

Romans 13:11-14
For the week of 3/3/24

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

The need to love is supremely important in view of the critical age in which we find ourselves. Paul wrote from the perspective of the closing period of the present age. The fact that the fullness of the kingdom is upon us calls for godly living (cf. Jas 5:8–9; 2 Pet 3:11–14). The world lives as though human history were destined to continue forever. The Christian knows that God is in control of the events of people and nations and is directing history to a predetermined end. Since the end is near, we are to arouse ourselves from sleep, to “wake up to reality” (Phillips). The critical nature of the hour calls for the Christian to be wide awake and ready for action (cf. 1 Thess 5:6). Salvation, that is, our final deliverance at the second coming of Christ, is nearer to us than when we first believed. Every day brings us closer to that final day when all that we have anticipated in Christ will become a reality. The long-awaited kingdom is about to be unveiled fully and completely.¹

Observation (v 11)

3. What is Paul saying to the Roman church in this verse?

Interpretation

4. Compare this verse with 1 Thess 5:1-8.

5. What is the urgent message Paul is conveying and why?

¹ Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 246–247.

6. Look up "spiritual lethargy" and its symptoms. Does this fit within the context of Paul's writing? Why or why not?

Application

7. How are ways that you "stay awake" or as one commentator put it... Living in Light Due to Christ's Return²?

Observation (vs. 12 - 14)

8. What is Paul's message here?

Interpretation

9. For a frame of reference, look up the definition of "biblical eschatology."

10. What is Paul's purpose of using the terminology of "light" and "dark?"

11. Look up these verses and compare:

2 Cor 6:7 –

John 3:20; 9:4 –

² Grant R. Osborne, *Romans*, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 351.

Eph 5:11; 6:11, 13 –

Col 3:8 –

12. In verse 13, Paul gives a list of sins. Why does he choose these sins in particular and why are they paired up? (see also Luke 21:34; Gal 5:21; 1 Pet 4:3; James 3:14-16)

Application

13. How are you actively and consistently protecting yourself from “the works of darkness?”

14. As a group, read Galatians 5:22-25.

Something to do this week: In your continued time of personal devotion, pray on the armor of God.