"GOD'S WAKE-UP CALL"

Romans 13:11-14
11-1-2020

INTRODUCTION:

***God's people must wake up!**
Are you spiritually awake?

I. <u>WHEN</u> Should You Wake Up? (v. 11a)
(The <u>Timing</u> of God's Wake-Up Call - "Now!")

II. <u>WHY</u> Should You Wake Up? (v. 11b-12a)
(The <u>Reason</u> for God's Wake-Up Call - The Coming of Christ)

III. <u>HOW</u> Should You Wake Up? (v. 12b - 14)
(The <u>Result</u> of God's Wake-Up Call - A Change of Clothing)

A. Don't dress in the <u>old rags</u>

B. Rather, put on the <u>new garment</u>

1. "Put on the armour of light"

2. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ"

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INTRODUCTION:

On average, people generally spend one-third of their life doing nothing but sleeping (generally, any more sleep than eight hours is laziness).

Physical laziness is sin (Prov. 6).

When we are asleep, we are <u>insensitive</u> (we don't consciously hear, see, feel, or know what is going on in the world around us). Our reflexes are inhibited.

When we are asleep --
We can't see straight
We can't grip tight
We can't walk right

Those are the effects of physical sleep; but what happens when God's people are spiritually asleep?

Why no revival today? (Why the coldness in the matters of brotherly love, evangelism, prayer?)

Is it because of liberalism? NO!

Is it because of the New Age Movement? NO!

Is it because we are "outnumbered"? NO!

It is because many of God's people are <u>fast asleep</u>.

The church in America is as a "sleeping giant."

The devil has taken a needle filled with the "anesthesia of worldliness" and has effectively

stuck it into the believer's arm.

And there we lie, helpless, harmless, and hopeless. We may dream much, but we do little.

***God's people must wake up!**

Are you spiritually awake?

I. WHEN Should You Wake Up? (v. 11a)
(The Timing of God's Wake-Up Call - "Now!")

"And that" = the word "that" points to the command to love (vv 8 - 10).

God is saying, "And this do, knowing the time." We should be more conscious of our debt to love knowing that our time to pay this debt is short.

(Cp. Heb. 10:24-25 - "Provoke unto love . . . and so much the more as ye see the day approaching")

"The time" = the word time points to a "season" or specific "point of time."

Three "time" words in the Bible:

1. "Aion" = an age of time

2. "Kronos" = a chronological period of time

*3. "Kairos" = a point of time

"High time" - the hour

Just as there was not a moment to lose to come to Christ for salvation (II Cor. 6:1-2), there is no time to wait to awake to righteousness.

"To awake" = lit. to be raised (passive)

It is God who is trying to wake you up. He is willing and able to lift you out of your spiritual slumber if you will let Him!

II. <u>WHY</u> Should You Wake Up? (v. 11b-12a)
(The <u>Reason</u> for God's Wake-Up Call - The Coming of Christ)

V. 11

"Now is our salvation nearer (closer) . . ." -
Salvation = deliverance

The Bible teaches <u>three tenses</u> of salvation for the believer (SEE I Pet. 1:1-5):

1. <u>Past</u> (v. 2a) (a life delivered from sin's <u>penalty</u>)

    a. Election (cp. Eph. 1;3-6)
    b. Conversion - "setting apart of the Holy Spirit" (cp. Eph. 2:8-9; *Titus 3:5)

2. <u>Present</u> (v. 2b) (a life delivered from sin's <u>power</u>)

    a. Obedience
    b. "Sprinkling of the blood" - daily cleansing (I Jn. 1:9) (cp. Phil. 2:12-13)

3. <u>Future</u> (v. 3-5) (a life delivered from sin's <u>presence)</u>

    This future tense of our salvation is known as "glorification"

cp. Rom. 8:30

Our salvation is our deliverance prior to the outpouring of God's wrath -

I Thes. 1:10 - "And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

I Thes. 5:9 - "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Our salvation" - Paul is including himself

The believer is closer to death, now than when first saved. There is a deliverance that occurs at death (Phil. 1:19-22).

The "salvation" spoken of in verse 11, refers to "the day" which is "at hand" in verse 12.

The phrase "the day" points to the "Rapture" - specifically called "the day of Christ" - II Thes. 2:2; I Cor. 1:8 - "Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

[SEE Heb. 10:25 - Assemble in church! . . . "And so much the more as ye see the day approaching" (cp. Heb. 10:37)]

--Seeing Jesus "face to face" (I Cor. 13:12) is closer now than when we first believed.

--Receiving a glorified body is closer now than when we first believed (I Cor. 15:50ff)

--Stepping onto Heaven's shore is closer now than when we first believed.

V. 12

"The night is far spent" = the night (of this present evil age) is nearly over; it's almost gone!

"Night" =- typifies the moral and spiritual darkness of the times in which we live (EX: "Rulers of darkness" Eph. 6:12).

Praise God, it's almost gone forever!

As Peter echoes, "The end of all things is at hand" (I Pet. 4:7).

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short" (I Cor. 7:29)

Paul said to the "carnal Corinthians": And they that use this world, as not abusing it, for the fashion of this world passeth away" (I Cor. 7:31).

John said, "Love not the world. . . and the world passeth away (present tense)" (I Jn. 2:17).

The Bible teaches that there will be a greater tendency to "sleep" as the end of this age and the return of Christ draws near.

1. NOTE: The constant warning to stay awake prior to Christ's coming (Mt. 24:36-44)

   "If therefore thou shalt not watch (stay awake), I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Rev. 3:3).

2. SEE: Parable of the 10 Virgins - Mt. 25:1-13

   Mark 13:35-37 - "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

   Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

   We must wake up b/c the coming of Christ is at hand!

III. HOW Should You Wake Up? (v. 12b - 14)
(The Result of God's Wake-Up Call - A Change of Clothing)

When someone is spiritually awake, how will they look? (What will their clothing look like?)

A. Don't dress in the <u>old rags</u>

V. 12

"Cast off" = Discard; throw away; like filthy clothes, we should remove and discard the filth of this present darkness, which at one time enveloped our lives. Throw away anything that you could classify as a "work of darkness."

Examples:
--Pornography (and any ungodly reading material)
--X & R rated videos
--Rock and rap music (tapes, records, videos)
--drugs, alcohol
--any form of crime or corruption
--certain TV programs

Ask yourself, "Is what I am involved in 'a work of darkness'?"

EX: of discarding the filth of the past life -
SEE: Acts 19:17-20

"Walk honestly" - conduct your life decently; live appropriately as "in the day." Our spiritual attire should be suited for living in the "<u>light</u>" , in the "<u>day</u>"

V. 13

Paul lists: Three sets of sins that come in pairs -

1) rioting and drunkenness (alcohol)

2) chambering and wantonness (sex)

3) strife and envying (jealousy)

NOTE: The word order foes from <u>effect</u> to the <u>cause</u>. EX: rioting is the effect of drunkenness; chambering the result of wantonness; and strife is the end product of envying.

"Rioting" = rowdy partying; late night carousing.

The word was used of a "nocturnal, riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who paraded through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity. Then it was used generally of feasts and drinking parties that were protracted till late at night and indulged in revelry (Reinecker, citing Thayer's Greek Lexicon).

"Chambering" - a "chamber" is an old English expression for a "bedroom."

Lit. Greek = beds ("koitais" - plural for bed or sex - EX: Heb. 13:4)

> God is forbidding illicit sexual relationships, unlawful acts of intercourse. God is addressing the age-old enslaving sin of pagan society which involves the unfulfilled, unrestrained, and unsatisfied sexual lust (I.E. having sex with one partner one night and someone else the next, etc.)

"Wantonness" = someone who lives to gratify sensual "wants."

The word refers to unrestrained, animal-like greedy passions; someone who selfishly indulges in sexual promiscuity and feels no shame about it; someone who knows no limit or restrain to his perverted thoughts and actions.

God's people, however, are to know how to restrain themselves from such behavior.

READ I Thes. 4:3-8. A believer "should know how to possess (control) his vessel (body)"

"Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." (I Cor. 15:34)

B. Rather, put on the new garment

V. 12

"Cast off . . . put on" - the Christian life involves both positives and negatives. It's not merely casting off the old, it is putting on the new (Eph. 4:22-24).

It's not merely a refusal to yield yourself to sin, but is a decision to yield yourself to God (Rom. 6:11-13).

1. "Put on the armour of light"

"Put on" - middle voice; you must do it - no one can do it for you.

"Armour of light" - not speaking about electric clothing that lights you up when you turn on a switch; but rather a spiritual armour that is characterized by "light."

Armour describes the clothing of a warrior who is fighting darkness, ready for conflict and battle (SEE Eph. 6:11-17)

2. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ"

V. 14

Christ must not only be <u>in</u> our lives (Col. 1:27); but He should also be <u>on</u> our lives.

That is, we should radiate Christ; we should reflect Christ by the way we live. When people observe the way we live, they should get a glimpse of Christ. We are called "Christians" - little Christs or Christ-like-ones.

We should "follow in His steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

When confronted with a choice in life, we should ask ourselves "What would Jesus do?"

When we come to a fork in life's road, we should ask ourselves, "Where would Jesus go?"

"Make not provision for the flesh" = do not <u>make preparations</u> so as to gratify the lustful appetites of the flesh (I Pet. 2:11 - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.")

We should not only avoid participating in sin, but we should go a step further and avoid providing the occasion for sin.

In other words, don't put yourself in (or allow yourself to be put into) a situation where temptation might exist.

EX:
--If your problem (weakness) was drinking, don't go into bars or keep alcohol at home.

--If your problem was pornography, don't go near certain newsstands (and cancel cable TV)

--If your problem is overeating, avoid the bakery

--If your problem was drugs, avoid those situations that provoked the urge.

"Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way <u>far</u> from her, and come <u>not nigh</u> the door of her house" (Prov. 5:7-8).

EX: Joseph (Gen. 39:10 - "And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.").

The "sleepy" simpleton does not avoid the trap, but falls right into it (Prov. 7:7-9).

CONCLUSION:

SEE Eph. 5:8-16 (*v. 14, 16)

It's time to wake up!

--To wipe the slumber out of our eyes, and to really see what is going on these days.

--To get the blood flowing to our spiritual muscles so that we can accomplish the great task that God has for us.

Is God shaking your bed today?

Did the divine alarm clock go off in your ears today?

Is God shouting, "Get up! Get up!"

"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).