TITLE: **WAKE UP!**
TEXT: **ROMANS 13:8-14**

INTRO: Illus. of how I hate getting up out of sleep.

Eph. 5:15-16 - "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, Redeeming the time because the days are evil."

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

Salvation is in three tenses:
Past - We <u>have been</u> saved (positionally)
Present - We <u>are being</u> saved (practically)
Future - We <u>will be</u> saved (permanently)

This verse is looking at salvation from its conclusion - <u>Christ's return</u>! (cp. v. 12 - "The day [of the Lord] is at hand.")

A bride getting married will do her best to look perfect for her bridegroom. Are you ready for Jesus? How do you look?

"The Day of the Lord is at hand" (cp. Phil. 4:5, Ja. 5:8, I Pet. 4:7, Rev. 22:10-12, 20).

We are living in the last days. (Acts 2:17, II Tim. 3:1, I Pet.1:20, I Jn. 2:18).

V. 11 - "Sleep" = hypnos (from which we get our Eng. word hypnosis)

When we are asleep we are <u>insensitive</u>! (we don't hear, see, feel, know, etc. what is going on in the world around us). ILLUS: how sound I sleep.

In context, God is calling on us to wake up spiritually because we have become insensitive toward 1) our neighbor (v. 8-10 - we must love); and toward 2) sin (v. 12-14 - we must be pure)

PROP: BECAUSE OF THE HOUR, <u>WE MUST WAKE UP</u>! (V. 11)

I. **IT'S TIME TO <u>GO TO WORK</u>** (for the Lord) (v. 8-10)
(Love others for the Lord's sake)

A. WE HAVE A <u>DEBT TO PAY</u> (V. 8)
(We owe our love to others)

Owe no man = be indebted to no one.

(Note: previous context of paying taxes - v. 6-7)

This verse is why I don't like credit cards.
This verse is why I don't like taking loans.

The Bible is against charging exuberant interest to others.

When you are in debt, you are a slave.

We are never to be slaves to anything except Christ.

"Love" = - to give to meet a need, even though the recipient is unworthy.

"For God so loved . . . that He gave." (jn. 3:16)

"But God commendeth his love . . . while we were yet sinners." (Ro. 5:8)

Love is an <u>obligation</u>. We have no choice in the matter.

One person slips into eternity every breath you take (1981 statistic).

1) We have a debt to pay to the lost
Rom. 1:14 - "I am debtor, both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise."

2) We have a debt to pay to the saved
Jn. 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

B. WE HAVE A <u>DUTY TO FULFILL</u> (V. 9-10)
(We are commanded to love others)

Lev. 19:18 - "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

READ Mt. 22:37-40.

To those who think they have kept the law of God and hence have earned salvation, I ask: "Have you really love <u>everyone</u> (as you love yourself) everyday of your life?

"Briefly comprehended" = summarized; summed up

NOTE: God never commands us to love ourselves (contrary to some "contemporary" beliefs")

This love is assumed; it comes natural. "For no man ever hated his own flesh . . ." (Eph. 5)

Love will never do anything that is wrong, bad, or sinful to anyone else (EX. People who live together, but do not marry do not really love each other.

II. IT'S TIME TO CHANGE OUR WARDROBE (V. 12-14)

(Be pure for the Lord's save)

Put off and put on (Eph. 4:22-24)

A. THROW OUT THE OLD OUTFITS
(Get out of the darkness - sinful lifestyle)

"The night is far spent" = the night has advanced; is almost gone.

This age of darkness is ready to end! The Light (Jesus) is coming back.

When Christ came, He was the light of the world. See Jn. 1:4-9.

Jn. 12:35-36 - "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."

"Cast off" = put away from yourself (like taking off ruined clothes and throwing them out)

What many believers do is keep the old stuff handy just in case you want to go back (ILLUS: saving old records)

God says throw that old garbage out!

Turn to ACTS 19:17-20

B. PUT ON THE NEW UNIFORM
(Get into the light - Christ-like lifestyle)

"Armour" = "weapons" of light

There are offensive and defensive weapons (SEE Eph. 6)

Our problem is - we are sound asleep. We are not dressed and ready for action.

"Honestly" = lit. "good appearance" - becomingly, decently, properly.

When we are living right, we have nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of. The next time you question a practice of yours, ask yourself, "Would I be ashamed to do this in broad day light for all to see?" "Men love darkness rather than light. . ."

The sins mentioned primarily take place at night -

"Rioting" = carousing; used of wild drinking parties
"Chambering" = lit. "beds" - a ref. to sexual immorality
"Wantonness" = one who constantly lives to get his <u>wants</u> met; he lives in shameless self-indulgence, with no restraints

Gal. 3:27 - "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

This describes God's work of spiritually uniting us to Christ at salvation. At that time we clothed ourselves with Christ and were not ashamed to be identified (associated) with Him (ILLUS: dressing up for a costume party - we portray the person [image] we are dressed up as).

We ought to portray Christ to the world! Don't be ashamed! Wake up and wipe the sleep out of your eyes and <u>radiate Christ</u>! Let Him shine through your life!

"Make not provision" = make no forethought about satisfying your flesh.

The way to not satisfy your fleshly lusts is to not think in advance how you will do it.

Change your thinking! This can only happen if you <u>wake up</u> out of your dream world and decide, "I am going to live in the Spirit." "I am sick of living for myself."

CONCLU: "Awake" = <u>be raised</u> (Passive verb)

We can't wake up ourselves - God must do it!

Will you let Him?

Or will you say," Don't bother me, I'm sleeping"

We can't afford to be lazy, apathetic and lethargic. ("Go to the ant, thou sluggard")

These are days of opportunity!

There is much to be done!

Why aren't things being done on a great scale by Christians today?

It must be because of liberalism -- NO!
It must be because of sin in the world __ NO!
It must be because of opposition -- NO!
It must be because we are outnumbered -- NO!

It is because Christians are <u>fast asleep</u>.

TITLE: **WAKE UP!**
Text: Romans 13:8-14

Proposition: **BECAUSE OF THE HOUR, <u>WE MUST WAKE UP</u>!** (v.11)

I. **ITS TIME TO <u>GO TO WORK</u>** (FOR THE LORD) (v.8-10)
(LOVE OTHERS FOR THE LORD'S SAKE)

A. WE HAVE A <u>DEBT TO PAY</u> (v.8)
(We owe our love to others)

B. WE HAVE A <u>DUTY TO FULFILL</u> (v.9-10)
(We are commanded to love others - Lev.19:18)

II. **ITS TIME TO <u>CHANGE OUR WARDROBE</u>** (v.12-14)
(BE PURE FOR THE LORD'S SAKE)

A. <u>THROW OUT</u> THE OLD OUTFITS
(Get out of the darkness - sinful lifestyle)

B. PUT ON THE NEW UNIFORM
(Get into the light - Christ-like lifestyle)

CONCLUSION: Its time to wake up out of laziness, sin, apathy, selfishness, carelessness...