

# **SERMON SUMMARY**

Romans 13:8-14 confronts us with a profound question: Do we know what time it is? Not in a chronological sense, but spiritually. We live in a world that constantly distracts us, pulling our attention toward consumption, anxiety, and the endless pursuit of satisfaction that never comes. Like the walking dead, we can go through life merely existing—eating, consuming, never fulfilled. But the gospel declares something radically different: the day has dawned. When Christ rose from the dead that Sunday morning, the light broke into our darkness. We are no longer creatures of the night, stumbling around in drunkenness, sexual immorality, quarreling, or jealousy. Instead, we are called to wake up from our sleep and recognize that we have been given a new identity. The passage challenges us to understand that Christian morality is not about keeping a list of rules—it is about being transformed by love. When we truly grasp that we are far more sinful than we dare believe, yet far more loved than we could ever imagine, everything changes. We are called to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. More specifically, we are to put on Christ himself, as if we were getting dressed each morning. This is not about outward appearance but about identity. Every day we face a choice: will we identify with our struggles and sins, or will we identify with Christ? The difference between stumbling into sin and planning for it is crucial. We are urged to make no provision for the flesh, which means actively planning for righteousness rather than passively drifting toward temptation. This is the life of someone who knows what time it is—someone who lives in the dawn of God's kingdom.

## **Main Takeaways**

- 1. Love is the Superior Ethic - We owe no one anything except to love each other; love fulfills all the commandments.**
- 2. Wake Up - Know What Time It Is - Christ has risen, the day has dawned. We're no longer living in darkness but in the light of His kingdom.**
- 3. Identity in Christ - We are called to "put on" Jesus Christ daily, not to identify with our sins or struggles.**
- 4. Make No Provision for the Flesh - There's a difference between stumbling into sin and planning for it. We must intentionally plan for righteousness instead.**

## **INTO THE SERMON**

- 1. What was the most encouraging or challenging idea from this weekend's sermon?**
- 2. Pastor Sam said that belief drives behavior. Why is it important that what we believe about Jesus shapes the way we actually live?**
- 3. One of the central questions of the sermon was, "Do you know what time it is?" What do you think Paul means by that, and how does remembering Christ's resurrection change the way we live today?**
- 4. Pastor Sam contrasted "living in the darkness" with "running toward the light." What illustration or statement from the sermon helped you understand that picture more clearly?**

## **INTO THE TEXT**

- 1. Read Romans 13:8-10. Paul says that love fulfills the law. How does genuine love naturally lead us to obey God's commands?**
- 2. In verses 11-12, Paul calls believers to "wake up" because "the day is at hand." What do you think Paul is urging Christians to wake up from, and why is this message still relevant today?**
- 3. Read verses 13-14. Paul tells believers to "cast off the works of darkness" and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." What do these two commands practically look like in everyday life?**
- 4. Verse 14 also says to "make no provision for the flesh." What are some practical ways we can remove opportunities for temptation and instead make plans to pursue Christ?**

## **TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT**

- 1. Are there any areas of your life where you sense God inviting you to "wake up" and live more intentionally for Him?**
- 2. What does it practically look like for you to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" each day? Are there habits or rhythms that help you do that?**
- 3. Pastor Sam said that Christians shouldn't simply avoid darkness—they should actively run toward the light. What is one step you can take this week to intentionally pursue Jesus instead of simply trying to avoid sin?**
- 4. Paul reminds us that the day has already dawned because Jesus is risen. How does living with that hope shape the way you approach your relationships, priorities, and decisions this week?**