

LESSON 28: ROMANS 13:8-14
APRIL 7, 2021

OVERVIEW

- . Love our Neighbors – Romans 13:8-10
- . Our present time – Romans 13:11a
- . Wake up – Romans 13:11b-12
- . Become like Jesus – Romans 13:12-14

LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS – ROMANS 13:8-10

- . Loving is the central idea in these verses
- . Love: A permanent obligation – Romans 13:8
 - . We can never say that we have satisfied our obligation in this area
 - . If we are living by faith, then love should be the driving force behind everything we do
- . Love: To be shown to all people – Romans 13:8-9
 - . Who is my neighbor” – Luke 10:29
 - . A priest, a Levite, a Samaritan
 - . To an Orthodox Jew of Jesus’ day, which of these is least godly
 - . Based on Jesus’ answer in verses 30-37 who is the most godly
 - . “My neighbor” is any citizen of the world, regardless of stereotype
- . Love: A fulfilling of the law – Romans 13:9
 - . “Love your God with all your heart, mind and soul”
 - . This is the embodiment of the first five commandments
 - . “Love your neighbor as yourself”
 - . The embodiment of the second five commandments
 - . These commandments act as a guide to help us assess to what degree we are making the right choices, doing the right thing
 - . A self-centered person covets what he wants and doesn’t have
 - . A selfless person is at peace with what he has and finds joy in someone else’s triumph or situation

OUR PRESENT TIME – ROMANS 13:11a

- . Understanding the times - a challenge demanded by the first part of Romans 13:11
 - . What does scripture say about this

- . Christ's teaching – Matthew 16:1-4
 - . The sign of Jonah – Matthew 12:38-45
 - . Jonah's prayer – Jonah 2
 - . The Ninevites believed – Jonah 3:1-10
 - . If we look to God He will open our eyes
- . What are the signs of our time
 - . An evil time
 - . "If the world hates you, keep in mind it hated me first". If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." – John 15:18-19
 - . A time of God's favor
 - . "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" 2 Corinthians 6:2
 - . Although it is evil, this is also an age in which God has acted for our salvation
 - . A time to repent and believe
 - . A time to be wise
 - . A time of conflicting values and competing worldviews calls for wisdom
 - . "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil." – Ephesians 5:15-17
 - . A time for gospel proclamation
 - . "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:7-8

WAKE UP – ROMANS 13:11b-12

- . In these verses Paul cries out to Christians to wake up, voicing a warning that bears striking resemblance to Jesus' parable of the five wise and five foolish women recorded in Matthew 25
- . Sleeping Christians
 - . Paul is writing to Jews and Gentiles in Rome who had placed their faith in Jesus Christ
 - . Some were spiritually and morally complacent – as if they were asleep
 - . This complacency can afflict believers in any age
 - . Christians are called to behave in a Christ-like way to all people

- . Asleep in the garden: the disciples
 - . We might profit from remembering the disciples sleeping in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of Jesus' arrest
 - . Jesus was praying in great agony
 - . Jesus asked the disciples to keep Him company, to watch and pray
 - . Instead of praying, they were soon fast asleep
 - . The disciples, who had not prayed and therefore had not been fortified by God for what was coming, quickly fled
 - . A short time later Peter denied that he ever knew Jesus
 - . The sleeping disciples failed to pray and were, therefore, unfit when the hour of crisis came
 - . The need of our world is apparent, but those who are spiritually and morally asleep do not see or care about this desperate need

- . Sounding the gospel alarm
 - . If someone you know was asleep but in danger (let's say there was a fire) you would try to wake them up
 - . That is what Paul does in these verses – he tries to wake us up
 - . We need to wake up because “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed”
 - . We have less time to serve Him now
 - . Don't waste the remaining time you've been given
 - . If you do not wake up and live for Jesus now, it is likely that you will continue sleeping into old age and die having missed out on the fullness of life God has prepared for you
 - . You can pray, you can give, you can serve, you can mentor
 - . You can be a godly mentor for the next generation
 - . We have enemies that are awake even if we are not
 - . Satan is as active today as he has ever been and is doing everything he can to hinder Christians and the work of the gospel

- . Paul reminds his readers that Jesus Christ is coming soon
 - . Paul says the hour has come
 - . This “hour” is a definite age before the second coming of Jesus Christ
 - . It is a period of time that will continue until the Lord appears according to God's promises
 - . No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father
 - . This is God's wake up call

- . Romans 13:11 is directed to Christians but it applies to unbelievers too
 - . A part from God's regenerating work in their hearts they are unable to respond to, understand, or even hear the gospel

BECOME LIKE JESUS – ROMANS 13:12-14

- . The Roman Empire in Paul's day was characterized by moral and spiritual darkness
 - . The "deeds of darkness" have not changed much over the centuries.
 - . The temptations of Paul's day are the same temptations we face today
 - . Paul's list of sinful behaviors sounds like a description of much of contemporary culture
- . What can we do in the face of these temptations and trials
 - . First, "put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light"
 - . Darkness is associated with ignorance and evil deeds
 - . Put off the dark behavior that is associated with ones old nature and put on or live in the light of ones new nature in Jesus Christ
 - . Second, "let us behave decently as in the daytime"
 - . Live your life in Christ out in the open in the daylight
 - . Third, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ"
 - . Just as a person puts on a garment for protection and beauty, Paul encourages us to "put on" daily the beauty and protection of the Lord Jesus
 - . If we are not so dressed it is far too easy to "think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature
- . Now is the time to become a Christian and "clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ"

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 – ROMANS 14