

# SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Mar 4 / 5, 2023

## ROMANS SERIES Part 29: Glorifying God through a Well Lived Life Dr. Henry Schorr

In Romans chapter 13 Paul challenges us to live with a sense of urgency. We don't know when Christ will return or how long we will live, so we must make the most of the time God gives us.

We can glorify God by living out these priorities:

**1. Pay your bills.** Pay your taxes and pay your debts. You cannot serve both God and money. Debt will destroy your inner peace and damage your relationship with God and others. Whatever debt you have should be manageable and should be paid on time. Why? So you can cultivate your relationship with God and invest your life in things that really matter. Because nothing will sidetrack you like debt.

Live within your means. Be financially responsible. Nothing will rob you and your family of joy and peace more than stress over finances. Determine to live simply so that you can be generous with those who are simply trying to live.

**2. Love your neighbor.** The Ten Commandments are God's guidelines on how to love God and how to love others. Such love can be found only through Jesus. You can't love in a Christ-like way unless you have the love of God within you. Love is the Christian way of life and it is to be extended to everyone. Whenever you meet someone, remind yourself that you owe them love—the love you yourself received from God.

True love is a decision to love, a commitment to love regardless of whether the other person loves us back or not. The most powerful thing you can do to build love into your marriage, your family, your friendships and your neighbors is to know and love God. If you love people this way, God considers you a success regardless of whatever else you accomplish in life. I Cor 13 says if you fail to love, you are nothing.

**3. Wake up spiritually.** Time is running out. People need to experience God's amazing love and be changed by His grace. So live all out for Jesus. Love God and others with everything you have. Don't be spiritually lethargic or just go through the motions of doing religion.

**4. Put off deeds of darkness.** Some things are flat out wrong—carousing and drunkenness, pornography, sexual immorality. Put them off! Some things are incompatible with love—such as endlessly pursuing pleasure, by partying, watching Netflix ad nauseum, or scrolling through Instagram. You can't love others if you are spending the majority of your time pursuing pleasure. Pursuing power and position can hurt you and hurt or possibly even destroy others.

You have a choice. You can love stuff or you can love people. You can love pleasure, power, and position or you can let Jesus live His life through you to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

**5. Put on Jesus.** "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh" (Rom 8:14). In the same way you put on clothes every day, intentionally put on Jesus every day, inviting Him to do your day with you. Remind yourself of his presence all day long. Be conscious of the fact that He lives in you and will live out His life through you if you give Him freedom to do so.

Our time on earth is brief. We have one shining season to live all out for Christ and then it's over. Christ wants to live His life of love through us and make an eternal difference through us in our families, our churches and our communities.

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What's one goal/dream you've always wanted to accomplish, but haven't yet? What's holding you back?
2. How have you simplified your life so that you have more time for what matters?

## UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 13:8-14.

3. What is the significance of knowing that “love is the fulfillment of the law” (vs 8-10)? How does our love for God and others influence our relationship with temporary things?
4. What does Paul mean when he said, “clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” and “put on the armor of light” (vs 11-14)? Discuss Paul’s use of metaphors of putting on and taking off.

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. “The night is nearly over; the day is almost here” (vs 12a). What does this mean? Considering this, how might you practically “wake up from your slumber” (vs 11) and shake off your spiritual lethargy?
6. What does ‘clothing yourself with Jesus’ look like in loving and serving your church, family, and community?

## THE WORD (NIV)

### Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

<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.

### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Pastor Henry highlighted 5 priorities that Christians need to adopt in order to be effective in this age we live in. (See sermon summary.) Which one do you most need to focus on? Ask God how to do it and follow through by being accountable to someone.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, Gene and Karen Gibbs, Jared Harrison and Jorel Quemuel