

Understanding the Times

Romans 13:11-14

Introduction

Summary Statements

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
Matthew 22:37-40

God is light.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. | John 1:5

God is love.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
| John 4:8

Love and Light

Love your neighbor as yourself. -
Romans 13:8-10

Live as a child of the light. -
Romans 13:11-14

I. We need to understand the time in which we live. Romans 13:11-12a

We live between two advents.
Titus 2:11-14

This is the day of salvation.
II Corinthians 6:1-2
There is only one way of salvation
– through Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12

There is an urgency to the time in which we live. John 9:4

These are interesting days.

- Global Economic Crisis
- Global Pandemic
- Global Terrorism
- Global Evangelization

The great difference between the believer and the unbeliever can be summed up in one word – hope.

We are to make the most of the time we have been given.
Ephesians 5:15-16
One day we will stand before Christ to give an account for our life. II Corinthians 5:10

II. Put off the deeds of darkness.
Romans 13:12b-14

We belong to the light and not the darkness of this present world.

This world is characterized by:

- Intemperance
- Immorality
- Quarrels and factions

God calls us out from the world to live differently for Christ.

Augustine's conversion

- Verse 13 is who Augustine was.
- Verse 14 is who he became.

God still changes lives.

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. | Peter 4:3-5

III. Put on the armor of light.
Romans 13:12b-14

There is a war going on in this present world – a spiritual conflict between good and evil, God and Satan.

We can't avoid it, but we can be ready for it by clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. To put on the Lord Jesus Christ means that we put everything under his Lordship.

We clothe ourselves with the armor of God. Ephesians 6:10-18

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Feet fitted with the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit
- Power of Prayer

Conclusion

There comes a point in everyone's life when we need to put the past behind and walk in the light with Christ.