

"WAKE UP - CLEAN UP - GROW UP - JESUS IS COMING"  
Rom. 13: 8-14

Open your Bibles to Rom. 13 at V. 8. Last time, you will recall that we dealt with a section in Rom. 13: 1-7 which commands us as Xtns and citizens to be obedient, to respect and to fear those in authority. There is a time when a Xtn cannot obey the law. I will deal with this at W.O.W. on Wednesday. This has to be stated very carefully and cautiously but there is a circumstance under which a Xtn should not obey the law and we will deal with this Wednesday at W.O.W. Now you will notice, in V. 7, that it is a command of God that we pay taxes. This, of course, is a legitimate right of government - to collect taxes from its citizens.

It's our responsibility to pay our taxes. Now when he comes to the next verse, he comes to an even greater debt. Which we are to pay, not once a year, or quarterly, but which we are to pay every day and which we can never fully pay. It's a continuing, unpaid debt and that is the debt of love. Of LOVE! So we have to look at this.

V. 8 (read) he indicates that we are not to be in debt, in any area except the area of love.

Now let me pause here to say: in the kind of world in which we live it is impossible for us not to incur some kind of debts. I don't guess there's five people here this morning that could pay cash for a house. Most of us couldn't nor even buy an automobile. This is not a Biblical debt. If you buy something that is/ <sup>of</sup> appreciating value; that is not a debt. Certainly the Bible would teach us not to make debts that we cannot pay and that we cannot within a reasonable time, indeed.

If we make debts, knowing that we cannot pay them, we, in a very sophisticated and subtle way are stealing. That is a violation of the commandment 'thou shalt not steal'. There are too many people who do make debts, knowing they cannot pay them. Do you realize that we can borrow most anything today; there's no limit to what we can - the extent to which we can make debts, but nothing is ours until it's paid for. <sup>sm</sup> I'm inspired when I go into the home of a young married couple and they've bought a home, but some of the rooms are empty. Maybe their living room has practically nothing in it. What does that mean? They're waiting until they have enough money to furnish that home!

That's honorable. There's nothing wrong with that whatsoever. Then you go into homes where everything is furnished you know and big cars and everything and often that's financed and often, that brings great sorrow to a couple and often it brings divorce. Money is a major problem, major cause of divorce today. Some of you said 'well, this first statement is against capitalism 'Own no man anything'. Well, I do not think that. I think if you read the 19th chap. of Luke and the 25th chap. of Matthew, you will discover that JES. APPROVED banking and investment and even interest. I do not find that the Bible forbids ~~XXX~~ a reasonable interest.

The Bible DOES forbid excessive interest or usury. Hudson Taylor would not owe a penny on anything. Charles Spurgeon took this verse to be literal! There are various interpretations upon it. But the point that Paul is making is not discussing finances here, but discussing our debt of love. <sup>SP -</sup> Suppose I owed Larry Withers over here, ten thousand dollars. Now I don't own Larry this, but suppose I did. Well, now, I'm looking at Larry and as I look at him, I would think of the debt I owed him. That I owe him ten thousand dollars. I couldn't help but think of it. Paul is saying that when you meet another person, you ought to think that you owe that person love.

You ought to give it to him. When we rub shoulders with anybody in the world, our first thought ought to be 'I am to love this person, through the power of JC, in my life. I owe to them the debt of Love'. We ought to pay it everywhere we go. We go to our homes, we ought to be paying that debt. WE go to the office, we go to the factory, we go to the schools, we go to the courthouse - wherever we go, Paul says the Xtn is living under everlasting obligation to pay the debt of love and that means more than to just shake the hand, and say 'have a good day'. It's a very positive, outgoing that will cost us time and sometimes money, and all kinds of things.

Do you imagine what kind of world we'd have, if we really lived by this commandment of the Lord? There wouldn't be any more divorce; there wouldn't be any war; there wouldn't be any crying; there wouldn't be any prisons; there wouldn't be any strife. Now, of course, the world cannot do this - only Xtns can do this. But think of the change that we Xtns can make

in our society. Think what we can do in Ft. Smith, if we will take seriously this word of the Lord: that we are to pay this debt of love and we are to keep paying it and live in the consciousness of our responsibility of paying this debt of Love. Having said that, He goes to say 'he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law'. Is that the Law? Surely, Lev. 19: 18 says (read) that is in the law of Leviticus. When Jes. was asked a question in Matt. 22 'what is the greatest commandment?' in V. 37, He says (read). Then He goes on to say, in V. 38 and 39 (read) but now notice the order.

He says the first is love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. You see we cannot love our neighbors until we love the Lord. That's Jesus. But I want to say to you today anybody here this morning who knows Jes. and who loves Jes., can love his neighbor. Now sometimes it's not easy. You say 'how can I love my cantankerous neighbor?' Well, it may be impossible within your own strength but Jes., through you, can love that cantankerous neighbor and as we practice this and think this, it becomes a lifestyle in our lives and that ought to be the pattern of our lives.

Jes. gives us the power to overcome our selfishness so that we can love one another. And this is the primary command of God to His people in our day.

V. 9 (read) 'for this (or for example). Now he says 'if you love your neighbor you will not commit adultery. Well, I think that goes without saying. No one who loves his neighbors wife would defile his neighbors wife, in adultery. Now we have people walking off from their mates today, after they've been married for years and saying 'I love so and so and I don't love you, but that is not love - that's lust! That's lust and it's easy to confuse lust and love! But love does not take the neighbors wife. 'And thou shalt not kill'. Love does not kill. Love doesn't even poison the neighbors dog or cat, much less kill another person.

'Love does not steal'. Love will not take from another that which is his' and somebody said that love won't even keep the neighbors lawnmower more than a month! Love does not steal. Then



he says that 'love does not bear false witness'. It really doesn't. Love will not lie on the neighbor and you know there is ~~suttlities~~ in ~~XXXX~~ lying. There are many people who would not tell an out and out black lie who would exaggerate, and who will misrepresent and add to. One of the best ways is not to talk much about the neighbor unless you can say something good. It, <sup>500</sup>really is. I recommend to some people that they follow the pattern of the Trappist Monks. There's a group of Monks in Turkey and they speak ONLY every seventh year. A person who's ~~MAN~~ inclined to gossip and talk about other people, I just say 'I recommend that you become a \_\_\_\_\_. Just don't talk! Really!

If we have to talk about others, if we're inclined to talk about others, we'll lie on others, really. We won't even call it lies but it will be a form of lie. Then he says 'thou shalt not covet' (or thou shalt not desire) what belongs to the neighbor, if you love the neighbor. And 'thou shalt not stew if the neighbor gets a pool - puts in a pool - or buys a Mercedes-Benz and you can't. Really if we love the neighbor, we're not going to be jealous and you know the worst form of jealousy? It is not to want what the other fellow has, necessarily, but it's to want him to not have it. You don't get meaner than that!

You just don't want him to have it! You don't necessarily want it. Now if I see somebody wearing a nice suit of clothes that I ~~WAX~~ like and I say 'I desire a suit of clothes like that' well, that's not coveting. There'd be nothing wrong with that but when I would hate for him to have it and I would not want him to have that advantage, you see? Someone can take a nice vacation -- some people have been telling me recently about going to London. I love London, Paris I love Rome and I said to them 'well, I'd love to go to London. I would! I'd love to spend a week in London. I'd love to spend a week in Paris, and in Rome. Well, that's not coveting.

I didn't care for them going. But what if I just begrudged them. That wouldn't be love at all. Love is the tremendous power that cures us of the worst disease in the world and that is of selfishness and self-centeredness. Now let me say this to you: Selfishness is suicide! A church that is selfish is committing suicide. A church for instance, that will spend all the ~~XXXX~~ money on itself and not share the Gospel with the world, is committing suicide.

You would think that if you take the thousands of dollars that this church sends around the world and spend it here, that that would just bless us and we would have a lot more advantage. Do you know that every church that has done this has lost its money and its people. It's when we GIVE that God gives to us and we receive. The same thing is true of ~~XXX~~ an individual. If you live a selfish, self-centered life and you will die Spiritually. But you give y our love and you give your money and your means and yourselves and you'll never get old. You'll never get old!

There's nothing sadder than to see a self-centered, selfish, unloving, non-giving person advance in life. By the time they're forty five or fifty, they're old! There's no twinkle in their eyes. There's no excitement in their lives. Things have lost their appeal to them and they're just dried up on the inside. But take that person who's loving - NEVER gets old! Always has that twinkle; ALWAYS has that bounce in the step. The way to LIVE is to GIVE. The greatest gift is to love. Is to love. You know there are certain people that you and I can - we can just lift today! Certain people that we really can help today, if we would just reach out.

I don't mean just say 'hello' but I mean really to lift their burden or to do something that would cost us. Paul says 'we're in debt. We're in debt.' When we rub shoulders with any individual,,, you say 'well, that's the person on the right and the left. That's my neighbors' Oh, no, Jes. says 'those neighbors are the people you're thrown in contact with'. We're to show that debt of love. And he says in this commandment, all the other commandments are satisfied. You say 'well, that's a form of legalism'. No, it isn't. Now it COULD be a form of legalism and if it is, it's ugly and unattractive and not a blessing. If I simply am trying to love because it's a duty or because the pastor said so, that is not love.

John says in 1 John 5: 3 (read) and then he goes on to say 'His commandments are not burdensome'. It is not burdensome to love. Now it costs us and it may cost us time and it may cost money, but it's not a burden. It's not a burden for you to love your wife, if you really love her. Now it'll cost you time and it's gonna cost you some money and it's gonna cost you some



attention but listen, it's not a burden. It's not a burden for me to love my children. It just isn't a burden. John says that the love of God is the motivation for keeping the commandments. It's an outflow of the inflow of the love of God in my heart. IF I'm just doing it to put on a front, then that IS legalism and I can't live with that type thing. But if it's my life, if it's my life!

<sup>gm</sup> I think of my wife as an example. She just loves. Love just overflows from her life. It's not a legalism with her. She loves everybody. She loves the poor and she loves the rich and she loves the down and out and she loves ~~xxx~~ everybody. She loves the missionaries. She loves. She just loves. It's just natural as daylight with her. Alright, that's all I can say about that. Now in the next verse

V. 11 through 14, he comes into a tremendous section of the urgency of time, in which we live. Look at the overhead: he says 'Jesus Is Coming Soon' or possibly coming soon. That's true in every generation. So, he says, do four things:

#1. WAKE UP. That's the first thing he says.

#2. CLEAN UP.

#3. DRESS UP.

#4. HEADS UP.

I want you to look at this. V. 11 (read) he says 'now in addition to what I've just said to you about love, understand the times'. Now he's not saying 'look at the clock or your watch to see what time of day it is'. The Greeks had two words for 'time': one was 'chronos' we get our word 'chronology' and that would be the time on the watch. But the word here is 'kiros' which means 'Gods Time'. He says 'now, understand the time on Gods clock; that now it is high time (or overtime) to awake out of sleep'. He's writing to Roman Xtns; he's also writing to us. He says 'you're asleep'. You know any Xtns who are asleep? YOU know who is asleep today? Anybody who does not know what time it is!

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Do you know what time it is? Do you realize that if we measured it on time and we had a big clock; that clock has already passed the meridian and suppose it starts at 6 A.M. and it's already gone to twelve and it's over at 6 P.M. - you know where that hand is in my judgment? And what the Bible says today? It's somewhere between five and six. It may be five thirty. It could be five forty five. The Atomic Energy Bulletin puts it two minutes to midnight! The time in which we live is more critical than any time in world history. No informed Bible student will ever set a date.

But we're living in the most unusual time of human history. Paul is calling these Xtns to realize the urgency of the hour, in which they lived. Do you realize that the Bible never tells a lost man to wake up. It tells him to come to Christ. He's dead. You can't wake up a dead man. But the Xtn, over and over, is called to awake. So many Xtns are absolutely asleep, right in the church, who don't realize the little time we have and how critical it is that we put Christ first and make our lives count, because we don't have much time! Now we'll discuss the matter of whether Paul thought Jes. was coming in his lifetime, in just a few moments.

Eph. 5:14

To wake out of sleep. What puts us to sleep? Well, I think nothing has put us to sleep more than materialism. And more than our pleasures. The problems of our time are overwhelming so many of us and many have given up. Family problems, financial problems and then the failure to pray and to read the Bible and to stay in the fellowship of God's people and to be concerned has just stupified many people who are asleep today. Some of them are GOOD people and some need to be on fire for the Lord, who are literally asleep. Are you asleep today?

If so, WAKE UP! Paul says 'wake up, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed' or when we were first converted. You say 'well, I thought when I believed, I was saved'. You were. Salvation is in three tenses in the Bible. If you're saved this morning, you were saved in the past, sometime. That's Justification. But you're also being saved right now, in the present, through the work of the H. S. - that's Sanctification. And one day, you and I are gonna be completely saved, when the body itself is gonna be saved and we're gonna be



made completely like Jes. Now he's talking about that. Do you realize that your salvation your future salvation - is nearer today than it was when you first believed? That's true of everyone of us here. Some were saved thirty years ago; some fifty years ago; some five years ago. But you're nearer that ultimate salvation than you've ever been. You're nearer the coming of the Lord; you're nearer that final salvation than you have ever been. That is certainly a great Truth!

Of course, if the coming of Christ is as near as we think it is, that ultimate salvation, indeed, is not far away at all. Look at

V. 12 (read) 'the night' what is the night in this context? That's the absence of Jes., the person of Jes. The night is far spent (or nearly over) is what the Greek says. The night of the absence of Christ is nearly over. You say 'well, we've got the Gospel Light. Yes, we do. We have the H. S. Yes, we do but we do not have that ultimate Light, that we're gonna have when Jes. comes back to this world. The night of His absence, he says, is nearly over. You say 'oh, we've caught Paul here in an error,' the Liberals say, you see. 'Paul was mistaken, we can't trust him'. There's a dual meaning here, friends.

The night - the absence of Christs presence - is nearly over. You have a dual meaning. You always have a dual meaning in Scrip. It could refer to the Second Coming of Christ. Paul did exactly what Jes. taught us to do and that is: to live as if we thought Jes. was coming in our lifetime. <sup>SM</sup> G. Campbell Morgan had on his desk these words: 'Perhaps Today'. That's what the Bible said. He didn't say 'today'. You see, we've got these phanatics who gather in groups - often sincere people - but they're ill advised. Not today. If I said 'today', I've left the Script. But if I say 'Perhaps Today' I'm in the orb of the Scrip. and that's what Paul is saying here. 'But' you say 'He did not come in his day'.

Well, this is the second meaning. While He did not come in the day of those Roman Xtns, they died. They died and they met Jes. face to face and so the night was over and whether Jes.



comes in our lifetime, or not, and I really think He may come and you realize that I'm not an extremist and I'm not a fanatic and I don't preach on the subject of the Second Coming all the time; I think I know the Bible enough not to make that error. But I tell you I believe it's later than we ever thought and I think if we could know how late it is today, that it would change most of our lives.

But whether He comes or not, every one of us are very near the day because no matter who we are, life is very short and we're gonna meet Jes. real soon and the day is gonna come in our lives and the night will be past and we will stand before Jes. to give an account for our lives here. What a thought it is. You know the way that I ought to live today and the way you ought to live? As if Jes. died yesterday, rose today and is coming tomorrow. Would that change anything in your life? Would that change the way - anything in your home, at your job? Would that change any habits in your life? Would that change your lifestyle, if you KNEW that Jes. would come tomorrow, would it?

I believe it would, in my life. I believe there'd be some radical changes in some lives here today; there'd be some letters written and there'd be some telephone calls made and there'd be some visits that needed to be made; there'd be some debts paid and there'd be a lot of things. Well, now, that's the way we're to live and that's what the Bible is teaching here 'the night, the time of the absence of Jes. is nearly past; the DAY is at hand'. Oh, how marvelous it is 'the DAY of His appearing and of the fulness of His life is at hand!'

In the light of this, what ought we to do? He says 'Clean Up' in the next place. First he says WAKE UP and then he says

#2. CLEAN UP. He's writing to Xtns. Now remember they've been converted out of a pagan society. And they're still holding on to some of these things. It's so easy to do this. He says in

V. 13 (read) 'let us walk (and that means to live) honestly (that's the word 'decently'). Now I love that word. How this generation needs to hear that word. Old-fashioned decency!

There's no substitute for it. You Methodist know the word of Wesley 'cleanliness is next to Godliness'. You can't be Godly and not be clean and decent. Let us live decently, as in the day - what is the day? When Christ shall appear. What is he saying? He says 'live now as if you were already in Eternity. Live as if Jes. had already come. Do not do anything you would not want to do if He had already come and you were in His presence. My, what a message this is. Live, he says, as if it were already the day, not in rioting and drunkenness. This word 'rioting' is the word 'komos' which means 'sexual orgies' and also all kinds of meaningless pleasures.

Does this describe the age in which we are living? Does it? I hope it's not true but I read yesterday, the statistics that one fourth of all the children in America today, are being sexually abused. I read it from a reliable source. I read last week, from a reliable source that three fourths of American woman today, have engaged in immorality before they ever stand at the altar. Seven five out of one hundred of the future mothers of America. Many of them are church members and say they are Xtns. I tell you it's a dark day. When we think of our children of another generation, reared by mothers like this, we've got a problem on our hands, friends. But listen, the revival must begin in the church and the cleanliness must be in the church before we can ever point a finger out yonder in the world.

Let us live decently, as in the Day, not in sexual orgies and also these empty pleasures which are taking the lives of people. Many Xtns are fallen in to this. You say 'well, can't we have pleasure?' You certainly can. We can REALLY have pleasure. We can go on a vacation, oh yes. Nothing wrong with fishing; nothing wrong with golfing; nothing wrong with playing ball - but it's when these things become uppermost and foremost and when going to the lake is more important than my S. S. class - see? And my vacation and financing it is more important than giving my tithes and offerings. And when my pleasure is more important than my praying and my being with the people of God, until when people know me, they know me as a man of God!

h m A woman of God - not a playboy or girl. I had a Minister of Education tell me, in one of our large churches, he says 'during the summer time, we almost have to close down S.S.'. I said



'why' and he said 'because half of my leaders go to the lake'. Go to the lake! That's an abomination and as long as the church has no more witness than that, listen, my friends, we are a part of the sinking ship and not floating above the destruction of the sin and awfulness of the tragedy of today in which we live! Let us walk decently as in the Day, not in sexual orgies and foolish pleasure that takes our time and drunkenness.

It is really sad that in so many circles that they can't have a social hour and think they're really 'IN', without serving alcohol beverages. You talk about a sad state - is to be in that state! C. S. Lewis says 'it's so sad that which satisfies modern man, made in the image of <sup>SM</sup> God, he says 'how sad it is that he'll give his life to drinking; that he'll give his life to sex; that he'll give his life to this empty pleasure; that he can be satisfied with such little when the riches of the love and the joy and peace and purpose and power of God are available to him and he lives like an animal! Breaks your heart!'

*chambering = Koite (immoral bed)*

Yet, many know nothing but this and have been reared in this lifestyle. Then he says 'not in chambering' - what is chambering? That's the word 'koite' and means 'the immoral bed'. That's what it means. That would cover fornication, that would cover adultery, that would cover lesbianism; that would cover homosexuality'. Did you see how the news media exalted Rock Hudson? If you doubt, we have a problem in this country, when it's a well documented fact. I believe that he was a practicing homosexual and the evidence is overwhelming that aids came through this terrible beastiality that he practiced for years.

And unless we stand up against it in the church, it's gonna become an alternate lifestyle; it's gonna be accepted unless people like me and you, stand up and condemn it as not of God and certainly not a part of the Xtn ministry and of the Xtn profession. Can you imagine a man standing in the ~~XXXXXX~~ pulpit, practicing such beastiality? "Not in Sexual Immorality and not in wantonness (and that's another word which means 'debauchery' and that covers the lowest forms of sin: incest, sex with animals- all kinds of things that are going on in the world today') Why? It's incredible! I have people ask me things today that are incredible call me on the telephone and sometimes even come to talk to me about practices that are beastly

It's terrible when a person who calls himself a Xtn and is always discenting. Always complaining. Always criticizing. Always rebeling. Always having a chip on his shoulder! There's nothing and maybe that would be a greater sin in this class this morning, than any of these other things. These are TERRIBLE sins. Is to use our tongue negatively and destructively and often against authority. It's a difficult day for people who are trying to lead. The school teachers, the school teachers; the policeman, the Judge, the father, the mother, the pastor. Why? BEcause of this attitude that we can attack anything! Attack the Holy and tear it down and talk -- that's ~~xxxx~~ devilish and needs to be put off. We need to repent of that. It's wrong. It's absolutely wrong. It's a part of paganism and of the society of paganism.

#3. DRESS UP. I have no place for a negative religion. Lot of our religion today is dead or negative. I have people to come to this church; they join this church and I say 'well, what led you here'. 'Why we heard the Word of God'. 'What have you been hearing?' 'All we ever heard was a set of 'Don'ts' - you don't drink, you don't cuss, you don't to this and you don't do that.' Well, now listen, the Bible says 'don't do those things', we've just



seen this. But the glorious message of the Gospel is something better! There's something positive. Xtnity is positive and if we put off things and we don't put on things, we don't have a thing. YOu remember the 12th Chapter of Matthew? Thsi man swept his house; got everything out. He got everything out. He garnished it, the Bible says. But he didn't put anyting in and it said that seven devils and he was worse off than he was even before he garnished his house.

Here's the problem with a lot of people today. There are 'Don't' people: I don't smoke, I don't drink but they don't have the love of the Lord in their lives. They don't have the beauty of Jes. in their life; they don't have the power of the H. S., they don't have the Word in their life. Man, it's what IN our lives that makes them. We're neither saved nor sanctified by what we give up. Now we have to give these things up, through the power of christ. But it's by what we receive from Christ. So he says to dress up. YOu say 'well, where is that word?' YOu see

V. 14 (read) see that word 'put ye on'? That's the word -clothe. 'Induno' in Greek. But clothe yourself with what? The Lord JC. Man, put on Jes. Clothe yourself with the Lord JC. he says. <sup>sm</sup> This morning, I got up, I put on this suit and you see this suit today. This is a navy pinstripe and you see this. YOu see my tie and you see my shirt. You're very conscious of this because you're conscious of how I'm dressed today. I'm conscious of how you're dressed today. Some people say 'well, it doesn't matter how you dress physically'. Oh yes, it does. Oh, it certainly does. It DOES matter but Paul is saying when you get up in the morning, put on Jes. Clothe yourself with Jes and wear Jes everywhere you go, until, when you make contact with people, they see Jes. They see the cleanliness of Jes.

*the fruit of the spirit*

They see the love of Jes., They see the attitude of Jes. They see the positiveness of Jes. They see Jes. in you. Did Paul say that? He certainly did. Can that come to pass in our life? It has, in some of your lives. But not in all of our lives. We ought to dress in Jes., realizing that people will be looking at us and our impression should be that of the life and the way and the attitude

.... for you and me, if we'll just realize it. It's unnatural to do the other. We're JESUS people. They were first called Xtns at Antioch. They were first called 'chriteonoos'(?), 'Little Christ' (Acts 11; 26). They were first called 'Little Christ' at Antioch. We're to dress; we're to look like Jes., he says. Put Him on. Take off the old, Clean Up ; put on the new, Dress Up. And then I have

*Christ - IAN = Xtn*

#4. HEADS UP. You know why? Because he says 'and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof'. That's a kinda awkward translation. All he's saying is 'do not make plans - or think about - gratifying your sinful nature'. That's all he's saying. Is it important that we not do this? What does it mean when we gratify or we make plans to satisfy our sinful nature? When we deliverately place ourselves in situations and indeed, set up situations where the lust of our flesh is stimulated and where we encourage to live in darkness rather than Light. Now, for instance, you've been saved. Who were your buddies before you were saved?

Say, they drank, cussed and ran around. All right, if you're gonna stay with those buddies, and continue to associate with them, you're making a provision for the flesh. To make it worse still, suppose you entertain them and you serve liquor and you set up an atmos<sup>ph</sup>ere EXACTLY of the world - you're making a provision of the flesh. Or suppose you make friendships with the lost of this world rather than Gods people. You go on vacation; sometimes I see this. I see a Xtn convert go on a vacation with a Philistine (or pagan or an unconverted person) who may be anti-church. May even hate the pastor of the church. Against God, against the Bible; going on vacation with a person like that.

That's making provision for the flesh. Or keeping beer in your refrigerator. Watching X-rated movies or going to thing like this, reading books we ought not. The young person, who deliverately places himself in a position where it's almost impossible to resist immorality - in a parked car, in a parked car -- knowing their weakness; this is making provision for the flesh. So many are doing this today. Paul says 'think higher. Don't think on that level.'



(2C.6.18)

Not at all. The Bible says 'flee from immorality'. RUN from it, even. Martin Luther used to say 'you can't help --- or keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair'. YOU see? You can't keep the devil from knocking at your door, but you don't have to bake him a cake!

*St. Augustine - a Swinger*

So many people are doing this and wondering why they fall. This is Xtn separation and Xtn common-sense. St. Augustine, who's considered the greatest thinker in the Church, since Paul, was a swinger. He was what we call a 'swinger'. He lived with the - the worldly crowd - he lived with the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ cocktail set; the Country Club group. He was a moral and he just became miserable, cried out unto God 'Oh, God, deliver me from myself. Deliver me from my sins'. He heard what he thought was the voice of a child, ~~XXXXXX~~ tole legge; tole legge(?) 'Latin for 'take up and read'. There was a Bible on a table there in that garden and his eyes fell on Rom. 13: 14 'but put ye on the Lord JC and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof'.

He said God spoke to him, through that Scrip. and he turned from his sins; he trusted Jes. and he says <sup>n</sup> sunlight of the love of God filled my life and I was delivered from my sins. Delivered from my sins! How are we to live? We're to live as if the Day had already come. When is it coming? It's very close in my opinion. What you and I do for Jes., we've got to do soon. If you knew He was coming today, would you change something? WELL, He may come today. But if He doesn't come today, He's coming soon. He's coming soon for you and me. Then it'll be Day and we ought to live, right now, as we would live if He had already come.

*SM* John Wesley was asked the question 'Bro. WEsley, what would you do if you knew Jes. was coming today. He said 'I'd get up at four o'clock; I would pray an hour; I'd study the Bible an hour; I would eat breakfast ~~XXXXX~~ and by 6 o'clock, I'd be on my horse and I would preach the Gospel until about 12 o'clock, when I would eat lunch. I'd relax briefly and at one thirty, I'd be on my horse, I'd preach the Gospel until six o'clock. I'd go and eat a little bit and I'd relax a little. I'd go to bed, I'd get up in the morning at 4 o'clock, repeat the same process'.

Somebody said 'Mr. Wesley, isn't that what you do every day?' He said 'that's what I do every day. I live every day as if I thought Jes. would come that day'. Is that the way you're living? If not, there needs to be some changes. By Gods Grace, let's do it.

Let's stand and bow our heads.