

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 11/21-22/2022 *Romans Chapter 13!*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Review:

Rom 12:1-2,9,21) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. [9] Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

The great emphasis from the latter portion of chapter 12 is the importance of living peaceably with all men. Paul is continuing on with this same principle. One of the great functions of the state, the government, is to enable us to live peaceably with one another. So, we continue. How am I, as a Christian in this world, to react to the government?

TEXT:

(Rom 13:1-14)

Submission to the Authorities

[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. [2] Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. [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. [5] Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. [6] For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. [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.

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

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. [12] The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. [13] Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. [14] But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Rom 13:1 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.

- **Romans 13: We are still talking about the service of Christians.** The believer has citizenship in as a citizen of heaven is spiritual. The duty of a believer as a citizen under a government is heaven, but he also is a citizen in the world, giving him a twofold responsibility. The duty of the believer secular. These two are separate functions, and to combine them, leads to failure. If there is a true conflict between the two, our first responsibility is always to our Lord in heaven!
- **In Paul's day, the Jews were adverse to submitting to Roman rule.** They were prone to open rebellion and resistance to the occupying Romans. Some Christians, when born again, and submitting to Christ as Lord and Savior, have felt they no longer have to submit to governing authorities. We are told here that we believers do have a responsibility to be subject to such governing authority.
- **The Lord Jesus made it very clear that we have a responsibility to human government.** When He was asked by His enemies, "Is it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar, or not?" He asked them to show Him a coin, saying whose image was on that coin? They said, "Caesar's." Then He made this significant statement, **(Luk 20:25) And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**
- **Let every soul be subject** – (hupotasso – to be under obedience.) - A soldier's obedience to his superior officer. Scripture makes one exception to this command, at such times when obedience to civil authority would require disobedience to God's Word. (Exo 1:17) But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive; (Act 4:19-20) 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. [20] For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
- **Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. (Eph 5:21-22) submitting to one another in the fear of God. [22] Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (Jas 4:7) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (1Pe 2:13,18) Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,**

[18] *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. Wives, submit to your husbands, providing that is so doing, you are not coming against your Lord!*

- **To the governing authorities.** To every position of civil authority without regard to competency, morality, reasonableness, or any other caveat. (1Ti 2:1) *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. (Tit 3:1) Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, [2] to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.*
- **Every soul is to be subject to those powers and authorities of government.** Not, just if I agree, but as a matter of principle. For all power and authority is ordained of God. Now this was said when Nero was Caesar, which was also very corrupt in many forms, as was the world power of that day. People that were used to the excesses practiced by those in the Roman Senate, the abuses. Yet, Paul writing to the Romans, says that *every soul* is to be in subjection to those higher powers because there is no power but of God and the powers to be, are ordained of God.
- **What about corrupt leadership?** Many men in places of power are corrupt. Why would God ordain corrupt leadership? It is hard to understand how that it can be said that all power is of God or that God gives the authority to those whom He wills. Yet, this is the clear teaching of the Scriptures. There are times when a nation has turned its back upon God and deliberately and willfully has defied the rules and the law of God, which causes God to bring that nation into judgment! God can raise up corrupt leaders as a form of judgment against the people who have rebelled against God's authority. God will allow that rebellion, but it cannot come except at the cost of judgment.
- **There is no authority except from God.** Since He alone is the sovereign ruler of the universe, (Psa 103:19) *The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. (1Ti 6:15) which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.* He has instituted four authorities on earth: (1) the government over all citizens; (2) the church over all believers; (3) the parents over all children; and (4) the masters over all employees.
- **Appointed by God.** Human government's authority derives from and is defined by God. He instituted human government to reward good and to restrain sin in an evil, fallen world.

Rom 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

- **Resists the ordinance of God.** Anyone resisting the authority is resisting the ordinance of God. Those wrongfully resisting shall receive for themselves judgment. Since all government is God-ordained, disobedience is rebellion against God. There are militia type movements, that go by different names, constitutional movements and all, they are advocating the overthrow of our government. I do not believe Christians are called to take arms to overthrow a government. Paul lays it out here quite clearly, even if the government is not what it should be. For this country, God has provided the means of overthrowing the government through the ballot box. If the people have voted and have desired such leadership, then we are to be in subjection to that leadership accepting that this is God's will. God has allowed it. It would not be unless God had allowed it to be. I may not be in agreement with it, but I'm to submit to that authority because God has allowed that authority to rule.
- **Judgment on themselves.** Not God's judgment, but punishment from the government for breaking the law. (Rom 13:4) *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.*

Rom 13:3 *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.*

- **Not a terror to good works, but to evil.** Even the most wicked, godless governments act as a deterrent to crime.
- **Do what is good ... have praise.** Peaceful, law-abiding citizens need not fear the authorities. Few governments will harm those who obey their laws. Governments usually commend such people. If you are a violator, then you will fear the authority. But if you keep the laws you will have the praise of the same.

Rom 13:4 *For he is God's minister (diakonos - servant) 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 (diakonos - servant), an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

- **God's minister ... for good.** By helping restrain evil and protecting life and property. We remember how God gave His law on Mount Sinai, through Moses, to give the new nation of Israel, coming out of the Exodus from Egypt, rules and regulations, to permit things to be done decently and in order. Note the emphasis on personal responsibility, as well as the strong correction to those who broke the law, such as capital punishment.
- **Paul took advantage of his government's role in promoting what is good** when he exercised his rights as a Roman citizen to obtain justice. (*Act 22:25*) *And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" (Act 25:11) For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar."*
- **The government is to maintain law and order.** When it does not do that, it has failed. A Christian is to abhor evil! He should be opposed to the breakdown of law and order. We are to respect our rulers who are enforcing the law. I have great respect for our army and its uniform, although there are those in it, who are corrupt. I have great respect for police officers, although I know they, being human, do make mistakes.
- **Bear the sword.** This symbolizes the government's right to inflict punishment on wrongdoers—especially capital punishment. (*Gen 9:6*) *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. (Mat 26:52) But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*
- **To execute wrath.** Not God's wrath, but the punishment inflicted by the civil authorities.

Rom 13:5 *Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.*

- **Not only because of wrath.** In the light of all this we are told there are two reasons for subjecting ourselves to these higher powers. The first is that you must be subject because of wrath, because you will have punishment if you do not. So be subject to them for the sake of avoiding this wrath.
- **But also for conscience' sake.** The second reason over and above that, is to be subject to the higher powers, also for conscience's sake! Not just because of your own conscience, which is speaking but because you as a Christian, now understanding the nature of the powers that be. You are no longer ignorant. Paul says that is the teaching in the Old Testament, telling us, now as well, there is no power apart from God and that the powers are ordained by Him. If you go against it, you will be going against the common knowledge of Christian people who understand the teaching of God's word on this important subject. (*2Co 1:12*) *For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.*

Rom 13:6 *For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers (leitourgos – public servant, functionary priest in a service) attending continually to this very thing.*

- **Because of this you also pay taxes.** Because God ordained human government and demands submission to it.

- **Taxes, referring to taxes paid** by individuals, particularly those living in a conquered nation to their foreign rulers—which makes the tax even more onerous. Paul uses the term in the broadest possible sense to speak of all kinds of taxes. Jesus explicitly taught that taxes are to be paid—even to the pagan Roman government, (*Mar 12:14,17*) *When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? [17] And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.*
- **For they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.** A different word for *ministers*, is used here, which is the same word used of the priests working in the temple. Paul is saying that these powers have a divinely ordained office that in certain respects, is comparable to the position of the priests in the temple. So the ministers here refer to the exercise of the function, which the apostle has been talking in this entire section, his argument. That we pay taxes to keep the state going, because we recognize they are appointed by God.

Rom 13:7 *Render* (give back, pay back) **therefore to all their due: taxes** (tribute, direct tax) **to whom taxes are due, customs** (indirect tax) **to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

- **Render ... to all their due.** "Render" translates a Greek word signifying the payment of something owed—not a voluntary contribution—and is reinforced by the word *due*. The apostle reiterates that paying taxes is mandatory. Jesus also set an example by willingly paying the temple tax. Although we may resent the way our tax money is being used, we are to pay taxes anyway. Jesus paid the temple tax that was due. (*Mat 17:24, 27*) *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?" [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."* *Taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs.* Tolls or taxes on goods. The next time the custom officer goes through your bag, make sure that you have made the declarations correctly. Let him go through, I've declared everything. If I have gone over my spending limits, pay the custom. It's part of the law.
- **Fear** (reverence) **to whom fear, honor to whom honor.** God demands that we show sincere respect and an attitude of genuine high esteem for all public officials. They are for the purpose of the protection of man and the perpetuation of a society. Pay your taxes. Pay customs and honor those who have been placed in authority by God. (*Luk 12:4-5*) *"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. [5] But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"* A Christian is to be the best citizen here on earth, although his citizenship is in heaven.

TEXT:

(Rom 13:8-10)

Love Your Neighbor - Fulfilling the Law Through Love

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

Put on Christ

Rom 13:8 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

- **We note the illustration in (Rom 1:14-15) I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. [15] So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.** Paul is not just saying that he wants to repay them for what they had given him. He is saying something much more wonderful! He is saying since I have become a Christian, I have something which other people need! I think this so strongly that I feel as if I am in debt to them! Paul means that he has this wonderful possession himself and its effect upon him is so powerful that when he sees the need of others, he feels he has no right to withhold it from them! How true that should be for every believer!
- **Owe no one anything.** Now that doesn't mean that you can't buy a car on credit. It doesn't mean that you have to pay cash for your house. It means when the monthly bill comes due, pay it! (*Psa 37:21, 26*) *The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives. [26] He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed!*
- **For he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** Remember the order of the Commandments. (*Mat 22:36-40*) *"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.'* [40] *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* When you go through all of the laws in the Old Testament, and you go through the prophets and the commandments of God to the people, they can all be summed up very easily in just, **"Love God supremely and love your neighbor as yourself!"** If you do that, having that kind of love, you will in that love, fulfilling the law.
- **The first commandment must be kept first!** In order to keep the second commandment of loving our neighbor as ourselves, we must remember that the only way to know, and because of our natural selfishness, to truly be able to love anyone else, is to keep the first and greatest commandment, which would lead to being born again! You will never have a true understanding of yourself until you see yourself under God and the light of God. Until one is born again, he cannot possibly keep the second commandment, because the unbeliever cannot have a heart that is not self-centered and unable to truly love anyone as we are being told to do!

Rom 13:9 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."

- **For the commandments,** we are given us some of the things from the second table of the law. The first table of the law deals with our relationship with God, whereas the second table of the law, deals with our relationship with each other. So the love is the *fulfilling of the law*.
- **To demonstrate that love fulfills the law,** Paul cites five of the Ten Commandments dealing with human relations and ties them in with an overarching OT command. He quotes *Exo 20:13-15, Exo 20:17, Deu 5:17-19, Deu 5:21*.
- **Summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."**
This command, quoting *Lev 19:18*, encompasses all of God's laws concerning human relationships. If we truly love our neighbor, anyone with whom we have contact, we will do what is in his best interest!

Rom 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- **It is interesting how that in the law, it was put pretty much in the negative.** Thou shall not. Thou shall not. Thou shall not. Jesus turned into the positive. He said, thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself! Paul picks it up and reiterates the same. If you love, you are not going to lie, you are not going to steal, you are not going to covet! If you have true love for your neighbor,

then it would solve all of the contentions, all of the strife, all of the things that are hurtful in our society today.

- **Love is the fulfillment of the law.** If we treat others with the same care that we have for ourselves, we will not violate any of God's laws regarding interpersonal relationships. (*Mat 7:12*) *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.* (*Jas 2:8*) *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you do well!*

TEXT:

(Rom 13:11-14)

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. [12] The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. [13] Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. [14] But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Rom 13:11 *And do this* (moreover, in addition to), **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.**

- **And do this** (moreover, in addition to), **knowing the time**, not in terms of chronology, but as a period, era, or age. Paul is referring to some special time period, this particular time or season in which we live.
- **In (Rom 3:24-26a) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, [26a] to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness.** Paul is speaking about our Lord's death on the cross, which was a comparatively recent event. With that in mind he says now God is declaring at **this high time**, His righteousness, overlooking the sins of the people in the past as they brought their offering and sacrifices into the temple.
- **This expression is also used in (Rom 5:6) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.** There is obviously something special about that.
- **An even better example is in (Rom 8:18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.** There it is! That is the most important as well as a most moving verse.
- **Again, in (Rom 11:5) Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.** Each passage is clearly referred to a special **time**. That is what Paul is dealing with here, saying you know this time. You understand the time, the period in which you are living! Christians have a special view of time and history that nobody else possesses.
- **And do this, knowing the time**, God, I believe, has deliberately intended from the beginning of the church in the Book of Acts that the church should constantly be expecting the return of Jesus Christ at any time. God did not give any prophecies that would have to be fulfilled in order for the church, to be raptured, but always left it as an eminent event. It could happen at any moment! Surely the disciples had this feeling through the teachings of Jesus. After His resurrection we are told that for about forty days He was appearing to His disciples, at different times, and on different occasions.
- **The prophecy of Daniel from the time that the commandment goes forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem unto the coming of the Messiah the Prince will be seven sevens and sixty-two sevens.** It has now been four hundred and eighty-three years almost since the commandment went forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. They should have been looking for the Messiah! And there were so many prophecies, there were over three hundred!
- **But we have even more prophecies that deal with the second coming of Jesus Christ**, things that are being fulfilled before our very eyes. We see so many things that are the precursors to the coming of Jesus Christ in His second coming. So Jesus said to His church, when you see these

things beginning to come to pass, then look up and lift up your head for your redemption draws nigh. Knowing the time, the Lord expects you to know the time. ***That now it is high time to awake out of sleep*** - Spiritual apathy, unresponsiveness to the things of God.

- **What time is it? He said, it is high time.** *that now it is high time to awake out of sleep;* In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus assumed that the church would be sleeping at the time of His return. They are a type of the church in this parable. They all slumbered and slept. It is *high time* to awake out of sleep. He also recognized that the church for the most part is asleep.
- **For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.** Paul closes the chapter by saying, **Our salvation**, the final feature of our redemption, glorification, **is nearer.** We will be glorified when Jesus returns, which draws closer with each passing day! The Bible frequently uses the return of Jesus Christ, to motivate believers to holy living.

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

- **The night is far spent.** This refers to man's depravity and Satan's dominion (***1Th 5:4-5***) *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.* The night of evil is almost over. The times of the Gentiles have about been fulfilled.
- **The day is at hand.** This refers to Christ's return and reign (***1Th 5:2-4***) *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.* Therefore we need to be alert. We need to wake up.
- **Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.** Our response, realizing that it is *high time to awake out of our sleep.* Our salvation is near. The Day of the Lord is at hand. We need to cast off the works of darkness. (***Heb 12:1***) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.* It is so easy to get caught up in sin, to become ensnared by things of the flesh. If you have been caught up in any of these works of the flesh, it is time to cast them off, and to put on the *armor of light!*
- **The armor of light.** The protection that practical righteousness provides. Put on, be clothed with, *the armor of light!* (***2Pe 1:5-7,10***) *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, [7] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. [10a] Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure.* These are the weapons **of light** if you are clothed with them, if you have supplied yourself and your faith with them and are encompassed with them, then you are in a position to fight the world, the flesh, and the devil. *[10b] for if you do these things you will never stumble.* An entrance shall be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! (***Eph 6:11***) *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

Rom 13:13 Let us walk properly (in a decent manner), ***as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.***

- **Let us walk properly.** By living a life pleasing to God, manifesting with outward behavior the inner reality of a redeemed life. (***Gal 5:16-25***) *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (2Jn 1:4,6) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. [6] This is love that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*
- **Not in revelry and drunkenness.** Or wild parties, sexual orgies, brawls, riots. (***Gal 5:21***) *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told*

you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (**1Pe 4:3**) For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

- **Not in lewdness and lust.** Sexual immorality. (**1Co 6:18**) Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! (**Eph 5:3**) But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.
- **Not in strife and envy.** These are closely associated iniquities, since the former is often the result of the latter. (**2Co 12:20**) For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults; (**Gal 5:20**) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies.

Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.** Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. But we are to walk in holiness, righteousness, in truth because Jesus could come before tomorrow morning. We want to be found in Him in that righteousness which is of Christ! We want to be found walking in the Spirit. Do not give it an inch! Make no provision for it. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the last days. It is important that we be awakened to that fact. That we cast off the works of darkness and we put on the *armor of light*. That we begin to live and to walk after the Spirit, making no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof.
- **What exactly is meant by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ?** First, we must put on the doctrine concerning our Lord. We need to remember that He is the Lord! But He is also my Lord in particular! (**1Co 7:23**) You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. He owns you! You belong to Him! I need to think I am not my own! I am the bond slave of Jesus Christ! He is my Lord! He my Master. He is my Owner. I have no right to live as I want to live! I do not leave to live to please myself!
- **Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ – He is speaking here of armor, of clothing, of the way in which we live.** We also see this in (**Php 1:27**) Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. In (**1Pe 5:5**) Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." Speaking of being clothed in humility.
- **Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ! Secondly, we should follow His example!** We see the strong appeal in (**1Pe 2:13-14,16-19,21-23**) 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. [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. [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. [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; That is putting on the Lord Jesus Christ following in His steps in imitating His example!
- **Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ means living upon Him.** (**Joh 6:53**) Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. This is essential! We must deliberately partake of Him. We are putting on the Lord Jesus Christ when we come to the communion table, living on Him, partaking of Him

and of His life. We are to feed on Him! These words also mean to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, relying on Him, like the soldier putting on his armor. We put Him on in this way, conscious of our weakness and of our need for strength, ability and power. We cannot withstand the world, the flesh, and the devil without putting on the Lord Jesus Christ and relying on Him!

- **It also means to hide in Him.** We need to do this because of what surrounds us, the fiery darts of the wicked one and all that we know of him, the world affliction, the devil. Hide in Christ! That is putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. You are hiding in Him. He is covering you. You are in Him. Being in Him, so hide in Him.

SUMMARY:

- **Help us to awake from Spiritual lethargy and sleep.**
- **May we begin to walk after the Spirit, praying, waging Spiritual warfare on our knees,** interceding, Lord, for our nation.
- **May we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and not be entangled in the things of the flesh!**
- *(Heb 12:1b-2) Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God!*
- **May we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and Call Upon The LORD!**

CLOSING SONG:

CALL UPON THE LORD (3:36_3:40) *Elevation Worship*

*We need no other hiding place Our hope is safe within Your name This we know, this we know You
promise never to forsake What you began You will sustain This we know, this we know
I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save Rise your shackles are no more For
Jesus Christ Has broken every chain
All of the heavens and the earth Announce the fullness of Your worth This we know, this we know
And every enemy will flee As we declare your victory This we know, this we know
I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save
Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain
Jesus' name will break every stronghold Freedom is ours when we call His name
Jesus' name above every other All hail the power of Jesus' name
I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save
Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 14!