**Our Salvation is Always Near (Romans 13:11-14)**

 The Day of our Lord’s Salvation is always near.

 Today we’re going to be speaking about The Day of Salvation. Often, “The Day of the Lord”, or the image of “That Day” is used in Bible. Given that this expression has a specific meaning, it is important to understand its meaning and especially the invitation that arises from it. Therefore, today, we are going to study the image behind the word “Day”, taken from Paul’s Epistle to the Romans. We hope that our calling to a unique lifestyle will become clearer after the following study. Once again, we stress that the Day of our Lord’s Salvation is always near. Let us speak, then, about this profound invitation…

 The Day of the Lord is the Final Judgment; its imminent nature ought to make us sober and yet also encourage us. In the 13th chapter of Romans, Paul the Apostle prepares and teaches his hearers in three important sections: First, in the beginning of the chapter, he instructs the believers to be peaceful and not chaos-causers under their current political conditions. He invites them to be model citizens, loving peace and order. Second, among society, just as he instructed regarding the government at the time, the members of the church of Rome were being invited to have a lifestyle of love. In other words, a Christian was to be a person characterized by love. All the commandments of the Bible could be obeyed with one singular lifestyle; Paul was saying, “If you are a person of love, then you fulfill the Law of God.” Third, our passage gives the reason for the above two calls to the church: it is because God has not only allowed temporal governments to rule over us, but also because there is a Final Judgment in which every deed, either evil or good, will be judged. Similarly, we are called to be a people of love because God has not only commanded that we be so for the sake of peace in society, but also because there is going to be a surprise Day of Reckoning. In one word: if the temporary state of affairs in this world is not enough to convince us to have a lifestyle focused on holiness and meekness, then let the reality of the Day of the Lord, the Final Judgment, His Second Coming, sober and awaken us from our slumber.

 Augustine the church father, who was an important theologian in the Universal Church, heard these verses, and they changed his entire life-trajectory. For years, his Christian mother had been praying for him to let go of his immoral life. He was a brilliant philosopher, but he was unable to stop the cycle of constantly gratifying his fleshly desires. One day, when he was seriously thinking about God, he heard the voice of a youngster that said, “Pick up and read”. He picked up the nearest Scriptures he had, the letter to the Romans, and he read the above verses. “Not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” After that, he came to the Lord, surrendered his life to Christ, got baptized, and became one of the greatest intellectuals and defenders of the Church.

 Similarly, when a workday began in that time period, people would get up early and get their work done before the sun got too hot, because once the sun was up over them, the heat was to oppressive to continue working. For that reason, the Apostle used the same expression (related to waking up quickly) when speaking to the church in Rome.

 Since we have entered the season of Advent, while it is not too late, let us perform our works of light, put on our armor of light against the arrows of the enemy, and reflect our faith within society. Our days are in the hands of the Lord. Come and let us obey the Word of God and let us be the law-abiding, peace-loving people. Come and let us decide to be examples of peace, love and a high morality.

 You don’t know when the Lord’s Day will come. Get serious about your faith. The Day of the Lord is the Final Judgment; its imminent nature ought to make us sober and yet also encourage us. The Day of our Lord’s Salvation is always near.

 It is time to wake up; it is time to put on Christ. It is time to put aside the works of darkness (once and for all); it is time to get ready for the arrival of Jesus Christ.

 May the Lord bless you all. Amen.