

The Light

Rise and Shine

“The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” -Romans 13:12

Are you a morning person? I am not! It takes me a while to get going after that first sound of the alarm lets me know that a new day is starting. I am thankful for Spotify because instead of the annoying buzzer, at least I can wake up to my favorite song.

In last year’s CVM devotional series, “Transformed”, we walked through the 12th chapter of Romans. There, Paul, the writer, lays out core tenants for Christian living. In Romans Chapter 13, Paul continues to give instruction in living worship-filled lives. He teaches us to: respect governmental authorities, give honor where honor is due, and fulfill the law as we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Romans 13:11 begins with a fervent wake-up call. (Much like the ones I would rather avoid in the morning!) Paul writes, *“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake from your slumber, because salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”*

The verse starts, *“...And do this...”* Paul is saying that based on what we have been taught in the preceding chapters about holy and worshipful living, we must get ready.

Comparing Biblical translations can sometimes help expand our knowledge of a passage. The Message translation gives insight into the importance of being awake to what God is doing:

“But make sure that you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can’t afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don’t loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!”

-Romans 13:11-14 Message

Instructions for dressing ourselves in Christ with the “armor of light” come straight out of Ephesians 6:

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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 firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet,

The Light

Rise and Shine

having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance.”

- Ephesians 6:11-18

We must not wait any longer to start serving God. We are like rescue workers who serve with great passion. Our schools, practices, and communities need to see Christ's light shining through us into the dark world. My friend, Pastor Sergio from Mexico, says that **where it is the darkest, one small light shines the brightest**. If the sunrise is Christ's final return, we as the Church are sunlight *before* that final sunrise. We proclaim His truth and the coming eternal glory for those who trust only on the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

-1 Peter 2:9

1. In our roles in vet practice and school, identify areas where we slip into a drowsy, daily routine.
2. In Romans 13:14 Paul writes that we should “...*put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.*”
 - What can you practically “put on” to become more like Christ?
 - Where can we “put off” sin so that sin has a zero-tolerance policy in our lives?
3. Review the pieces of the “*armor of God.*”
 - Has there been a recent time where you have become more aware of a spiritual battle going on around you?



Dr. Elizabeth Mendoza is a 2005 graduate of the University of Tennessee CVM. She practiced small animal emergency and general medicine in southern CA until 2014 when she and her husband, Jaime moved back to TN to raise their family and try their hand at farming. She serves as the North Central region rep for CVM. Email: emendoza@cvm.org