

Wake Up & Look Ahead 2022-10-09

Romans 13:11-12

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- Live holy/love other in present in light of Jesus Christ's future return Romans 13:10-11, Matthew 24:42-44

Bible divides time into 2 categories; Present age & age to come.

- present age = time between 1st & 2nd comings of Jesus.
- age to come: Jesus' 2nd coming...next event in God's redemptive plan.
 - setting dates for Jesus' return is not biblical. Matthew 24:36

Not saying Jesus' return is imminent, but the time between initial salvation & final salvation is shorter.

- Saved in past justification, present sanctification, future glorification.

World lives carelessly as though human history is destined to continue forever.

- sleep metaphor for moral laxity. Sin is tolerated, good works not pursued.
- critical nature of hour calls Christians be wide awake/walk in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Should be great contrast Christians/evil world: sleep/awake, night/day, dark/light,

• World characterized by deeds of darkness. Romans 13:12-13, Ephesians 5:8-11
deeds of darkness listed are not comprehensive, but representative.

- All 6 vices stem from selfishness.
 - first 4 deal with morality. last 2 relational sins but just as destructive.
 - attitude is as important as actions.

Not just cast off sleepiness/sin but *put on* armor for unseen spiritual battle. Ephesians 6:13-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:8

- Put on armor: salvation, faith, truth, right, Gospel,
 - Walk properly...in obedience/holiness. hard for darkness to cling to you.
- Wield sword of Holy Spirit: prayer, Bible study

Put on armor of light by putting on Jesus Christ. 13:14, Ephesians 4:1-3, 24; Colossians 3:12, John 15:4

- In one sense, already put on Jesus Christ at salvation Romans 6:3-6; Galatians 3:27
- sin no longer reigns but still remains so need to put on Jesus Christ daily.
 - be Jesus Christ-like, value what Jesus values. Matthew 10:24-25
 - sanctification flows from our union with Jesus.

Put on Jesus Christ is a way keep from making provision for flesh.

- “provision” literally means “forethought”...no thoughts that would lead to sinful desire.
 - Sin seldom just happens; most times premeditated.
 - Mind does not dwell on and be persuaded by desires for gratification.
 - You daydream about Mr/Mrs Perfect, win lottery?
 - Christian life is not just wakeful/alert life, but spiritual battle.
- Live holy and love others in present in light of Jesus Christ’s future return. *Isaiah 60:1-3*
- Clock is ticking! night (present evil age) is almost gone and day (of Lord) is near.
 - shake off spiritual drowsiness, put on armor of light by putting on Jesus Christ and make no provision for flesh!
 - Don’t waste time but serve so you are found faithful when Jesus returns.
 - Only by His grace can this be done but it can be done.