

# Romans 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

## Analysis

**The night is far spent, the day is at hand**—Hē nyx proekopsen, hē de hēmera ēngiken (ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν). Proekopsen (has advanced/progressed) uses perfect tense—night has moved forward, its end approaching. Hēmera ēngiken (the day has drawn near) uses engizō, same verb John the Baptist and Jesus used: 'the kingdom has drawn near' (Matthew 3:2, 4:17). Nyx (night) symbolizes the present evil age (Ephesians 5:8); hēmera (day) symbolizes Christ's return and the age to come.

**Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light**—Apothōmetha oun ta erga tou skotous, endysōmetha de ta hopla tou phōtos (ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκοτους, ἐνδυσώμεθα δὲ τὰ ὅπλα τοῦ φωτός). Apotithēmi (cast off) is used for removing dirty clothes (Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:8). Endyō (put on) indicates clothing oneself. Hopla (armor) suggests spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-17). Skotous (darkness) represents sin; phōtos (light) represents righteousness, truth, Christ Himself (John 8:12).

## Historical Context

Paul's night/day metaphor was vivid for first-century believers awaiting Christ's return. Early Christians met before dawn for worship, symbolically enacting transition from darkness to light. This language of 'putting off/on' echoes baptismal imagery—old self crucified, new self raised (Romans 6:3-4). The church fathers

used this text to call believers to moral transformation befitting their eschatological identity. Augustine's conversion turned on Romans 13:13-14—'put on the Lord Jesus Christ'—showing the text's transformative power.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What specific 'works of darkness' (<em>erga tou skotous</em>) do you need to 'cast off' in light of Christ's nearness?
2. How does 'putting on the armor of light' (<em>hopla tou phōtos</em>) differ from moral willpower or behavioral modification?
3. What does it mean practically to live as those in the 'day' while still physically in the 'night'—already-but-not-yet ethics?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡ G3588	νύξ G3571	προέκοψεν G4298	ἡ G3588	δὲ G1161	ἡμέρα G2250	ἤγγικεν G1448	ἀποθώμεθα G659
The night		is far spent			the day	is at hand	cast off
οὖν G3767	τὰ G3588	ἔργα G2041	τοῦ G3588	σκότους G4655	καί G2532	ἐνδυσώμεθα G1746	τὰ G3588
therefore		the works		of darkness	and	let us put on	
ὅπλα G3696	τοῦ G3588	φωτός G5457					
the armour		of light					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 5:11** (Darkness): And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

**2 Corinthians 6:7** (Parallel theme): By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

**James 1:21** (Parallel theme): Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

**Isaiah 30:22** (Parallel theme): Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

**Ephesians 4:22** (Parallel theme): That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

**Romans 13:14** (Parallel theme): But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

**Song of Solomon 2:17**: Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

**Revelation 22:10** (Parallel theme): And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

**Isaiah 2:20** (Parallel theme): In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

**1 Peter 2:1** (Parallel theme): Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,