

Daily Living – The Value of Time
Rom. 13:11-14

Thesis: To help us better use our time as we near the day of salvation.

Introduction:

- A. In this passage, Paul tells us that it is time to wake up and begin doing what God wants us to do.
- B. The purpose of this passage is to encourage us to do what is right because time is of the essence.

I. If we value our time, we will “cast off the works of darkness” (13:12-14).

A. There are several things that Paul tells us to put off from our physical bodies (13:12-13).

- 1. Notice the sins that Paul points out in this passage.
 - a. “Not in revelry and drunkenness.”
 - 1) Revelry is rioting, or letting loose sinfully.
 - 2) Drunkenness is being intoxicated.
 - b. “Not in lewdness and lust.”
 - 1) Lewdness is “cohabitation” (Strong’s) or sexual sin
 - 2) Lust is a desire for that which is sinful.
 - c. “Not in strife and envy.”
 - 1) Strife is arguing contentiously.
 - 2) Envy is an extreme and hateful jealousy.
- 2. From the very beginning of this epistle, Paul tells them to abstain from sin.
 - a. **Rom. 1:18-32** - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, {19} because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. {20} For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, {21} because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. {22} Professing to be wise, they became fools, {23} and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. {24} Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, {25} who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed

forever. {26} For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. {27} Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. {28} And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; {29} being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, {30} backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, {31} undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; {32} who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

b. The point is that we must “cast off the works of darkness.”

B. Paul goes on to tell us that we should “make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (13:14).

1. This simply means that we do what we can to put ourselves in a “sin free” environment.
 - a. Of course, we will never be able to live in a completely sinless situation.
 - 1) Paul dealt with a situation with the church in Corinth in which there was one who was withdrawn from.
 - 2) In that writing, Paul acknowledges that it is impossible to remove yourself from sinful people.
 - 3) **I Cor. 5:10** - Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
 - b. However, we can surround ourselves with people and in places that will encourage us to do that which is right.
2. We must do what we can so that we will not fall to sin.
 - a. **I Thes. 5:22** - Abstain from every form of evil.
 - b. **I Thes. 5:22** (KJV) - Abstain from all appearance of evil.
 - c. Again, the implication is that we should stay away from everything that looks sinful.
3. We should do what we can to not give ourselves an opportunity to sin.

II. If we value our time, we will “put on the armor of light” (13:12-14).

A. As we “cast off the works of darkness,” we are to walk properly in the Lord (13:12-13).

1. There are several things that God wants us to do.
 - a. As we put off that which is evil, we must replace it with that which is good.
 - b. Notice the example of smoking.
 - c. If we do not fill our lives with good, then we will fall back into sin, and fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
2. Paul encourages us to fill this void by putting “on the armor of light.”
 - a. Armor is something that is used in battle and is designed to protect the one wearing it.
 - b. To “put on the armor of light” means that we protect ourselves with that which is good.
 - c. Eph. 6:10-17 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. { 11 } Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. { 12 } For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. { 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. { 14 } Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, { 15 } and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; { 16 } above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. { 17 } And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
 - d. When we have prepared ourselves by putting on this armor, then there is no room for “the works of darkness.”

B. We “put on the armor of light” by putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ” (13:14).

1. This is not something that we can do by ourselves; we need help with it.
2. We can look to the example of Jesus to show us how to live.
 - a. We notice His humility as He washed the feet of His disciples (Jn. 13).
 - b. We notice His compassion as He healed the multitudes and fed the five thousand (Mt. 14:13-21).
 - c. We notice His patience as He continuously taught His disciples.
 - d. We notice His dedication to prayer as He prayed often.
 - e. We notice His love for others as He worked with people.
3. When we apply these characteristics of Christ to our lives, and obey the commands that He gives us, then we have put on Christ.
4. The point is that we “put on the armor of light” by putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

III. We are to “cast off the works of darkness” and “put on the armor of light” because the day of salvation is at hand (13:11).

A. “Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

1. “The night is far spent, the day is at hand.” (13:12a).
2. Each moment we live, we are closer to meeting our Maker.
 - a. Js. 4:14b - For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
 - b. We are not guaranteed another day.
3. We are closer to our eternal home in heaven than when we first believed in Christ.
 - a. I Pet. 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - b. Rom. 8:16-17 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

B. The Bible is full of examples of those who waited too late.

1. Heb. 12:17 (Esau’s lost hope) - For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.
2. Acts 24:25 (Paul speaking to Felix) - Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
3. Mt. 25:11-12 (Jesus in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins) - “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ {12} But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

C. We must understand that today is the day of salvation.

1. II Cor. 6:2 - For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
2. As the song says, “*Today is the day of salvation, Tomorrow may be too late*” (Song: Tomorrow May Be Too Late!).
3. We cannot afford to be one of the ones who waited too late to do something about our salvation.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you prepared for the day of salvation?
- B. We prepare ourselves by casting “off the works of darkness” and putting “on the armor of light.”