

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL DUTY
SCRIPTURE: ROMAN 13:11-14

Introduction

As we pass through this world we have a duty to live out the life of Christ. In these verses Paul uses the language of haste and urgency. He is telling us that the duties mentioned here are not to be put off for another day, but are to be carried out every day as the believer lives his or her life in the world.

In considering The Believer's Spiritual Duty, you may find that you are doing your duty well. However, you might see that there are certain areas that need attention. Our Spiritual Duty involves four major commitments:

1. We Are to Watch Diligently.
2. We Are to War Diligently.
3. We Are to Walk Diligently.
4. We Are to Wait Diligently.

I. OUR DUTY TO WATCH DILIGENTLY (11). And that, knowing the time, that it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is your salvation nearer than when we believed.

1. We Are to Watch The Seasons. And that, knowing the time..
The word "time" refers to a "season of time." This entire verse has to do with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His people. The

idea is that the believer is to keep his eyes on the changing world around him and understand that the coming of the Lord is near. Sadly, many believers cruise lazily through life not even considering the fact that Jesus might return at any moment. Yet, all one has to do is cross-reference the daily news with the Word of God to see that His coming is near.

The advice Jesus gave in Matthew is still good advise for us today, Matt. 24:42-44. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doeth come. (43) But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. (44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. *Not only are we to watch for the Seasons...*

2. We Are to Watch Our Sleep. that it is high time to awake out of sleep. Paul tells us that the time for slumber has long since passed. The words "*high time*" mean that a specific hour has arrived. The word "sleep" means *insensitivity to the demands of Christ* on the Christian life. Many people in the church are in a state of insensitivity when it comes to the things of God. They are living their lives as they please without any thought for the Will of God or the return of the Lord Jesus Christ! This should not be! There is no excuse for being asleep to the things of God. May the Lord find us watching when He comes! May He find us awake when He returns! *Watch the seasons, watch our sleep...also...*

3. Watch For The Savior. for now is your salvation nearer than when we believed. Paul tells us that our salvation is nearer than when we believed. There are three stages to salvation. We are saved, we are being saved and we will be saved. At the moment of

conversion, we were saved from the penalty of sin. We are being saved daily from the power of sin. We will be saved eventually from the presence of sin. Our salvation is fully accomplished this moment, but it is being worked out daily in our lives. One day, when Jesus returns for His people, we will experience the complete effects of our salvation. Every day we are getting a little closer to glory! Paul reminds us that Jesus is nearer today than He was yesterday. Are you living your life in the anticipation of His soon return? *Not only is it our duty Watch diligently...it is...*

II. OUR DUTY TO WAR DILIGENTLY (12). The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

1. This is a Time Of Crisis. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: Paul is telling us that the time to sleep has well passed. Now it is time to become active in the business of the Lord. His words remind us that there is a real urgency to the things of God. Everyday people are dying without the Lord and going to Hell. Everyday the forces of evil are growing stronger and working harder in the world.

Statistics Last 30 years:

- *Violent crime has increased 560%.
- *Illegitimate births increased 419%.
- *Teenage suicides increased 200%.
- *Divorce rates quadrupled the number of children living in single parents homes.
- * Exploiting Children.
- *Abortion rate is approaching 50 million.(*The Wall Street Journal*)

The reign of darkness on this earth is growing nearer its destined end. Rev. 12:12, *Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

Since Satan knows that his time is short he is pulling out all the stops in our day. There is a tremendous need for believers to wake up from their slumber to recognize the seriousness and the lateness of the hour and to get busy serving the Lord. May we recognize the crisis of the hour and dedicate ourselves to being all God wants us to be in these days. *A time of crisis always reveals...*

2. A Time Of Commitment. *let us therefore cast off works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* The idea of this verse is of a man rising from sleep, throwing off the bed covers and getting himself dressed for the day. Since Paul uses the word "*armor*", we could say that he is speaking of a new recruit who shows up for duty in the military. **Personal Illustration:** Once I arrived at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for basic training I was stripped of my civilian clothes, and dressed up in a military uniform. My civilian clothes was mailed home. In a matter of speaking this portrays the believer forever laying aside the ways of the old life and dressing up once for all in the ways of the new life in Jesus.

God's idea of the Christian life is one of total commitment and dedication. However, most Christians see the Christian life as one of compromises. They honor God over here while doing as they please over here. This cannot be! God's command is for our total commitment, once for all! Have you done that? Are you even willing? *Not only is it our duty to War diligently.. it is...*

III. OUR DUTY TO WALK DILIGENTLY (13). Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and envying. Paul calls upon the believer to exhibit the right kind of walk in his everyday life.

1. We Should Show A Decent Walk. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; The phrase "**walk honestly**" means to "**behave properly.**" That is, we are to live an outward life that is consistent with who we are on the inside. There should be no pretense in our lives. If we say we are saved, we should live as though we are saved. We are to be sure that our practice matches our profession.

I am convinced that the reason many people have such a hard time staying clean and living for God is because they have never been saved to begin with. With the new birth comes the desire to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. A life that is honest, a life that is a living sacrifice to His glory in the world.

Does your walk match your talk regarding the phrase "as in the day", referring to the day when Christ will return and establish His righteousness. There should be nothing hypocritical and hidden about our lives, just a life that is open, honest and pleasing to the Lord. Does that describe the life you are living? *When we Show a decent walk..*

2. We Should Shun A Devilish Walk. not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and envying. After telling how we *should live*, Paul turns his attention to how we *should not live*. He mentions six sins of the flesh that were prevalent in Paul's day. The six sins are also prevalent in our day as well! *Let's look at them for just a moment.*

(1) Rioting - Refers to wild parties, sexual orgies, brawling.

- (2) **Drunkenness** - Refers to habitual and intentional intoxication.
- (3) **Chambering** - This word comes from a word that means "*to go to bed with someone,*" It refers to sexual activities that are engaged in outside of the marriage relationship. It is a work of the flesh and it is a sin! Whether it be any sexual activity before marriage, or any sexual activity after marriage with someone who is not your spouse, it is a sin!
- (4) **Wantonness** - This word is tied to the previous word and it refers to unbridled sexual desire and activity.
- (5) **Strife** - This word refers to a mind set of people who are constantly bickering and engaged in petty disagreements. They are always walking around with an attitude and a chip on their shoulder. The world is full of these people, and sadly the church has some of these people as members.
- (6) **Envy** - Refers to a spirit of jealousy. It is an attitude of the heart that seeks everything self wants without concern for the impact upon the lives of others.
- Are any of these things active in your life this evening! If so, there is a remedy. It is called confession and repentance! *Our duty of Walking diligently always opens the door to...*

IV. OUR DUTY TO WAIT DILIGENTLY (14). But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. *While we wai for the Lord's return...t*

1. We Must be Properly Dressed. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, - Paul tells us that while we are waiting in this world for the Lord to return, we should be careful that we act the right way. He tells us to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ.*" We are to adopt His lifestyle as our lifestyle. We are to love the Father as He loves the Father. He walked in total obedience to God, and so are we to walk in total obedience to God. Therefore, until He comes, let us

determine that we will live Christlike in front of a hell-bound world. *We must wait properly Dressed...also we must...*

2. Wait Properly Disengaged. make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. - The word "*provision*" means "*forethought or planning*". We are to avoid any and all attempts by the mind to allow the fulfilling of fleshly lusts. **James 1:14-15.** **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. (15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.** Long as we live in his world; there will be within us a pull toward the things of the world. However, we do not have to fall into any temptation if we follow, **1 Cor. 10:31. Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

When we allow the Spirit of God to control our thinking, we will not do what the flesh wants, but we will do what the Spirit wants, **Gal. 5:16, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** We are to give no thought to the desires of the flesh. Sounds tough, but the Spirit of God is able to give us the victory in this warfare, **1 John 4:4, Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 Cor. 15:57.**

Conclusion: Are you doing your spiritual duty? Or, has the Spirit of God placed His finger on some area or the other that needs immediate attention? If so, then I recommend bringing that need to Jesus. If He is calling, you come!

