

- b. Positive. Paul changes to a peremptory imperative: "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ".

The blessed Son of God is Himself the clothing in which one is to be dressed and walking about. If this is done, one will not have any forethought of the flesh for the purpose of lusts of any kind or for lusts as the result. Just get Christ so filling the life and covering the life that matters of flesh and lust are not considered! Oh, what a life of sanctification before the Lord!

Conclusion

Beloved, here is the new life! It is one of high standards. It is one which can be seen. It is one which is worthy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not lower the standard to meet our earthly visions. Let us maintain the cause of Christ and His claims upon our lives just as they are in the Word. This is the new life He gave us. Let us exalt His Name and heed His holy Word of exhortation. God help us to do so!

May this be the life we live next year and until He comes.

Notes:

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"Dynamic Christian Living"

Romans 13:11-13

Introduction

1. Love is a great theme for anytime. In the arena of governmental submission, Paul finds place for love to be taught (vv. 8-10).

2. But love gives birth to deeds. That's what true love always does. Hence, the new life of a believer is seen as well as felt! This seen Christian life is one of very high standards. Take a look at the following exhortations and you will see the validity of this statement.

1. LET US BE AROUSED--from sleep. v. 11.

There is no volitive subjunctive verb in this verse, but it should be supplied. It would be "let us do it." But do what? The answer is simple: arouse from sleep! Reasons are given:

- a. The time. The word "time" is the word for "season." It refers to the time they lived in and the moral implications of it." It had a character about it. But then Paul uses another word for time and it is rendered "high time." This is really the word for "hour" and connotes the specific hour. It says: the alarm clock is NOW ringing!
- b. The salvation. In its broadest notion, "salvation" has three time tenses: past, present, and future. This refers to the future consumation. The completion and perfecting of salvation is closer now than when they first believed. How true this is today--if it were true then! His return is 2000 years nearer than in Paul's day.

c. The dawn. The word "far spent" in connection with the night means it has advanced; cut forward. Like an advancing army, the night has cut in. The perfect tense of the verb "at hand" shows that the day is now near! The light of dawn can now be seen. Oh, the closeness of His blessed return. How it should arouse us from sleep.

NOTE: Far too many Christians are running around in their night clothes. They are either asleep or preparing for it. The rising of the SON of Righteousness means the day is now at hand. Oh, beloved friend in Christ, this is NO TIME for sleeping!

2. LET US CAST OFF--works of darkness. v. 12.

Paul tells believers in no uncertain terms what to do with the works of darkness (Eph. 5:11). Here he urges putting these matters off as garments. The middle voice of the verb shows a personal involvement in this serious activity. His deep concern is that there should never be any solicitation to join in the works of darkness nor have any inward desire for them. The whole point is that one should avoid like the plague any contamination from darkness!

The world will note that a believer does not participate in the works of darkness, but this should not surprise us (1 Peter 4:4). This is no time to be concerned with the activities of a life which is so transient. Far better to heed the Word of God and be occupied with eternal verities!

3. LET US PUT ON--armour of light. v. 12

Like the previous verb, here is another aorist middle pointing out the sweeping and catastrophic action of involvement. The Christian life is not one of sleep, but of battle. He needs proper dress. The Christian is a hoplite. He wears

heavy equipment as a soldier of Jesus Christ. Eph. 6:11-18 lists the full panoply of the believer.

Should anyone be concerned about a negative approach to the "things" of the world, let him immerse himself in the full battle dress of a Christian on the offensive! God strips a man of the "works of darkness" in order that he might be clothed with proper battle attire! This is revolutionary in our day of sleeping Christians. What would really happen if genuine believers rose up and joined the forces!

4. LET US WALK--honestly. vv. 13, 14.

One of Paul's favorite words for a Christian is "walk." He uses it 33 times although never in the Pastoral Epistles. The form of the verb is constantive. The whole conduct of one's life is one big unit. "Honestly" really means "seemly" and speaks of decent (1 Cor. 14:40) and becoming (1 Thess. 4:2) decorum. Who can miss the meaning of the Word in the light of modern behaviour! Paul sets out the course from two angles:

- a. Negative. Here three sets of pagan conduct are denounced vigorously: They are all in the plural, hence speak of a variety of acts:
- 1) Public sins: riotings and drunkenness. The former refers to nocturnal revelry. Its accompaniment is carousing, the meaning of the second term.
 - 2) Private sins: chambering and wantonness. The first speaks of unlawful intercourse and the latter to abandoned sensuality. The application to the modern moral schemes is patent.
 - 3) Personal sins: strife and envying. Some might be shocked to see the Spirit list these with the same company as above. They all are on the same level! To quarrel or show jealousy is unseemly.