

In our text for today, Saint Paul reminds us that time is moving toward a greater purpose than we can see. We cannot know the length of our days nor the time that is allocated to the human race. It's pure hubris to think that we can know all things, including the great consummation of God's hidden purposes. Yet, Paul reminds us that the darkness of this world will give way to light and that day may be sooner than we imagine. Who can know? What we can trust is that God is in all of our days, one-by-one; and all of them have a purpose that is part of a larger mystery of God's own design.

And so we wait, with great expectancy; the expectancy of a child who waits upon Christmas day or the expectancy of a pregnant mother, or the expectancy of a beleaguered people of Aleppo waiting for the last bomb to drop, or the expectancy a patient waiting for the fever to break. Waiting is not something many of us do well. But it may help us to know that St. Paul is not speaking of a passive waiting. While we are waiting for the dawn of light that consumes the darkness, St. Paul encourages us to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. And to make unmistakably clear what he is urging, he repeats: put on the Lord Jesus.

How? Surely this is a conscious act of prayer and practice that is within the reach of each of us. Daily, as you dress in the morning – imagine yourself putting on an armor of light, shielded by the very presence of Christ – as you walk into the day; a day that may well be filled with darkness. You have a new identity: put on Jesus, as you would put on new clothes. This is possible by the grace of God. ***Open your life to this grace. Dress well.***