

- b. 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.”** Evil will soon come to end, *Jesus is almost here; therefore, let us stop compromising and begin living as if we KNEW Jesus was coming TOMORROW!*
- c. ¹³ **“Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.”** Evil tends to occur under the cover of darkness, so ***we are called to proceed as if it was daylight all the time*** – even when it is dark. *Christians want to honor God 24/7, but hypocrites only do so when they think others might be looking. What are YOU?*
- d. ¹⁴ **“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”** In other words, show OUTWARDLY – *all the time* – what God has done INWARDLY *by grace through faith!*

Conclusion: So how are YOU compromising in your Christian life? REPENT – be sorry (*go and sin no more*) and believe in Jesus as your Savior!

Then, care about others by telling them – *both the bad news of sin and the good news of God’s rescue in Jesus Christ!* Furthermore, *in all things, let us proceed with urgency “because the Son of Man will come at an hour when [we] do not expect him.”* (Matthew 24:44 NIV) And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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“What if Jesus Returned Tomorrow?”

Based on Romans 13:11b-14

1st Sunday of Advent – 2010

November 28 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, we have recently studied what will happen *BEFORE* and *WHEN* Jesus returns. Today, *based on a section in Romans 13, let’s hear God’s call to live in the light of Jesus’ promised return. Even to live as if Jesus was definitely going to return TOMORROW!*

1. **Paul’s Letter to the Christians Living in Rome:** This is a very basic outline:
 - a. **Unrighteous is reality** – *both for Jews and Gentiles!*
^{NAS} **Romans 3:10** ...”There is none righteous, not even one...”
 - b. **Righteousness is received** – *only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!* ^{NIV} **Romans 3:22** “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”
 - c. **Righteousness is practiced** – *in the lives of those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior!* That section begins with this verse: ^{NAS} **Romans 12:1** “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,

acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*” Now, **take note of these key points:**

- i. **We were unrighteous** (*and completely helpless to make ourselves righteous*)!
- ii. **God made us righteous** (*through Jesus and His finished work*)!
- iii. **So we should respond with righteous lives** (*guided by the Word and strengthened by Christ*)!

However, *before we go on to Romans 13*, let us turn to the topic of compromise!

2. **Compromise is Common**: *We are Christians!* By grace God has →made us aware of our sin and →enabled us to trust in Jesus as our Savior! However, *are we REALLY sorry for our sins – for each and every one of them?*
 - a. The dilemma: We SAY we are sorry, but we continue to COMPROMISE in many ways. *How?* **Many tend to hear or read God’s Word, then come to this conclusion:** If I do something CLOSE to what the Word says, that will be ✦better than many others AND ✦acceptable to God!
 - b. An example – the Ark of the Covenant and Uzzah: The Lord commanded Moses: ^{NIV} **Numbers 4:15** “... when the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites are to come to do the carrying. **But they must not touch the holy things or they will die.**” *So how was that compromised?* Later, *in David’s time*, when transporting the Ark, rather than carrying it with poles – so as NOT to touch it – ³ “They set the ark of God on a new cart... ⁶ When they came to the

threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷ **The LORD’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.** [Then the Bible records David’s response: He] ⁹ *was afraid of the LORD...* (2 Sam. 6 NIV) “...not the wholesome fear of proper honor and respect for the Lord but an anxiety arising from an acute sense of his own guilt.” (CSSB, 431) God doesn’t want His forgiven children to be afraid of Him, *but He does want us to rightly honor and respect Him!*

- c. As we begin this season of Advent today, *we must greatly rejoice that our Savior has come once and will come again!* **However, we must also remember WHY He came – to bring us from darkness, despair, and slavery to light, hope, and freedom!** Therefore, **let us examine our lives and REPENT!**
3. **Serious Instruction for an Important Time**: As we turn to today’s text, the CSSB has this comment: “*In this section...the certain coming of the end of the present age is used to provide motivation for godly living.*” (1737)
 - a. ^{NIV} **Romans 13:11b** “**The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.**” ✦Every week, ✦every day, ✦every heartbeat *is bringing us closer and closer to Jesus return!* Therefore, this is NOT a time to slip away from Jesus – *like many are currently doing* – BUT a time to grow in →knowing, →doing, and →sharing the Word!