

HOW TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 36

Romans 13:8-14

1. **PAY UP!** Do not let any debt remain outstanding.

"Let no debt remain outstanding..." Romans 13:8a

"The wicked borrow and do not pay back but the righteous give generously." Psalm 37:21

"Give to the one who asks you and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow." Matthew 5:42

"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." Romans 13:11

2. **BUILD UP!** Love everybody.

"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." Romans 13:8-10

"And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in tongues of men and of angels and have not love I'm only a sounding gong and a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have faith that can move mountains but have not love I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I gain nothing.... Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8

"Now these three remain, faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

3. **WAKE UP!** Make the most of every opportunity.

"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." Romans 13:11

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible. For it is light that makes everything visible..."

This is why it is said: 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be very careful, then, how you live not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.' Ephesians 5:11-16

4. **GEAR UP!** Prepare for battle.

"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." Romans 13:12

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:10-17

5. **CLEAN UP!** Maintain a pure lifestyle.

"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy." Romans 13:13

6. DRESS UP! Clothe yourself with the Lord.

“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.” Romans 13:14

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2

“You were taught with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires and to be made new in the attitude of your mind.” Ephesians 4:22-24

“Therefore, walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16