

Now is salvation nearer to us. There is more light, more knowledge as to the nature and extent of home-destroying vices. The evidences are conclusive that if we give to our neighbor the protection we owe him we must do it by prompt, united, and vigorous effort. **Nearer.** The salvation is at hand, but not secure unless we awake to the duty of private, public, and incessant action.

12. Let us cast off the works of darkness. This was written to believers. Strange employment for "the children of light!" (1 Thess. 5. 5.) It must mean that we are to cast off all alliances or entanglements with dark and pernicious things. We are not to hold any relations with evil-doers which will promote their sinful employment. **The armor of light.** Even love has to fight, but not with carnal weapons (2 Cor. 10. 4). This is the armor which is "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." "Armor of light," an impressive expression which indicates the origin, spirit, power, and success of Christian methods of promoting the welfare of mankind (Eph. 6. 11-18).

13. Honestly. Paul uses the Greek for this word in its classic sense, "With grace and dignity, like a gentleman" (Aristotle, *Ethics*, N. 1. 12). It means honorably as well as justly. **Not in open vice or secret sin or selfishness.**

14. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. Having put off the evil, the surest way to put on the good is to accept him who is "full of grace and truth" (John 1. 14, 16). **Make not provision for . . . lusts.** Trifle not with the books, papers, pictures, entertainments, conversations, or company which ministers to unholy appetites or passions. Provide for the flesh as to health, strength, and nobleness, that it may minister to your redeemed and sanctified spirit (1 Thess. 5. 23).

Analytical and Biblical Outline.

The Man of God.

I. AN HONEST MAN.

Once no man anything. v. 8.

Withhold not good . . . due. Prov. 3. 27.

II. A BROTHERLY MAN.

To love one another. v. 8.

The royal law. James 2. 8.

III. A HARMLESS MAN.

Love worketh no ill. v. 10.

Charity suffereth long. 1 Cor. 13. 4-7.

IV. A THOUGHTFUL MAN.

Knowing the time. v. 11.

Watch and be sober. 1 Thess. 5. 6.

V. A TEMPERATE MAN.

Not in . . . drunkenness. v. 13.

Take heed to yourselves. Luke 21. 34.

VI. A PURE MAN.

Not in . . . wantonness. v. 13.

Whatever things are pure. Phil. 4. 8.

VII. A PEACEABLE MAN.

Not in strife and envying. v. 13.

First pure, then peaceable. James 3. 17.

VIII. A CHRISTIAN MAN.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. v. 14.

To me to live is Christ. Phil. 1. 21.

Thoughts for Young People. Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. There is a Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remember, as if it were a new thing, that he, the Christ of prophets, evangelists, and apostles, is a Fact. Not that he was, but that he is. Sure as the existence now of his universal Church; sure as the observance of the historic sacrament of his death; sure as the impossibility of Galilean or Pharisæic imagination having composed instead of photographed the portraiture of the incarnate Son; sure as is the glad verification in ten thousand blessed lives to-day of all that the Christ of Scripture undertakes to be to the soul that will take him on his own terms—so sure, across all oldest and all newest doubts, lies the present fact of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. We can put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We may use him as a mantle or dress or suit of armor wrapping us all up, defending us against all hostilities. He has in his word used almost every possible figure to teach how near he is to us—the literal partaker of our nature; the sacrifice made on our behalf; our Righteousness, "through faith in his blood;" the Head and Life-spring, to which we are united in an indescribable union, of deep, calm tide of life, spiritual and eternal, ready to circulate through our being. We can "put him on" as our panoply of light. We can put him on as the Lord, surrendering ourselves to his absolute, while most benignant, sovereignty and will. We can put him on as Jesus, clasping the truth that he, our human brother, "in all points as we are," yet divine, saves his people from their sins (Matt. 1. 21). We can put him on as Christ, our head anointed without measure by the eternal Spirit, and now sending of that same Spirit into his happy members, so that we are indeed one with him, and receive into our whole being the resources of his life.

3. It is our duty to put him on. Across all the realities of sin Paul writes this, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." Here is that by which you can be more than conquerors. Take our iniquities at the worst, this can subdue them; take our surroundings at the worst, this can emancipate us from their power. It is the Lord Jesus Christ and the putting on of him.