

Understanding The Times

Romans 13.11-14

“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

Romans 13:11-14

If you could live in any time in history other than today, when would that be and why? I think this is an interesting question. To answer it, one must think of both the advantages and disadvantages of a particular period of history as they appeal to our personal likes and dislikes.

In the section of Scripture under consideration today, Paul is challenging the Church to be acutely aware of the nature of the times in which we live and then to give careful consideration to how we live.

Understanding the Present Time

*“And do this, **understanding the present time**. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, **because** our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”*

Romans 13.11

What does he mean when he says, “understanding the present time?”

*“But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that **this day** should surprise you like a thief.”*

1 Thessalonians 5.4

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”

Matthew 24.12

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times **in the last days**. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” 2 Timothy 3.1-5*

The Night Is Nearly Over; The Day Is Almost Here. So...

*“**The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**” Romans 13.12*

Let Us Behave Decently!

*“**Let us behave decently**, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” Romans 13.13-14*

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