

“Clothed In The Righteousness Of Christ”

Romans 13:8-14

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Teaching Aim: To realize Christians are not to owe anyone anything except the obligation to love one another. To recognize, even as Christ loved us, we are also to love one another and to strive for the best of others. To understand the return of Christ is nearer than we might expect so we must remain vigil in our spiritual walk, clothing ourselves daily in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: As Christ loved us, so we are to love others (Rom. 13:8-10)

1. What did Paul mean when he said, *“Owe no one anything except to love one another”* (vs. 8)? Was Paul saying that we are never to borrow money for any purpose? Why? (See **Matt. 25:26-28**) On what, if any, occasion is it appropriate for a Christian to borrow money? When is it not appropriate? What does this passage teach us about a Christian’s obligation to repay his or her debt? Have you faithfully repaid your debts?
2. Do you realize that Christ’s death on the cross for your sin is a debt that you will never be able to repay? The Lord wants us to love God and love others, is that how you are living your life? (See **Matt. 22:37-40**) Why is it impossible for us to do enough good works to repay the debt Jesus has paid for our sin (vs. 8)? What is the purpose behind the law of God? (See **Gal. 3:24**) In what way does *“the law of love”* fulfill all other laws? (See **Matt. 5:17**) How should *“the law of love”* affect the way we interact with others? Would others say the law of love is the mark of your life?
3. Paul used five of the Ten Commandments in **verse 9** (7, 6, 8, 9 & 10) to illustrate the proper behavior that should result from our love for God and our love for other people. Paul’s point in all of this is that love will do no harm to our neighbor. Why is adultery both unloving and harmful? Is murder loving? How about stealing? Bearing false witness? Coveting? If you had only ten laws to build a new society on, would do not covet be one of them? Why or why not?
4. The Great Commandment is to *“love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* What is the second greatest commandment? (See **Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-40**) What are some ways that we can love our neighbor as ourselves today (vs. 9)?

5. Will a loving person do harm to his or her neighbor according to **verse 10**? Why or why not? How is Jesus Christ the ultimate example of loving others? (See **John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-11**) What are some practical ways that Christians can share their love for God with other people today? Why is love a fulfill of the Mosaic Law?

Part II: The time of our salvation is nearer than we first believed (Rom. 13:11-13)

1. What was Paul telling us to do in **verse 11** when he wrote, "*And do this?*" (Hint: See **vv. 9-10**) Why is it so critical for Christians to love one another? What did Paul mean in **verse 11** when he said some believers are "*asleep?*" In what way is sleep similar to the death of a Christian?
2. The Scripture reveals three different aspects of our salvation: justification, sanctification, and glorification. "*Justification*" is past tense and occurred at the moment a Christian was regenerated (or born-again) by the Holy Spirit of God. Our "*sanctification*" is the present tense aspect of our salvation. Sanctification is the lifelong process of being set apart and becoming conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. "*Glorification*" is the future tense of our salvation; it will occur when the Lord Jesus returns and we receive our glorified bodies becoming like Him. In glorification we will be delivered from the presence of sin. Which of the three aspects of salvation do you think Paul was talking about in **verse 11**?
3. What was Paul alluding to when he said, "*The night is far spent*" (**vs. 12**)? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9**) Is it true that much of today's crime takes place under the cover of darkness rather than the light of day? Why do you think so many criminals commit their crimes at night instead of in the day? How do darkness and light symbolize the spiritual warfare that each of us are involved in everyday?
4. During the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus, the message brought by both was, "*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (See **Matt. 3:2; 4:17**) Why is it so important that we repent of our sin? How would you define the word "*repent?*" What did John the Baptist and Jesus mean when they said the Kingdom of heaven is "*at hand?*" Is this similar to what Paul wrote in **verse 12** when he said, "*the day is at hand?*" (See **1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 19:11-16; 2 Cor. 5:10-11**)

5. How can we as Christians cast off *"the works of darkness"* today (**vs. 12**)? What did Paul mean when he told the Ephesian believers to *"put on the armor of light?"* What is *"light"* often a symbol of in Scripture? (See **John 1:1-14; 8:12**) In examining **Ephesians 6:12-20**, what does each piece of *"the armor of God"* represent? Why is it important for every Christian to put on the armor of God every day?

6. What would the Christian's life look like if we walked *"properly, as in the day"* (**vs. 13**). What is Paul telling the believer in **verse 13**? Are you surprised to see *"strife"* and *"envy"* classified at the same level of sin as *"revelry"* (*meaning extreme partying*), *"drunkenness,"* *"lewdness,"* and *"lust?"* Why are strife and envy so dangerous? How can strife and envy negatively affect the entire body of Christ?

Part III: Christians are to clothe themselves with Jesus Christ and not walk foolishly into future sin (Rom. 13:14)

1. What did Paul mean when he told the Romans to *"put on the Lord Jesus Christ"* (**vs. 14**)? How does the picture of being wrapped in the righteousness of Jesus Christ symbolize what happens to every Christian at the moment of regeneration (or salvation)? According to **2 Cor. 5:17**, what major change takes place in the life of the Christian at the moment he or she is born-again?

2. What did Paul mean when he told the Roman Christians to, *"not make provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts"* (**vs. 14**)? What are some ways that Christians can fall into the lust of the flesh today? Why is it not a good idea for the Christian to *"make provision for the flesh?"* What should the proper response of the Christian be? (See **2 Tim. 2:22**)

3. What are some of the areas of weakness and temptation that you constantly struggle with in your own life? What are some practical steps that you can take to keep yourself from falling into sin?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

4. If you have never received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, why not do so in prayer right now? Simply confess your sins; ask Jesus to forgive you, and receive Him by faith as Savior. (See **John 3:16; 6:44; Acts 4:12**) If you are a believer who has walked away from the Lord and are living in a lifestyle of sin, why not go to God in prayer and get right with Him right now. (See **1 John 1:9**)

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- It is not a sin to go into debt for legitimate needs (like buying a house or going to school), but it is a sin to get in over your head and not be able pay your loans back.
- The sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ for our sin is a debt that we can never repay.
- Although we can never repay Jesus for what He has done for us, it is the Lord's desire that we share the good news of Him with others.
- As Christians, we should not become weary (or fall asleep) in our own spiritual walk, the return of Christ is imminent.
- As followers of Jesus Christ, we must stop participating in the Satanic world system and instead live our lives for Jesus.
- "*Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ*" means clothing yourself in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and living your life in a way that glorifies Him.