

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

6/13/2021 PM

"The Great Incentive" Romans 13:8-14



Introduction:

I John 3:1-3

I. THE COMMAND OF THE LORD (13:8-10)

A. The Debt We Owe (vs. 8)

"owe nothing to anyone except to love one another"

NIV: "let no debt remain outstanding"

- 1) The Bible does not forbid borrowing or legal financial transactions that involve interest.
- 2) It does forbid excessive interest, robbing a brother, and failing to pay honest debts.
- 3) Banking and investing for gain is not wrong.

"for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law"

B. The Duty Which Is Ours (vs. 9)

"For this, YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET" (quotes from the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5)

"and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (Matthew 22:37-40, from Leviticus 19:18)

C. The Desire Which Motivates Us (vs. 10)

"love does no wrong to a neighbor"

"therefore love is the fulfillment of the law"

II. THE COMING OF THE LORD (13:11-14)

A. We need to watch vigilantly. (vs. 11)

“do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep”

“Four things we are here taught, as a Christian's directory for his day's work: when to awake, how to dress ourselves, how to walk, and what provision to make.”
– Matthew Henry

“for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed”

“Christ's return is the next event on God's plan; Paul knew it could take place at any time and sought to prepare Christians - both in his generation and in ours - for just that 'blessed hope'.”
– Douglas Moo

The Case for Immanency

- I Corinthians 7:29-31 - “the time is short”
- I Corinthians 10:11 - “us, on whom the ends of the ages have come”
- Philippians 4:5 - “the Lord is near”
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - “we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord”
- II Thessalonians 2:1 - “with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him”
- Hebrew 10:25 - “let us not give up meeting together...as you see the day drawing near”
- James 5:7-9 - “be patient...until the coming of the...for the coming of the Lord is near”
- Peter 4:7 - “the end of all things is near”
- I John 2:18, 28 - “it is the last hour...abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming”

B. We need to make war valiantly. (vs. 12)

“the night is almost gone, and the day is near”

“therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light”

C. We need to walk virtuously. (vs. 13)

“let us behave properly as in the day”

“not in carousing and drunkenness”

“not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality”

“not in strife and jealousy”

D. We need to wait victoriously. (vs. 14)

“but put on the Lord Jesus Christ”

“and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts”

Conclusion:

- 1) Let us cultivate a sense of our debt to love others.
- 2) Let us cultivate a sense of the shortness of time we have left.
- 3) Let us cultivate a daily Christ-likeness.