

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical: 12:1-15:33** (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Paul, in Romans, lays out the truth that justification is by FAITH ALONE and that the object of our FAITH is Jesus as Lord and Savior! In Romans 4, Paul puts forth Abraham as the premiere example of saving faith, showing that justification is by faith alone.

Slide # 2

Romans 4

- 4:1-3 Abraham was saved by faith alone apart from works.
- 4:9-12 Abraham was saved by faith alone, apart from circumcision/religious rites.
- 4:13-17 Abraham was saved by faith alone apart from the law.
- 4:18-22 Abraham’s faith is described as persevering faith.
- 4:23-25 The same principles that apply to Abraham’s faith apply to us.

In other words, the NATURE of saving faith is exactly the same as that which defined Abraham’s faith. However, Paul then goes on to show that the OBJECT of our faith is now specifically the Lord Jesus Christ. The NATURE of saving faith is the same in every dispensation (cf. Heb. 11), but revelation was progressive, and with the coming of Jesus, God now demands that people repent and put their faith in Jesus ALONE as Lord and Savior (cf. Acts 17:30-31; 1 Jn. 5:9-13).

It is in this same chapter of Romans 4 that we have what I call the “**jugular verses**” of Romans 4:4-5. To go for the “jugular” commonly means a decisive move that completely subdues someone. I call them “jugular verses” because they completely destroy the idea that any kind of works are involved in salvation.

Slide # 3

Romans 4:4–5 (NKJV) 4 Now to him who **works**, the wages are not counted as **grace** but as deb

5 But to him who does **not work** but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith** is accounted for righteousness,

The kind of faith that saves is the kind of faith that does not depend on MY works to save me but rather depends on Christ alone as Savior and Lord.

Paul then builds his case, showing in Romans 5 that God has demonstrated His love to us in having Christ die for us and that now, “being justified by His blood,” we are saved from wrath (Rom. 5:8-9).

Slide # 4

Romans 5:8–9 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**.

9 Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

The emphasis here is on Christ as Savior! And then building on this is the truth of the resurrection which presents Christ as Lord – as risen Lord.

Slide # 5

Romans 10:9 (LSB)

9 that if you **confess** with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that **God raised Him from the dead**, you will be saved;

Note the connection here between confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in the resurrection. To truly from your heart confess Christ as Lord is to personally believe in Him as the risen Lord.

This is a package: We must believe in Jesus as the **Savior** Who died for all our sins and we must believe in Him as our risen **Lord**. This is the GOSPEL we must believe. This is the stuff of saving faith.

Having developed the gospel of Christ at length and that we must appropriate Him by faith, Paul then in Romans 12 emphasizes HOW we should then live as believers. He calls on believers to present themselves to God as a living sacrifice and then spells out in detail in Romans 12-15 what exactly this means and looks like in terms of the relationships of life.

There are three KEY words that define Christian duties as seen in Romans 13.

Slide # 6

Rom. 13:1 – **Subjection...**

Rom. 13: 8 – **Love...**

Rom. 13:11 – **Wakefulness...**

Last time in Romans 13:8-10 we noted that the living out of God's love is the fulfillment of the law. Those properly loving don't harm anyone. Paul now builds on this in verse 11.

Romans 13:11–14 (NKJV)

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

“**And do this**” speaks of the love emphasis he has just made. Paul, in effect, says, “live out love,” just as I have just illustrated, and the motivation for doing so is because of what time it is.

Paul says, “**knowing the time**”. As God's people, we know what time it is or we certainly should, as it has been made very clear on the pages of New Testament revelation.

There are two words for “time” in the New Testament.

Slide # 7

Chronos = Time Chronologically

Kairos = Quality or Kind of Time

Here Paul uses “Kairos” meaning kind of time, not that we know the exact timing in a chronological sense.

We know the season we live in, which is the sense of living in the “last days,” but we don’t know the exact timing chronologically in terms of setting dates. That is a very important distinction. We are not setting any dates, but we do know we live at the end.

Slide # 8

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 has **in these last days** spoken to us by His Son...

1 Corinthians 7:29 (NKJV)

29 But this I say, brethren, **the time is short**...

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

11**upon whom the ends of the ages have come**...

1 John 2:18 (NKJV)

18 Little children, **it is the last hour**...

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But **the end of all things is at hand**;

It’s not like we haven’t been told! We live at the end! This is the quality of time where we live. It is the time of the END! We live in the “last days” – we just don’t know how many last days there are. But since we know we live in the last days, we are to LIVE READY! That is the point!

Paul says, “knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep.” This is no time to be spiritually asleep but rather the time to be spiritually awake. This is a call to spiritual alertness, to spiritual vigilance. This is no time to be spiritually indifferent or complacent.

This is no time to be lacking in love (cf. Rev. 2:4) or, as he will go on to show, to be morally lax or careless. If there was ever a message the Church in our day needs to hear, this is it!

And then Paul tells exactly what time it is – in terms of the “kind of times” we live in. It is high time to be spiritually awake because ***“now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”***

The word “salvation” (meaning deliverance”) is a broad word used in three different tenses. It is used in the past tense, meaning we, as believers, have already been saved from the penalty of sin. That **is justification**.

We are currently (present tense) being saved from the power of sin. That is sanctification. And in the future, we will be saved from the very presence of sin. That is glorification.

Slide # 9

SALVATION

Past Tense (Been Saved) - Penalty of Sin – Eph. 2:8

Present Tense (Being Saved) – Power of Sin – 1 Cor. 1:18

Future Tense (Will be Saved) – Presence of Sin – Heb. 9:28

In view here in Romans 13:11 is the future tense of salvation when we will be saved from the very presence of sin. This is what Paul spoke of in Romans 8:23 when he spoke of “***eagerly awaiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.***”

This will be the culmination of our salvation in the state of glorification. This will take place at the Rapture of the Church. When we see Christ we will be like Him (1 Jn. 3:2). When Christ comes for the Church the dead in Christ will rise first in glorification and then we who are alive shall instantly be transformed with a glorified body and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air (1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

This final state of our salvation (glorification) is nearer than when we first believed. Note that Paul quietly tucks in here what defines conversion – namely, **BELIEF**. The hope of salvation belongs to true BELIEVERS – all BELIEVERS. This hope belongs to all believers from when they first believed. Note that Paul lists nothing else other than BELIEF here. It is a subtle testimony of what he has developed at length earlier in the book – namely, that justification is by faith alone.

This hope of final salvation is getting closer and closer all the time. This is what time it is. It is closer now than ever. How close exactly, we can't say – but ever closer.

When I first got saved, I was 21 years old. My brother was engaged to get married, and I seriously wondered if that would happen before the Lord came. Well, that was 45 years ago, and Christ still has not come. But here we are, 45 years closer. It continues to get closer and closer. The world gets crazier and crazier as we get closer and closer.

In this verse, we have what is called the doctrine of imminency! This means that Christ could come at any time, and therefore, we are called to live ready. We know we live in the “last days” of the Church Age, but we just don’t know how many of these days there are. We do know, however, that we are getting closer and closer. We are now 2000 years closer than when Paul wrote these words. We must be getting very close by now.

The attitude of the early Church was clearly to expect the Lord to come in their lifetime. They greeted one another with “**Maranatha**” (Our Lord Comes!). It was an imminent hope. In Titus 2:13 Paul said, “**looking [present tense] for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**”.

In most ages of the church’s history there have been currents in the tides of time which have seemed to indicate to the watchful that perhaps theirs was the generation of His coming. – **John Phillips**

Consistently, ever since the apostles wrote their inspired writings, it has been the HOPE of the Church down through the centuries that Christ would come in their lifetime.

Slide # 10

Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:5 (NKJV)

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand.**

1 Thessalonians 4:15 (NKJV)

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord**....

Slide # 11

James 5:8 (NKJV)

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, **for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 **Behold, I am coming quickly!** Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)

12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

There is a reason we constantly say, “**Perhaps Today!**” It is ever true!

I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord may come before I preach another. – *D.L. Moody*

I never lay my head on my pillow without thinking that: maybe before the morning breaks, the final morning may have dawned. I never begin my work without thinking perhaps he may interrupt my work and begin his own. We are not looking for death. We are looking for Him. – *G. Campbell Morgan*

Christ has called us to “**Live Ready**” and to be spiritually vigilant and yet the same Scriptures indicate there may be what seems like a delay.

Slide # 12**2 Peter 3:3–4 (NKJV)**

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

The sense is they have heard this for a long time and, therefore, no longer take it seriously. And so, they MOCK! Many professing Christians almost unwittingly seem to be in this camp – some in a systematic way, as they have developed a theology that no longer holds to the idea of Christ's imminent return. I would hate to give account to Christ for holding to that position!

We are not setting any dates but we know we are getting closer – as Paul says, “*nearer than when we first believed.*” Hebrews 10:25 indicates that we can see the Day approaching. We see this in what is called stage-setting realities.

Slide # 13

- Israel is back in the land.
- Abounding Ecumenical Apostasy.
- Advancements in Technology.
- Push for a One World Order.
- Russia and Iran in military alliance.
- World hatred for the Jews.
- World tensions over Jerusalem.
- The potential to destroy mankind.
- Growing Lawlessness.
- The World is Oblivious to the times.

Slide # 14

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)

32 of the sons of Issachar who had **understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Matthew 16:3 (NKJV)

3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but **you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for not being able to discern the signs of the times. Paul said to believers, "***knowing the time***". We know what time it is. In terms of "qualitatively," we live at the end of the Church Age, and therefore, we should LIVE READY!

In this section, Paul mentions two great motivations for living for the Lord.

Slide # 15

God's **PAST mercies** (Rom. 12:1)

The Lord's **FUTURE return** (Rom. 13:11)

The imminence of the Lord's return is one of the strongest motives for Christian living that is found in the NT (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; Titus 2:11-13; Heb. 10:24-25; Ja. 5:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:7-11; 2 Pet. 3:11-14).

Slide # 16

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

This hope of Christ's coming has a purifying effect on the believer!

Six times in the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24 and 25 Jesus tells us we don't know the day nor the hour (cf. Matt. 24:36, 42, 43, 44, 50; 25:13).

Slide # 17**Matthew 24:42–44 (NKJV)**

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Live Ready!

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

The "night" is this present age of darkness where Satan functions as "the god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4). It is what Paul called "***this present evil age***" in Galatians 1:4.

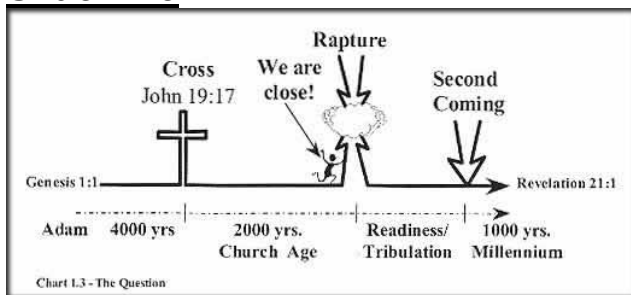
But note the night is far spent. It is almost over. It won't last forever. "The "day" in the flow of thought is introduced by Christ's coming. Notice this day of Christ's coming is said to be "***at hand***."

The word translated "***at hand***" literally means "***to draw near***" (Matt. 21:1). The writer of Hebrews uses this same word in Hebrews 10:25 where it is translated as "***approaching***" in the phrase, "***see the Day approaching***." And Peter uses it in 1 Peter 4:7, saying, "***the end of all things is at hand***".

The expectation is that the dawning of Christ's coming is NEAR! It is near in the sense that it is the next thing on God's prophetic calendar. Before prophetic history can move forward with the 70th Week of Daniel (the 7-year Tribulation Period), the coming of Christ for the Church in the Rapture must come first.

We know the time – that our full and final salvation, which believers will experience at the time of Christ's coming, **is nearer** than when we first believed. We are on the cusp of "Day" – the Day of Christ. This DAY is at hand! It is near! It is next on God's prophetic calendar!

Slide # 18



Again, in view of the time, Paul challenges the believer, "***Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.***"

The language of "***cast off***" and "***put on***" was used for changing clothes (cf. Mk. 15:20; Acts 7:58). Paul uses these terms in a metaphorical or figurative sense. The works of darkness are sinful things that belong to the night. They used to say, "***Nothing good happens after midnight***". The night speaks of darkness and the hidden things of sin.

We ought to shed from our lives all sinful things of darkness. These are anything that, if Jesus showed up right now, we would be ashamed of in His presence. And the Bible teaches that some believers will be ashamed when Jesus comes.

Slide # 19

1 John 2:28 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming.

Jesus has told us to be watching and ready – how would He find us if He came today? He has given us ample warning!

Cast off the works of darkness. Any area of sinful compromise should be confessed and forsaken! Get rid of it!

But it is not enough just to cast off the works of darkness – at the same time we need to “**put on the armor of light.**” Note that Paul spoke of the works of darkness but not the works of light. Rather, he phrased the parallel thought as “**the armor of light.**” Armor speaks of protection.

The way you protect yourself spiritually is by arming yourself with the LIGHT. The light is God’s truth! Dress yourself in truth. Walk in truth!

And the language of armor also speaks of “**warfare**”. We are in a spiritual war. When the devil came at Jesus trying to tempt Him, Christ, three times repelled him with “**It is written**” (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10). The LIGHT of God’s truth is how we protect ourselves in this dark world. Put it on. Arm yourself with it. Apply it to your life. Hide God’s Word in your heart. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Quote it in the battle! Live it out! (cf. 2 Cor. 6:7, 10:4; Eph. 6:11-18; 1 Thess. 5:8).

The other thing light does is repel darkness. **It protects, and it repels** (cf. Phil. 2:15).

Slide # 20

Ephesians 5:11–13 (NKJV)

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **expose them**.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that are **exposed are made manifest by the light,** for **whatever makes manifest is light.**

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Let us walk properly in keeping with what is appropriate with the light of day – metaphorically speaking. The word “**properly**” is translated as “**decently**” in 1 Corinthians 14:40 where Paul says, “**Let all things be done decently and in order.**” We are to walk in a manner that is proper and decent in keeping with those who belong to the day.

Paul then spells out what is inappropriate which would be characteristic of “the works of darkness”. Those who walk as in the day do not live this way.

Paul uses the word “**walk**” as a way of life – how the believer lives. He then mentions three pairs of negatives.

Slide # 21

PARTY SINS – revelry and drunkenness

BEDROOM SINS – lewdness and lust

SOCIAL SINS – strife and envy

The word translated as “**revelry**” (Gk. **kosmos**) is also translated as “**carousing.**” It has the connotation of rowdy or wild partying. It was often closely associated with drunkenness, gross immorality, or out-of-control brawls.

Fittingly it is tied with **drunkenness**. Drunkenness is the idea of drinking to the point of intoxication. In Galatians 5:21 revelry and drunkenness are listed side-by-side, implying that they are closely linked (cf. 1 Pet. 4:3).

Slide # 22

Galatians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Slide # 23

1 Peter 4:3–5 (NKJV)

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

In recent years, many Christians have emphasized “liberty” when it comes to drinking alcohol. And while it is true that the Bible does not say we can’t drink at all – it also emphasizes three things. Number one, there is danger with alcohol. We need to be very careful here.

Slide # 24

Proverbs 20:1 (NKJV)

1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Number two, how the world carries on and what defines the believer should be like night and day. That is Paul’s very point here in Romans 13 as well as that of Peter in 1 Peter 4.

And number three – drunkenness, being under the influence of alcohol, is a sin. The Bible plainly says, “**Do not be drunk with wine**” – instead, we should be under the influence of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

I would not deny someone a glass of wine with their dinner or the like in moderation. However, I would appeal to Romans 14 to be very careful with the liberty you do have so as not to be a stumbling block to others. As such, I wouldn’t flaunt it as I have known some believers to do. In Romans 14:22 Paul says, “**Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God.**” I think that is wise in areas applicable to the principles of Romans 14.

Slide # 25

Luke 21:34 (NKJV)

34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Next Paul mentions what we might call “**bedroom sins**”.

Both “**lewdness**” and “**lust**” are plural, meaning that he has in mind all sorts of related sexual type sins.

The word translated as “**lewdness**” (Gk. koite) is translated in the NASB as “**sexual promiscuity**”. It is not the common word in Greek for sexual immorality (porneia) but rather a word that literally means “**bed**”. It came to have the connotation of “**going to bed**” with someone.

It is the same word translated as “bed” in Hebrews 13:4.

Slide # 26

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the **bed** undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Now, obviously, going to bed with your wife in the context of biblical marriage is fine. The writer says it is undefiled. But outside of marriage, any and all forms of illicit sexual activity are sin.

The word “**lust**” (Gk. analgesia) is the idea of unrestrained moral lust – the throwing off of all moral restraints.

It refers to the kind of sexual debauchery and abandonment that characterizes much of modern society and that is often flaunted almost as a badge of distinction. – **John MacArthur**

There is little or no shame anymore. This defines people given over to their sexual desires with abandonment (cf. Romans 1).

And then Paul mentions what I have called “**Social sins**”.

Strife (Gk. eris) is persistent quarreling and bickering. It is the spirit of discord and contention. It demands having it my way and desires to prevail over others. It is the idea of constant arguing. People with an “argumentative spirit” are very hard to get along with. They are always right and will seemingly argue to the death over every little point. Proverbs speaks to this.

Slide # 27

Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV)

2 A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

Proverbs 20:3 (NKJV)

3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

Mark Twain said, “Arguing with a fool only proves that there are two.”

Slide # 28**Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)**

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Envy is the Greek word “zelos”. It is the word from which we get our English words “zeal” and “zealous”. It can have a good connotation (Rom 10:2; 2 Cor. 7:7) or a bad one. Clearly, the slant here is bad. The NASB translates it as “**jealousy**” in the sense of sinful jealousy. James connects envy with “**self-seeking**” as seen in James 3:14 and 16. It is the idea of selfish ambition. It is sinfully envious of what others have or what they can do (Gal. 5:20).

Five of the six things mentioned here in verse 13 are named by Paul as “the works of the flesh” in Gal. 5:19-21. The only one not named there is the word translated here in Romans 13:13 as “lewdness”. However, the sense of it is covered in the descriptions of immorality named there.

We should note that the last two sins – of strife and envy are in the same listing as gross immorality and drunkenness. Sometimes we might think things such as a critical spirit or an argumentative spirit are not that serious. Or we might think that a little envy is not that serious. But these sins are listed right along with what is flagrantly immoral. There really is no such thing as “respectable sin” before God.

They were to make sure that these sins did not creep back into their lives now that they were saved. Paul was a realist. He knew only too well what dark strongholds the old nature maintains within any believer’s heart, what abominable lusts lurk in the shadows of the soul awaiting a favorable moment to leap forth in dreadful force. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. – **John Phillips**

In contrast to carrying on sinfully, as described in verse 13, Paul says...

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

“But” is a contrast word. In contrast to the works of darkness as named in verse 13 Paul instructs the believer to “**put on the Lord Jesus Christ**”.

Note he doesn't say to merely put on Christ-like qualities but to put on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Here, he gives the full name of the Lord, with "Lord" being in the driving position. The full person of Christ in all Who He is - is to be applied.

In one sense the PERSON of Christ has already been "put on" by every believer in saving faith.

Slide # 29

Galatians 3:26–27 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Baptism here has the basic idea of IDENTIFICATION. In view here is spiritual identification. In believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, we were spiritually baptized into Christ – meaning we have been spiritually identified with Christ. This is a spiritual reality. As people of faith, we have been identified into union with Christ, and we have come to wear Christ as our identity. Our whole IDENTITY is now found to be in the person of Christ.

And to show you all the more that spiritual realities are in view in verse 27 the thought continues into verse 28 where the whole issue is one of spiritual equality in Christ. These are not physical realities but spiritual realities.

But the point I am making here is that as believers, we have already PUT on Christ in terms of our spiritual POSITION in Christ. That is a forever-settled reality. We are now positionally forever identified with Christ.

But there is another sense where PRACTICALLY we must moment by moment – day by day ***“put on the Lord Jesus Christ”***.

I hesitate to use the language of ***“making Christ Lord.”*** In one sense, the only one who has ever made Jesus Lord is God the Father. As Peter said in Acts 2:36, ***“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*** Of course, as God, Jesus has always been Lord, but in the resurrection, His humanity now came to share in that exalted Lordship position. His humanity at that point came to share in the glory He had with the Father before the world was (Jn. 17:5).

So, yes, in that sense, only God the Father has ever made Jesus Lord. In conversion, we simply believe in Christ as Lord and Savior. We simply believe in Him for Who He is. As doubting Thomas said to Jesus when he saw the risen Lord, “**My Lord and my God!**” (Jn. 20:28). All true believers have come to personally recognize Jesus as “**My Lord and my God!**”

However, the challenge now is to live consistent with what we have come to believe. We have recognized Jesus as Lord, but now we need to live it out. In a practical sense, this is what I would call “**making or submitting to Jesus as Lord**” in your daily walk. Or, as Paul terms it, “**Put on the Lord Jesus Christ**”. This is to be an ongoing reality in our daily walk.

Slide # 30

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV)

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Again, the idea is to now walk consistently with Who you know Christ to be as Lord.

This amounts to appropriation—the deliberate, conscious acceptance of the lordship of the Master – so that all is under His control – motives, desires, and deeds. - **Expositors**

To put on the Lord Jesus Christ means to live in conformity to Who He is. It is to actively submit to His Lordship control. He now lives His life out through me. My life is now His life. This is the Christ-filled life – also known as the Spirit-filled life (cf. Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16). Paul says...

Slide # 31

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

It is a walk of faith that, step by step, applies the truth of Christ for Who He is to the life (cf. Col. 3:12; Eph. 4:24).

The flip side of this is that we make “**no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts**”.

The flesh is the old sin nature. It never gets any better, and it never goes away.

That is why the Christian is never safe (practically speaking) until we are at home in glory. We still have the sinful flesh and it cries out for gratification. It wants to be indulged. But we, as believers, are now dead to sin and no longer have to listen to the cravings of the flesh. We are now responsible for NOT obeying the lusts of the flesh.

Slide # 32

Romans 6:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**

The phrase “***no provision***” is literally “***no forethought***”. The sense is: make no plans to sin. Sin begins in the mind. Don’t even go there. Don’t give a place in your mind for sinful thoughts. Don’t fantasize. Make no provision – make no plans about it. Do not even entertain it in your mind. Don’t even consider it! Cut it off at the root!

The flesh has endless lusts all wanting to be indulged. There are not only gross appetites but refined carnal attitudes as well included in that word “flesh”. All must be denied; provision must be made for none of them. – ***John Phillips***

Do not plan for sin; give it no welcome; offer it no opportunity. Kick the sin off your doorstep and you won’t have it in the house.

– ***Leon Morris***

As a Christian, you are continually, in one form or another, going to come to a FORK on the road of life.

Slide # 33



It's like this: when you face a temptation and the flesh is crying out for gratification are you going to submit to Christ as Lord or is the flesh going to rule the day? Which way are you going to go? You are going to have to make a decision. There is a choice to be made! Are you going to put on the Lord Jesus Christ or are you going to make provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts? You can't have it both ways. You are either going to go one way or the other in any given situation.

WAKE UP! The coming of Christ is nearer than ever before! Cast off the works of darkness – put on the armor of light. Walk properly as in the day – not indulging in the sins of darkness. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh!

Napoleon Bonaparte made a lonely surprise visit one night to the outpost sentries [guards] on one of the vital positions of his battlefield. Stealthily he moved along in the gray light of the morning. One sentry after another immediately challenged him.

Finally, the crafty warrior stole up to a strategic spot. There was no [guard] to challenge him. The wily Napoleon moved closer and saw a pair of boots protruding from under a shock of corn and a rifle propped beside them. He made no comment – just picked up the rifle and himself stood guard, waiting for the awakening of the snoozing soldier. Finally, the corn stirred, and up jumped the guilty defender and grabbed for the gun that was gone. Can you imagine his confusion and chagrin? What a bitter and shattering experience – caught napping by Napoleon! When the Lord of glory returns, will He find us Christians sleeping at our post of duty? – **Leonard Ravenhill**

Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

LIVE READY!