

End is Near

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I. Introduction.

- A. Paul's concern in Romans 12 is to address when to do what he commanded earlier.
- B. The sense of urgency is clear: now is the time.
- C. The shortness of time is marked by the shortness of life and the nearness of Christ's return.
- D. The Second Coming is vaguely received today. (Revelation 3:15-16)
 - 1. We live as if we have forever to live.
 - 2. The urgency is now not someday.
- E. There are three things to remember in the last days.

II. The urgency of the last days.

- A. We are to be what God wants us to be now.
- B. There is a future aspect of salvation that we have to look for. It is nearer than when we first believed. (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 1:3-5)
- C. The early Christians simply were not taking into consideration the time that it was. (Matthew 16)
- D. It is time to prepare. (Matthew 24)

III. The exhortation of the last days: cast off the work of darkness.

- A. The requirement: put on the armor of light.
- B. Children of God should not wear the garments of darkness. (Ephesians 5:11)
- C. Avoid...
 - 1. Revelry and drunkenness.
 - 2. Immorality and wantonness.
 - 3. Strife and envy.

IV. The power of the last days: put on the Christ-like life, which is the Holy Spirit.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that they have plenty of time to repent and get right with God?

2. What does it look like for you personally to put off the works of darkness?

3. How can Christians stay true to the reminder that Christi return is near when it has already been so long?
