

**LifeGroup Study Sheet****Oct 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>: Romans 13:8-14**

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

Are you a morning person or a night owl? How many alarms do you set, and what's your best (or worst) snooze-button record?

**Digging In**

**Question 1: Read Romans 13:8-14.** It's Time to Wake UP! Paul says 'salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (v.11), pointing back to the day we trusted Christ and forward to the day He returns! Looking at the three tenses of salvation; saved from the penalty of sin (justification), saved from the power of sin (sanctification), and one day saved from the presence of sin (glorification), which one are you most thankful for right now, and which one do you find yourself forgetting?

What does spiritual drowsiness look like in real life? What are the signs that a believer has dozed off? What tends to put you to sleep spiritually, and what helps wake you up?

The New Testament speaks of Christ's return as something that could happen at any moment. Peter, James, Paul, and Jesus, all urge us to stay ready! How would it change your week if your priorities, your conversations, and the use of your time and money?

**Question 2: Read Romans 13:12-14.** It is Time to Get Dressed! Paul says to "cast off the works of darkness" and "put on the armor of light" (v.12), and in Colossians 3:5–8 he lists what to "put away," including sexual immorality, covetousness, anger, slander, and obscene talk. Why do you think Paul uses a clothing picture for the Christian life? And why is it important that we are told to take off AND put on, instead of only one of the two?

Verse 14 says to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," and Colossians 3:12–14 describes what that looks like: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and above all love. Which one of these "garments" do you struggle with putting on? Where in your life would others notice it?

**Question 3: Read Romans 13:8-10.** It is Time to Get Going! Paul says we should "owe no one anything, except to love each other" (v.8). What do you think he means by describing love as a debt that we always owe and never finish paying? How is that different from the way we usually think about love, as something we feel or choose to give when we want to?

Paul says that every commandment about how to treat others is “summed up” in loving your neighbor, and that “love is the fulfilling of the law” (v.9–10). How does love fulfill commands like “do not steal” or “Do not covet”? Why is it not enough to follow the rules without love, and not enough to claim love while ignoring the rules?

The day is short and Jesus could return soon, so love can't wait. Who is your “neighbor” right now? Who is the person God has placed in your path who needs to see real love in action? What is one specific, practical thing you can do for them this week?

### Take it Home

1. Are you spiritually snoozing?
2. Do you look like Jesus?
3. Are you loving others like Jesus?

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?