



March 22, 2026

## The Day Is Near

Romans 13:11-14

The phrase “Do this” in Romans 13:1, directly connects what Paul has just said in the preceding verses to what he is about to say. We have just been commanded to fulfill the obligation to love others. Now Paul provides further motivation to live a holy life, **Jesus Christ is coming again!** Paul called upon believers to live every day anticipating the return of Jesus Christ.

### Key Thought:

**You are to live every day anticipating the return of Jesus Christ!**

## 1. OUR INCENTIVE FOR HOLY LIVING: JESUS WILL RETURN

Paul reminds us: “Now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.”

Salvation in the New Testament has three dimensions:

- Past – saved from the penalty of sin
- Present – being saved from the power of sin
- Future – will be saved from the presence of sin

The fullness of salvation will be realized when Christ returns. The Second Coming is not a side doctrine—it is central to the Christian hope. We are:

- Looking for it
- Longing for it
- Living in light of it

Jesus Himself promised: “I will come again and receive you to Myself...” (*John 14:3*)

The angels declared in Acts 1:11: “This Jesus... will come in just the same way...”



**“The second coming of Christ is a central aspect of the Christian hope. We are looking forward to it. We’re longing for it. We’re yearning for it to come. We’re seeking to speed its coming by service to God and by the proclamation of the gospel.”**

### **Why Hasn’t He Returned Yet?**

Scripture answers clearly:

“The Lord is not slow... but is patient... not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”  
(2 Peter 3:9)

His delay is not indifference—it is mercy.

## **2. OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR HOLY LIVING**

Because the day is near, Paul gives three clear expectations:

### **A. LIVE VIGILANTLY** (vv. 11–12a)

- Be aware of the time
- Be awake to the time
- Be awaiting the time

“It is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep...”

This is a call to spiritual alertness. Jesus said: “Be on the alert!” (*Mark 13:37*)

We are not to drift through life spiritually asleep—we are to live with urgency and readiness.

### **B. LIVE VIRTUOUSLY** (vv. 12b–13) (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

“Lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

There is:

- A wrong way to live (darkness)
- A right way to live (light)



Paul gives both a negative and positive command:

Put off:

- Carousing
- Drunkenness
- Sexual immorality
- Strife and jealousy

Put on:

- The armor of light

This is intentional, decisive action.

Paul uses military language—we are in a spiritual battle. We are to suit up daily with righteousness. *(Romans 6;13; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:3)*

### **C. LIVE VICTORIOUSLY** (v. 14)

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

This is more than behavior modification—it is transformation. It means:

- Renouncing the self-life
- Embracing the Christ-life

And Paul adds: “Make no provision for the flesh...”

Do not feed what Christ died to defeat. Victory is not found in trying harder—it is found in putting on Christ.



## Conclusion:

Let me ask you: Does the return of Jesus fill you with hope—or with fear?

For the believer, it is a source of great encouragement: “Lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (*Luke 21:28*)

But for those unprepared, it is a moment of sorrow: “I never knew you...” (*Matthew 7:23*)

## Final Challenge:

The nearness of Christ’s return should not produce panic—it should produce purity.

“Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself...” (*1 John 3:3*)

The day is near.

So:

- Wake up
- Clean up
- Suit up
- Look up

Live every day as if Jesus could return at any moment—because one day, He will.

*1 John 2:28–29 (NASB95)*

“Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.”