

Put Ye On The Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 13:11-14



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FOCAL Romans 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. (12) 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. (13) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. (14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.¹

Prayer Dearest Father, we come to Thee with all our hearts opened. We beg Thee for the power to understand this Precious Word You have given us. There was a day when You called us to salvation by the wooing of the Spirit and by the preaching of Your Word. You took the weakness of the preacher and covered it with Your hand. Like Moses of old, You hid your preacher in the cleft of the Rock, and covered Him with Thy precious Hand. Oh, dearest Father, we reckon that any blessing which will be had today will come only through You. We know that any power and any Light that will come from this preaching will only come by You. We beg You and You alone for Light today.

We need Light, practical Light, usable Light, promised Light. Our innermost desire is to be absolutely perfect, without sin, blessed workers for You and for Your glory. We need You to explain the text to us so that we can put on the Lord Jesus

¹ All texts are King James Version (Authorized) unless otherwise noted

Christ and make not provision for the flesh. Thou knowest Lord, for Thou searchest the heart and Thou triest the reins of the children of men. Look at our hearts this day. Where we have need of power to serve You, fill us with that power. Fill us with Thy Precious Spirit, enable us to shine brightly for You in this place. Let Thy Shekinah glory be in our hearts and in our minds as we look at this Precious text. Oh that Thou wouldst deliver us! We praise Thee that Jesus gives us the victory; but we long to have that victory in ourselves more constantly realized — more perfectly enjoyed. Touch hearts today, O Lord, and change lives. Let us all be agents of revival, Your agents, for Your glory and not ours. At this time also, great Father, wilt Thou visit this church with Thy great favor; and as Thou hast abounded toward us these many years in blessing, so give us now some new token, some fresh visitation for good. Oh give us summer weather as a church. May there be a great revival of religion in all the members, and especially in the minds of such as are growing cold or indifferent to holy things. Wherever there is any laxity of life, any slight holding of precious truth; wherever the world is creeping in with its corroding influences; wherever there is anything of sin which our eye sees not, but which Thine eye detects, be pleased to put it away. Fill the whole church with unity, with love, with life, with power. God, we praise You for new converts; may they be like fresh blood in the veins of the church, keeping her alive and keeping her active; and may the spirit of the Lord come down upon pastor, and elders, and deacons, Sunday School teachers and workers and

sufferers; and let the whole church be quickened. In Jesus' Blessed Name we pray and ask these things — Amen!²

1. If Jesus Is In My Heart By Faith, I Am Truly Free

FOCAL Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**

The Lord calls the Christian saved by faith in Jesus to *rouse his or her self* for the cause of the Kingdom of God.

The Christian is the only truly free creature on this planet. The unbeliever, though he may be considered a free citizen of the state he lives in, is *not* free from the dominion of sin and Satan.

People ask me all the time "Brother David, why do people do what they do?" My answer is simple - unless you have been freed by Jesus Christ, unless you have given your life to Him, *you are not a free agent*. You may be free to get up from your seats tonight, free to go out and get in your cars, free to go home. You may be free from all outside restraints, but if you are not saved *you are not free from your internal restraints*.

There is a reason that the Bible calls the unbeliever in

² Some portions of this prayer taken from C.H. Spurgeon's prayer *Risen With Christ* from *The Pastor in Prayer*

Jesus Christ “Lost”, “Unsaved”, or “Sinner”. The unbeliever is *enslaved to sin*. The unbeliever *must be born again*. The first birth of the human brings with it *physical life*, but there is absolutely no spiritual life. **Ye must be born again**. We are all born into this world with a propensity to sin.

Illustrate Not too long ago I read about one of these *scientific studies* where researchers put a group of five and six year old children in front of a table filled with cookies. The chief researcher (and I'm sure you can see where this is going) told the children that they were going to leave the room for a minute. He cautioned the children not to eat the cookies - but added that when he returned the cookies would be divided up evenly among them. The researchers left the room and watched the kids through a one way mirror. In less than a minute the children began to take cookies and quickly stuff them in their mouths. Some children dropped cookies on the ground then ate them, rationalizing (they assumed) that a dropped cookie was fair game. Though the children only ate one or two cookies apiece, only one or two children avoiding eating the cookies - though all handled the forbidden fruit in one way or the other.

Put a bottle in front of an alcoholic and leave the room, making sure they know that they have the freedom to drink or not drink. Don't be surprised if, when you return, the bottle has been opened and some of the content is missing! The unbeliever is enslaved to sin. The Christian, on the other hand, is *freed from the power of sin to serve the Lord who saved him*. Read these words, dear ones:

Romans 6:11-14 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (13) Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

We are to **reckon ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God** if we have been saved. Salvation is a *supernatural work of God that works from the inside out*.

It starts in the heart, then moves outward changing the life.

Illustrate One of the most religious groups of people in Israel in Jesus' day was the **Pharisees**. These people could be defined as *conservative professing believers*. Their dress was conservative. They prayed at certain times during the day. If they were in public and it became time to pray, they stopped what they were doing,

knelt down, and prayed. They made a show of tithing to the Temple. They cast their offering loudly and with fanfare into the collection bowls. They fasted very visibly. Yet they were not saved because their religion was *outward, yet not inward*. Religion must be outward, dear ones, but it must first of all be inward. Jesus told these Pharisees:

John 8:34-36 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. (35) And the servant abideth not in the house forever: but the Son abideth ever. (36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The Lord Jesus Christ must come into your hearts by faith. Prior to salvation by faith in Him the heart is the *servant of sin*. The **servant of sin** does not abide in the house forever, but the **son abides forever**. If you have been saved by faith in Christ you are no more a servant, *but a son*. You belong to God, not to Satan. As the Scripture says:

Galatians 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Jesus Christ offered Himself as the only means of *true freedom* for anyone - ever! Only by faith in Him do you become **free indeed**. **Jesus must make you free** - you can only be free when you accept Jesus Christ to be your

personal Savior. He *must* be invited into the life. Our text tells us:

FOCAL Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

It is possible for the Christian to **put on the Lord Jesus Christ** because we are saved. The Son has made us free indeed.

Listen Beloved, **Christ must be in us before He can be on us**. It is the Grace of God that puts Jesus Christ into the life.

He is invited into the heart when you believe and ask, when you trust and obey. The Scripture says:

Romans 10:8-10 ... The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Have you been justified by faith? Then you are *called* to

holiness. Once Christ is in the heart by faith, He is supposed to be *put on* to draw you to holiness. The camp lantern must always be lit from the inside, the wick must be fired, before the light will shine. Once the wick is fired and the light shines, the glass shield of the lantern is lowered, lest a passing wind blow out the light. Once saved, once Christ is in your hearts by faith, you are to **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is not just in your hearts by faith, He is ON your lives by faith.

2. If I Am Saved, I Am A Follower Of The Light

The word “Christian” only occurs *three times* in the Bible (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; and 1 Peter 4:16). Believers in Jesus Christ were first called “Christian” at a place called *Antioch* – probably as a term of mockery.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

The name stuck from that day on. *Easton's Bible Dictionary* tells us that the name was probably given in order to mock believers. The Bible says **the disciples were called** – the early believers did not call themselves “Christian”, but were called “Christian” by the unbelieving world. Early believers did not use the term “Christian” in describing themselves, but called themselves “**Believers, Saints, Disciples, or Brethren**”.

It's interesting that the world gave us a title that stuck and has been used ever since.

We as believers in Christ can bear the label of the world, but we cannot bear the *ways of the world*. We belong to Jesus, and are called to allow Him to empower us against the ways of the world. God Who lives within us is called to be seen on the outside of us. God Who lives in our hearts calls us to let Him use our hands, our feet, our mouths, our all.

FOCAL Romans 13:12 **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.**

God is in you, if you have been saved – walk in the light of God. The Christian is not *dead in trespasses and sins*. You were made alive the very moment that you believed in Jesus Christ and called upon His Name. You are *supernatural creatures, made alive by God your Savior*. Your walk or way of life is no longer dictated by Satan, but your walk or way of life is guided by God and His Precious Word. The Scripture states:

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in

the children of disobedience

We were by nature the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). This is a far cry from what the world teaches, that all men are “inherently good” unless driven to badness by their environment.

Without Christ people are *naturally* the children of wrath. They naturally pursue a pathway that will lead to self satisfaction and eventual self destruction.

You do not belong to Satan anymore, dear believer. **Cast off the works of darkness, put on the armor of light.**

Our text says **the night is far spent, the day is at hand: let US therefore cast off the works of darkness.** Notice the **US** in this text. The text is not addressed to the unbeliever, but to the believer. **Let US cast off.** The Christian sometimes finds himself entangled again in the things of this world. We find ourselves trapped in devilish devices. That which looked good was a lie. We have touched the wrong thing, and now are stained by its presence. What shall we do? **Let US cast off the works of darkness.**

The Christian way of life is secured by faith and kept by faith. When we fail the Lord – and we will fail the Lord – we are to *confess our sin and turn back to the light*. This is not an action of being *resaved* – the Scripture says **let US cast off**. You do not leave the family of God when you step outside of the armor of light – but the Lord does expect you to confess your sin and **put on the**

armor of light.

1 John 1:5-9 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Christian, unlike the unbeliever, is not a bound creature. We are not bound to sin. Satan will tell you this lie, but the truth is, as you grow in the Lord sin after sin will fall from your life. The Christian is called by God to **walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light of God.** We belong to Jesus, the Spirit of God indwells us, our heritage is to walk in light. Jesus promised us:

John 8:12 ... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Notice how definite His words are. **He that followeth me SHALL NOT walk in darkness, but SHALL**

HAVE the light of life. If you are saved you are creatures of light. You are saved by grace, indwelt by God, your armor is light.

3. How Do I Follow The Light?

FOCAL Romans 13:14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

I am saved by faith – what now? Do I stay saved by my own works? Do I work for God in my own power? Absolutely not!

The Source of the believer's power is the Lord Who saved him. The Source of my walk must be an *intentional following of Christ Jesus Who lives inside the framework of my life*. I am in partnership with God!

Our text says “**put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**”. Please notice that the text doesn't say **take up the Lord Jesus**, nor does it say **carry with you the Lord Jesus**. Jesus is not to be carried, but to be worn like a garment. He is not a staff to lean on, nor a sword to battle with, but His presence is to wrap about you as if He were a garment. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus** is a command that means to *surrender your life to His life*.

a. Put Off The Works Of Division

Love binds, it does not divide! God is love, and wanted

to bind you to Him, so God suffered terrible shame and suffering on Calvary's Tree for you and for me. **God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16)**. Love one another, and love those you come in contact with like Christ would have done, telling them about the salvation that God has wrought in your life. What precious words are these:

Colossians 3:11 Where there is **neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.**

Your brother or sister is no longer those of the same skin tone. If they have believed on Christ, if they have accepted Him as Savior and Lord, then they, too, are our kin. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh**. Jesus Christ died for Jew, for Greek, for black, white, red, yellow, all types of people. In fact, **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)**. God the Son is no *respector of persons (Acts 10:34)*. If you have **put on the Lord Jesus Christ** then you must cast away that dark work called *racism*, all works of divisiveness. Do as Jesus did, and tell all about the salvation that is in Him. **Do the work of God:**

John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he**

hath sent.

Reject the divisive ways of Satan! He only intends to harm you – **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ!** The devil desires to split your forces, but do not allow him to do so. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ!**

b. Put Off The Works of Pride

What is our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, our redemption? Can we say that we earned our way to God with our own hands? No Beloved, no! But if we **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ** we recognize that which the Scripture teaches:

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We will not glory in our abilities, but we will glory in God, we will sing praises to Jesus. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.** Brag on what the Lord has done in your life. You can always tell those who love the Lord, and who have grasped the reality of *that thing we call grace*.

Those who understand the Grace of God *are not arrogant*. Satan's way is "I, I, I" - Dear Ones, God's

Way is "Grace, Grace, Grace".

That which will attract Satan to the table of your life is a seat marked "Pride". Cast off this work of darkness - **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

c. Put Off The Works Of The World, While Leading Those In The World to Christ

Too many people spend entirely too much time bowing to *peer pressure*. True Christianity always separates darkness from Light. Some people will argue that we must accept a certain *lifestyle of others* if we are truly Christian.

Do not allow the world to dictate your pattern of life. **Cast off the works of darkness ... put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.** Do not let others be your guide, but ask yourselves, *would Jesus act thusly?* The **broad road of the world** is not for you, for it was not for Jesus.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh. The Bible says:

James 4:4 ... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

What are we being told? Are we being told to be abrupt, evil, short tempered with the unbeliever? No, dear ones, we are not. But we are being told not to *absorb the ways of the world*.

Jesus Christ witnessed to prostitutes and women of questionable morals, but *never* used their services. Jesus Christ talked to publicans and drunkards, yet *never* became one of that crowd.

Do you remember **Zacchaeus**, who was the chief among the **publicans (Luke 19:2)**. The **publicans** or **tax collectors** became rich by over taxing the people. They then took the excess money and put it in their own vaults. Because of this the publicans were hated for what they did, and none was more hated than Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus had heard of Jesus, and knew that the Lord was coming past his house that day. This dear man climbed up in a tree, as the song says:

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he. He climbed up in the sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see. And as the Savior passed that way He looked up in the tree. And He said, Zacchaeus, you come down, for I'm going to your house today!

The Lord went to Zacchaeus' house and saved him (**Luke 19:8-9**). Jesus was *friendly to Zacchaeus, but was not drawn into Zacchaeus' sin*. If you **put on the Lord Jesus Christ** you will do as the Lord did with the lost. You

will love them, tell them about Jesus Christ, witness to them – **but never be drawn into their sin patterns**. I do not care as to what the customs of the world are, and neither should you.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. If Jesus would have said it or done it, then you do likewise. If Jesus would NOT do it, then do NOT do it, though all the world say it is all right. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

A stronger force than law has gripped you: you serve God, not as servants, whose sole thought is the wage, but as children, whose eye is on the Father and His love. **Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ** because you love God.

4. I Must “Put On” The Lord Jesus Christ

FOCAL Romans 13:14 **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.**

Do not *vow a vow nor make a promise*. Do not **put on**

the Lord Jesus Christ in your own strength. Seek God, pray to Him, ask Him to break all bonds of the flesh. Pray to Him, seek Him, try to imitate Him in all that you do. This is honoring to God, and God will bless such things. Look at this phrase in each of its parts:

“Put ye on the Lord — Jesus — Christ.”

a. Put Him On As Lord

He is the **Lord** Jesus Christ – serve Him as the Lord of your lives. You cannot have two Lords. Jesus said:

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

If you reckon Jesus to be your one and only LORD, then your perspective on sin changes. Though the shoreline will not change as the ship leaves it, it will appear to get smaller and smaller. As you surrender more and more of your life to the LORD Jesus Christ you will find your eyes more on Him and on pleasing Him, and less on the world around you.

b. Put Him On As Jesus

He is the Lord **Jesus** Christ. Look at His humanity, look how He lived His life. Jesus came and lived among us, among other things, to be an example to us. The Bible

tells us:

1 Peter 2:21-23 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: (22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (23) Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously:

Jesus showed us in His earthly life how a believer should live. He tells His disciples **follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)**. Though busy, He was never too busy for someone in need. Though reviled, cursed, spat on, He never reciprocated to His enemies. He never threatened, never sought to overthrow by force, but conquered all with a force of love.

Colossians 3:12-15 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your

hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

It does not matter if I am right, or if you are right. What matters is that Jesus Christ is Lord, and *He is always right*. Put ye on the Lord JESUS Christ.

c. Put Him On As Christ

We are told to **put ye on the Lord Jesus CHRIST**. The word “**Christ**” means “**The Anointed of God**”. Jesus Christ is your **Anointed King**. The Bible says of you, dear Christian, that the Savior *is intimately involved in each of your lives*. He **makes intercession for us**. He stands for us before God the Father. What a wonderful Biblical truth this is!

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Because Jesus Christ is your King and your Intercessor, your High Priest, you have been given a special dispensation from God. The Bible says:

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Your calling is to *walk in the Light, as He is in the Light*. We are told,

FOCAL Romans 13:13-14 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. (14) But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.**

God loved you enough to save you, then sent you into the world to tell others about this great Salvation. He is Anointed King and Priest – if you will follow Him, you must walk as He would walk. The *best advertisement for Jesus Christ can be you – but the worst advertisement for Jesus Christ can also be you*. Do you attract others to Jesus, or repel them away? May God drive the meaning of these words into your hearts.