

Awaiting the Dawn: “Anticipation”

Romans 13:11-14

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Advent: “Arrival”

"...Advent tells us about our own lives as Christians, here and now. Advent is where we live, work, play, laugh, struggle, and die. Advent is the Time Between—between the first coming of Christ and the second coming, between darkness and dawn, between the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. It is not the time of fulfillment; it is the time of waiting. It is not the time of seeing face-to-face; it is the time of seeing ‘through a glass, darkly’. It is not the time of triumphant victory; it is the time of bearing the cross."

—Fleming Rutledge, "Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ"

In **Verse 11**, Paul says that we are living at the “end” of the Night... Right before the Dawn.

Romans 13:11,12a

We are in a struggle against the “Darkness”.

Romans 13:12b

Notice WHAT this Armor of light IS (WHO it is)...

Having urged us to “Put on the armor of light” in **Verse 12**, in **Verse 14** he says, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

There is a conflict between the Darkness and the Light... and the Light has “dawned”—so the Darkness is fading. And the “Light” in this metaphor, is Jesus.

WE KNOW that His First arrival was characterized as a “Light shining in the darkness”

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Question: When that “Light” came, what did it look like? When Jesus “arrived” the first time, what did it look like?

What is Paul saying about what the NEXT Arrival of Jesus will be like?

And if THAT is what the NEXT Arrival of Jesus is going to be like, then what will we do with our “Night Clothes”?

What does this look like? (Paul gives us a few practical applications...)

- 1. Be Awake!** “The hour has come for you to wake from sleep...”
- 2. In light of that “understanding”, Live in a way that makes sense (“Walk properly, as in the daytime”).**
- 3. Make no provision for the Flesh...**