

Sermon Title: What Time Is It? Time To Put On Christ!

Sermon Text: Romans 13:11-14

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a consistent and continual effort of growing in Christlikeness.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 areas that an understanding of the time should experience impact.

I. The **motivation** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.11

II. The **message** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.12

III. The **march** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.13

IV. The **mandate** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.14

I. The **motivation** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.11

A. The **action** is a result of knowing the times. V.11a

The Greek word for time refers to a period, age, or era. In particular, it is the period of time in redemptive history which precedes the 2nd coming of Christ. While sanctification is a process, we do not get to determine the pace of this process, it is already determined by God.

B. The **awakeness** is a result of knowing the times. V.11b

Sleep refers to a spiritual apathy and laziness. They are unresponsive to the things of God. The challenge to awake out of their spiritual sleepiness is to reject being conformed or being shaped in the mode of this present age of darkness, with its corresponding deeds or activities.

The phrase sleep is often defined as “a state of inactivity with a loss of conscienceness and a decrease in responsiveness to what’s going on around you, even a lack of awareness, this can be true when it comes to the believers sanctification or spiritual growth into Christlikeness.

C. The **affection** is a result of knowing the times. V.11c

This is not referring to justification, but the final aspect of salvation, which is glorification. The nearer we get to Christ’s return, the clearer our glorified permanent state is realized. Therefore, since this our great passion to be completed, this motivates our holy living till He comes. (**2 Cor. 5:10; Titus 2:11-13; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Peter 3:11-14**)

James 5:7-8 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. **8** You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Revelation 22:11-12 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." **12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

II. The **message** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.12

A. The time of **man** and spiritual **darkness** is ending. V.12a

This is a reference to the present evil age of man. Man’s and evil’s time of spiritual unbelief, disobedience, rebellion, and sinful oppression and injustice is coming to an end. Therefore, God’s time of judgment, glory, and righteousness is about to begin. Satan, sin, systems (worldly), structures, governments are destined for judgment. (**2 Peter 3:3-9**)

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

B. The time of the **day** of the **Lord** is at hand. V.12b

The revealing of Jesus Christ as Lord and the rapture of the church are at hand.

(**Matt. 7:22-23; 2 Thess. 1:5-8; 1 Thess 5:1-8**)

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Hebrews 10:35-37 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: **37** "For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

1. **As a result of this truth Christians are to be putting off the clothes of darkness.**

Laying aside carries the idea of repentance, which requires forsaking or renouncing the life or activities of darkness. This is a unified action for all Christians.

Psalms 109:18 As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, So let it enter his body like water, And like oil into his bones.

We sin by choice, by voluntarily putting on the clothing ourselves in evil garments, and we wear them. (**Heb 12:1ff; Job 24:13-17**)

Ephesians 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Colossians 3:8-9 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

2. **As a result of this truth, Christians are to be putting on the clothes of light.**

The picture is that of a military soldier who has been partying, running the streets, involved in sexual orgies, and uncontrolled drinking binges. But night will soon be over, daylight will come, the time for war is at hand. Its time to stop the nightly carousing, wake up, sober up, straighten up. Throw off the night clothes and get dressed for daytime battle.

How is this done? By the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, working in and through the believers new nature in Christ. Believers not only have all the necessary resources and gear needed to enable, equip, and empower them to renounce, resist, and reject the works of darkness, they were created to do so. While believers are still exposed to the work of darkness, they do not have to be clothed in or controlled by the works of darkness. (**Eph 6:11-13**)

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

"The believer must know that sin and sanctification are as incompatible as darkness and light."

Ephesians 4:23-24 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

III. The **march** is a result of the awareness of the time. V.13

The walk is to live in a way that pleases God. To walk in a way that reflects a new creation. To walk in a way that reflects a new nature. To walk in a way that reflects Christ. The motivation? The soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Eph 5:27; 2 Pet 3:11-14; Col 3:5-10, 12-14**)

How does this walk look or not look?

1. Not walking in **revelry** or **carousing**.

This translates "komos" a term used of a military or athletic victory celebration. Many times these celebrations turned into drunken, civil and immoral gathering of disorder.

2. Not walking in **drunkenness**.
Methe' (drunkenness) often used of intentional and habitual intoxication. (**Gal 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3**)
3. Not walking in **sexual** promiscuity.
The normal word for sexual immorality is "porneia." But here the word is "koite," which literally refers to bed or bedroom. It came to mean "going to bed with someone of the opposite sex."
4. Not walking in **sensuality**.
Sensuality translates "aselgeia" it is the idea of shameless excess and the absence of restraint or self-control.
5. Not walking in **strife**.
This refers to "eris" persistent contention, bickering, petty disagreement, and enmity. It reflects an attitude and action of antagonistic competitiveness that fights to have its own way, regardless of cost to itself or harm to others. This produced by a deep desire to prevail over others, to gain position, or prestige, prominence and recognition.
6. Not walking in **envy** or **jealousy**.
The term "zelos" is where the English word zeal or zealous come from. In its negative form it is a zeal for selfish ambition, which leads to division in the church. (**1 Cor 3:3; Titus 3:3-7**)

IV. The mandate is a result of the awareness of the time. V.14

- A. The 1st mandate is to put on Christlikeness in your sanctification. V.14a
Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- B. The 2nd mandate is to put off making provision for the flesh. V.14b
"Pronoia" (provision) has the idea of making plans for, giving forethought to something based on wrong ideas, lustful desires, that can linger in the mind over time. (**Ps. 36:1, 4**)
James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
Proverbs 24:8 He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer.