

Wake Up!

Rom 13:11-14

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Introduction:

1. Early one Saturday morning Henry was talking to a friend named Tom. Tom worked 75 hours per week and did not get to spend much time with his wife and daughters. Henry said, "Let me tell you something Tom that has helped me keep time in perspective." That is when Henry started to explain his theory of 1000 marbles. Henry continued, "You see, I sat down and did some arithmetic. Since the average person lives to 75 I figured that the average person has about 3900 Saturdays in his entire life time. I was already 55 yrs old by this time and I realized that I had only about 1000 Saturdays left to enjoy before I made it to 75. So I went to the toy store and bought all their marbles and I visited two more toy stores till I came up with 1000 marbles. I put them in a large clear container in the corner of my office in the basement and every Saturday since then I take one marble out and throw it away. I found that by watching the marbles in the container diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time on earth slowly run out to help get your priorities straight.

Now let me tell you something before I go and take my lovely wife out to breakfast. This morning I took the last marble out of the container and threw it away. I figure that if I make it till next Saturday then I have been given some extra time. The conversation ended.

Tom went and woke his wife up and said, “C’mon honey, I’m taking you and the kids out to breakfast this morning.

“What brought this on?” she asked with a surprised smile.

“Nothing special, it’s just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. By the way, I want to stop at a toy store while we’re out I need to get some marbles.

2. Time changes through the years of one’s life. Someone wrote, “What Happened to Time?”

When I was a child I laughed and wept, time crept.

When I was a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked.

When I became a man, time ran.

And later, as older I grew, time flew.

Soon I shall find while traveling on, time gone. - Source unknown

3. The prospect of the Lord’s near return should be a great incentive to holy living - 1jn 3:3

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4. Paul here tells us six important reminders we need to know and do
 - a. At any moment Lord may return in glory
 - b. We may not have much more time left on earth
5. In light of those facts, what we are going to do we need to do now
6. And yet it seems that the majority of professing Christians in our churches are fast asleep.

I. WAKE UP - VS 11

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

- When someone is not “with it” his friend might say, “Wake up and smell the coffee.”
 1. Many believers are spiritually asleep
 - a) *The sleep here is a lazy, lethargic Christian life*
 - b) *It is spiritual apathy and indifference*
 - c) *These people go with the flow*
 - d) *1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*
 - e) *Eph 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*
 2. As we see these things happening in our own time we need to be watching for our Lord to return

Mt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
 3. Remember what the disciples were doing in the garden of Gethsemane while Jesus was praying - they slept
 4. A 77 year old man in Palm Harbor, FL is a sleepwalker. One night James Currens sleepwalked right out of his house, down an embankment. He didn't wake up until he was in a pond. A neighbor heard him calling for help at 5 am and police found Mr. Currens fighting off alligators with his cane.

5. Paul is saying here that when Jesus returns don't be caught off-guard.
Don't be caught sleeping

Wake Up....

ii. WISE UP - VS 11

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

1. We need an awareness and a discernment of the times
2. Believers in all ages have looked eagerly for the return of the Lord in their lifetimes
 - a) *In our time we have seen Israel reborn*
 - b) *We see the rise of Russia and her leaning toward the Arab cause*
 - c) *We see the drawing together of the European powers to form the European Union*
3. Every believer needs to be a person of discernment
4. Sadly the world has infiltrated churches and discernment is at an all time low
5. Somebody said that the devil could fold back his horns, tuck his tail into his pants and join the average church
6. Discernment allows us to know the difference between right and wrong and between the good and the best and it enables us to choose the right and the best

Wise Up...

iii. LOOK UP - VS 11

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

1. Salvation in the NT can be viewed from three tenses
 - a) *In the past we were saved from the penalty of sin*

- b) *In the present we are being saved from the power of sin*
 - c) *In the future we will be saved from the presence of sin*
2. This last viewpoint is what Paul has in mind here
 3. Because the Lord could return at any time the believer needs to be more alert and vigorous spiritually
 4. There are glorious days ahead for God's people
1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Look Up.....

IV. CLEAN UP - VS 12

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

A. **Cast Off the Works of Darkness**

1. Have you noticed how much bad activity, or evil activity takes place under the cover of darkness.
2. In view of the near return of the Lord Jesus and the lateness of the hour, we are to rise and engage the foe
3. Watching sights the enemy - praying fights the enemy
4. Satan's time is running out and He will become more active as he sees his time becoming shorter
5. The drunk husband snuck upstairs quietly. He looked in the bathroom mirror and bandaged the bumps and bruises that he received in a fight earlier that night. He climbed into bed, smiling at the thought that he pulled one over on his wife. When morning came, he opened his eyes and there stood his wife. "You were drunk last night weren't you?"
"No, honey"
"Well, if you weren't, then who put all those band-aids on the

bathroom mirror?”

B. Examples of Works of Darkness

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

1. In rioting and drunkenness
 - a) *Rioting speaks of carousing, wicked socializing and all kinds of evil conduct, letting loose*
 - b) *Komos came to mean “carousal” or a noisy, nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken revelers and frolicsome fellows who after supper paraded through the streets at night with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, singing and playing before houses of male and female friends (and causing a major public disturbance). Hence komos generally refers to feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry*
2. Chambering and wantonness
 - a) *Chambering speaks of immoral sexual activity, living together without marriage*
 - b) *Wantonness speaks of shameless evil - when one engages in sin repeatedly he becomes shameless in doing it - unbridled, unrestrained, uninhibited sin and impurity - no embarrassment*
3. Strife and envying
 - a) *Strife - to be contentious, brawling, argumentative, difficult to get along with*
 - b) *Envying - jealousy, often motivated by greed*
4. These sins were probably common among Paul’s pagan converts who were saved out of lives of deep sin
5. Paul warns the Romans not to go back to the sins of the past when they were lost

Clean Up...

v. DRESS UP - VS 12

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

A. "Put on the armor of light"

1. A young man signs up for military duty
 - a) *He reports for duty and he is wearing civilian clothes*
 - b) *He is issued a uniform and the next morning the new recruits line up on the parade ground for their first inspection*
 - c) *This recruit lines up wearing his sport coat and tie and dress pants - he didn't put on his uniform*
 - d) *Of course, the sergeant major would make short work of him*
 - e) *Once in the army he puts on the uniform*
2. That is what Paul has in mind here.
 - a) *The believer is to put off the "works of darkness"*
 - b) *He is to separate himself from the old habits which once marked him as an unbeliever*
 - c) *He is to put on the "armor of light" so that he can fight against the works of darkness*
 - d) *The armor of light provides protection against the flesh*
3. Put on the armor of righteousness

2Co 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

 - a) *The armor of righteousness provides protection against the world*
4. Put on the armor of God

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

B. Walk Decently

- “Walk” has to do with the outward life of a Christian which people can see
 1. Walk honestly so that no one can find fault with our lives
 2. Can we stand the full light of the day shining on our lives
 3. Use the sincerity illustration
 4. People are watching how we live
 5. Let’s practice what we preach
 6. The faithful, obedient, loving Christian grows spiritually by becoming increasingly like Jesus Christ.
 7. As we clothe ourselves with Christ, His righteousness, truth, holiness, and love become more and more evident in our own lives.

Dress Up...

VI. STAND UP - VS 14

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

A. Put On the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Clothe yourself in all that Christ is
2. We are to adopt Christ’s character as our character
3. His lifestyle is to be our lifestyle
4. He is truth and we are to walk in truth
5. He is light and we are to walk in light
6. He is holy and we are to be holy
7. Until the Lord returns let us determine that we will live in a Christ-like manner before a hell-bound world

B. Don't Fulfil the Lusts of the Past

1. Provisions are often food.
 - a) *Don't feed the flesh*
 - b) *Literally, provision means to plan ahead*
 - c) *Don't make plans to sin*
2. Don't make a way so that evil desires can be fulfilled
3. The flesh has endless lusts all wanting to be indulged

Conclusion:

All time management speakers and authors emphasize the importance of priorities. I think of the story I read of an expert in time management speaking to a group of business students. To drive home a point, he used an illustration those students never forgot. As he stood in front of the group of high-powered over-achievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." He then pulled out a one-gallon wide-mouth mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one by one, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar, causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the space between the big rocks. Then he asked the group once more. "Is this jar full?" By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not." one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question. "Is this jar full?" "No!" the class shouted. Once again, he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the

jar was filled to the brim. Then the expert in time management looked at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?" One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is; if you try really hard you can always fit some more things in it." "No", the speaker replied, "That's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is this: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all. What are the big rocks in your life; Your children, your spouse, your loved ones, your friendships, your education, your dreams, a worthy cause, teaching or mentoring others, doing things that you love, time for yourself, or your health? Remember to put these **BIG ROCKS** in first, or you'll never get them in at all."

When the Bible calls for us to redeem the time, it is calling for us to put the big rocks in first. Of course the big rocks are the spiritual priorities we ought to have in our life. For example, there is a daily priority. Each day we must spend time with God in His Word and in prayer.