

Not A Fan: The Disciples Directive
Romans 13:11-14 KJV

Presented by
Rev. Dr. Andre Lewis, Senior Pastor

I. DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES DILIGENCE V. 11

Paul says, in verse 11; *"And do this, knowing the **time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."*

A. Disciple's Should Watch The Seasons -

1. The word "*time*" refers to a "*season of time*".
2. Therefore, Paul reminds them that Christ will return!

B. Disciple's should be prepared for His coming because we don't know when to expect Him.

1. Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 24:42-44**,
 - *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him...;*
2. **First** in **verse 42**, we see this exhortation that Jesus gives to be prepared because of what we don't know.
3. We don't know when He is coming, and therefore, we should be prepared.
4. And so, Jesus, in this passage, teaches us that we must be ready because we don't know when He is coming.
5. **Second**, **verse 43**, shares the results of not being **Alert** through a warning illustration.
6. He is alluding here to the spiritual disaster of unpreparedness.

C. Disciples Watch For Sleep -

1. Paul further tells us that the time for slumber has long since passed.
2. The words "high time" mean that a specific hour has arrived.
3. He uses the Greek word from which we get the English word "hypnosis" - one that means, "to be drowsy".
4. Paul uses the term sleep because many people typically fall asleep when they are comfortable with their surroundings and environment!

D. Disciples Watch For The Savior -

1. Paul also calls for the believer to watch for the savior.
2. What Paul means is that every day our salvation is nearer than we believed.
3. The word salvation means that we are delivered from molestation of our enemies, but we are also preserved past, present, and future.
4. Remember what he is doing for us right now and to reflect on what he will do in the future.

II. DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES A SPIRITUAL DEFENSE V. 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."

- A. **A Time Of Crisis** - 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
1. His words remind you and I of the urgency to the things of God.
 2. There is a tremendous need for believers everywhere to wake up from their slumber to recognize the seriousness and the lateness of the hour and to get busy serving the Lord with all of their might.
- B. **A Time Of Commitment** -
1. 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.
 2. **Paul charged the believers to be Faithful!**
 3. God's idea of the Christian life is one of total commitment and dedication.

III. DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES A DISCREET WALK v.13

"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy."

1. In lieu of the conditions that had infiltrated the church and the constant scrutiny that the saints were under, Paul called them to be cautious how they act amongst non-believers.
2. **He calls upon the believer to exhibit the right kind of walk in his everyday life.**

A. **We Should Show A Decent Walk** –

1. The phrase "*walk honestly*" means to "*behave properly.*"
2. Paul says, there should be no pretense in our lives.

B. **We Should Shun A Devilish Walk**

1. Paul lists some common practices in Rome that crept into their church as well as the 21st century church today that denigrates our witness.
2. He mentions six sins of the flesh that were prevalent in Paul's day:
 - **Rioting-**
 - **Drunkenness-**
 - **Chambering-**
 - **Wantonness-**
 - **Strife-**
 - **Envy-**

IV. Discipleship Requires Making No Provision for Sin

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

1. In typical Pauline fashion, he doesn't leave us naked with just taking things off.
2. The ESV translates this as "*armor.*"
3. Helmet of salvation. Breastplate of righteousness. Sword of the Spirit.

A. **See the second "garment" we put on.**

1. "*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Romans 13:14).
2. **First**, I have to want to. I have to want to NOT live in darkness. I have to be fed up with it.
3. We are to "take off" life choices aligned with darkness.
4. So, clothes describe a moral lifestyle.

B. **But here we have a clue for a great defense.** "*Make no provision for the flesh.*" (Romans 13:14)

1. The Greek word for provision has the sense of foresight.
2. See something in advance.

3. Know yourself well enough to not put yourself in places where you may likely fall into sin.
4. We all have weaknesses.
5. We are to flee temptation.
6. Is that whatever causing you to love Jesus more? *“Make no provision.”*