

## REDEEMING THE TIME

--ROMANS 13:11-14--

### INTRODUCTION:

This advent season, my messages will follow the Scripture that corresponds to the candle that is lit each week. It is right for us to celebrate His birth that was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets, it was the event that changed history forever as the Savior of the world was born into the world to conquer sin, Satan, and death and to reconcile sinful man to the holy and sovereign God of the universe. A lot of Old Testament prophecies looked forward to this event, and it is the first advent that makes the second advent possible. As believers we should be living in such a way that we are always anticipating the imminent return of Jesus Christ, and this is what this morning's Scripture calls us to do.

#### I. WAKE UP! (Romans 13:11-12a)

- a. Maybe when you first heard these verses read when the first \_\_\_\_\_ was lit you thought what do these verses have to do with advent. (Romans 13:8-10)
- b. Paul in verse 11 and the first part of 12 uses a number of phrases that express \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Paul begins verse eleven with the phrase, "\_\_\_\_\_ *this...*" which carries the idea of doing something. (Romans 12:1-13:10)
- d. Paul then tells us what we are to do, we are to \_\_\_\_\_ up!
- e. When Paul writes that "*now salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ to us than when we believed,*" (Romans 13:11c, NASB95) he is clearly speaking about the completion of salvation.
- f. Paul then writes in verse 12, "*The night is almost \_\_\_\_\_, and the day is \_\_\_\_\_.*" (Romans 13:12a, NASB95)

#### II. DRESS FOR BATTLE (Romans 13:12b)

- a. Paul next instructs us to \_\_\_\_\_ for battle.
- b. Scripture often uses the figure of \_\_\_\_\_ to represent sin, as Paul does here describing sin as the deeds of darkness.

- a. Paul admonished the Ephesians in chapter 5, verse 8, "...*for you were formerly darkness, but now you are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord; walk as children of Light*" (Ephesians 5:8, NASB95)

#### II. LIVE AS IN THE DAY (Romans 13:13)

- a. Because we are children of light and have available the Lord's own armor of light, we should \_\_\_\_\_ properly as in the day.
- b. The Christian who is not striving to live a holy and obedient life is a believer who does not comprehend the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's second advent.
- c. Returning to the negative, Paul as he often does gives us a list of \_\_\_\_\_ that we are to lay aside and avoid.

#### III. PUT ON CHRIST (Romans 13:14)

- a. Paul ends this chapter by reminding us of what is needed to be \_\_\_\_\_ of light. (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:2-3)
- b. We grow from one level of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ to another as we faithfully study and meditate on His Word, as we commune with Him in prayer. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- c. Paul again uses \_\_\_\_\_ to make his point, this time in the opposite order than he used before.
- d. When Paul uses the term \_\_\_\_\_ here he is not referring to our physical bodies but to our remaining humanness. (Romans 8:23; Galatians 5:16)

### CONCLUSION:

What does this passage have to do with the first Sunday of Advent? It is a call to us to remember the prophecies made concerning Christ's coming. In the sovereign wisdom of God, He made a provision for us to be reconciled to Himself through the death of His own Son. This is why Paul calls us to wake up, put on our battle clothes, and put on Christ. We must walk by the Spirit to fulfill the mission of Lord Jesus. That mission is to make disciples until He fulfills the promises of His second advent. Be awake, be alert, be a disciple maker. And all the while living in anticipation for Jesus Christ to return and take us home to be with Him.