

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Studies in the Book of Romans - 19

Date: February 07, 2010

Text: Rom. 13:8-14

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OUR DUTY WHILE WE WAIT

INTRODUCTION Paul's letter to the Romans has just finished a serious and provocative teaching on the Christian's duty to maintain an attitude of submission to secular society's human government. Now he moves on in his teaching of practicing the gospel, to remind us of yet another duty – the responsibility to maintain a godly relationship with our unsaved neighbor's. While we practice God's love toward them, we must also maintain our lives in a manner that remains holy and set apart from the licentious living of the lost. Why are we to do this? Mainly because Christ's return was at hand and at any moment He could return and our judgment would follow. In these last verses of Chapter 13, we find...

I. OUR DUTIES WHILE WE WAIT – (13:8-10)

- A) The Debt of Love – *“Maintain caring relationships with all”*
- B) The Duty of Love - *“Practice God's Law before all ”*
- C) The Desire of Love – *“To Show Christ in us before all”*

II. OUR DISCERNMENT WHILE WE WAIT – (13:11-14)

- A) Watch & Work – *“The return of Christ is always imminent”*
- B) Walk & Wait – *“Practice and maintain a godly lifestyle”*

CONCLUSION: A Christian is to keep God's commandments not because they are a good thing, which they are; but because they are the Lord's commandments for us all while we wait for the rapture of the Church. During this time we are to practice the mind, heart and attitude of the Savior while He walked the earth, and as we do, we must carefully maintain the purity and holiness of our being by avoiding those things and people who will drag us down and away from living and pleasing the Lord. How is your lifestyle? What sins are you indulging in that displease the Lord? If any are present, seek cleansing and a new and fresh commitment to live above them - for the Lord's return is just around the corner.

TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Rom 13:8-14 (NIV) "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 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. 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. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies 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 sinful nature."