

The Threat of TIME

Pastor Othniel James

Main Scriptures: Romans 13: 11 - 14

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 21: 28; Mark 13: 34-37; Ephesians 5: 14; 1 Thessalonians 5: 6; Ephesians 5: 11- 12; Thessalonians 5: 7; Isaiah 29: 15; 2 Corinthians 6: 7; Ephesians 6: 10 - 15; Galatians 5: 19 -21; Luke 21: 34; Romans 1: 27; Ephesians. 4: 24; Colossians 3: 1-3, 10; Galatians 5: 16; Colossians 3: 5; 1 Peter 2: 11;

Notes:

Paul writes to us and he wants us to understand what our behaviour should be from day to day. He speaks of respect for authority which Paul states that those in authority are placed there by our Lord and are instruments for the Lord himself. Believers must know the time. The believer must understand the threat of time. Paul is saying that time is very important and every believer has to understand and know the time. Paul describes the time we are living in as high time which gives us a sense of urgency. Because he understands the time he needs to be awakened out of sleep and it's time for the believer to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of Christ. Paul is given us a picture of what it looks like to be sleeping versus being awake. Being awake and understanding the time we live in and practically living it out. He wants us to understand the danger of darkness. Daily the believer has to walk straight and put off any crooked behaviour.

What time is he talking about? It is the consummation of our salvation on the day of the Lord. The hope of every believer. If we face death we still go to the grave with this hope because there is coming a day when the saints will be resurrected to meet Jesus and because of that Paul tells us to be awakened out of our sleep. Why? because our salvation is nearer than when we believed or started out.

When we look at the world and what is happening, when we look at the signs that tell us that this world is coming to an end we see there is no hope in this world and only Jesus is our hope for life. When you see what's happening even in nature - just the other day in the summer period in BC there were wildfires burning uncontrollably and after putting them out now we are faced with floods and landslides. pestilence on the land. People are loving pleasures more than God. We see it everyday; it's the signs of the time. The day of our redemption is nearer than when we first believed. When we see these signs we are instructed to look up and lift up our head because our redemption is near. (Luke 21: 28)

The day of salvation is the day of judgment when everyone will have to meet God face to face and because of this we are told to cast off the works of darkness. We must prepare to meet the Lord. Every person will have to face the Lord Himself. Paul is encouraging us to deal with time in the right way so we can face God

He is coming back but we need to be careful about a false sense of security. Sleeping and being lazy and complacent. Having a false sense of security and not treating time with some sense of urgency.

1 Corinthians 13: 34; Ephesians 5: 14; 1 Thessalonians 5: 6

The believer knows that these things are temporary and are reserved for judgement and so the attention is not in this world but looking for the return of Jesus.

Faith Deliverance International Ministries

Bible Class NOTES 2021-11-16

How do we prepare? - Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.
Put off the things we hid and would be ashamed of - cast them off and be clothed in the armor of God's light.

Ephesians 5: 11- 12

As soon as we get near darkness and we fail to call it out then we are fellowshiping with it and soon we will be caught up in it.

This attitude of sleeping - Thessalonians 5: 7 - people who don't mind living for today are not concerned that there is a day coming where we will have to face our creator. If we cover our sins we will not prosper.

Isaiah 29: 15

There is an unseen eye looking and taking record of all our activities and knows and sees the very things we are doing in our bodies.

Paul says after casting off the works of darkness to put on the armor of light. We know that this light comes from the Lord himself because he is the light. It is an armor of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 6: 7 - this is the light of God - this is what the believer needs to clothe himself in.

Ephesians 6: 10 - 15

God is light - we have to be clothed in the armor of God to stand in the darkness we are operating in. This world is dark but the child of God carries a light. We are operating in an evil environment but there is a day coming when we will realize everything God promised us. But while we are operating in this period we have to be clothed in the armor of God's light.

You can't see the darts of the wicked if you are sleeping. But someone clothed in God's righteousness is in active battle and going down in death fighting in righteousness. The believer must live out the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication. We can't do this if we are sleeping. We must be alert. We have to maintain the armor in prayer. In prayer something is taking place and breaking down the rulers of darkness. The believer is active in prayer and clothed in the righteousness of God. Let us walk honestly. Our lives are a testimony to everyone. Don't participate in wild parties and sexual promiscuity and in quarrelling and jealousy. The believer has the light of the Lord shining through him. We can't give life to lust.

Galatians 5: 19 -21

Drunkenness - we see it creeping over in the assemblies - some of our receptions are now like a club getting drunk and bringing a shame. That is not to be found in the church of God. That is not a good testimony for the world that is having fellowship with the darkness of this world.

Luke 21: 34

Premarital sex is not walking in the day it is the works of darkness

Romans 1: 27

Immoral living - speaks of sensuality and running wild and living a wildlife of excess lust that consumes one's thoughts and behaviour.

Strife - speaks of contention and quarrelling. the craving to be seeking honor and authority and in constant competition with others and in doing so will put down others and prevent others from becoming who the Lord wants them to be. We have a good example of our Father Abraham who was called by the Lord out of Ur of the Chaldeas and took his nephew a lot and after coming from Egypt as a wealthy person the land could not maintain Abraham and Lots' herd. Abraham being a man of faith and clothed in the armor of righteousness said let there be no quarrel. The believer is not in any contention his focus is on the Lord. He wants to see Jesus. He is not interested in going to courts and defending himself; he is looking for the return of the Lord. Everyday his mind is fixed on the Lord because he knows and is convinced that the Lord is coming back.

Evening and grudges are all works of darkness but the believer must love and have love in his heart. Love called him and saved him and so he is a product of Love. Make no provision for the flesh. The believer must be bound to the Lord Jesus because in him we move and have our being. We must have Christ abiding in our heart. The believer is not a friend of the world because he is making no provision of the flesh. He is wrapped up and tied up in Jesus.

Ephesians. 4: 24; Colossians 3: 1-3, 10

Where is our mind? What is consuming our thoughts? Its the things above. We must seek the things above, not things of the earth. The man who is walking in darkness is blind to the things above and his affection is to the things that are here. The old man is dead and our new life is in Christ. Christ is living through us and that's why our affection must be on things above. We see things fail on this earth because we know there is no success here, things will fail. Our treasure is not here, it's in heaven.

Our lord was full of compassion and so the believer must have bowels of mercies, kind, humble, meek and lowly and must display the same attitude of long suffering.

MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH - we won't give in to the lust and the desire that are contrary to the things of God. The Flesh wars against the spirit. The Spirit wants to please the Lord but the flesh want his own way but we cant serve two masters

Galatians 5: 16; Colossians 3: 5; 1 Peter 2: 11

We have to war against the flesh daily; it does not want to be subjected to the spirit. But the believer is against it. Reading the word of God and obeying the word of God and that's how he puts the flesh under subjection.

We are identified in Christ God has given us the power to do right and live right. We have on his armor and are fighting a spiritual battle. We are living each day knowing that the day of the Lord is certain and is about to happen at any time. That is the hope of the believer. One of these days we will see Jesus and not another.