

# Christ is Coming

*Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.*

Date: 13 October 2013

[ 0 : 00 ] This message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia. It is our prayer that you will be blessed by the preaching of God's Word. If you would take your Bibles, turn with me to the book of Romans, chapter 13. We'll start in verse 11.

Before we read, I'd like to tell you a story. When I was a junior in high school, I used to play football. And something changed my junior year. I started to shed the weight.

I started to work harder in the weight room. I started to go to the field house and spend more time there. I got together with the strength and conditioning coach at the time, Mr. Weber. And we just pushed harder and harder and harder.

Well, it was during the school day somehow. I was probably supposed to be in some class. Anyways, the coach picked me up and we started going down to the field house. And he says, Canfield, what's going to be different about this year? I was thinking.

I was driving along with him in his truck or his little SUV. And I said, this is it, coach. This is all I got. It's just this year. And that's it.

[ 1 : 01 ] The time is now. And then we're done. And Paul, in Romans chapter 13, verses 11, he kind of like says that too.

He says this in the verse, he says, And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time. Now it is high time to awake out of sleep.

For now is our salvation nearer than when we believe. The night is far spent. The day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness.

And let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly as in the day. Not in rioting. And in drunkenness. And in chambering. And in wantonness.

And not in strife and envy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. Put him on. And make not provision for the flesh. To fulfill the lust thereof. Let's pray.

[ 1 : 57 ] Heavenly Father, As we come to you, Lord, in prayer. Lord, I ask that you would just work in the hearts of every person here, Lord. Help us to realize what time it is.

Lord, help us to realize, Jesus, that you're coming. And Lord, please let that knowledge of knowing what time it is, Lord, and knowing that you're coming, please help it to spring us to action.

Lord God, we want to make an impact in this world. Lord God, we want to serve you. Lord God, we want to do something with our lives. Lord God, we want to praise you, and honor you, and glorify you with everything that's in us, Lord.

Lord God, help us to know, and help it to change our actions. And we'll give you the praise, for it's in your Son's name. Amen. The first thing I see here in this text, because that's where we go to this.

Before we go to this, if you're a visitor here, every Sunday, every Sunday morning, every Sunday evening, Thursday, and throughout the week, we try to get in this book. Why do we get in this book?

[ 3 : 02 ] Why do we get in this book? The reason is, is we're not perfect. We haven't arrived. We're not thoroughly furnished into all good works. And we need this scripture to change us.

Does that make sense? We realize that we're not perfect. They're still sent. The old nature has passed away. Standing before God, we are righteous in His sight. But right now, practically, as we live, there's still stuff that's in us that needs to be taken out.

And this Word, it washes us. It's like water. It cleanses us. This Word, it breaks down sin. It casts down the strongholds. And so we need that. And today, we need to know what time it is.

We need to know that Jesus is coming again. We need to know that. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians, he says, I'm telling you this so you might be comforted. And then the next chapter, he says, now do this.

You see, whenever we know that Jesus is coming back, it springs us to action. It comforts our hearts. But not only comforts our hearts, but it motivates us to do more. It's like this.

[ 4 : 00 ] You guys remember, everyone here was a kid, right? And so you had a father, right? Most of us did, right? And every summertime, my dad would write out a list. You know, a to-do list.

Has anyone ever, has their parents ever done that before? A to-do list. They write it out. And what do they say? By the time I get back home, I expect this to be done. So you're at home all day long. What do you do?

Do you get on that list? No. Television, you put on the television. You play your video games. You go outside and you play baseball. You play football. You do whatever. But then there's that time, right around 1 o'clock, right around 2 o'clock or whenever, when you realize that dad is coming home.

Or mom is coming home. And what does that do? Oh, junk, I need to stop doing this. And I need to start doing what he told me to do. Because when he comes back, I don't want to stand in front of him ashamed.

Does that make sense? And so Paul tells these Christians in Romans, he says this. He says, I want you guys to awake. Understand the phrases. In verses 11 through 12, understand the phrases that Paul uses to the church at Rome and what they express.

[ 5 : 06 ] He says, in verse 11, he says, that now it is high time. Now the hour is ready. What else does he say? Now is our salvation nearer.

He says in verse 12, he says, the night is far spent and the day is at hand. What's Paul trying to express to these people? He's trying to express urgency.

He's saying, Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming. The day is coming when you can no longer work. Let's get to work. Realize that Paul said this. Who was Paul speaking to? He was speaking to the Christians at Rome.

And how long ago was this? 2,000 years ago. If it was urgent enough for him to say, now is the day is at hand. Do you think it's a lot more urgent right now? We need to realize that Jesus, your King, your King is coming.

And it's urgent. Your time is limited. Your opportunity is brief. The time for you to obey is now. The time for you, there is no time for apathy.

[ 6 : 05 ] There is no time for complacency. There is no time for indifference. The time for action is now. Your King is coming. The time that you need to know about is at hand.

We don't know what the future holds. We could go out in our car today and we could cross McFarland. We could get head on. We could be T-boned. And right then we're with our King. Or who knows?

Jesus might come back today. He might come back today. Are you ready? The urgency. And this is a common truth that flows through the Bible. Listen to what the psalmist says in Psalms chapter 90 and verse 10.

In Psalms 90 verse 10 he says, The days of our years are three scores and ten. That's seven years. And if by reason of strength, if we're really strong, they can be about 80 years. Four score years. Yet their strength, labor and sorrow.

For it is soon cut off. And we fly away. Verse 12 he says this. He says, Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

[ 7 : 09 ] He said, Lord, teach us the importance of time. Teach us the importance of time so we might make full use of it. And we might apply to wisdom right now. Jesus said in the Gospels in John chapter 9 verses 4.

This is what Jesus said. He said, I must work the works of Him that sent me. I must work the works of who? Of Him that sent me. I must work the works of the Father.

While it is day. The night cometh when no man can work. Jesus realized that His life had purpose. Jesus realized His life.

He had an opportunity to do something for the Lord. And He realized that one day that day was going to be over. One day that day was going to be over. It was going to be gone. There was a sense of urgency.

I've got to get this done. And that's what Paul is telling these Romans. He says, Now is the time. The day of hand is at... It's now. Your salvation is nearer than when you believed.

[ 8 : 11 ] Now is the time. Awake. James describes your life like this in James 4.14. In James 4.14. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time. And then what? It vanishes away. Your life is like steam rising from a pot that's boiling water.

It's only around just for a little bit. Do you realize that? Do you realize? And this might sound kind of morbid. That your end is near. Whether Jesus comes back or whether you die.

It's close. The time that you get to stand before your king is really close. A lot closer. A lot closer. Than the time when you got saved.

It's nearer. It's always been urgent. And it will always continue to be urgent. Until the Lord returns. When our opportunities for earthly faithfulness.

[ 9 : 15 ] When our opportunities for earthly obedience. When our opportunities to evangelize. It will end one day. You realize that? Your life will end one day.

And then you can no longer do anything else. And then we'll stand before judgment. Not a judgment of. Am I going to accept you into my heaven or not?

But a judgment of. What did you do with the talents I gave you? What did you do for the opportunities I gave you? Were you living for self? Or were you living for me? And Paul.

In this passage. He calls them. In verse 11. He calls them. To awake. To awake out of sleep. What is sleep? It's a period of time.

Where there's a suspension of consciousness. A period of time. Where you have become unconscious. And you've become inactive. You know. As a father of two girls.

[ 10 : 11 ] And two toddler girls at that. I look forward to those times of sleep. I mean. It's that time when they stop moving around. They stop jumping on me.

They stop crawling over me. I love that. You know what I mean? But sometimes when you want to just. I just want to veg out. I don't want someone crawling on me. I don't want someone's. I don't want their. Sitting on my face. I don't want them to rolling all over.

You know what I'm saying? I enjoy the times when they're asleep. Because they're not doing anything. I can spend time with my wife. I can enjoy what I want to do. I don't have to do what they're doing.

But Paul calls these people. He says. Hey. Wake up sleepy Christians. Wake up. Wake up. But here we have Paul basically shouting at them. To awake.

And know. That their salvation is near. The church. Or this church. Or these Christians. Was in a state of. Can I say? A spiritual comatose. They were asleep spiritually.

[ 11 : 07 ] Maybe they were inactive. Because they haven't. Because they have. They have grown cold over time. With the things of God. Or maybe they were just ignorant to the time. But whatever it was.

They needed to awake at a sleep. Because Jesus. Their king. Their king. Was closer to them. Now. Than ever was before. Awake.

Awake. Was Paul's command. Jesus could return at any time. Or they could cease to exist here on earth. And go with him. And go and be with him forever.

Whatever happens. Paul was commanding them to get up. There are other times in the Bible. Where Paul tells those who he is over spiritually. To awake. And to be conscious. Or aware of the fact that Jesus.

Their salvation is near. Paul writes to the church in Corinth. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 34. He says this. He says. Awake unto righteousness. And sin not.

[ 12 : 04 ] For some. Have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. This church in Corinth. They needed to be awakened.

To be inactive. To start doing something. To be conscious. And start doing right. Because their unconsciousness. Was causing them. Not to get the gospel. To those who were without. They were unaware.

And unconcerned. About what the Lord was doing. In the world. And even less concerned. About what he had promised. He would yet do. In the New Testament. Christians.

Are called to live. Holy. Lit lives. Because they are expecting. The return of Jesus. Just like when you were younger. Your parents gave you that to-do list.

I am pretty sure. Most of us try to strive at the end. To make sure we were doing it. And try to get it done. Right? Because we wanted to please our parents. And that is the same thing too. Your father.

[ 13 : 01 ] Your king. He is returning. He is coming. He is coming. He is coming again. And it is closer now. Than ever before. So awake. Awake.

James says. In James chapter 5 verse 7. He says. Be patient therefore brethren. Unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husband. As he waiteth. For the precious fruit of the earth.

And hath long patience for it. Until he receiveth. The early and latter rains. Be ye also patient. And establish your heart. Do what is right. For the coming of the Lord.

Draweth nigh. Jesus. Your king. Is coming again. Awake. Awake. Peter warns. In 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 7.

He says. But the end of all things is at hand. Can I remind you. That was 2,000 years ago. Peter says this. The end of all things is at hand. What is God saying there?

[ 13 : 57 ] He is saying. The end is near. The end is near. Be ye therefore sober. And watch unto prayer. And above all things.

Have fervent charity. Among yourselves. It's Paul that reminds the church. In Corinth. In 1 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 10. He says this.

He says. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. That everyone may receive the things. Done in his body.

According. To that he hath done. I'd like to remind you. If you're born again today. That means. If you've put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. If there's a moment in your life.

Where you realize that you were a sinner. That you sinned against the holy God. And that sin. Brought conviction. And you became. And you came to a point. Where you had to choose Christ.

[ 14 : 51 ] And what he did on the cross. Or choose yourself. And you chose. I'm going to trust in Jesus. And what he did. Can I say to you. Can I say to you. That you are free from condemnation.

And punishment for your sins. Jesus paid for all that on the cross. And at that moment. At that moment. When you trusted him. Trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Those sins vanished. As far as from the east. From the west. But can I remind you. When Jesus returns. There will be a judgment on our efforts. On behalf of the kingdom.

When in 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verses 5. This is what Paul says. This is what Paul's words are. In 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verses 5.

He says. Therefore judge nothing before the time. Until the Lord comes. Who will bring. To light the hidden things of the darkness.

[ 15 : 45 ] And will make manifest the counsel. The heart. The reason. The motives that you did it. And then shall every man have praise unto God. Of judgment that's going to come.

Not over what. Your sin. But of what you've done with this. What have you done with this salvation? What have you done with this goodness. And this mercy that he's given you?

What are you doing today? And Paul's screaming at these Christians. Probably because he loves them. And he's saying. Awake. The time is nigh. Jesus is coming back.

The King is coming. Get awake. Start doing something. Wake up. But why should they awake? Paul's wanting them to know. That the King is coming.

And in verse 12. The night is far spent. And the day is. The day is at hand. Every day. That a Christian lives. Makes it just one more step closer.

[ 16 : 41 ] To eternity. And being with the Lord. No one knows when Jesus is going to come back. In Acts.

Before Jesus ascends up to heaven. The disciples ask. When are you going to set up your kingdom Jesus? And Jesus in verse 7. He says. He says. It's not for you to know the times. Which the Father.

Hath put in his power. What Jesus was saying is. No one knows the time. You don't know the time. The time. He says this. I want you to be witnesses. I want you to get to work. While you're still here.

I want you to be a witness. Unto me. In Jerusalem. And Judea. And Samaria. And to the uttermost parts of the earth. I want you to get to work. And you remember what happens. As he ascends.

Those disciples are standing there. And they were just looking up in the sky. And these two angels come down from the sky. And they're like. Why stand ye here gazing?

[ 17 : 39 ] The same manner that he went up. He's coming back down. Don't you guys know. Just like he went up. He's coming back. Now get to work. It's the same thing for us. Our king.

Is coming. No one knows when you will die. Or when Jesus is coming back. But this thing we do know. He is coming. He is coming. And the time is nigh.

These truths should comfort us. In knowing that Jesus is coming back. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 16. The Bible says this. This is what God says. He says.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout. God says. I'm coming back. I'm coming with a shout. With the voice of an archangel.

And the trump of the Lord. And the dead of Christ shall rise first. Then which we are alive and remain. Shall be caught up together in the clouds. To meet the Lord in the air.

[ 18 : 37 ] And so shall ever be with the Lord. Praise the Lord. We'll be with him forever. Wherefore. Comfort one another with these words. This truth.

That soon you will be with Christ. Should not only comfort you. But it should awaken you. It should awaken you. To action. What does he say?

He says the night is far spent. In verse 12. The night is far spent. The day is at hand. He's coming again. The day is close. The time is nigh. So what?

Let us therefore. Cast off. Let us cast off. Let us lay aside. The works. Of darkness. If you have trusted.

And put your faith. In Jesus. Then in God's eyes. You are righteous. Can I remind you that? If you have trusted in Jesus Christ. If you have put your faith. And trust in Jesus Christ.

[ 19 : 35 ] You have. Been declared. You have been justified. You have been declared. Righteous. The same God that said. Hey let there be light. And there was light. The same God said. That said let their land.

Come out of the sea. And there was land. Declares you righteous. If you put your faith. And trust in him. Praise God for that. There is nothing. That you can do. To make God love you.

Any more. There is nothing. That you can do. To make yourself. More righteous. Than you already are. There is something. That is already true. About our spiritual life.

And something that should be true about it. Does that make sense? Not just who we are. Not just the B level. But what we do. They should match up.

If Christ declares us righteous. Then we should live righteous. Amen? Amen? There is a holiness that we already have. And a holiness that we should continue.

[ 20 : 33 ] To pursue after. We have been righteous. Yes. But now. Now is the time. Vision Baptist Church. Now is the time.

That we strive to live righteously. That we strive to live righteously. And how do we do that? Well. He says this. He says. We need to lay aside.

We need to cast off. Those sins. Those works. Of darkness. If we are going to do something for the Lord. If we are going to live a life. That is honoring to the Lord.

Lord. We can't be hanging on to sin. We can't be hanging on to sin. If we are going to run this race right. We can't be hanging on to sin.

And the writer of Hebrews. He knew all too much about this. Because in Hebrews chapter 12. Verses 1. He says. Wherefore. Seeing. Seeing. We also are compassed. With so great a cloud of witnesses.

[ 21 : 27 ] Let us lay aside every weight. And every sin. And the sin which. And the sin which. Thoth so easily beset us. And let us run. With patience. The race that is sitting before us.

It's going to be. It's going to take a conscious decision. On your end. On my end. On our end. To put apart those things. That need to be let go. And to live out who we are in Christ.

Practically. And the only way. That we will ever run. To our full potential. Is by this. By casting off the sin. That easily besets us.

And easily gets us off course. If you were to read the book of Colossians. Paul takes two chapters. And he spends a lot of time.

Deep. Deep writing. And he speaks to this church. On their new identity in Christ. And what Christ has done for him. He talks about the. The ordinances that were nailed to the cross.

[ 22 : 26 ] And all your sins that were nailed to the cross. And now you have Christ in you. But in chapter 3. Paul says this. He says. He says this. If we get. Colossians chapter 3 verses 1.

He says this. If ye then be risen with Christ. If you have put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Seek those things which are above.

Where Christ sitteth on the right hand. Of God. In verse 8. He says. But now. Ye also. Put off all these things. Put them off.

Cast them off. Lay them aside. Lay aside anger. Lay aside wrath. Lay aside malice. Lay aside blaspheming. Lay aside. Filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another. Seeing that ye have put off. The old man with his deeds. It's a truth. That has been spoken. Throughout all Christian churches. Throughout all the history.

[ 23 : 22 ] Of church history. If you. Are in Christ. If Christ has done a work in your life. Wake up. Know that he's coming here.

And put off the sin. Put off the sin. Stop living like. Who you were. And start living like. Who you are. Paul. Paul.

Gives a list to these believers. In verse 13. He says. No. Let us walk honestly. As in the day. And what does he say. He says. Not in writing. And drunkenness.

Not in chambering. And in wantonness. Not in strife. And in envy. Listen. Listen. Listen to these things that Paul lists off. He says. Rioting. It's the idea of living a.

A life of a partier. He says. Don't let that be. Put that stuff off. Stop hanging around that stuff. Stop. Don't let that be a part of. Of.

[ 24 : 16 ] Of. The way people see you. Don't be a drunkard. Chambering. Don't live a promiscuous lifestyle. Wantonness.

Don't live in excess. Live with some restraints. Strife. Strife. That's where it hits us. Right? We're like.

Man. We're pretty good on those. We don't riot. I mean. We don't. We don't. We're not drunk. I'm faithful to my wife. I try to live a. A pretty. Pretty. Pretty nice life. I don't. I don't live in too much excess.

But what does he say right there? Strife. You arguing with people? You always fighting? Is there no peace in your life? Is there no joy in your life?

Is there always struggle and fight? He says. Let us. Let us put off that. The king is coming. Dad's coming.

[ 25 : 11 ] Let's get to work. Dad's coming. Let's get to work. Wake up. Get out of bed. Put off that stuff. Stop doing it. The king is coming. Envyng.

You jealous? You wanting other people's stuff? You like to covet? What does God say in his word?

He says. The time is nigh. Now is the time. Now is it. Your salvation is near. Jesus is right around the corner. Don't you realize that? So stop it.

Cast it off. Lay it aside. Quit doing it. Stay away from that. Cast off that lifestyle. Know that the time is here.

Your king is coming. So lay that old life down. And why do you lay down that old life? Well he says. So you can put on the new one. God's commandments aren't saying.

- [ 26 : 16 ] Stop. Stop. Stop. Stop. You are like. Okay God. This is a boring life. Okay. I stopped all this stuff. And I am sitting here in my house. And I try to watch you know. Whatever. Whatever is on television. You know. The accepted television shows. And the accepted movies. That I am allowed to watch. That is not going to create covetousness. What do you want me to do now God? He says. I didn't tell you to stop.
- So you could just become dormant. I didn't tell you to stop. So you could just become complacent. I told you to stop. So you could start doing something. What does he tell him? Well let's. Verse 12. The night is far spent.
- The day is at hand. Know that. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness. And let us put on the armor of light. Verse 14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Christian's command is never to stop doing. The Christian's command to stop doing is never an end of itself. But it's the beginning. So they can do something great for God. Christ doesn't command us to stop doing so we can be clean.
- [ 27 : 13 ] Well pressed. And spotless soldiers. But rather. It is to equip us. To do a work. That he has for us. You get that? It's to equip us.
- It's to equip us. To do a work that he has for us. Can I remind you why he saved you? What does Ephesians 2.8 and 9 say? It says.
- For by grace are you saved. Through faith. That not of yourselves. It is a gift of God. Not of works. Listen to him. Answer your boast. And then what does he say in verse 10? Ephesians 4.10. What does it say? For we are his workmanship.
- Created in Christ Jesus. Unto what? Good works. God saved you. He created you. He made you a new being. Why? Because he has a plan out there for you.
- And it's not just stop doing this. But it's stop doing this so you can start doing this. In Ephesians chapter 4 verses 20 to 32.
- [ 28 : 17 ] This is a passage through the New Testament. He says, But if ye have not so learned Christ, if so be that ye have heard of him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, that ye put off concerning the former conversation of the old man.
- Put off that old life. If you are in Christ, if you know who Christ is, if you have been saved, if you have been born again, put off concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in spirit of your mind.
- And, verse 24, and that ye may put on the new man, which is after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. In verse 28, Paul says this, he says in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 28, he says, Let the thief stop stealing, and get a job, and start giving.
- In verse 29, he says, Stop using your mouth for corrupt conversation. In that same verse he says, And start using your mouth to build up others, and grace, and give out grace.
- In verse 31, he says, Stop! Put off the anger, put off the bitterness, put off the malice, put off the clamor, and do what? And put on the kindness, the tender heartedness, the forgiving to one another.
- [ 29 : 45 ] Colossians 3.8 says this, he says, But ye also, put off all these things, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, out of your mouth. Lie not, lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man, which is renewed in the knowledge after him, which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him that created him.
- Put on, therefore, verse 12, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness in mind, meekness and long suffering.
- We must remember, that we weren't just saved to escape hell, like we said in Ephesians 2.8, but we were saved to do a job. So let's do it.



So what do we put on? Well, he gave us a list. He said, put on the armor of light, it is righteousness. We are in a battle, and only the person that is armored, is a person that is expected to be in the fight.

We are to put on Christ. We are to put on the new man, and start doing right. Who wants to be found, who wants to be found at the end of the race, the end of this Christian race, that the whole time we were just playing around, and not taking this serious?

[ 31 : 03 ] The time is near. Can I remind you? The time is near. Let's awake, and cast off, and put on what we need to, so we won't be embarrassed.

So we won't be embarrassed. So we won't stand, I don't want to say we won't stand to shame. We won't be caught when Jesus comes back, and Jesus says, what have you done with the talents I've given you? Know this, Jesus is coming back.

The King is coming. Let's be ready. Heavenly Father, thank you for an opportunity, Lord, to preach your word.

Thank you for this truth, Lord. Lord, I ask that you would just bring it into remembrance in my life, and the lives of the people here, throughout this week. Lord, that you are returning.

The time is nigh. And we need to get busy. Lord, I don't know if this, this, this truth, impacted anybody's life, Lord, but, if you would, I ask that you just work in the hearts, the people here.

[ 32 : 13 ] Honor and glorify yourself, Lord, and we'll give you all the praise. This message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia. For more information, log on to [www.visionbaptist.com](http://www.visionbaptist.com), where you can find our service times, location, contact information, and more audio and video recording.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.