**PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT**

Romans 13:1-14 (key 13:12)

*“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.”*

**\*Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. What basic attitude should we have toward governing authorities and why? (1) Why is this teaching challenging, both then and now? Nevertheless, why is rebellion against the authorities a serious matter (2)? What is the one exception to this principle? (Ac 5:29[[2]](#footnote-2))
2. What purpose do rulers serve (3-4)? In what sense are they God’s servants? How can we be free from fear of those in authority? Why is it important to submit as a matter of conscience? (5)
3. How can we practically submit to the authorities? (6-7) How is doing all this an essential part of effective evangelism?
4. What is the only continuing debt believers should have and why? (8) How is it possible to practice this love, especially towards unbelievers? (1 Jon 4:19[[3]](#footnote-3)) In what respect is love the fulfilment of the law? (9-10) How can loving your neighbour transform society?
5. How can understanding the *present time*[[4]](#footnote-4) further motivate us to love others? (11) What does it mean to wake up and why should we? What does it mean to “put aside the deeds of darkness” and to “put on the armor of light” (13-14)? Practically, how can we do this?

1. Through faith in Jesus, we are saved from eternal condemnation. We have become God’s beloved children who inherit his glorious kingdom. With the hope of future glory, we live in this world. How? Paul began his practical teaching by urging us in 12:1-2 to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God, with minds renewed by the Holy Spirit. Then he spent the rest of chapter 12 instructing us how to live out our faith in the church. Now, in chapter 13, he turns to how we live out our faith in the world. We Christians have a dual citizenship: We are citizens of our Father’s heavenly kingdom (Php 3:20), and of the nation where we live. Though our true citizenship is in heaven, we cannot ignore the reality of living in this world. We encounter governing authorities and neighbors. Paul teaches us how to interact with them. His point is not that we would somehow survive until Jesus comes again. It is to become the agents of change who bring about the transformation of the world. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Acts 5:27-29** The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Here, “time” does not simply refer to the times we live in but denotes the coming of a specific event. That is the second coming of Jesus [↑](#footnote-ref-4)