

Romans 13:8-14

A Love that Lights the World

Recap

- **Romans 1-11**
 - **Neither Jews nor Gentiles can save themselves through works**
 - **The Jews have the Law, but they are no more worthy than the Gentiles**
 - **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)**
 - **The Law is a mirror to show us our need for a Savior**
 - **Christ’s sacrifice on the cross paid for all our sins, once and for all time**
 - **God is still faithful to His promise to create a great nation from Abraham and his descendants**
 - **“Reconciliation of the world” (Romans 11:15)**

Recap

- **Romans 12**
 - **Sacrifice your old self and take on the new self in Christ**
 - **Be humbly self-aware; not prideful but confident in the gifts from God's grace**
 - **Use the gifts of the Spirit as you've received them to unify the body of Christ**
 - **Let genuine love and peaceful living be your trademark**
 - **Repay evil with good and leave vengeance to God**

Recap

- **Romans 13**
 - **Submit (show respect, honor, give what is due) to those in authority (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:11-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)**
 - **Obey God rather than human beings (Acts 5:29)**
 - **Suffer joyfully the consequences (Romans 5:3-5; Romans 8:16-17; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 2:19-23; 1 Peter 4:12-16)**
 - **Know Christ more intimately**
 - **Share something of what He endured**
 - **Experience His presence**
 - **Enjoy a greater sense of fellowship with Him**

Romans 13: 8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13: 11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 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. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Owe no one, except...

- Paul goes from corporate to individual obligation
 - “Owe no one anything...” (ESV)
 - “Let no debt remain outstanding...” (NIV)

Borrowing and lending

- **“Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you” (Proverbs 22:26-27)**
- **“The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously” (Psalm 37:21)**
- **“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42)**
- **“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you’— when you already have it with you” (Proverbs 3:27-28)**
- **“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10)**

The endless debt of love

- **Love your neighbor as yourself**
 - **Leviticus 19:18**
 - **Matthew 19:19**
 - **Matthew 22:39**
 - **Mark 12:31**
 - **Luke 10:27**
 - **Romans 13:9**
 - **Galatians 5:14**
 - **James 2:8**

The Golden Rule

- **“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12)**
- **“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them” (Luke 6:31)**

“Who is my neighbor?”

- **Parable of the Good Samaritan**
 - **“The one who showed him mercy” (Luke 10:37)**
- **When a stranger comes**
 - **Leviticus 19:33-34**
 - **Deuteronomy 15:10-11**
 - **Proverbs 19:17**
 - **Hebrews 13:1-2 (Genesis 18 & 19)**
 - **Matthew 25:34-40**

The Law & the Prophets

- **If you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, you won't:**
 - **Have any other gods before Him (Exodus 20:3)**
 - **Make idols to worship (Exodus 20:4-6)**
 - **Take the Lord's name in vain (Exodus 20:7)**
 - **Forget the Sabbath or to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11)**

The Law & the Prophets

- **If you love your neighbor as yourself, you will:**
 - **Honor your father and mother (Exodus 20:12)**
 - **Not murder – or hate! (Exodus 20:13)**
 - **Not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14)**
 - **Not steal (Exodus 20:15)**
 - **Not lie (Exodus 20:16)**
 - **Not long after something that belongs to another (Exodus 20:17)**

Love is not a burden

- **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3)**
- **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30)**

Love is not a burden

- **You have the assurance of Jesus' salvation**
- **You have the presence and transformative power of the Holy Spirit**
- **You have an omnipotent, omnipresent God who loves you**

A wake-up call

- **We are saved not to slumber, but to be alert and engage the world**
 - **Matthew 24:42**
 - **Mark 13 (six times!)**
 - **Ephesians 5:14**
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:6**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:6-11**

Romans 13:11-12

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. (The Message)

Romans 13:13-14

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! (The Message)

The Great Commission

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (The Message)

Matthew 28:16-20

2 Peter 3:8-10

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Takeaways

- **Let love guide your words and deeds every waking moment**
- **Be attentive to the world around you**
- **Determine what you can do to light your world, and set about doing it**