

## Questions for personal reflection and/or discussion

1. Paul makes clear (Romans 13:11) that “believing” is a decisive act in a person’s life. The decision to believe in Jesus implies that we accept the Lordship of Jesus in our lives. However, many people today think that believing in Jesus is just an easy, casual decision—nothing could be further from the Biblical position. What about you? Have you made the decision to believe in Jesus and accept his lordship in your life? Or are you still thinking about it? Or perhaps you are one of those people who thinks they can believe in Jesus without making him Lord of all. Why not choose today to truly believe in Jesus?
2. In Romans 13:12, Paul talks about “putting aside the deeds of darkness....” It is obvious that a radical transformation of a person’s life and morality is an expectation of being a follower of Jesus. What do you think qualifies as “deeds of darkness” in our world today? Can you identify any specific instances or examples in your own life?
3. In Romans 13:12, Paul also talks about “putting on the armor of light.” Clearly, Paul has a battle or conflict image in mind when he talks about “armor.” There are many other places in the Bible where Christian living is seen in a conflict/war image. We should not expect that following Jesus and being transformed by his power will be easy. But, personal transformation is possible through the power of God. In what ways do you think it is possible to “put on the armor of light?” What does this look like in our lives today?
4. Paul exhorts his readers to “not think about gratifying the desire of the sinful nature” (Romans 13:14). We should understand the phrase “sinful nature” (which is “flesh” in some other translations) means the battle with self interest and selfishness that we all face. In what ways can you identify self interest and selfishness in your life, and how are you going to follow Paul’s teaching to not think about gratifying these “self” aspects of your life?

### ***Beyond Sunday...***

*Please note that this three-week sermon series will have three different preachers. Alan, Bryan and Jerry will each preach their message two times – once in the sanctuary and once in the auditorium.*

*January 11 Alan in the sanctuary and Bryan in the auditorium*

*January 18 Bryan in the sanctuary and Jerry in the auditorium*

*January 25 Jerry in the sanctuary and Alan in the auditorium*

## **Beyond Sunday...**

Pastor Alan Robinson, January 11, 2009 (Sanctuary services)

### **Romans 13:8-14 (church Bible page 804)**

- (8) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (9) The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (10) Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- (11) And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (12) The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. (13) Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. (14) Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.