

Lent Day 32

Thursday April 6, 2017

Reading: Romans 13:11-14

11 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. 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. 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. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Reflection

“What time is it Mister Wolf?” Remember that game? The person who was the wolf would stand close to and facing the wall. Others would stand behind at a distance and would call out, “What time is it Mister Wolf?” And, for every hour the wolf said the players would take a step closer to the wall. The object was to touch the wall, becoming ‘safe’. But the wolf could turn at any moment to try to catch you — then you’d be out. The time was either close to safety or destruction.

Paul has a similar notion in mind, though it’s not a game. The question is the same, “What time is it?” His answer is that the time is getting nearer to God’s final judgment. We have a hard time in this day and age with the notion of judgment — but this doesn’t make God the big bad wolf. In fact, most people desire and need God’s judgment; we want God to set the world right! That is exactly the promise, but there is always a flip side which is that to make things right he must finally put away what is wrong.

This means there is right and wrong. So, Paul says, live right and if there is vestiges of the old life — wrong living — get rid of them. The dawn is breaking which will dispel the darkness, so be people of light. If we put on Jesus himself like a new suit of clothes we will be doing just that. Allow our character to be Christ-like. This is our invitation during lent, to examine ourselves and see where darkness clings, and where we need to change to putting on light. The time is coming and we want to be ready.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for this salvation and how it is coming closer to its fulness. Help us to shed our old clothes of darkness and put on the new clothes of light, Jesus himself. Amen.