

BEHAVE PROPERLY

During the month of November, we will study five problem-solving doctrines on the Christian Way of Life (CWL). Each lesson will offer a problem solving doctrine for a primary hindrance to the CWL.

Our lesson text begins with this conjunctive phrase that is important to our lesson - “And this do (kai touto /asn) [**do** is not in this phrase]” (Rom.13:11a).

This conjunctive phrase leads us into the study of the following six homiletical points.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| • Wake-up | (egeiro / a.p.infin) | [purpose] | (Rom.13:11) | World of opportunities. |
| • Lay aside | (apotithemi / a.m.subj) | [volitional] | (Rom.13:12) | Works of darkness. |
| • Put on | (enduo / a.m.subj) | [volitional] | | Weapons of light. |
| • Behave properly | (peripateo / a.a.subj) | [volitional] | | Walk properly. |
| • Put on | (enduo / a.m.imp.2pl) | [command] | | Wear Lord Jesus Christ. |
| • Make | (poieo / p.m.imp.2pl) | [command] | | Wanton pleasures. |

Our lesson title comes from the NAS translation, “**Let us behave properly.**” Romans 13:13 is translated differently in the English Bible.

- KJV “Let us walk honestly.”
- Amplified “Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably.”
- NIV “Let us behave decently.”
- NAS “**Let us behave properly.**”

You can see a variety of English translations derived from these two Greek words: (peripateo/ behave or walk) and (euschemonos) [properly].

The verb peripateo was translated walk, live, and behave. **Vines say that peripateo signifies the whole rounds of activities of the individual life (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.664).**

The adverb euschemonos was translated honestly, conduct ourselves honorably, decently, and properly. Vines remarks that all of these translations are making the same point.

Note how **proper behavior** is contrasted with improper behavior in Romans 13:13-14.

- Write the improper behavior on the blank line_____.

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the importance of Christian’s properly behavior in the devil’s world.

You have heard it said that Christians are IN the world but not OF the world. Jesus mentioned this in His prayer of John 17:16 – “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” And John 17:18 – “As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.”

1. Paul associated these SIX homiletical points with the brevity of Church age time (Rom.13:11-14).

Paul said that the spiritual advancing believer’s orientation to God’s dispensation timetable should motivate him to BEHAVE PROPERLY in the Christian Way of Life (CWL). This is part of the doctrinal principle of redeeming the time (Eph.5:15-17/ every moment of every activity of every day in CWL).

What spiritual problem does Behaving Properly resolve? _____

2. In last week's lesson, we learn that redeeming the time was important

"because the days are evil" (Eph.5:15-17). We learn that it was important for the spiritual mature believer to be doctrinally oriented to his dispensation time in the plan of God (Rom.13:11).

Paul used three Greek words for the importance of the believer's orientation to dispensation **time** in the plan of God. These are important because the days are evil (1 John 5:19).

- Kairos (time) orients man to the dispensation of church age time related to human history.
- Hemera (day) orients the believer to personal time related to the plan of God.
- Hora (hour) orients the spiritual mature believer to perfect timing by application of the word of God to human experiences of life.

"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour." (Matt.25:13)

"So teach us to number our days that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom." (Ps.90:12)

"And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth." (1 Pet.1:17)

3. The spiritual advancing believer is warned to awaken from sleep or spiritual apathy in the CWL.

"And this do, knowing (oida / perf.a.ptc.nplm) the time (ton kairos) that it is already the hour (hora) for you to **awaken (egeiro/ a.p.infin)** from sleep, for now (nun) [with each passing moment] the salvation is nearer (eggus) to us than when we believed (pisteuo / a.a.ind)." (Rom.13:11)

Sleep (hupnos) is used to illustrate spiritual apathy towards God's day. Sleeping life away is related to indifference to word of God related to specific areas of carnality described in Rom.13:13.

"The night (he nux) is almost gone, the day (he hemera) is at hand (eggizo / perf.a.ind), **let us therefore lay aside** (apotithemi / a.m.subj) [volitional] the deeds of darkness and put on (enduo / a.m.subj) [volitional] the armor of light." (Rom.13:12; John 9:4-5; 12:35-36)

4. Once the spiritual believer awakens from spiritual apathy, he is instructed to do the following five things (Eph.5:14).

Where does the believer get the inner strength to behave properly? (Gal.5:16-17)

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---|--------|
| • Lay aside (apotithemi / a.m.subj) | [choice] | [night clothes] | [the works of darkness] | Put on |
| (enduo / a.m.subj) | [choice] | [day clothes] | [the weapons of light] | |
| • Behave (peripateo / a.a.subj) | [choice] | [day clothes] | [properly as in the day] | |
| • Put on (enduo / a.a.impv) | [command] | [day clothes] | [the Lord Jesus Christ] | |
| • Make (poieo / p.m.impv) | [command] | [nightclothes] | [no provisions for the flesh in regards to its lusts] | |

"For God, who said, 'light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Cor.4:6)

"That you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain." (Phil.2:15-16)

"Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light." (Eph.5:7-9) "And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them." (Eph.5:11)