

Advent

The Season of Hope and Expectation



Romans 13:11-14 (NLT)

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.

13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness,

**or in sexual promiscuity
and immoral living, or in
quarreling and jealousy.**



14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.



Living by the Spirit



Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

**²⁰ Now all glory to God,
who is able, through His
mighty power at work
within us, to accomplish
infinitely more than we
might ask or think.**

**21 Glory to Him in the
church and in Christ
Jesus through all
generations forever and
ever! Amen.**



Ephesians 4:1-31 (NLT)

**Therefore I, a prisoner
for serving the Lord, beg
you to lead a life worthy
of your calling, for you
have been called by God.**



² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.



**3 Make every effort to
keep yourselves united in
the Spirit, binding
yourselves together with
peace.**



**4 For there is one body
and one Spirit, just as
you have been called to
one glorious hope for the
future.**



**5 There is one Lord, one
faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of
all,
who is over all, in all, and
living through all.**



**7 However, He has given
each one of us a special
gift through the
generosity of Christ.**



**8 That is why the
Scriptures say,
“When He ascended to
the heights,
He led a crowd of
captives
and gave gifts to His
people.”**

⁹ Notice that it says “He ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world.



10 And the same One who descended is the One who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that He might fill the entire universe with Himself.

**11 Now these are the gifts
Christ gave to the church:
the apostles, the
prophets, the
evangelists, and the
pastors and teachers.**



12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.



13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching.



**We will not be influenced
when people try to trick
us with lies so clever they
sound like the truth.**



15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church.



**16 He makes the whole
body fit together
perfectly. As each part
does its own special
work,**



**it helps the other parts
grow, so that the whole
body is healthy and
growing and full of love.**



**17 With the Lord's
authority I say this: Live
no longer as the Gentiles
do, for they are
hopelessly confused.**



18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him.

19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.



**20 But that isn't what you
learned about
Christ. 21 Since you have
heard about Jesus and
have learned the truth
that comes from Him,**

**22 throw off your old
sinful nature and your
former way of life, which
is corrupted by lust and
deception. 23 Instead, let
the Spirit renew your
thoughts and attitudes.**



**24 Put on your new
nature, created to be like
God—truly righteous and
holy.**



25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.



26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.



29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.



30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.



**31 Get rid of all bitterness,
rage, anger, harsh words,
and slander, as well as all
types of evil behavior.**



**32 Instead, be kind to
each other,
tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, just as God
through Christ has
forgiven you.**



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