



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

September 24, 2023

Romans 13:1-7: WAKE UP – TIME IS SHORT!

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Suzi King rope (Francis Chan)



Rope: Red Part, White Part: Where you spend eternity...

Clothespin – This is when you are saved. How you live from here to here is very important to Christ!

[In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...](#)

Offer your bodies as living sacrifices... (Romans 12:1)

Don't conform to the world... (Romans 12:2)

Use the gifts and talents God gave you... (Romans 12:3-8)

Love sincerely and hate evil... (Romans 12:9)

ἀνυπόκριτος: without hypocrisy (should be real and from the heart)

And Love with discernment – love should align with God's Word (hate evil).

In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...

Be devoted to one another... (Romans 12:10)

Serve the Lord intensely... (Romans 12:11)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer... (Romans 12:12)

Practice hospitality and share... (Romans 12:13)

Live in harmony and peace with others... (Romans 12:16)

In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...

Overcome evil with good... (Romans 12:21)

Be subject to the authorities in your life... (Romans 13:1-5)

Show respect and honor... (Romans 13:7)

Romans 13:8-10

(8)

If you have bills, pay them. If you borrowed a tool, take it back. If you borrowed money, work another job and get rid of that debt. Don't remain in debt so that no one can hold anything against you. If willpower won't help you, try plastic surgery. Cut up those credit cards and live according to your means – under your means to pay off the debt. Take one of our finance classes, Dave Ramsey, whatever...

In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...

1. Pay your debts (Romans 13:8)

I will confess my wife and I did terrible at this when we first got married. We let much debt remain and it wrecks you. We personally took an FPU class and man it cut our debt, it lessened our fights, you want to be on the same page with this stuff.

(8-10)

In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...

2. Fulfill the law by loving people... (Romans 13:8-10)

Because if you do, you won't commit a sexual sin like adultery against them (or with them) because you know that would crush them or cause them to sin.

If you love someone, you won't steal from them.

If you love someone, you won't covet their truck or their life, you will be happy for them because you truly want the best for others...

“Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”” (Joshua 7:20–21)

Coveting just starts with looking, then comes longing, then comes the taking of something that was not for you.

The biggest problem with covetousness is not the trouble it gets us into, however, bad as that is. It is rather that it makes us insensitive to the needs of other people. For instead of helping us to see who they are and what their needs are, covetousness makes us jealous of others with the result that we see only what they have—and want it. Covetousness destroyed Achan, when he saw the wealth of Jericho and took it secretly, contrary to God’s express command. Covetousness and grasping after material things has destroyed the usefulness of many contemporary Christians... If we loved other people, we would want good things for them rather than letting their good things make us want more for ourselves. In this area, as in the others, love truly is the fulfillment of the law.
(James Montgomery Boice)

For others, not yourself. Not what you want.

Rope: In this part of our life, love for others should be our song. Jesus said, they will know we are Christians by the church members love for one another. And their love for neighbors...

On a scale of 1-10, how great are you at loving others in this church family (neighbors/co-workers)?

How could you raise that by one point?

And here is something else that should characterize this part of your life.

Romans 13:11-14

[In view of God’s forgiveness and mercy...](#)

3. Realize time is short – wake up! (Romans 13:11)
...make the most of every opportunity... (Ephesians 5:16)

Rope: If every millimeter is a day, your days left are less than ever. That is true of all of us. In a way, we all have the terminal disease of sin. And just like the person with a terminal disease leaves no things unsaid, no gospel unshared, no kind deed undone... we should live life that way.

In the home group notes I encouraged you to read Matthew 24:45-25:46 together. Here Jesus tells back-to-back to back-to-back parables... about young ladies not being ready for the wedding to start, about workers entrusted with money to work with and some did and others just sat around, and the judgement of sheep and goats... in all the stories the encouragement is, the end is near and it will come like a thief in the night (either your death or His return). So, wake up! Live for Him whom you are indebted to for the rest of this red zone.

Francis Chan's Grandmother-In-Law - Oh honey, I don't want to be here.

My friend, this is not the time for the child of God to live for the things of this world. I think many a rich Christian is going to be embarrassed when the Lord comes. How big will your bank account be, my friend? Are you using your time and what you possess for God? I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye yield your total personalities—all you are, all you have—to God. This is rational. This is reasonable. This is what you are supposed to be doing, Christian friend.
(J. Vernon McGee)

Who do you know who lives awake to the things of the Lord?

[In view of God's forgiveness and mercy...](#)

4. Be done with the things that belong to the night and stop planning how to gratify the desires of the flesh (Romans 13:12-14)

Verse 14 stop planning out how to gratify the desires of the flesh. We start thinking, "Well, wouldn't this be nice." Then, "how could I get away with it without others knowing." And pretty soon we are in for drunkenness, sexual immorality, laziness, jealousy, and starting fights. These are the deeds of darkness, at least, there was a time when they were mostly behind closed doors in the shadows, now sin is a little more public.



“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5–7)

In view of God’s forgiveness and mercy...

5. Put on the armor and prepare for battle (Romans 13:12-14)

You may sleep, but you cannot induce the devil to close his eyes.... You may see evangelicals asleep, but you will not find ritualists (cults) slumbering. The prince of the power of the air keeps his servants well up to their work. Is it not a strange thing that the servants of the Lord often serve him at a poor, cold, dead-alive rate? Oh, may the Lord quicken us! If we could with a glance see the activities of the servants of Satan, we should be astonished at our own sluggishness. (Charles Spurgeon)

Rope:

Brothers and sisters, throw off the night clothes and put on your armor.

Put it on so that you will endure in the rest of your red days.

Get God’s Word in you as your belt.

The righteousness that comes from Jesus like a breastplate against the coming arrows.

Get your shoes on to take the gospel out to the world.

Trust him and you will have a shield...

Put your faith in Him and you will be protected.

Obey His Word and wield the sword.

And pray for his strength.

There is no time for slumber brothers and sisters.

Home Group Questions ...

1. Read Matthew 25 as a group.
2. What was Jesus trying to communicate?
3. Describe a time in your life when you have acted like the “foolish virgins”. ...or like the “wise virgins”.
4. What could help you live on mission with Christ?
5. What sabotages you?