

even though it be legal, is theft in the sight of God. *Thou shalt not bear false witness*; the ninth commandment. To injure another by a direct falsehood, or by twisting the truth until it looks like falsehood, is a great sin. Our testimony about others should always be direct and truthful. *Thou shalt not covet*; the tenth commandment. Covetousness is an eager desire for some forbidden thing, Ex. 20:17. It often leads to theft, punishment and disgrace. If the covetous thought is not allowed a place in the heart, it cannot find expression in action. Achan saw, coveted, took, was discovered and punished, Josh. 7:21. *It is briefly comprehended*; summed up. *Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*. This is our whole duty to man, Lev. 19:18. Our neighbor is any one whom we have it in our power to help, no matter what his race, condition or creed. See the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37.

V. 10. *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour*; but, on the contrary, bestows its best upon the object loved, I. Cor. 13:4-7. *Therefore*; in consequence of all that has been just said of love. *Love is the fulfilling of the law*; for perfect love will keep all the commandments (Matt. 22:35-40), as seen in the perfect love and the perfect life of Christ. "If love were the rule in any village, the inhabitants would live like true, loving brothers and sisters, and there would be a kind of heaven below, because in heaven the law of love is universally obeyed. It is that which makes heaven, heaven."

II. Living in Light, 11-14.

V. 11. *And that*. It reads literally "and this (do)"; that is, love one another, vs. 8-10. *Knowing the time*; the time in which they were living, with its sins, sufferings, sorrows and needs. *To awake out of sleep*. It was a time for watchfulness, and not for slothful indifference, Matt. 25:1-13. *For now is our salvation nearer*; giving the reason why they should be so watchful. By "our salvation" is meant deliverance from the power of sin and from the evils of the world. *Than when we believed*; than when they first became Christians. It had been a hard struggle, but Paul encourages them to give not up, for the

prize is almost within their reach.

V. 12. *The night is far spent*; the night of trial and of disappointment. These early Christians had much to contend against in a heathen, godless city. *The day is at hand*. The day when the Gospel would triumph over heathen Rome was not far off. The day of heaven was opening before them, and Christ was coming a second time to set things right. *Cast off the works of darkness*; abandon forever all forms of sin. (See v. 13.) *Put on the armour of light*; clothing themselves with virtuous deeds as with armor, Eph. 6:11-13. "'The works of darkness' are those works which men are accustomed to commit in the dark, or which suit the dark. 'The armor of light' means those virtues and good deeds which men are not ashamed of, because they will bear to be seen." (Hodge.)

V. 13. *Let us walk honestly*; literally, "seemly," doing the right, living worthily, as followers of Christ. *As in the day*; as in the eye of the public, doing nothing that we would be ashamed for others to see or know. *Not in rioting and drunkenness*; not in the revels of the drunkard, which lead to poverty, misery, crime, destroying the purity of society, and the happiness of home, blighting hopes, wasting lives and ruining souls. The Bible is unsparing in its denunciation of intemperance, Prov. 20:1; 23:29-32; 1 Cor. 6:10. *Chambering and wantonness*; sins of unchastity, which are often the results of drunkenness. *Strife and envying*; jealous passions and hateful quarrels. Drunkenness, impurity and strife are linked together. They are not of the day, but of the night.

V. 14. *But*; in sharp contrast to the evils of v. 13. *Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*. We are to be so united to Him that He will appear in all our actions, and then we shall be clothed with Him as with a garment. *Make no provision for the flesh*; for the lower side of our nature, with its appetites, passions and earthly desires. If we entertain the unholy thought it will grow, but reject it and it will die. "We may provide for the flesh, but not for the exciting and gratifying of its lusts." Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost.