

Exegetical Notes - Romans 13:8-14

"Clothed in Jesus "

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Romans 13:8-14

Verses 8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- Christians honor their debts, by paying them off in a timely matter. For a Christian to default on a debt duly owed is impossible.
- There is one debt which Christians cannot fully pay. That is the debt to love others (see Matthew 22:38-40, John 15:12). All of the moral law of Moses is written to help us understand what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself." It means to do nothing which will harm another. Love is defined by the law of Moses.
- While the phrase "one another" often means other Christians, the phrase "neighbor" extends the concept to all people not just those who are in Christ.

Verses 11-12

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. ¹² 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.

- No one can argue with the truth that the hour of our own death, should we remain until Jesus comes, is closer today than it was yesterday. Nor can one argue that the hour when Jesus comes again is not closer now than it was yesterday.

- Therefore, since the hour of our deaths or the hour of Jesus' return are not known to us, we should live knowing that we will soon see Jesus. We should live as if these events were at hand.

Verses 13-14

¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- To live as if our death was at hand or Jesus' return was soon means that we do not become involved in the immorality prevalent in the world around us. We do not live as the world does. Christians are different
- We do not look for ways to satisfy ourselves or to gratify our fleshly desires. Instead, we seek to be like Jesus. We follow Jesus' example. We clothe ourselves in Christ.

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