

# THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*<sup>®</sup>

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. <sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.  
MATTHEW 7:13-14

**es-sen-tials** (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

## *The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans*

*A BIBLE STUDY*

### SESSION FOURTEEN

*Romans 13:8-13:14*

*Questions for Session Fourteen*

1. Paul lays out two basic ideas in these verses for session fourteen. What are the two concepts he puts forth, and in what order does he present these? How do these two concepts direct our lives here in the twenty-first century?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Paul mean in v. 8a? What does *owing another person* mean to us nearly two thousand years later? What are the implications of this for the way we live out our lives and the way we live out our faith?

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3. How does Paul follow up v. 8a? When we examine the concept of loving one another, how do we understand that we owe someone something? What has this got to do with fulfilling the law?
  
4. Why did Paul pick the four “you shalt nots” in v. 9? Where did he get these four statements? Examine Exodus 20? Identify the commandments that are offensive to God and the ones that are offensive to other humans and to God.
  
5. How does Paul sum up what we have studied in v. 9? Explain how this simplified summation would work in your life. Why can it be contained in one statement?
  
6. V. 10 explains why Christ came. Who is your neighbor? Describe the connection between our individual and collective acts of loving other persons. How does that fulfill the law?

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7. Explain the concept of sleep, as Paul explains it in v. 11. Why does Paul refer to the time being short? How are we to wake up? To whom is he addressing this idea?
8. How does Paul use the metaphor of light and darkness to describe the choices we must make to fulfill our end of the bargain, as this relates to God's promise? What are we to do? What does it mean to *put on the LORD, Jesus Christ*? What does Paul mean when he teaches that we should make no plans *to satisfy the fleshly desires*?

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