

# Study in Romans

## Application > Disposition of the Christian > Put on Christ and Make No Plans for the Flesh Romans 13:11-14

As Paul closes out this section which unfolds divinely-inspired ideas about how to love sincerely (12:9), he reminds us that we need to use our time wisely, living as people of the day, knowing that the completion of God's plan of salvation is getting closer all the time. Then in a pattern we've seen over and over, he arrives at a concluding statement that summarizes all that has come before: Put on Christ and do not plan on how to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. This is an example of the classic put-off, put-on statement seen throughout the New Testament. The basic idea is an illustration of taking off old clothing and putting on new clothing. Interestingly, the picture he uses here includes the donning of armor, not just clothing.

It is worthwhile to remember how, in chapter one, Paul disclosed that God's temporal wrath is seen in the breakdown of relationships first to Him, then to creation, our bodies, our minds and our neighbors. Then in chapter five comes the restoration of the relationship to God, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (5:1 NASB). Hints of reconciliation with creation, our bodies and minds and our neighbors are given in chapter eight, but now in chapters 12 and 13, Paul has laid out a clear plan of how to restore and maintain the relationships to ourselves and our neighbors through the power of God's love. In the coming chapters, he will continue by bringing to our attention the purpose of faith in satisfying God in our individual walks with Him as we encounter differences of opinions and viewpoints in the Body of Christ. Underlying it all though, this summary statement in v. 14, covers the whole of the Christian's walk.

1. Paul raises the alarm for us: The night of battle is nearly over, the victory is at hand! Now act like it! (Vv. 11-12; cf. 3:26; 11:25; Ps. 90:12; put off, put on: Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:8-10; Heb. 12:1; James 1:21; I Peter 2:1; 4:1-3)
  
2. Paul recounts our allegiance: Looking to the example of our King and Commander, we replace plans for the flesh with plans for Him. (Vv. 13-14; cf. Eph. 8:10-18)