

Morning Sermon May 15, 2016
"Right Use of Our Time" Romans 13:11-14

I. Knowing the time -

1. Christians should be students of time(s) -

A. It is a dreadful thing not to understand the signs of the time -

He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';³ and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. (Matthew 16:2-3 NKJ)

B. When Jesus came, the people of Jerusalem missed it altogether

- "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:43-44 NKJ)

What did they MISS? What did they MISUNDERSTAND?

(B1) They missed the FACT they were SINNERS, Lost - John 8:31-44

(B2) They missed the FACT that Jesus came offering salvation - "you did not know the time of your visitation."

What they did not understand about Christ's coming was, in that coming, God was offering them a last chance, to REPENT!

(B3) They missed the NEARNESS of their potential salvation, and their judgment!

2. Our time is NOW -

It is high time to awake out of sleep -

¹¹ And 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.

A. Looking at this verse know it is speaking to professing Christians

- It speaks of our salvation
- It speaks of that time we believed

B. It implies that true Christians can be spiritually drowsy, sleepers / we also can SLEEP at the worst times -

³⁷ Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mark 14:37-38 NKJ)

C. However a further DANGER of this sleep is that it is deceptive, people in this sleepy state can be deceived about the reality of their faith / profession, they can MISS true salvation altogether - (Matthew 25:1-13 NKJ)

(C1) Note the urgency connected to making your call and election SURE

- All virgins had a profession of faith
- All were waiting for Christ
- 5 were true / 5 were false (they weren't ready / they did not know the hour)
- This is part of the reason Paul says it is high time to be awake, we don't know when Jesus is coming, but we know our salvation is NEARER than when we first believed!

(C2) Note Romans 13:11 speaks both to eschatological time (end times, when Jesus comes back / when He judges the world! And to a PERSONAL time, when we die and we are also judged -

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NKJ)

(C3) For the true Christian this urgency should reach beyond him SELF, see the context is the context of LOVE your neighbor / this means concern for that person's soul - **Romans 13:9-11**

II. Knowing the time and dressing appropriately -

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. (Romans 13:12 NKJ)

1. What is meant by night -

Two possibilities which are not mutually exclusive -

A. Night refers to the pre-Gospel times when Jesus was Christ was known only by types, shadows and prophecies. Know we have the clear and complete Gospel, we can know Him Who is the Light of the world -

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJ)

When Paul was writing Romans, not everything written about Christ had yet been written, but the excuse of walking in darkness was eliminated by Christ coming –

Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1-2 NKJ)

B. Night refers to the time of SINNING (in darkness) and seemingly getting away with it –

When Romans 13:12 says “Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness” Works of Darkness are SIN

- This verse is speaking of our WORKS, our sins, as clothing we wear in the presence of God!

Adam was a gardener – **Genesis 2:15**, his job was to tend and keep the garden. When he and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves, you could have said they were clothing themselves with Adam’s work –

Genesis 3:6-7

- None of our works is righteous and all we seek to cover ourselves with does no good –

Their webs will not become garments, nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands. (Isaiah 59:6 NKJ)

But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 NKJ)

2. In this context “**the day**” that is “**at hand**” is a day of grace for those dress rightly, but also a day of judgment -

A. We need to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ or else –

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:² “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,³ and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ...¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.¹² “So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.¹³ “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and

cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (Matthew 22:1-13 NKJ)

B. We NEED to repent of sin, see sin as a filthy rag and throw it, cast it far away!

C. We need to put on the armor of light –

- The armor of light is truth, first the truth we are sinners in need of Christ’s grace –

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.³² “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free’?”³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:31-34 NKJ)

- Truth is the first piece but is just one piece of this armor of light – Ephesians 6:10-20

III. A time for walking, moving, we are pilgrims, passing through this world -

¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Romans 13:11-14 NKJ)

How do we walk properly?

1. A proper walk is an honest walk –

^{KJV} Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly (Romans 13:13 KJV)

2. As in the day –

This is because of who we are as Christians –

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8 NKJ) See also Ephesians 5:9-20

3. Avoiding certain actions – Romans 13:13b

4. Putting on Christ – Romans 13:14; Ephesians 5:19-20

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, - Romans 13:14 a

5. This impacts all relationships – Ephesians 5:21-6:9

6. This involves us in a battle with the flesh and the Devil – Romans 13:14b & Ephesians 6:10-20

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