

***“Knowing the Time”***  
**by Rev. John C. Tittle**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Romans 13: 11-14* NRSVue

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Discussion:

1. What do you think most about: the past, the present, or the future?
2. What jumps out at you about this passage?
3. There are a lot of symbolic contrasts in this short passage. What are the ones you can see?
4. Paul makes an urgent appeal here: You know what time it is, *how it already the moment for you to wake from sleep...* How can we cultivate a healthy anticipation and awareness in our lives in this season of Advent?
5. In what ways is salvation nearer to us now than when we first believed?
6. What does it mean to throw off the works of darkness? To put on the armor of light?
7. Bible scholar C.E.B. Cranfield says, *“To put on the Lord Jesus Christ means...to embrace again and again, in faith and in confidence, in grateful loyalty and obedience, Him to whom we already belong.”* What does it mean to you to put on the Lord Jesus Christ?
8. How does Christ redeem our past? Our represent? Our future?