

**Love and Live Holy Because the Time is Short.
Romans 13:11-14
Pt 1**

Romans 13:11– (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. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of 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. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Introduction:

This is a beautiful reminder to all of us of the necessity of right Christian living in the midst of and evil world in light of the soon return of Christ.

It struck me as I studied this passage how commentators titled this section.

One called this section,

Moral Urgency in Light of the eschaton.

Living in the Light

Understanding the Times

Salvation in Three Tenses

It's Later Than you Think.

Another came up with a outline....,

Homiletical outline of the verses:

A. Wake up:

B. Clean up:

C. Suit up:

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (p. 356). Mentor.

In these verses, the apostle ties together the subject of *ethics* (from the previous verses) to *eschatology* (or the end times) in connection to the second coming of Christ. Jesus often spoke of His second coming in Scripture (Matt. 16:27; 25:31; John 14:1–4). The Bible describes His return as personal (Acts 1:11), physical (Rev. 1:7), visible (Col. 3:4), sudden (Mark 13:33–37), glorious and triumphant⁶⁴ (1 Thess. 4:16). Hence, when Jesus returns, the “clouds of heaven will be His chariot, the Angels His bodyguard, the archangels His heralds, and the saints of God His glorious retinue [entourage].

He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords, triumphant over all the forces of evil, having put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Cor. 15:25; Rev. 19:11–16).

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (pp. 356–357). Mentor.

All of this should make us as believers extremely encouraged. It should make us regularly say with the apostle John, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20). However, this glorious truth should also be a real wake-up call for us to spiritual alertness and moral purity since we do not know when our Lord will return. This is how Paul uses the topic of the return of Christ in this passage.

Thus, his eschatology fuels his ethics

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (p. 357). Mentor.

2 Peter 3:1–2 (NKJV)

3 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of which* I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2 Peter 3:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Peter 3:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

2 Peter 3:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Lesson

I. We Should Love and Live Holy because of the time in which we live

II. We Should Love and Live Holy because the End of Time is at hand.

I. We Should Love and Live Holy because of the time in which we live.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep;

Paul begins this section by calling on the believers at Rome to Prioritize love for one another and our unbelieving neighbors because of the time in which we live.

He calls on them to fully awake, sober, alert regarding our commitment to the priority of love.

But it is even larger than love. He is calling all of us to holy living too. The priority is love, that will enable you to live the commandments but a necessary call to discipline of the flesh is need too.

Leon Morris states,

Paul adds a section drawing attention to the urgency of getting on with the business of living as Christians should. In view of the coming of “the day” they should live wholeheartedly for Christ.

Morris, L. (1988). [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#) (p. 470). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time

I believe the ESV misses this
Romans 13:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Besides this you know the time,

As is the case with many some translations, they interpret more than translate. While I am aware that in some cases this is necessary, I would rather have the text given to me plainly and even choppy so that I can properly ascertain what Paul is saying without the interpretive leanings or bias.

The literal wording is

Romans 13:11 (NA28)

Καὶ τοῦτο εἰδότες τὸν καιρὸν,

And this knowing the time.

The Legacy along with the NAS picks up on the imperatival force of the words here and correctly translates the intent of the Apostle Paul by calling on us to emphasize the priority of Loving one another in light of the time we are in.

Hence,

11 And *do* this, knowing the time

What is “this”...?

Its is the last command,

Romans 13:8–10 (LSB)

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

10 Love does not work evil against a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* Law.

But it could be larger than this It could include the entire beginning practical portion of Romans 12 and the section on Government.

It is preferable, however, to see a more inclusive reference in the phrase so that it refers to all of 12:1–13:10 (Barrett 1991: 232; Cranfield 1979: 680; cf. Stuhlmacher 1994: 212; Moo 1996: 820)

Schreiner, T. R. (1998). [Romans](#) (Vol. 6, p. 697). Baker Books.

In other words,
Romans 12:1–13:1 (NKJV)

...present your bodies a living sacrifice, ... And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

v 3 don't think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly,

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:*

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath;

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13:1

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

But then it could just be Paul emphasizing Love here, sense Love is the fulfillment of the the law. If you love the way He commands you to, you don't need the list he just gave us in Chapter 12.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time

We are to continually practice this
KNOWING the time.

Perfect A Part

Understanding renders a participle

Morris, L. (1988). [The Epistle to the Romans](#) (p. 470). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

to know (cognitive) v. — to be cognizant or aware of a fact or a specific piece of information; possess knowledge or information about.

Spoken of man's knowledge as a result of and only in view of his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ. There are certain things that human beings simply cannot know intuitively unless they become the children of God. The verb is used in that respect in Rom. 2:2; 3:19; 5:3; 6:9; 7:14, 18; 8:22, 26–28; 1 Thess. 1:4, 5; 2:1; 2 Thess. 3:7.

Contrasted with *oída*, *ginóskō* (1097), to know experientially, frequently suggests the inception or progress in knowledge, while *oída* suggests fullness of knowledge

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time

Time —

What time??

It's the high time, the nearer time, the day time, the time that is at hand

In other words,

As John MacArthur put it,

“Time is limited, opportunity is brief. The time to heed and to obey is *now*. There is no time for apathy, complacency, or indifference.

If that admonition was urgent during Paul's day, how much more urgent is it today! It has always been urgent and will always continue to be urgent until the Lord returns, when our opportunities for earthly faithfulness, obedience, and evangelism will end and judgment will fall.”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 2, p. 258). Moody Press.

Time— is kairos— season of time. It is the season to be Alert in light of the return of Christ.

καιρός^a, Not χρόνος^b, points of time consisting of occasions for particular events...., occasion.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 627). United Bible Societies.

It is the season that we are in that Paul would desire to call our attention too. To live right in light of the soon return of Christ.

The first part of the verse can then be paraphrased, “Put into practice all of the exhortations in Rom. 12:1–13:10” in light of the imminence of the end

Schreiner, T. R. (1998). [Romans](#) (Vol. 6, p. 697). Baker Books.

Cranfield (1979: 680–81) remarks rightly that the term ὥρα (*hōra*, hour) is not intrinsically eschatological, but in this context an eschatological flavor is present

Schreiner, T. R. (1998). [Romans](#) (Vol. 6, p. 697). Baker Books.

This is not Paul’s way of endorsing “the Late Great Planet Earth” by the late Hal Lindsey. Nor is it Pauls

way of saying that we should read every headline in the news into the prophetic text.

But it is Paul saying that you need to be a discerner of the times in which you live and you need to be and expectant, anticipator of the imminent return of Christ.

Any eschatology that removes, diminishes and disregards an expectant, near and at hand return of Christ is a Eschatology that is suspect in my understanding.

The N.T. writers along with Jesus taught us to live in light of the imminent return of Christ.

Christ warned and rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees in His day of not being able to discern the times that they lived in for the first Coming of Christ.

Matthew 16:1–3 (NKJV)

16 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered and said to them, **“When it is evening you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*’; 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.

I think it is important that Paul uses the term “know” which means “understanding”

Have knowledge, know the facts but more than that, understand the facts, discern the facts.

It is the difference between someone who knows a motor runs and it take gas to make it run and a person who understands the details of how a motor runs and all the details of the fuel injection, and the igniting of the fuel in a piston cylinder at the highest compression that pushes the piston down, rotating the cam shaft, and turning the gears that make the vehicle move.

One person may know it runs, while the mechanic will understand why and how it runs.

Paul what us to understand why and how we are in the season of His Return.

Jesus warned of being discerning regarding his return over and over.

Jesus spoke of the suddenness of His Return. That Life will be gone on as usual and then He comes.

Luke 17:24–36 (NKJV)

²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

³¹ “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods *are* in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot’s wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two *men* in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ Two *women* will be grinding together: the one will be taken and

the other left. ³⁶ Two *men* will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

Jesus spoke us to be expecting it in an unexpected time .

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.

Jesus spoke of always being prepared for the sudden and unexpected hour of His return.

After giving the parable of ten virgins, where 5 have oil in their lamps 5 did not,

Jesus warns,

Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Jesus also reminded us that,

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

But in that same context he gave us the parable of the fig tree.

Matthew 24:32–33 (NKJV)

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

Luke 21:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, **and all the trees.**

Jesus point in the fig tree and the all the trees is that when you see the budding forth you know that the season of summer is near.

So when you see the signs that line up with the return of Christ know that the seasons is near.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time

So Paul now tells us to live out fully our Christian faith full of fervent love for one another, understanding the times you are living in, because now could be the time of his return.

NOW could be the time

Do you know the time we are living in. Do you understand where we are in the eschaton.

There are a couple of times you need be aware of

You are living in the eschaton of you

and

You are living in the eschaton of time

1. The eschaton of you

What I means is that you have last days. You have limited time. You will not live forever in this body, in this condition or state. Your life is rapidly coming to a close. Even for young people, you have no guarantee of tomorrow. You can wake up tomorrow, not feeling well and be diagnosed with a terminal cancer.

Or teenager or young adult, you can leave home going to work, or a get together with your friends, only to die in a head on collision.

A few years ago, we helped a mother who lost her 15 year old son who died in a head on collision on Hwy 6 just a couple of miles from my house. It wasn't his fault or the mothers. They were driving in their lane, but the other car swerved over into their lane and hit them head on.

You started you last days the day you were conceived.

You don't know your day or hour. But I grant you if Jesus does not come back in your life time, he will come back at the end of your life.

So for all of us the coming of Christ is only one heart beat away, only one last breath, only one fatal accident only one terminal illness away.

His coming for us is only a few years or minutes, or seconds away.

But If God by his grace allow you to live long enough, you could be one of those especially blessed people to see him appear in the clouds with angels and the trumpets blowing.

So either

1. You are living in the eschaton of you.

or

2. You are living in the eschaton of time

Do you understand the signs of the times.

Or have you been affected by the infection that has found its way into the church that has all but killed any expectant view of the return of Christ.

There are views that place the coming of Christ so far in the future that there is literally no reason to expect it.

Then there are spectacular and sometimes over realized interpretation of scripture that have put a sour taste in the mouths of some Christians so that that they really have no desire to look into the topic.

But I think there can be a cautious and careful consideration of current events and rightly ask the questions, if what we see going on is bringing us close to the time of his return.

I have said this for years that we need to realize that there will be a generation that will see His return, and that generation could be us.

Why not us?

Some things that I see that make me pause and think that we might be in that final season would include

1. Worldwide rise in persecution of Christians.
2. A rising antisemitism and mounting hostility of nations against Israel.
3. A pervasive and rapidly growing immorality and ungodliness throughout the world.
4. A growing saturation of the spread of the Gospel, especially with the new advent of AI Tech.
5. The move toward a one world digital currency.
6. The ability to digitally through AI observe the conduct of everyone everywhere at the same time and to have AI interpret what is going on and report it to the authorities.
7. The already in place capability of controlling what you can buy or sell and permit you to do or deny your ability by the push of a button or with AI, letting it control this.
8. There Rapid rise and permeation of false teaching and false teachers that is a serious world wide problem.

These are just some of the things that make me pause and think, this could be it.

We need to be Biblically discerning and we need to be discerning of the times in which we live. Paul calls us to understand the times we live in in light of the Soon return of Christ.

This leads me to the last point.

II. We Should Love and Live Holy because the End of Time is at hand.

Paul is calling on us to

Wake up

Get up

Look up.

Look at the verse.

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. **12** The night is far
spent, the day is at hand.

Reading Paul in most of his letters, you get the sense that he was lookin for Christ every moment. That if it wasn't today, then if really could be tomorrow,

Notice again what he says.

1 Wake up.

11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it*
is high time to awake out of sleep;

(LSB)

11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep;

Oh my, brothers and sisters, You need to wake up. If there is anything that is repeated over and over again, it is the call to wake up and be alert.

I have serious concerns that much of the church is asleep or even worse, we have our heads in the sand.

We are so absorbed with our little world of us four and no more that we don't see what is going on in the world.

And I am afraid that this time that God has given us with a new President will give many of you a sleeping pill. While I am grateful for the immediate changes that have happened, and the abrupt turn around. I assure you that the evil forces that were had work have not stopped.

We may feel like we have been “unburdened by what has been” but you can trust me, the future has a noose around its neck and the devil is pulling the rope. (By God's Permission)

“the devil also recognizes how important this doctrine is to the church. When Christians live in anticipation of Christ's promised return, they demonstrate spiritual zeal and enthusiasm, recognizing that they will soon give an account to their Master

But, when believers forget about the second coming and begin focusing instead on the things of this world, they become absorbed in the temporal and

grow apathetic and cold toward the eternal. Satan knows that if he can get the church to discount the importance of Christ's return, or even completely deny its reality, he can remove a very significant source of Christian hope and motivation

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 110). Moody Publishers.

Twenty-three of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament explicitly refer to the Lord's return

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 117). Moody Publishers.

In the two hundred sixty chapters of the New Testament, there are about three hundred instances in which Christ's apostles make reference to His second coming

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 117). Moody Publishers.

The hope of Christ's coming was of paramount importance for the early church. In fact, its certainty was so real that first-century believers would greet one another with the term "maranatha," meaning "Lord, come quickly." Instead of being frightened by the possibility, they clung to it as the culmination of everything they believed. Not surprisingly, the New

Testament reflects this intense anticipation by referencing Jesus' return, whether directly or indirectly, in every New Testament book except Philemon and 3 John. (Nathan Busenitz, *Living a Life of Hope* [Ulrichsville, Ohio: Barbour Books, 2003], 122)

1. Wake up

2. Get up

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

(LSB)

12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand.

night is far spent

The night—to this present evil age of sin that has “just about run its course

Ventura, R. (2023). [Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers](#) (p. 358). Mentor.

far spent

προκόπτω means “to lengthen by hammering” (as a smith in forging metals) and thus “to forward,” “to go forward,” “advance” (GT). It is another example of a transitive verb used intransitively in Hellenistic Greek (M, III, p. 52). The aorist is unexpected, but it will give the idea of an accomplished fact.

Morris, L. (1988). [The Epistle to the Romans](#). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

In other words. Get out of bed, It is time to get ready to face the day.

Night is over, the time for sleeping is over. You have used snooze on your alarm clock to many times. GET UP.

No time to be a couch potato.

The Day is here. The sun is beginning to peak over the horizon.

12 The night is far spent, **the day is at hand.**

what day? His day. Christ day, the context is saturation with the Day of Christ.

i.e., the triumphant day of Christ's glorious, sure return

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (p. 358). Mentor.

If Paul believed the the present evil age was about to come to a close, how much closer are we 2000 year later.

He says the this advent of Christ coming is at hand. This is one of those time text or time indicators in the Bible

There are plenty of these time indicator text throughout the Bible regarding prophetic events

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

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

Revelation 22:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Then he said to me, “These words *are* faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

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.

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Preterists unanimously agree that futurist interpretations violate the plain meaning of the time indicators by maintaining that John's prophecies would be fulfilled in our future.

Gentry argues that any view that sees a fulfillment in "the distant future, thousands of years away, is expressly contradicting John's opening and closing statements."²⁴

Hanegraaff retorts, "Are we really to suppose that the angel was referencing a time more than two thousand years hence? Of course not!"

Hollett, Brock David ; Hollett, Brock. Debunking Preterism: How Over-Realized Eschatology Misses the "Not Yet" of Bible Prophecy . Brock D Hollett. Kindle Edition.

the historic Christian church has affirmed for over 2,000 years that Jesus will return soon. Robert Mounce, a preeminent Greek and New Testament scholar, explains, "The most satisfying solution is to take the expression 'must soon take place' in a straightforward sense, remembering that in the prophetic outlook the end is always imminent. Time as chronological sequence is of secondary concern in prophecy. This perspective is common to the entire NT."³⁸ The idea is that the eschaton is always being pressed into the present and portrayed as a "foreshortened time of the end."

Several other commentators have embraced this prophetic perspective.³⁹ George Eldon Ladd, a distinguished New Testament professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, described the tension between the immediate future and distant future in Bible prophecy:

The problem is raised by the fact that the prophets were little interested in chronology, and the future was always viewed as imminent. Biblical prophecy is not primarily three-dimensional but two; it has height and breadth but is little concerned about depth, i.e., the chronology of future events. There is in biblical prophecy a tension between the immediate and distant future; the distant is viewed through the transparency of the immediate. It is true that the early church lived in expectancy of the return of the Lord, and it is the nature of biblical prophecy to make it possible for every generation to live in expectancy of the end.

It is clear, that the N.T. teaches that the last days started in the time of the apostles. Yet as we know this last days is at least 2000 years now. (Acts 2:16-17; 1 Peter 1:20; Heb. 1:2; 9:26; 1 Cor. 10:11).

1 John 2:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Romans 13:11–12 (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. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

Hebrews 10:32–37 (NKJV)

³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

³⁷ *“For yet a little while,*

And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

In Habakkuk 2:3-4. A reference to the the coming judgment of historical Babylon.

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, ³⁰ those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as

though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess,³¹ and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. For the form of this world is passing away.

This prophetic perspective portrays “the end” as pressing into the present age and is divinely intended to compel believers in Jesus Christ to live in continual readiness for his return. The passages conveying nearness function to remind believers of the Lord’s admonition to “stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”

Such exhortations have enabled Christians in every era to constantly live in patient, eager expectation of his glorious return. The historic church has always maintained this eschatological understanding of these biblical texts. Figure 1: The Prophetic Perspective

Hollett, Brock David ; Hollett, Brock. Debunking Preterism: How Over-Realized Eschatology Misses the "Not Yet" of Bible Prophecy . Brock D Hollett. Kindle Edition.

The prophetic perspective has been the same in the OT and the NT. It is looking at mountain ranges with no view of valleys in between. If you have ever been to the mountains and you see the first

mountain peak, and the ones behind it. It doesn't look like it is much of a hike until you start down the back side of the mountain into the valley that could be miles long before you begin to ascend again on the second mountain

Could you image if John wrote the book of Revelation the way that Gary Demar would expect to be written if it were referring to events 1000s of years into the future. The sense of imminency and expectancy in your lifetime would be lost.

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must take place a long time from now. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time (*is 1000s of years from now*)

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Behold, I am coming sometime way into the future, Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 22:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Then he said to me, “These words *are* faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must take place a long time from now.

Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is 1000s of years into the future.

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming a long time from now.**

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Even our passage

James 5:8. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is far into the future

⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is no time soon.

How else are the apostolic writers to be able to write about the return of Christ. If they write about the return of Christ, at the time of their lives, as far into the future, as we have seen it is that gives no hope of future deliverance, no encouragement to persevere, no sense of impending judgment upon those that have been persecuting you.

And then, when we finally arrived on the planet, 2000 years later, and we read the same words, but the apostles wrote the language, extending it far into the future, and we would have the same exact reaction. No chance of this happening in our lifetime no hope given to us from this wretched world.

But if it is written on the prophetic perspective that it is near, it is soon, it is hand, then it gives a sense of urgency, and hope to all Christians throughout all generations.

The idea advanced by preterists that this coming refers merely to a first-century “judgment coming” of

Jesus robs the post-AD 70 church of this theological basis for their faithful endurance.

Hollett, Brock David ; Hollett, Brock. Debunking Preterism: How Over-Realized Eschatology Misses the "Not Yet" of Bible Prophecy . Brock D Hollett. Kindle Edition.

1. Wake up

2. Get up

3. Look UP

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.*

The Bible describes our salvation in three ways:

- that which is past (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8)
- that which is present (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15)
- that which is future (Rom. 5:9; 8:23)

- **that which is past** (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8)

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

- **that which is present** (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15)

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

- **that which is future** (Rom. 5:9; 8:23)

Romans 5:9 (NKJV)

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

Romans 8:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope,

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (p. 358). Mentor.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Chrysostom says,

not to frighten his hearers, but to encourage them, so as to detach them from their love of the things of this world. It was not unlikely that at the beginning of their endeavors they would be more dedicated and slacking off as time went on. But Paul wants them to do the opposite—not to slacken as time goes on but

to become even more dedicated. For the nearer the King is, the more they ought to be ready to receive him.

Ventura, R. (2023). [*Expository Outlines & Observations on Romans: Hints and Helps for Preachers and Teachers*](#) (p. 359). Mentor.

Psalm 138:1–8 (NKJV)

- 1 I will praise You with my whole heart;
Before the gods I will sing praises to You.
- 2 I will worship toward Your holy temple,
And praise Your name
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
For You have magnified Your word above all Your
name.
- 3 In the day when I cried out, You answered me,
And made me bold *with* strength in my soul.
- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord,
When they hear the words of Your mouth.
- 5 Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
For great *is* the glory of the Lord.
- 6 Though the Lord *is* on high,
Yet He regards the lowly;
But the proud He knows from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive
me;
You will stretch out Your hand
Against the wrath of my enemies,
And Your right hand will save me.
- 8 The Lord will perfect *that which* concerns me;
Your mercy, O Lord, *endures* forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.