uh done. Forms of wickedness. Uh, so that when it says revelry and drunkenness, lewdness and lust, He's describing that which is very shocking. Yes, Sophia What does ludeness mean? I was describing it to you while you were trying so hard to raise your hand.

You should have been listening.

So, when he says, Revelry and drunkenness lewdness and lust. He is saying that. When we live for ourselves, when we live According to our former nature. Would just kind of live by default rather than intentionally conscientiously putting on Christ because that's what verse 14 says, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so there's only two ways that you can live. You either live? From the new life that you have in Christ and with Christ to either live from the Life of Christ himself in you, or You're living from your former Nature. And the things from your former nature. From the same place.

They have the same origin. As these horrible, Dreadful things. That he describes here in these four terms. Revelry drunkenness, lewdness and lust. And as he is going to bring us into chapter 14, he also includes strife and Envy there. That strengthened Envy, those are things that ought to belong, only to the relationships of unbelievers.

Now, we've seen in chapter 12 that they belong, they also occur in the relationships of Believers. But they shouldn't. They come from the same place. As the revelry and drunkenness, and lewdness and lust. So he's saying don't sleep walk. Through your Christian Life. Sleep walking through the Christian Life comes from the same place.

As the greatest wickedness. That men can imagine. And he has imagined a lot. Now don't sleep walk through the Christian Life. The armor of light that he said to put on in verse 12 is actually a person. We have been given. To dress ourselves daily. With the Lord Jesus Christ.

So that the scripture talks about this in two different places or two different ways. First, it talks about us putting on Christ in terms of our justification, That he is our

worthiness before. God he is Our attire. But we also put on the Lord Jesus Christ in our sanctification.

We are given. By the spirit, applying Christ to us by the spirit, growing Us in our faith, in him, as we sow to the spirit and not to the flesh, is Galatians 6 talks about We are to put on Christ every day. That's one of the reasons why we have worship times.

Whether secret worship or family worship, that's one of the reasons God has been. So merciful to give us the Lord's day at the beginning of the week. Is so that we would, um, Attend upon the Lord in his means. And that we would then carry. That mindset. Of putting Jesus on.

As we go to our day, so that we don't as he says in the end of verse 14. Make provision for the flesh, to fulfill its desires. To fulfill its lusts. Because either we are putting on Christ and we are living according to his life in us. Or. We are fulfilling the desires of the flesh, even the person who thinks that he's going to keep Commandments, but he's not doing it by putting on Christ.

He's going to fulfill the desires of the flesh. Because his own will that, which is from himself. Is not going to produce godliness. Only the life of Jesus in. Is going to produce godliness. And so wake up. Get dressed. We have the best clothing imaginable given to us laid out for us.

For the living and the light, rather than sleepwalking, as if in darkness, Our Salvation is nearer. Uh, than when we first believed. The sun is higher now. On the horizon, the the Rays of the Eternal glory and light in which we will live are stronger and brighter, and Fuller.

Wake up. Put on Christ and live in the way. That we have been. Hearing the spirit instruct us about for the last couple of chapters. Let's pray. Lord, we do pray that your Holy Spirit would Give us to see the light of the knowledge of your glory. Shining in our hearts, in the face of Jesus Christ.

And that you would give us to be aware. Of that Everlasting. Blessedness and Holiness. In which we shall soon live. And to live in accordance with that. By putting on Jesus Christ by faith. Even now Give us to do. So we ask in his name, Amen.