

The Book of Romans
13:8-14
05/15/2019 Wednesday PM

Introduction

- Last week we began Chapter 13 as Paul taught how believers should relate to governmental authorities.
- Paul is speaking to a people that understood full well what it was like to live under oppressive governments.
- The message is that Christians should hold themselves to higher standards and understand that God is Sovereign.
- God's will prevails no matter what earthly circumstances take place and we need to take comfort in that and just simply stay mindful as to how He would have us live our lives while on earth.
- Tonight we will end Chapter 13 as Paul teaches how love fulfills God's requirements.

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹And 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

- **V.8** – Paul begins by saying, “Let no debt remain outstanding.” This means that if we owe something, we should pay it. What Paul is not saying is that we should not ever borrow money.
- We should just not borrow money we know we cannot pay back in a timely manner.
- **Matthew 5:42** Jesus says, “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”
- Paul continues in this verse to say that, “except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.”
- We should never fall short in displaying God's love in all our relationships (**John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21**).
- Love is the basis of the law and Paul is about to quote several laws to show how they can be kept if a person simply acts in love.
- **V. 9** – The commandments that Paul quotes here (Adultery, murder, theft, and coveting) are all from the Ten Commandments in **Exodus 20:13-15, 17**.
- He is using these to show that all of the commandments fit under a broader commandment which is, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This is a quote from **Leviticus 19:18**.
- All of the laws about interpersonal relationships can be summed up by this one law. It is the second greatest commandment. The first being, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind.” (**Matthew 22:37-39**)
- We are to love our “neighbors” as ourselves and by that Paul means everyone. To love, we must act with love.
- **V. 10** – Paul goes on to say, “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”
- When we love others, we will not purposely harm or do evil to them.
- Christians are called to obey the law of love, which supersedes all other laws. Basically, we love even when there is no legal obligation to do so. We are also not to harm, even if there is a “legal” act to do so.
- For more on the law of love look at **James 2:8-9, 4:11** and **1 Peter 2:16-17**.
- **V.11-12** – Paul urges the people to consider the times that they are living in, “because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”
- This was written some 2000 years ago, and so we are more than 2000 years nearer today than they were then!!
- How much more should we be operating in the law of love?

- It is time to “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
- This is committing to not conforming to the world, but being transformed. #daretobedifferent.
- **V.13** – Paul goes on to describe what some of these “deeds of darkness” are in this verse. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.”
- It is interesting that “dissension and jealousy” are mentioned along with some really bad deeds.
- Paul considers attitudes to be as important as actions and when Christ returns, he wants to find us clean on the inside as well as on the outside.
- Paul finishes by saying, “¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
- So how do we do this? We totally surrender everything that we have to Christ; body, mind, and soul.
- We should strive to get as close to Jesus as our clothes are to us.
- Our clothes are just like a part of our body and they function in unison with our bodies.
- If we operate in this way with Christ, we will “not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
- We should not seek to simply learn all we can about Christ and His ways, but we should seek to apply those qualities and ways to our own lives.
- If you are fitting in like a glove to the world, you are not putting “on the armor of light.”
- Remember, the time of our salvation is nearer now than it was yesterday and we need to ensure that we are ready.
- Are you living a life that is clothed with Christ?

Next Week’s Study

Romans 14:1-12