



July 6, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Doxology | 5:45 pm
Pastor David Mitchell

Living Free in a Dark World Romans 13:11-14

Be alert to the needs and issues of our world because the end is coming. Romans 13:11-12

“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 near...”

I Thessalonians 5:1-8, II Peter 3:4, I Chronicles 12:32

Behave properly by putting aside the evil deeds of darkness. Romans 13:12-13

“Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day...”

Three areas we need to ‘lay aside’:

- Counterfeit power or influence in our lives and its destructive effect. *“not in carousing and drunkenness”*
- Counterfeit love and its destructive effect. *“not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality”*
- Counterfeit relationships and their destructive effect. *“not in strife and jealousy”*

Be empowered by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for sin.

Romans 13:14

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

Turn to Digging Deeper on back for Next Steps on how to “put on Christ” from Colossians 3:8-17

Digging Deeper

Romans 13:11 says, *“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.”* Paul had a sense that time is short, the Lord is going to return, and there is so much we need to do to be ready for His return in living out our faith in a dark world. Christ is the light to lead us and draw other people to trust in Him.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Do you “know the time” in which we live? What are the issues and needs in our world today that we should be praying about? Since the time is short, and we all have only one lifetime to be ready for Christ, what should we pursue for Christ? Read the following passages and reflect and write what they teach us to be and do in light of the “end times” and Christ’s return.

- Hebrews 10:24-25
- James 5:7-8
- I Peter 4:7-8
- II Corinthians 5:10
- I Corinthians 4:5
- II Timothy 4:7-8
- Revelation 22:11-12
- I John 2:28-3:3

Paul uses the metaphor of light and darkness to contrast our life in Christ (light) with our life in this world (darkness). Read and reflect the following verses. What does it mean to live in the light of Christ?

- I John 1:7
- I John 2:10, 11
- John 12:36

Next Steps:

1. Colossians 3:8-17 teach us how to *“put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts”* (Romans 13:14). Pray to Christ and ask Him for the power to do the following from Colossians 3:8-17:
 - Commit to and renew an authentic intimacy with Jesus Christ. *“renewed to a true knowledge”* (v. 10)
 - View people/life through the eyes of Christ. *“renewal in which there is no distinction”* (v. 11)
 - Focus your heart on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (v. 12)
 - Renew your relationships with forgiveness and love. *“forgiving each other... put on love,”* (v. 13-14)
 - Pray for Christ’s peace and Word to grow in your heart and mind. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you* (v. 15-16)
 - Pursue the mission of honoring the Lord Jesus in all you do and say. *Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.* (v. 17)
2. If you are struggling with overcoming sin or “evil deeds”, or have been hurt by the sins of others, find a safe haven at Celebrate Recovery, where people who are hurting can experience hope and healing in a Christian community. Celebrate Recovery meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm in Samsvick Chapel. To find out more about Celebrate Recovery, call 714.550.2334 or visit calvarylife.org/cr
3. Join a LifeGroup for support and encouragement in dealing with those who cause you pain. To find out more about LifeGroups, contact Laura Copeland at 714.550.2398 or visit calvarylife.org/lifegroups