

Sermons  
New Testament  
Romans  
3:11-14

Date written: Sept. 28, 1950

Theme: Stewardship of Time

Proposition: The best stewardship of time  
is achieved by "putting on the Lord Jesus  
Christ."

Text: Romans 13:14a -- "put on the Lord  
Jesus Christ."

Places used: *Rock Springs Sub District  
Stewardship Conference  
Sept. 29, 1950*

*7005/ USOB, camp cook, prisoner & troop chapel  
"Camp Castle, Post Chapel, vesper  
wice ch, chrysmie, 11 a. m., Aug 4, 57  
First Ch, Steinman, wup, 9:30 & 11, April 12, 1959  
Montross, Colo., mar. 21, 62 - GMC Training*



Some people say that their "job comes first, above anything." One person who says this is at least in name and profession a christian and church member. Yet he participates very rarely in church activity. If he gives to the church funds, it isn't by subscription, but strictly on free will offering basis, and that couldn't be much because he is seldom where the offering plate is passed. When asked for a pledge to the church he can't do it because of things he or his family must get, or because of the possible chance of losing his job --which he's held for years. When asked to participate in church activities, he can't do it because he needs some pleasure and "Sunday is the only day I have" (it's the only day for worship of God, too, as a rule). Yet, this person is restless, discontented, and unhappy. There is no purpose in life beyond being at the job regularly and spending the money made on personal and family needs and pleasures.



These are <sup>things</sup> ~~ways~~ that seem important to people who don't really know Christ: the job and what it can provide, pleasure of a transitory and profitless sort. There is a better way.

That better way is known, at least in name to most of the world.

An undergraduate ministerial student was making a talk on "Prayer," to a student group. He gave the various ideas on "How to Pray." He spent most of his time on the idea of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour prayer period early every morning. After building a good case for this practice, he said something like this: "I'm sure it works because I've heard important people who did it say it does. I haven't tried it yet myself, but it works." Knowing and doing are different things.

The better approach to life, which most of us know about but don't practice too thoroughly is through Christ. Paul expressed



Romans 13:14

it in our ~~Scripture~~ in the words "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The term "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" suggests a person who puts on a garment and his appearance is determined for better or worse.

In the Movie, "It Happened on Fifth <sup>42nd</sup> Avenue," a tramp was portrayed in unusual circumstances which happened to him while he was wintering in a huge mansion on Fifth <sup>42nd</sup> Avenue, wintering there without knowledge of either owner or police. For us, today, the thing to note is that when the tramp was dressed as a tramp, he was the very picture of the typical tramp; but when he dressed in the clothing of the millionaire owner of the house (and the owner's clothing fitted him perfectly) he looked like a wealthy gentleman. Clothes certainly don't "make the man," but they can give an appearance which deceives many people.





To "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" is to put on a different appearance too, except that, unlike clothing, the appearance which He gives to a person is that of the person ~~throughout~~ as he really is all the way through; it is the real self showing.

To "put on Christ" and become the type of real self into which this new spiritual garment transforms one is not effortless, and it is not effortless to keep the garment which is Christ clean and neat upon oneself. As the work of cleaning and pressing must be done regularly to keep material clothing in attractive and presentable condition, so the one who puts on the spiritual clothing which is Christ must do regular work to keep His clean and pure presence.

Paul, in our Scripture, and in the passages which precede and follow our Scripture, gives instruction as to much of the work that must be done to keep on the clothing which is Christ.



Things which Paul says in our Scripture should be put off or done away with when we put on Christ are: the works of darkness, reveling and drunkenness, debauchery and licentiousness, quarrelling and jealousy, provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

Things Paul says to do when putting on Christ are: put on the armor of light, conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day.

~~Text about Christ and becomingly~~

No single schedule of time or activity can be made to fit all persons who would "put on Christ," who would put on the armor of light and conduct themselves becomingly as in the day. Since we must live one day at a time, it is well, though, to recognize that certain daily activities are best done if one would conduct himself becomingly as a Christian.



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Prayer, Bible reading, meditation, active living of good, earning the daily wage, giving of one's wage to some work for God, caring for one's body, caring for family, clean and wholesome recreation. Surely all of these are tasks which rightly should claim the attention of each Christian every day. To each task some time each day. For each Christian his own division of the day's hours to include all these activities.

Be honest with self and God. Strive to give no one activity too much or too little time.

In a conversation about time and money, one man recently said, "my religion is the most expensive thing I have." He didn't say this in a grudging or regretful tone. He is not rich, but is comfortably fixed. He is liked and respected. He carries not only his job well, but carries an active load in his church, being chairman of the Board of Stewards and counsellor of youth.







## The Father's Care