

A Near Salvation – Romans 13:11-14

Bible Study ~ 9/28/16

Grace Church of Lockeford

Usually when this passage is mentioned or taught the focus is placed on the activity of the believer. I want to focus today on both the activity and the motivation. The motivation for these activities is given to us in v. 11.

“To further encourage believers to persevere in love Paul points to the imminent return of Christ. As children are urged to behave based on their parents’ imminent arrival, so Christians are likewise motivated.”¹ Everything else stems from this opening statement. Each verse contains an action we must take. **First we learn that...**

1. Because Salvation Is Near, Wake Up v. 11

The “do this” here refers to vv. 8-10 and loving one another. We are to love one another because we know the time. There is a subtle change here. The first word “time” is different than the second. The first refers to an occasion or event, the second refers to an hour or critical point in time. “High” is the idea of right now. So we know the time in general, we know that the end is near. That nearness means that the critical point has been reached. It is time to act. What action needs to be taken? We need to wake up! We need to wake up right now! “Wake up” is the idea of rise and get moving. We need to stop being apathetic and get busy. Why? Because our salvation is near! This refers to the third tense of salvation, salvation from the presence of sin. “Nearer” is an adverb of location. It means *close in time or place or relationship*. The return of Christ and the redemption of our bodies is nearer than it was! Every day, every moment we are closer to the return of Christ! Look around and perceive the time. This is the moment to awake out of sleep! Jesus is coming. The blessing of His coming spurs us to action. **Action 2**

2. Because Salvation Is Near, Armor Up v. 12

John 3:19. Paul expresses here that the night is almost gone! The day is at hand. Remember that Paul is discussing the second coming of Christ. The night, the time in which evil has been allowed to reign, is drawing to a close. The day is coming. The moment of Christ’s return is drawing near. Therefore, because of the nearness of Christ’s return, we are to cast off anything that holds us back. Any work of darkness is to be thrown far away! Notice that we are not in darkness, but, we may have allowed some of its works to claim us. We must be more vigilant, put off those works. Instead, put on the armor of light. “Put on” means to *clothe ourselves, get dressed in*. We don’t want to be dressed in the rags of sin when Christ returns! We want to be wearing the righteousness He purchased with His own blood! This “armor of light” is a weapon or tool *dominated by righteousness, goodness, and the knowledge of God*. Put on the whole armor of God! Work for and serve Christ! The blessing of His coming in the future motivates us to be prepared in the present. **Action 3**

3. Because Salvation Is Near, Walk Up v. 13

As Paul already mentioned, the night is over. We are in the day. We are in “the sphere dominated by righteousness and goodness, the realm of the allies of God.” Because we are in the day, we must walk properly. “Walk” is our manner of life, how we conduct ourselves. “Properly” is the Greek word εὐσχημόνως *euschēmonōs* and it means *Decently, becomingly. Decorously – in a manner characterized by propriety in manners and conduct*. We are to be decent in manners and conduct. The counter point to this is presented in the rest of the verse. “Revelry” is *Carousing. Binge party – an occasion for excessive eating or drinking (with moral debauchery normally ensuing)*. Not partying in an immoral manner. Not drunk. “Lewdness” literally *means bed; conception*. In this context it is sexual activity outside of marriage. What if we don’t go that far? “Lust” is *sinful abandon. Sensual pleasure*. “Strife” is *contention, disagreement resulting in conflict*. “Envy” is *jealousy, greedy or prideful longing for something that belongs to another*. No partying, drunkenness, or illicit sexual behavior; no sensual pleasure, no contention, no greedy jealousy. “All six of these vices stem from self-will; they are all the

¹ René A. Lopez, *Romans Unlocked Power to Deliver* (Springfield, MO: 21st Century, 2005), 260.

outreach of a determined selfishness that seeks only one's own pleasure."² Pretty much sums up the world we live in! These are the works of darkness mentioned before. Stay away from them. Why? Because our salvation is near! Because of the blessing of Christ's return, walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ! **Action 4**

4. Because Salvation Is Near, Dress Up v. 14

Cast off, put aside these other attitudes and actions. Then replace them with Christ! Put on Christ like you would put on a coat. Dress yourself in Christ! How do we do that? We understand our position in Him. How do we know that position? Through the Word of God! Putting on Christ requires that we drench our minds in the Word of God and prayer. Then we go out and live obediently to what we have learned. Don't just put on Jesus or put on Christ. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. The master, the man, the Redeemer. Put Him on in His entirety in all that He is. Once we have put on Christ, we refuse to provide for the flesh. This is a reference to that within us which is in opposition to God. Don't provide for the old man, the sin nature. "Provision" is the Greek word πρόνοια *pronoia* and it means *Provision; foresight. Provisional thinking – the cognitive process of thinking about what you will do in the event of something happening.* Don't plan and think ahead of ways to enable sin. Don't look ahead and plan a way for the flesh to indulge its craving that ultimately replaces God with something else! Let nothing take His place! Guard His Headship of your life jealously. Because of the blessing of Christ's return, clothe yourself with Christ!

The blessing here is that Christ is returning! He has given us the Holy Spirit that we might be able to do these things. We can wake up and get busy, we can put on the armor, we can walk with Christ, and we can clothe ourselves with Him.

CHALLENGE: Jesus is coming, be ready!

² Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; InterVarsity Press, 1988), 473.