



THE LAWS OF THE LAND

"The Believer's Spiritual Duty"

Part 3 - "Walk with Decency"

Romans 13:13-14

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1046-1047.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

REVIEW:

1. Last week's message was "The Believer's Spiritual Duty." It was subtitled, "The Lord's Coming is Near."
2. We stated that time on earth is running out and the time for our salvation is drawing near.
3. We also looked at the certainty of His coming (He is coming); the manner of His coming (it's a physical coming); the time of His coming (it will be soon); and what our attitude toward His coming should be (we must be ready, working, holy and taking opportunity to share the "good news" of the Gospel.)
4. Heaven is when all of life's "wrongs" will be made "right", and life will be just as God intended it to be. *It's our future hope!*

LAST TWO WEEKS: Continue to Love, Continue to Look

Continue to Live a God-honoring life!

1. Throw off (the deeds of darkness).

Romans 13:12-13, HCSB ⁻¹² *The night is nearly over, and the daylight is near* [it's all going to end soon], *so let us discard* [lit., throw off, forsake] *the deeds of darkness and put on the armor* [which is made for warfare] *of light.* ¹³ *Let us walk with decency*, [lit., "behave properly" and live in a way that pleases God] *as in the daylight: not in carousing* [a reference to a Roman athletic victory celebration (orgy)] *and drunkenness* [intentional and habitual intoxication]; *not in sexual impurity* [has the basic meaning of shameless acts with no restraints] *and promiscuity* [Gk: κοίτη, (COY-ta) a basic term for "bed", re-coined by NT writers in the first century, that refers to the 'marriage bed' (cf., Heb. 13:4) that refers to sexual acts outside of biblical marriage]; *not in quarreling* [also translated "strife", it refers to persistent contention, bickering, petty disagreements, not resolving disagreements biblically] *and jealousy* [selfishness—specifically tearing others down to feel better about yourself].

2. Put on (the armor of Light).

Romans 13:12, HCSB ⁻¹² *The night is nearly over, and the daylight is near* ["I can't think of a verse that offers more hope than this one" -JKT], *so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on* [present tense—keep putting on Jesus] *the armor of light.* ¹⁴ *But put on* [the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no plans to satisfy [translate the one Gk. word, *pronoia*, that has the basic meaning of forethought or pre-planning against an adversary] *the fleshly* [ie., evil] *desires.*

Why all this stress on behavior? Because, as I think you have realized the present time is of the highest importance—it is time to wake up to reality. Every day brings God's salvation nearer than the day in which we took the first step of faith. The night is nearly over, the day has almost dawned. Let us therefore fling away the things that men do in the dark, let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day! Let us live cleanly, as in the daylight, not in the delights of getting drunk or playing with sex. Not yet in quarrelling or jealousies. Let us be Christ's men from head to foot, and give no chances to the flesh to have its fling. — Romans 13:10-14, PME

HERE IS THE POINT → *The Church must wake up, seek victory over sin, and live for Christ; for the Lord's return is near!*

Life Application Section

WORD STUDY The English word, **SIN**, comes from the Old English, *syngian*, meaning "to trespass"; in Latin, *syns* means "guilty", it derives from the Hebrew word, **חָטָא** (khaw-taw) meaning, "to miss the mark"; it also comes from the Greek word, **ἁμαρτία** (*hamartēma*), meaning "to fail in duty."

Sin is moral leprosy. To put up with leprosy is to die of leprosy. Sin is spiritual cancer. A man who tries only to live with cancer, dies with it. If we do not deal with spiritual malignancy, then indeed it deals with us. — Rev. Vance Havner

To commit a sin, a man must, for the moment, believe that things are different from what they really are: he must confound values; he must see the moral universe out of focus; he must accept a lie as truth and see truth as a lie; he must ignore the signs on the highway and drive with his eyes shut; he must act as if he had no soul and was not accountable for his moral choices. — Dr. A.W. Tozer

Sin will take you farther than you ever intended to go; it will keep you longer than you ever intended to stay; it will cost you more than you ever intended to pay. It will always cost you your dreams. — Anonymous

1 John 1:9, ESV ⁻⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*