

## **Wake Up**

### **Romans 13:11-14**

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts

Have you ever over slept and woke up in shock realizing that you are going to be late?

Don't you hate that when it happens?

Well there are a lot of Christians that have over slept.

They have gone to sleep and they are missing what it is that God put them there for.

It is a shame that the world is going to hell and many Christians are like Jonah in the ship, they are fast asleep.

Well Paul has a word for those people in our scripture today.

- I. That now it is high time to awake out of sleep;
  - A. It seems easy to fall asleep while we are here in this world.
    1. We get wrapped up in our own business and forget why we are here.
    2. That is why when you look at the lives of people it is not easy to tell Christians from non-Christians.
      - a. 1 Corinthians 15:34 (NKJV) 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.
    3. They both seem to be occupied with the same goals in life.
    4. They seem so similar in most ways.
    5. The only difference is that Christians go to church once in a while.
    6. But worst of all they think almost the same.
    7. 1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
  - B. It is as though Christians have been lulled asleep on a dangerous island.
    1. We have forgotten that we are a foreigner here.

2. We have forgotten that the whole system of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not in agreement with the Father but is of the world.
  - a. 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.
3. We have forgotten that friendship with the world is enmity with God.
  - a. James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
4. We have forgotten that we are invaders here sent to persuade the unbeliever.
  - a. 2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
5. We have forgotten that this is the place where our Savior was put to death and that they would do the same to us if they could.
  - a. John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

II. For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

A. The end is nearer than before.

1. Whether we are talking about the end of our lives or the end of time.
2. Luke 21:28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."
3. 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, . . . For the form of this world is passing away.
4. 1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

B. Paul obviously is speaking about the completion of salvation. He is addressing Christians, those who already had believed and been converted. The salvation that is becoming nearer refers to the future and final dimension of redemption, namely, glorification. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 259.*

1. Romans 8:23 (NKJV) 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.**

2. Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV) 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
3. James 5:7-8 (NKJV) 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
4. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
5. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV) 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

C. We should not be relaxing but doing more.

1. More love to fellow believers.
  - a. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
  - b. 1 Peter 4:7-8 (NKJV) 7 **But the end of all things is at hand;** therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
2. More love for the lost.
3. More proclaiming the gospel.
4. More service to our King.

D. For there is a final day approaching when we can no longer to do those things.

1. And then it will be sealed up.
  - a. Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.
2. The ledgers will be closed.
3. No more deposits or withdrawals.

- E. We are looking for something new, something better, something perfect.
  - 1. 2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

### III. The night is far spent, the day is a hand. V-12

- A. Paul's declaration that the night is almost gone, and the day is at hand means that man's time of spiritual unbelief, rebellion, and sin is about to end and God's time of judgment, glory, and righteousness is about to begin. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 261.*
- B. Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.
- C. Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
- D. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8 (NKJV) 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- E. James 5:8 (NKJV) 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- F. Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- G. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8 (NKJV) 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Now, I gather that he means that many Christians are in a sleepy state with reference to the law of love, with reference to their obligations to others. Beloved friends, true godliness makes a man

look to himself. It commences by convincing him of his own sin, and by leading him personally to lay hold on Christ by faith that in his blood he may find salvation. It then makes the man feel his personal obligations and his individual responsibilities. It sets him free from many of the yokes with which his fellow men would load him, and bids him obey his own conscience before his God, to be a law unto himself and to stand and walk as before the Most High, judging righteous judgment as to the Lord's will, and not basely bending to evil at the advice and persuasion of other men. Spurgeon

Suggestions:

Be sure to pray every day.

Read your Bible.

Study your Bible.

Get involved in a Sunday School class.

Pass out Christian material.

Such as devotional books.

Or Bibles and Testaments.

You can give copies of messages that you liked.