

# GOING ON TO PERFECTION (PART 2)

## Romans 13:11

**11 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.**

It's as if Paul is inviting them to go on to perfection, only he uses the word 'salvation' instead of 'perfection.' Notice, he says, "Now is our salvation (or perfection) nearer than when we believed!"

This statement by Paul might come as a shock to those who believe that a person receives salvation the moment they believe. However, the truth is we receive salvation BY FAITH when we believe. We DO NOT receive salvation by manifestation when we believe. In fact, Anything you receive by faith you do not have by manifestation. Remember, the Bible says that faith is "the substance of things hoped for, while the evidence is still UNSEEN" (Hebrews 11:1). This means that whenever you're in faith for something, then that particular thing has not yet been manifested!

It's similar to ordering online. When you order something online (like from Amazon) you don't gain possession of that thing immediately. Even though you may have purchased the item and the store has confirmed that you now own the item, you are not in possession of that item immediately. Instead, you have to wait for it to be delivered to you!

In the same way, even though God has purchased our salvation and we believe that we have it by faith, we still must wait for that salvation to be delivered or manifested in us! So, what do we do in the meantime? Do we just sit back and wait until salvation arrives at our doorstep?

## Romans 13:11

**11 AND THAT, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to AWAKE out of sleep:**

The phrase, "And that" should read, "And this do."

## **Romans 13:11 NASB**

**11 And THIS DO, KNOWING THE TIME, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep;**

If we want to see the manifestation of salvation, then we must do something, namely..

## KNOW THE TIME

Again, if you truly want to reach perfection and see the full manifestation of your salvation, then it's important that you know the time. Moreover, when you truly "know the time" you will AWAKE FROM SLEEP.

### Romans 13:11

**<sup>11</sup> And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP:**

People who are awake realize that they are running out of time to reach perfection! If you're still sleeping, then it means that you either do not realize that you have not yet reach perfection, OR it mean that you do not realize that your time is short.

### 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

**<sup>29</sup> But this I say, brethren, THE TIME IS SHORT: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; <sup>30</sup> And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; <sup>31</sup> And they that use this world, as not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world PASSETH AWAY.**

Since we know the that the time is short, we mustn't waste it by ***overindulging*** in carnal things (earthly pleasures, material things, etc).

### 1 Corinthians 6:12

**<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful unto me, but ALL THINGS ARE NOT EXPEDIENT: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.**

The word "expedient" means to do something at a *good* time (i.e. timely). Something can be good, but if it's done at the *wrong time* it can be very detrimental. Moreover, there are many things we do that often become a distraction and keep us from reaching perfection or our full potential!

### Luke 8:14

**<sup>14</sup> And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and RICHES AND PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE, and bring NO FRUIT TO PERFECTION.**

Secondly, when we truly “know the time” we will **REDEEM THE TIME!**

### **Ephesians 5:14, 16**

**14** Wherefore he saith, **AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPEST**, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **16** **REDEEMING THE TIME**, because the days are evil.

Notice how they were admonished to both **WAKE UP** and **REDEEM THE TIME**. You know when you’re awake spiritually when you are busy “redeeming the time”!

What does it mean to “redeem the time”? *Redeeming the time* means that you are **making the most of every opportunity**.

### **Ephesians 5:16 NIV**

**16** **MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY, because the days are evil.**

This means, you are seeing every *trial* and every *test* as an opportunity to go on to perfection or gain salvation!

### **Philippians 1:19–20**

**19** For I know that this shall **TURN TO MY SALVATION** through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** According to my earnest expectation and *my hope*, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also **CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY**, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

Although Paul was in prison, he believed that his imprisonment (trial) would “turn” or result in *salvation*, which he described as Christ being *magnified in his body*. Every time we’re tested or persecuted, it’s an opportunity for salvation (or Christ) to be manifested in our body!

### **2 Corinthians 4:8–10**

**8** *We are* **TROUBLED** on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* **PERPLEXED**, but not in despair; **9** **PERSECUTED**, but not forsaken; **CAST DOWN**, but not destroyed; **10** Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS CHRIST MIGHT BE MANIFESTED IN OUR BODY.**

What else can we do that will help us to reach perfection?

# LEARN TO WALK

## Romans 13:11, 13

**<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> LET US WALK HONESTLY, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.**

“Knowing the time” is one thing, but knowing “how to walk” during those critical times is another thing! If we’re going to take full advantage of our opportunities, then we must learn to walk *honestly* during those times when we are being tested and tried.

To walk “honestly” means ***to walk decently or properly***. In other words, there’s a right and a wrong way to act (respond) when we are tested and tried. Moreover, it’s only when we respond in a *proper* way that we’re able to use our tests and trials for our advantage (i.e. to grow and mature).

## Ephesians 5:15–16

**<sup>15</sup> See then that ye WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, not as fools, but as wise, <sup>16</sup> REDEEMING THE TIME, because the days are evil.**

Notice that we redeem the time BY WALKING CIRCUMSPECTLY! To walk circumspectly means to walk according to a strict standard. Every believer is expected to live and act according to a particular STANDARD.

## Philippians 1:27–28

**<sup>27</sup> Only LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE AS IT BECOMETH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; <sup>28</sup> And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, BUT TO YOU OF SALVATION, and that of God.**

Notice, our “conversation” or lifestyle must meet the standard of the gospel of Christ. In other words, whenever we’re persecuted or opposed by our adversaries, we’re expected to respond the way Christ has taught us in His gospel. When we do, then we can expect *salvation!*

## Ephesians 4:17–21

**<sup>17</sup> This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth WALK NOT AS OTHER GENTILES WALK, in the vanity of their mind, <sup>18</sup> Having the**

understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: <sup>19</sup> Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But YE HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST; <sup>21</sup> If so be that ye have heard him, and HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY HIM,

We are not to walk like unbelievers, or those whose understanding is darkened. Instead, we are to walk like Christ has taught us to walk!

### **1 Peter 2:21–23**

<sup>21</sup> For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps: <sup>22</sup> Who DID NO SIN, NEITHER WAS GUILF FOUND IN HIS MOUTH: <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, REVILED NOT AGAIN; when he suffered, HE THREATENED NOT; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

Jesus didn't just suffer. He suffered PATIENTLY!