

Romans 13

Jesus

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

- No real chapter break...

I. Submit to Government Where is your Kingdom?

1 Let **every soul** be subject to the governing authorities.

- **Written by Paul to every soul:** During reign of Caesar Nero in Rome

Tacitus [Ta-si-tus] Roman Historian [A.D. 60-120]

During [Caesar Nero's] rule, he murdered **his own mother**...his **first wife**...and allegedly, his **second wife**. In addition, ancient writers claim that he started the great fire of Rome in 64 A.D. so that he could rebuild the city center with a new palace... And so, to get rid of this rumor, Nero set up [i.e., falsely accused] as the culprits and punished with the utmost **refinement of cruelty** a class hated for their abominations, who are **commonly called Christians**... Accordingly, arrest was first made of those who confessed [to being Christians]; then, on their evidence, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much on the charge of arson as because of [their] hatred for the human race. Besides being put to death they were **made to serve as objects of amusement**; they were **clothed in the hides of beasts** and **torn to death by dogs**; others were **crucified**, others **set on fire** to serve to illuminate the night when daylight failed. Nero had thrown open his grounds for the display, and was putting on a show in the circus, where he mingled with the people in the dress of charioteer or drove about in his chariot. All this gave rise to a feeling of pity, even towards men whose guilt merited the most exemplary punishment [true criminals]; for it was felt that they were being destroyed not for the public good but to **gratify the cruelty of an individual**. [Annates, XV.44 XV.44]

- **Cruel Leader:** Peter would be crucified/Paul beheaded **both by Nero**

This was the setting Paul penned these words...

1 Let **every soul** be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

- **Facts v1**

1. We are commanded to be subject to governing authorities
2. All authority that exists is both **allowed** even **appointed by God**

2 Therefore whoever **resists** the **authority** **resists** the ordinance of **God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

- **Facts v2**

1. Resist any governing authority and you resist the ordinance of God
2. Resist the ordinance of God and bring judgment to yourself

- **Ordinance:** gr. *dee-at-ag-ay'* disposition, arrangement. rt. to set in order

Q. Why judgement for resisting the authority God has appointed?

A. Because God placed them there for His purpose[s]

- **Government:** Necessary God-given restraint in a world of sinners

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is **God's minister to you for good**. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an **avenger to execute wrath** on him who practices evil.

- Government Officials operate w/in a God-ordained system even if not saved
 1. **Do Good:** They will act as God's servant to you for good
 2. **Do Evil:** They be servants of God's/wrath even sword [Capital Punishment]

5 Therefore you must be subject, **not only because of wrath** but also for **conscience' sake**.

- **We are to be subject to Governing authority for 2 reasons**

1. **Avoid Punishment** of God
2. **Avoid Guilty Conscience**...not blow our witness

IOW 's Obey and be blameless before God and Man

Acts 24:16 I ... always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Romans 14:23 ... he who doubts is condemned...for **whatever is not from faith is sin**.

Context in Romans: Loving our neighbors into the kingdom. Not demanding our rights like lunatics in the street. Our rights don't mean squat if our demand for them is an offense/embarrassment to the Living God pushing people away from the kingdom of God, misrepresenting the character of God and Jesus the King of Kings who willingly died on a cross that we might be truly free. [NJC]

Would the world recognize what Kingdom we belong to?

2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the **affairs of this life**, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

- We please Jesus by obeying Jesus. Love. They will know us by our love

Just Passin' Through...for the sake of Others

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹²having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, **they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Philippians 2:15 [Stop complaining and be] *...blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine as lights in the world...***

...13 [Cont.] Therefore submit yourselves to **every ordinance of man** for the **Lord's sake**, whether to the **king** as supreme, 14 or to **governors**, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king

Galatians 5:13 *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only **do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another.*

...18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. 19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. **21** For to this you were called, because **Christ also suffered** for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Where is our Kingdom?

John 18:36 [Jesus to Pilate], "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, **My servants would fight**, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here.**"

- Do we see Jesus in the streets demanding rights? **What about Paul?**

Paul was exercising rights already in place by God's authorities 2x

Acts 16:35 [Paul/Silas in Philippian Jail] And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "**Let those men go.**" 36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, **uncondemned Romans**, and have **thrown us into prison.** And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Paul used the privilege of his Roman citizenship to advance the Gospel
If we are to abide by the laws we don't like...We can certainly enjoy the ones we do

Acts 22:22 [Paul in Jerusalem giving his testimony] And [the Jews] listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "**Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!**" 23 Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air, 24 the [Roman] commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be **examined under scourging**, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. 25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the [Roman] centurion who stood by, "**Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?**" 26 When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, **for this man is a Roman.**" 27 Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." 28 The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "**But I was born a citizen.**" 29 Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the **commander was also afraid** after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Paul used the privilege of his Roman citizenship to advance the Gospel
We are to walk blameless before God and Man... **Showing Respect to Authority**

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing [Governing]. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Paul is not calling Christians to resist Nero...but to Respect his God-given authority
E.g., David did not resist Saul God's Anointed even when Saul was in sin

- **Because God has set authority in place...**
 1. **Pay Taxes**
 2. **Pay Respect** [fearing God as per v1-2]
 3. **Pay Honor** as to those appointed by God [likeable or not]
- **Dual Citizenship** though one very temporal/less important...

Matthew 22:15 [Jesus nails religious leaders w/parable] Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they **might entangle Him in His talk**. 16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. 17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? **Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?**" 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "**Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?** 19 Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" 21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to **Caesar the things that are Caesar's**, and to **God the things that are God's.**" 22 When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

[The text] establishes the limits, regulates the rights, and distinguishes the jurisdiction of the two empires of heaven and earth. The image of prince stamped on their coin denotes that temporal things belong all to their government. The image of God stamped on the soul

denotes that all its faculties and powers belong to the Most High, and should be [used for] his service." [Clarke]

- **Previous the religious tax collectors came knocking?**

Matthew 17:24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "**Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?**" 25 He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" 26 Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. 27 Nevertheless, **lest we offend them**, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it **to them for Me and you.**"

- **Pay the tax...lest we offend them? It was His temple.**

Jesus was generally not concerned in the least about offending people. In this case not paying the tax might shut down the opportunity for further dialogue with Jesus. He chose not offend in this case and paid the tax [though He was not obliged to] because He wanted to *leave the door open for the tax collectors* to later approach Him and be saved. [NJC]

Romans 14:16 ...do not let your good [Context: What God has allowed you to freedom to enjoy] **be spoken of as evil**

- E.g., Those guys don't pay their taxes
- Do we want to be right or do we want to be Righteous?

Jesus and Peter had every right **in the world** not to pay temple taxes
We don't take our cues from the world. Our Kingdom is not of this world.

IOW's Jesus left the door to heaven open to tax collectors By forfeiting His own legitimate freedoms

Q. Is there ever a time to resist what authority? **A.** Yes.

Q. When? **A.** When we are asked to violate the Word of God

- **We are not** to resist because we disagree
- **We are not** to resist because they are cruel
- **We are not** to resist because they are persecuting yet...

We will continue to respect government as a God-given necessity, **But...**

- We will **never stop preaching the Word**
- We will **never stop meeting together**
- We will **never stop speaking truth to falseness**/Light to Darkness/Life to Death

There is a time to say no...

Exodus 1:15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, **if it is a son, then you shall kill him**; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17 But the **midwives feared God**, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have

you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" 19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." 20 Therefore **God dealt well with the midwives**, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 And so it was, because the **midwives feared God**, that He provided households for them.

- **They feared God more than man...thus they obeyed God**

Daniel 3:16 [Bow before the idol] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that **we do not serve your gods**, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Daniel 6:10 [Law: Pray to no one but the King] Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he **knelt down on his knees three times that day**, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as was his custom since early days**.

Acts 4:18 [Religious leaders to Apostles] and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, **you judge**."

Acts 5:28 [Religious leaders to Apostles] ... Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men**." 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

What about the American Revolution? Is there a time to say enough is enough? Not too fast.

- **English Preachers** like John Wesley urged restraint against revolution
- **Colonist Preachers** like John Witherspoon called for Revolution against King

Rationale of Colonists for Revolution preached from Pulpits re. Romans 13

1) The colonists saw themselves not as anti-government but as **anti-tyranny**. That is, they were not promoting anarchy or the casting off of all restraint. They believed Romans 13 taught honor for the *institution of government*, but not necessarily for the individuals who ruled government. Therefore, since they supported God's institution of government, the colonists believed that their actions against a specific oppressive regime were **not a violation** of the general principle of Romans 13. [No]

2) The colonists pointed out that it was the king of England himself who was in violation of Scripture. No king who behaved so wickedly, they said, **could be considered "God's servant."** Therefore, it was a Christian's duty to resist him. As Mayhew said in 1750, "**Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.**" [No]

3) The colonists saw the war as a defensive action, not as an offensive war. And it is true that, in 1775 and 1776, the Americans had presented the king with formal appeals for reconciliation. These peaceful pleas were met with armed military force and several violations of British Common Law and the English Bill of Rights. In 1770, the British fired upon unarmed citizens in the Boston Massacre. At Lexington, the command was "Don't fire unless fired upon." The colonists, therefore, saw themselves as defending themselves after the conflict had been initiated by the British. [**Maybe**] Colonist left England/followed by the King's army to this country/taxed persecuted. **Self-defense?** [NJC]

4) The colonists read 1 Peter 2:13, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority . . .," and saw the phrase "for the Lord's sake" as a **condition for obedience**. The reasoning ran thus: if the authority was unrighteous and passed unrighteous laws, then following them could not be a righteous thing. In other words, one

cannot obey a wicked law "for the Lord's sake." [No] Needed to c.f. Rom 13

5) The colonists saw Hebrews 11 as justification for resisting tyrants. Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah are all listed as "heroes of faith," and they were all involved in overthrowing oppressive governments. [No]

It is safe to say that the American patriots who fought against England were fully convinced that they had biblical precedent and scriptural justification for their rebellion. Although their view of Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 is a **faulty interpretation** [there are no provisos concerning obedience in those passages], it was the popular preaching of the day. At the same time, the self-defense argument is a convincing and substantial rationale for war. [GotQuestions.org]

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Do we rebel against a government gone sideways?

Even one very popular contemporary Pastor has done 180 on Rom 13

1. When government fails to fulfill their purpose, they forfeit our submission. No
2. No matter how bad government is failing Rom 13 commands us to submit

Does God use oppressive Governments to judge their own nations? If so, who is man to reject His will? Since God holds Kings and PM's accountable shouldn't we simply subject ourselves to them allowing responsibility for their actions to fall entirely on them? What about when they try to take away our ability to defend ourselves? What about sending one nation to usurp another? Did God use the Revolution for good anyway?

More questions than answers...Reason we have God's Holy Spirit

- God is in control. God calls the shots.

Daniel 4:17 [Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom Removed by God] ... In order that the living may know That the **Most High rules in the kingdom of men**, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.¹

Today Governments have far exceeded their Divine mandate throughout the world yet... Paul is calling for submission to authority even during Caesar Nero's reign of terror

- Want good leaders? God says to pray.

1 Timothy 2:1 [Wage the good warfare having faith and a good conscience...] Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and giving of thanks **be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.** 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Q. What really matters? **A.** God's glory and the souls of men. Finishing well.

Clearest interpretation needs no interpretation.

That is...Unless we're being told to violate the Word of God...

... Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on

themselves.

Where is our Kingdom anyway? It Ain't Here.

SUMMARY Submit to Government

II. Love Your Neighbor

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are **all summed up in this saying**, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

What is the Greatest Commandment given by God to man?

Matthew 22:35 ... a lawyer, asked [Jesus] a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, **which is the great commandment** in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall **love** the Lord your **God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**'

- **Jesus:** Do these two/Fulfill entire Law
- **Paul:** Do one/Fulfill both...and the entire Law

2 Greatest Commandments from God to man are all summed up in this You shall love your neighbor as yourself

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"

How does that work? Because we Love God **by** Loving our Neighbor

Love, and do what you will: Whether you hold your peace, through love hold your peace; whether you cry out, through love cry out; whether you correct, through love correct; whether you spare, through love do you spare: let the root of love be within, of this root can nothing spring but what is good. [Augustine]

Love God and do whatever we please? **How do we love God?**

James 2:8 If you really **fulfill the royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," **you do well...**

Royal Law/Law of the King...Encompasses every other Law when fulfilled
Love your neighbor as yourself

- **Paul: Owe no one anything...except love.**
- **IOW's** No one is debt free in God's economy...

Q. Who do we owe? Jesus
Q. Why do we owe Jesus? Because He gave His life for us
Q. What do we owe? Love. Our love expressed to God by loving our neighbor

- Q. How love our neighbor? By doing for them what we would want done for us
Q. Who is our Neighbor? **Everybody...**

Luke 10:29 [Scribe to Jesus after love neighbor] **"And who is my neighbor?"** 30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a **certain priest** came down that road. And when he saw him, he **passed by** on the other side. 32 Likewise a **Levite**, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and **passed by** on the other side. 33 But a certain **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, '**Take care of him**; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 **So which of these three do you think was neighbor** to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, **"He who showed mercy on him."** Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- Samaritans had nothing to do with Jews. Hated one another **yet...**

He was the only one of the three to ask himself...

What would I want someone to do for me in his situation...and then he did it

- **Who is my neighbor?**
 1. Christian brothers/sisters?
 2. Family?
 3. Friends?
 4. People I get along with?
 5. My enemies? **A. All of the above**

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

- **Bless how?** By loving them like you love yourself?

We have to come to an understanding of **just how much** we love ourselves

Matthew 7:12 ... whatever you want men to do to you, **do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Loving others as we love ourselves doesn't mean just thinking good thoughts about them
It is demonstrated through action...Both what we do/What we don't do...

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Loves does no harm thus love fulfills the Law inferring the **purpose** of God's law is that **we might do no harm to one another. This is God's desire.** [NJC]

Love your neighbor as yourself in every situation/every encounter

This was Jesus' mindset and should be ours

- **Cannot love apart from Spirit of Jesus.** Given in the Law of God

Leviticus 19:18 ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

John 13:34 A **new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

- New because we finally do it [love sincerely] with New Wine/God's Spirit within us

IOW's All Commandments in Ch's 12-16

Can only be done sincerely as the Spirit works in/through us. As we yield.

- Now is the time to set minds/hearts **to act...**

SUMMARY Love Your Neighbor

III. Put on Christ

11 And **do this**, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

- **Do this?** Do what? Love, love, love, love and when done...love
- **Wake up from selfishness/self-gratification**

Don't be found sleeping...Jesus is coming soon!

Matthew 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree [Israel]: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves [1948], you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that **it is near—at the doors!** 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by **no means pass away** till all these things take place.

Mark 13:32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 **Take heed, watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And **what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!**"

Matthew 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to **beat his fellow servants**, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Awake out of your sleep!

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and **do not sin...**

Ephesians 5:14 ..."Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you

light.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 ... concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night**. ³ For when they say, "**Peace and safety!**" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all **sons of light and sons of the day**. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore **let us not sleep**, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let **us who are of the day** be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Jesus is Near! Wake up from selfishness/Apathy be committed to Love

12 The **night is far spent**, the day is at hand.

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the **night is coming** when no one can work.

John 13:30 Having received the piece of bread, [Judas] then went out immediately. **And it was night.**

- **Since the last supper...it has been night on this Earth**

Luke 22:53 [Mob comes for Jesus] .. this is **your hour**, and the **power of darkness.**"

- **Paul:** Night was far spent 2000 years ago **but it's still night**

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil walks about** like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour**. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith...

Night is Here/Day is Near...

12b... Therefore let us **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armor of light.

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is **greater than he who is in the world.**

**We win the eternal war by the blood of Jesus
But it's our choice to win/lose the everyday battles...**

Ephesians 5:11 ... have **no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **expose them.**

- **Expose darkness how?** By being Light. **Being who we are...**

Matthew 5:14 "You are the **light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see

your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- **Armor of Light:** God is Light: IOW's Put on the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- **Armor**

1. Helmet of Salvation
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Belt of Truth
4. Shoes of Gospel
5. Sword of Spirit
6. Shield of Faith

- **Put on... Conscience Act** of heart and mind [Later v 14]

Put on things of God/Put off things of Flesh

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

- **Walk properly:** Lit. **Honestly**; i.e., being who we are in Christ

Philippians 4:8 ... whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- **Put off...**

1. **Revelry:** Rioting. Carousing. Spec at Night. From rt. to lie; not be who we are
2. **Drunkenness:** Intoxicated. Open to demonic interaction

Proverbs 23:20 Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat..

3. **Lewdness:** Wantonness. excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, shamelessness, insolence
4. **Lust:** Greed for more

- Couple of sins that beset Christians?

4. **Strife:** Debate, contention. Looking for fight.
5. **Envy:** Uncontrolled jealousy to the point of malice

James 3:14 But if you have **bitter envy** and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **15** But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! **16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Put off the things of the flesh/Put on the things of the Spirit
IOW's Take off Adam...Put on Jesus. Be your true self

14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- **Conscience decision of mind/heart to reckon Adam dead/Jesus alive...**

Job 29:14 I put on righteousness and it **clothed me**; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

Ephesians 4:24 ... and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10 ... **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him... 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on **tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering** [IOW's Jesus]

- **Make no provision for flesh?** Put on Christ
- **John 15:** Abiding in Christ/Putting on Christ [Armor]. Conscience Act of heart/mind

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me **you can do nothing**. [With Me you can do all things]

- How do I bear fruit? Abide in Christ
- How do I abide in Christ? Abide in His love
- How do I abide in His love? Keep His commands
- What are His commands? Abide in His love
- How do I abide in His love? Love on another. [Funny how if all comes around]
- **What is the result of loving others?**

We bear Good Fruit [souls] which Glorifies God

Which in turn Accomplishes our Purpose resulting in Joy to the Fullest

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your **joy may be full**. [filled to top/nothing wanting] [How?] 12 This is My commandment, that you **love one another** as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- My Joy will be made full when I lay down my life. Yep.
- **Put on Jesus/Abide in Jesus:**

Conscience Decision of Heart/Mind to Reckon Adam Dead/Jesus Alive

Night is Far Spent...The Eternal Day is at Hand

Revelation 21:24 [New Jerusalem] Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (**there shall be no night there**).

Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of **God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light**.

Revelation 22:5 There shall **be no night there:** They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. **And they shall reign forever and ever.**

Night is almost over. Day is near.
Love one Another/Put on Christ/Look Up