

**Title:** Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

**Passage:** Romans 13:8-14

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Key Truths:

- If you are in debt which is heavy on your heart, seek help and assistance. Debt should not be something that should interfere with your relationship with God and with others.
- The only debt we owe is one of love for each other.
- The Second Coming of Christ is the most practical doctrine in the whole Bible. Think about it all the time and let it affect your decisions and perspectives.
- Put off / Put on. Put off sinful habits or what is of the flesh. Put on Christ - make Him visible and known and evident in your words and actions.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What does it mean that love is the fulfillment of the law?
- What occasions or opportunities have been lost when we lose perspective?
- In what practical ways can a person clothe him or herself with Jesus Christ instead of pursuing evil desires?
- How would you live if you knew the world would end in six months? How would you live differently if you knew Jesus was coming again this week?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

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**Introduction**

Wonders of our universe

- Farthest star: 28 billion light years from earth (168 billion, trillion miles away)

Psalms 103:11

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- how great is God's love is for you!

**Passage:**

Romans 13:8-14 (LSB)

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” Love does not work evil against a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.

And do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

**EXPOSITION**

**Romans 13:8a**

***“Owe nothing to anyone***

- Christians should never leave their debts unpaid.

Psalms 37:21-22

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

- If you are in debt which is heavy on your heart, seek help and assistance.
  - Cut your expenses, set a budget and follow it, give to the Lord, and get help.
  - Let the Lord love you through the body of Christ.
    - Debt should not be something that should interfere with your relationship with others.

**Romans 13:8b**

***...except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.***

- the only debt we owe is one of love.

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 13:9**

***For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”***

- The sum of God's Law: Love your neighbor as yourself.
  - Quoting Leviticus

Ephesians 5:28

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Matthew 22:37-40

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Romans 13:10**

***Love does not work evil against a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.***

- love is the fulfillment of the Law.
  - The Law is truly filled with love.
    - Only love satisfies justice.
  - Love is the heart in the chest of the Law.

**Romans 13:11a**

***And do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep;***

- Know the time. Be alert!

2 Corinthians 6:2

For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- Awake from hypnosis.
  - Why? See next words...

**Romans 13:11b**

***for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.***

- Salvation = Jesus' second coming
  - Jesus' return is now closer than ever before.

1 Corinthians 7:29a

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short.

Philippians 4:5

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

James 5:8

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Revelation 22:7

“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- In light of Christ's imminent coming, how small are our disagreements among Christians.
- The Second Coming of Christ is the most practical doctrine in the whole Bible.
  - Think about it all the time and let it affect your decisions and perspectives.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- set your mind on things above.
  - Meditate
  - Focus
    - Don't drift or be lazy with your mind.

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 3:3-4

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- When Christ returns again, we will be manifested like Him in glory.

**Romans 13:12**

***The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.***

*Lay aside / put off*

Colossians 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- As Christ is coming back and we will reign in Him, we put to death what is sinful.

Ephesians 4:22-23

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

*Instead: Put on*

Ephesians 4:24

and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Romans 13:13**

***Let us walk properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.***

- Let us walk properly as in the day
  - as in the day = today is the day
- How shall we live?
  - Appropriately.
- How not to live if today is the day?
  - Not in sin (carousing, drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, sensuality, strife, jealousy = self-indulgence)
- How many occasions and opportunities have been lost when we lose perspective?

**Romans 13:14**

***But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”***

- Put on Christ
  - Live true to Him.
  - Make Him visible and known.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 24:49

And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- you have been clothed with power from on high through the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.