

## The Day is At Hand

*Rom 13:11-14* <sup>11</sup> *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.* <sup>12</sup> *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* <sup>13</sup> *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.* <sup>14</sup> *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

Paul now comes to his concluding remarks concerning all his instruction in chapters 11 and 12. Presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, loving one another, serving one another, loving and reaching out to the ungodly, submitting to the rule of the kingdoms of this world since they are kingdoms that God Himself has ordained, giving honor to whom honor is due, custom to whom custom, owing nothing but love to others, he concludes with this instruction, “do this knowing the time”.

Three questions I want us to consider, 1. What is the time Paul speaks of here? 2. What is the approaching day? 3. And how should we respond to the time and the approaching day?

A. What is the time Paul speaks of here when he says, “*knowing the time*”?

1. The original word used here by Paul does not mean *time* in the chronological sense.
2. Rather, it is the divinely appointed time that arrived with Christ first coming.
  - a. The time of redemption has come
  - b. The new creation has come
  - c. We now have eternal life - He that lives and believes in me HAS eternal life.
3. It is the time of the church militant and at the same time victorious
4. Christ has come and fulfilled all the O T prophesies and types
  - a. Knowing that the work of Christ in behalf of His elect is completed - IT IS FINISHED
  - b. Yes, we look forward to His glorious second coming, but He has ushered in His Kingdom.
5. We are now living in that time period between His ascension and His Second Coming.
6. It is a glorious time, a time of great victory
  - a. Church has always been a minority.
  - b. Church has always been torn asunder by strife,
  - c. Church always had false prophets in her midst.
7. At the same time the gospel has gone throughout the whole world, and where ever the Word is preached God’s elect are saved.
8. Therefore it is time to wake out of sleep
  - a. Time to be busy serving in God’s kingdom
  - b. It is time to be about our Father’s business - *Knowing the time **do this!***

B. What is the approaching day? - *for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand.*

1. We have already pointed out that Paul is not talking about the Second Coming.
2. The Kingdom of God is here.
  - a. John the Baptist proclaimed it Matt 3:2
  - b. Jesus proclaimed it Matt 4:17
3. It is not that we do not long for that final day when this present age will come to an end for indeed we look forward to that "*blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (Tit 2:13)
  - a. But salvation is present.

Jesus came preaching the gospel, "*The time **is fulfilled**, the kingdom of God is at hand.*" Mark 1:15

*Heb 9:16 Christ appeared at the end of time, He has put away sin!*

- b. Why it is time to be up and active. - *For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*
- c. The consummation of the work of Christ in our deliverance from this present evil world is now.
- d. Therefore we have been introduced to the purity and blessedness of heaven.
- e. There is therefore NOW no condemnation.
- f. Eternity is before us - let us be busy obeying and serving our Redeemer.

CONCLUSION: This is why Paul points out that we know the time.

And thus he urges this to his readers as a motive for devotion and diligence.

Do this - Do these things because our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Every day we are one day closer to seeing our Lord.

Every day is a day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us consider everyday a day in which to serve our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

A day to present our bodies a living sacrifice

A day to express our love to one another by deeds of kindness

A day to express our love and concern for the lost about us

A day to serve in God's Kingdom in the midst of the pagan kingdoms about us

A day to love our neighbor as ourselves

Knowing that Christ has fulfilled all righteousness in our behalf let us discharge the duties enjoined upon us.

And in thankful response to *our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* let us live a holy and exemplary life before the world.