

The night is far gone;

the day is at hand.

So then let us cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light.

**Nov 29, 2020, "Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed", Romans 13:11-14**

**Romans 13:11-14** <sup>11</sup>And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Rather, clothe yourselves with the LORD Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

### **Introduction: Advent**

Today (November 29th), Advent begins in the church calendar. The word Advent originates from the Latin word '**Adventus**' that means '**arrival**'. Advent is a time to wait for your loved ones. Also, Advent is a season that leads the saints who are waiting for the Lord into a godly life. I hope you all have a meaningful Advent.

Everyone has their own life schedule. And at some point you reach the end of your life. There are joys and emotions in people's lives, but there are also many sad things.

By the way, in today's text, the apostle Paul pays attention to a special time that is different than the usual time. The Apostle Paul was a man who lived his whole life for it. So, what is the special time Paul is talking about?

### **Body: Our salvation is nearer now.**

In Romans chapter 13, there are three messages Paul has for Christians. The first is the relationship with the state, the second with the law, and the third with the Second Coming. Today's text is a message about the lives of believers preparing for the Lord's Second Coming.

But looking at the text, the apostle Paul says that "**our salvation is near.**" In fact, people live conscious of their daily time, but they often don't care about God's time for works. In addition, people live with a focus on how to achieve their dreams and goals. So, there are not many people who are deeply aware of the fact that the kingdom of God has now come and is coming through Jesus Christ. However, we must not forget that God's time is directly related to our salvation.

The apostle Paul describes God's time in the text using the expressions day and night. The reality of our sin here is called night. Apostle Paul refers to 'day', when the reality of the darkness, which is opposite to night, is revealed naked and sin is ended. Today's text verse 11 says.

**"And 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."**

The apostle Paul tells Roman Christians that "**the hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber.**" This is to say that a life that believes in Jesus and is not conscious of the coming of God's salvation is like a deep sleep. What is life in deep spiritual sleep?

In today's text, verse 13 lists the acts of darkness. "**Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.**"

The apostle Paul now tells Christians in Rome to take off the work of darkness. It is a life of prodigality, drunkenness, lewdness, sensuality, quarrels, and envy. It is a life that is noble and educated on the outside, but these sins are hidden inside.

That is why the apostle Paul appeals to our souls to be awakened. It is that we must let the light of the Holy Spirit shine on the sleeping soul through listening to and reading the word of God. Therefore, we, as believers, must wake up from the sleep of our souls by hearing the voice of God.

We must remember that the apostle Paul did not send this letter to unbelievers, but to the saints of the Roman Church. It should not be forgotten that even the saints can become indolent in their souls and fall into deep sleep.

The apostle Paul goes on to say that the saints in the night do the work of darkness, and the saints in the day wear '**the armor of light.**' The apostle Paul said that the saints should put off the work of darkness and put on 'the armor of light.' So, what does '**the armor of light**' mean?

The armies of the Roman Empire armed themselves with the best weapons of that time. Just as Roman soldiers arm themselves with the best military uniforms and outfits, the apostle Paul said that the military uniforms and outfits that Christians should wear is the "**the armor of light.**"

The first '**the armor of light**' you must wear is to act modestly. To act modestly is to respect the thoughts and feelings of our neighbors. It means that you should not pursue "**the evil thing mentioned above.**" Also, Paul say decisively to the saints of the Roman church, "**clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**"

**Romans 13:14 says, "Rather, clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."**

After all, '**the armor of light**' is to clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is dwelling in Christ. To be in Christ is to be Christ's. It is to become a servant of Christ. We have Christ as our master. We must be in Christ so that we do not plan the work of the flesh for our lust.

To experience the time of salvation, we must be in Christ. We must fill our entire personality with the words of Christ. If we fill our heart with desire, we will do physical work. We must put on the armor of light in Christ and fill our heart with the words of Christ so that we can abandon our greed and do things that please God. I hope it will be the Advent of waiting for the Lord who comes as light.

### **Conclusion: It is full time now for us to wake from sleep.**

Now, let's summarize today's sermon. What we need to think and deeply realize at this time today is that "The time to wake up while sleeping has already come." Without our knowledge, while asleep, the day is bright, everyone else goes to work and is working hard, but we have to look back to see if we don't know how to wake up from a deep sleep.

Everyone else is praying eagerly and living the Word of God, but we should check our faith to see if we are in laziness and do not know how to break up.

Now is the time to wake up. I hope that all of us will return to the Lord through the touch of God the Holy Spirit, clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ, and live the rest of our life abundantly in the grace and peace of the Lord.