

Road Trip Devotion - Romans 13:11-14

by Tony Kafka, Growth Ministries Pastor

“This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.” (Romans 13:11-14; NLT)

We moved to Goodland, Kansas in 1988. Goodland High School had a quarterback who was to become well known in Nebraska – Brook Berringer. Brook is the player featured with Tom Osborne on the statue in front of Nebraska's North Stadium entrance. His 1994 performance against the University of Colorado was his miracle game. Country artist Sawyer Brown wrote "The Nebraska Song" in honor of Brook, who died in a plane crash on NFL draft day 1996.

Step back with me to Brook’s senior year in high school. Goodland made it into the state football playoffs. Coach Osborne watched him in a game and also showed up to watch Brook play basketball. The town was abuzz with excitement. Brooke signed for the University of Nebraska. After his signing, I began to notice a difference in Brook. He wasn’t behaving like a high school senior as football season ended. Instead, being committed to Nebraska, he began to workout even harder. It was like he was already trying to live up to his new coach’s expectations and training regimen. When others left basketball practice, Brook would then complete his workout as prescribed by the Coach (you know who). Why this behavior? He was already living like he was on his new team – even though it was some time before that would actually happen. And did he stop working hard to be a part of his high school team? No! Instead he was working harder to contribute to his current team while becoming a part of his new team.

Reread today’s verses with this viewpoint. We are to continue to be a light in our current world, while “time is running out” and we will soon arrive at “the day of salvation” – the end of our days here on earth. We have signed on with a new life and a new coach. We put on “the armor of light” and “the Lord Jesus” as we look forward to eternity with him. We put off the usual lifestyle of those who have no hope to get beyond this life. Instead, we prepare for the next. And that preparation – training to be like Jesus – makes us better contributors to solutions for this world’s problems. We have already passed from death into life. Let’s work hard to contribute to our current team (this world) while training as a part of our new team.