

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (v35)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven & preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, & lead us toward all that gives life & salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; & any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness & put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling & drunkenness, not in debauchery & licentiousness, not in quarreling & jealousy.

¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, & make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the *Romans* lesson & the Gospel? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. See Matthew 16:17-19; John 20:19-23*
2. Consider the commandments St. Paul lists (v9). He only includes a few, not all 10. What point is he making? Is it that Christians have only 4? *See also Exodus 20:1-17; Leviticus 19:15-18; Matthew 19:16-22, 22:34-40; Mark 10:17-22, 12:28-40; Luke 10:25-37, 18:18-22; Galatians 5:6, 13-18; James 2:8-13; Small Catechism: 10 Commandments available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider *Genesis 9:1-7* (cf. *Acts 15:15-21*), *Psalms 37:30-31*, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*; & *Romans 2:12-16*; What ideas about God's Law & human conscience are being presented? That is, is Law limited to the specific Old Testament rules & regulations or how does Law have a universal sense as well? What is universal- or part of nature- about the 10 Commandments, even though they are specifically given only to Israel? *See also Luke 10:25-37; Acts 10:34-36, 17:26-31; Romans 11:16-25*
4. *Romans 13:8*, along with *Proverbs 11:25, 17:18, 22:7, 26, 28:20*, are favorite verses about debt with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* (which St. Peter is hosting, starts 09.17.23). How does coveting play into the hands of debt (v9)? How does contentment guard against coveting? *See Genesis 2:5-9, 15-17; Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5; FPU available tinyurl.com/FPU44A310*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Rightly or wrongly, many people perceive the Church as a place quick to judge & run off, not much different from TV shows *Survivor* or *Bachelor/Bachelorette*, merely dressed up in Bible verses. Consider your own history of disagreements & side-taking, despising & passive-aggressiveness. How can you report of your divisiveness & help others do the same?
6. St. Paul says to put on the armor of light (v12, cf. *Galatians 6:11-17; John 12:35-36*) & then says put on Christ (v14, like a robe or the armor). How do your neighbors see Jesus when looking at you?

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15th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Extra-Ordinary Life

09.10.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Dress for Success
Clothes make the man, so put on Christ

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
& make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (v14)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
entrusting the message of reconciliation to us . (2 *Corinthians 5:19*)

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