**The Book of Romans**

Part Five: God’s righteousness is revealed in His Loving Demands Upon His People. (Romans 12-15:13)

***Love and Light***

***Or, On Relationships and Responsibility***

***Romans 13:8-14***

Jesus taught that the Great Commandment was loving God with all our being, and next to that, loving others as we love ourselves. He went so far as to say that there were no commandments greater than these (Mark 12:31). One reason why is that love “covers” the Law, or fulfills it. That is, the Law of Moses merely codified the heart of God for a certain people in time. Does that mean that the Law’s precepts are no longer valid? Hardly. In fact, when we love from the heart, we find our-selves taking care of others and being serious about ourselves, just like the Law says we should. Matthew 5:1-10

***We pay our debt of love to those around us. . .*** vv. 8-10

Because the one who loves others fulfills the Law.

Think of it this way: the specific commandments are really calls to act lovingly towards others.

And because love harms no one, it meets the Law’s demands.

Paul is not suggesting that believers are now perfect. He has told us to resist sin by putting it to death by God’s Spirit (8:13), and now shares the internal motivation to make that possible. We follow Jesus in laying down our lives for others. John 13:34, 35; 15:12-17; 1 John 3:16.

***We live a new life because it’s a New Day***. . . vv. 11-14

With the coming of Jesus, the Last Days have arrived.

So we stay awake and pay attention to how we live!

Our lives are free from excess, promiscuity, and rancor.

We live between the first and final appearances of Jesus. As we wait for His return, our lives must live responsibly and morally, “as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.” The alternative is to **“**clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (vv. 13, 14). Col. 3:1-14

**Do you realize we are living in the dawning of God’s New Age?**

***1. Are you living as a pilgrim or a land baron?***

When we follow Jesus, it means putting more stock in the next world than this one. When we do so, we can move past selfishness and jealousy and into serving others. When we don’t, we cling to our sinful desires and our accumulations of things. Jesus enables us to walk by His Spirit, not our flesh. Galatians 5:16-26

***2. Are you living in the light or walking in darkness?***

To walk in darkness means turning our backs on the light. You can tell which we choose by our conduct. Dependency upon drugs (including) alcohol, sexual immorality, and constant conflict with others are signs that we are affirming the very things Jesus came to destroy. Walking in the light is living in terms of His promises and obeying His commands with joy. 1 John 2:1-11

***3. Are you living as a peacemaker or troublemaker?***

Just as the Bible teaches that we are not to give offense, so also, we are not to unnecessarily take offense. This means that it takes two for conflict, only one to stop it. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” James 4:1-10