

Romans 13:8-14

The Common English Bible

7So pay everyone what you owe them. Pay the taxes you owe, pay the duties you are charged, give respect to those you should respect, and honor those you should honor.

8Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. **9**The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself. **10**Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law. **11**As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. **12**The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. **13**Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. **14**Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 149

The Common English Bible

1Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song; sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!

2Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion's children rejoice in their king! **3**Let them praise God's name with dance; let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!

4Because the LORD is pleased with his people, God will beautify the poor with saving help.

5Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.

6Let the high praises of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, **7**to get revenge against the nations and punishment on the peoples, **8**binding their rulers in chains and their officials in iron shackles, **9**achieving the justice written against them.

**That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.
Praise the LORD!**

Matthew 18:15-20

The Common English Bible

15“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. **16**But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. **17**But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. **18**I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. **19**Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. **20**For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them.”