

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 29: The Debt of Love and the Urgency of Holiness

BIG Idea: Because Christ is near, we must live in love and holiness with urgency.

Application: Wake up, put on Christ, and live in such a way that your love and holiness reflect the urgency of His coming

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Christians are called to live in love and holiness with urgency, because the time is short and the day of Christ is near.

I. Love Is a Debt We Never Pay Off (vv. 8–10)

Romans 13:8-14 (NIV) Love Fulfills the Law

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Cross Reference: Matthew 22:37–40, John 13:34–35, Galatians 5:14

Love is the one debt you’ll never pay off.

II. The Hour Demands Our Urgency (vv. 11–12a)

Romans 13:11-12a (NIV)

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Matthew 24:36 (NLT)

³⁶ “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NLT)

⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

Ephesians 5:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

Living by the Spirit’s Power

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

It’s later than you think — wake up!

III. Holiness Is Our Proper Clothing (vv. 12b–14)

Romans 13:12b-14 (NIV)

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT)

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Dress for the day, not the night.

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.