Intro:

A) Context of Romans with our text
1) Chapters 1-11, great doctrines of theology
   1-3, Righteousness needed (sin)
   3-5, Justification (the most precious!)
   6-8, Our position in Christ
   9-11, God’s authority and Israel’s election
   12, Righteousness practiced
2) Chapter 13 breaks down easily
   • Our righteousness is seen in our attitude to government (Vs. 1-6)
   • Our righteousness is seen in love (Vs. 8-14)

B) Paul, last week informed us of our public debt
1) Obey the law
2) Pay your taxes
3) Pray

C) In our text today he talks about our private debt
1) He begins by saying “owe no man anything”
   • Some great men (Charles Spurgeon and Hudson Taylor) viewed this as admonition to not have debt
   • Yet the Bible does not forbid borrowing or legal transactions involving interest
   • The Bible consistently gives caution in borrowing
   • The Bible forbids charging high interest, robbing the brethren and failing to pay debt
2) Paul had already emphasized to pay your taxes (tributes)
3) He continues with the one debt every Christian must pay, “to love one another.”
   • The debt of “love” to others every day

D) Three ways to show forth God’s righteousness in us is seen in this passage
1) Paul writes them as “Christian obligations”
I. We Are Obligated to Love (Vs. 8)

A) Love’s debt
1) Love touches a man’s conscious and makes him eager to live beyond reproach
   • Especially in the area of money
   • Great example is Zacchaeus
2) “One no man anything”
   • Clearly goes beyond a discussion of money
   • It is saying “to love one another” is a debt that is never complete or fulfilled
3) Matthew, Peter and Jesus discuss how often to forgive
   • Peter suggested 7 times?
   • Jesus responds, “to infinity”

B) Love’s Duty (Vs. 9)
1) Loving God fulfills the law
   • First part of the law deals with your relationship to God
   • This part deals with your relationship with your fellow man
2) Our Lord reduces the Ten Commandments to two
   • Loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength
   • Loving our neighbor as ourselves

C) Love’s Desire (Vs. 10)
1) Being “under grace” instead of the law does not change our obligation to others
   • I’m concerned about the well being of men because of my actions
   • I’m concerned about pleasing God with my actions
2) The Jewish economy was built around the law
   • It was all external, what man could see
   • God was all about “the heart”
3) Augustine famously said, “Love God and do what you like. If love is the motivation in your heart and a person’s life is dominated by “love for God,” that person needs no other law!”

II. We Are Obligated to Look (Vs. 11-14)
✓ The emphasis appears to be in relationship with the coming of our Lord
1) If you hold to an imminent return of our Lord
   • The Bible gives 3 admonitions

A) Wake up
   • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
   • As a saved man I can so please Him and I'm not ashamed when He comes again

B) Clean Up
   • 1 John 2:28-29 “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”

C) Grow Up
   • Romans 13:14 (our text) “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

III. We Are Obligated to Leave (Vs. 12-14)
   (Six sins Paul lists as being typical of a Christless life)

A) Revelry (komos)
   1) Described as undignified nuisance to
others
• Careless disregard toward someone else
2) Words like rout and riot come from this root

B) Drunkenness (methe)
1) Greeks were especially disgusted with drunkenness
   • Their water was impure
   • Often, very diluted wine was their water source, even for children
2) Let us not forget, God still condemns drunkenness

C) Immorality (koite)
1) Word used here literally means “bed”
   • Paul is condemning the “forbidden bed”
2) We as believers should value fidelity

D) Shamelessness (aselgeia)
1) Behavior which completely lacks moral restraint
   • Sensuality, wantonness, licentiousness, debauchery, immoral, lust
   • These are words used in different Bible translations to describe this word
2) Sins in a man’s life that would make you think he didn’t believe in God

E) Contention (eris)
1) Uncontrolled and unholy contention
2) The last two chapters have emphasized more than ever to me how God desires His people to get along
   • If there is any way possible under the son, it must be!

F) Envy (zelos)
1) The green-eyed monster known as envy!
   • We can’t be this way!
2) Envy permeated our society
   • People are less and less content

Conclusion:
A) How do I do this?
1) How do I love?
2) How do I live being ready?
3) How do I rid my life of what God despises?

B) Read (Vs.14) “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”
1) Get up tomorrow morning with Him
   • Read
   • Pray
2) “Put on” = clothe yourself
   • Do not even “think about” what will make your flesh happy
   • It will never be satisfied
3) But Jesus sure does satisfy

Sources:
1) Romans, A Bible Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition, Clarence Bence
2) The Bible Exposition Commentary,
Warren Weirsbe

3) *The Letter to the Romans*, William Barclay

4) *Exploring Romans*, John Phillips