

THE WAKE UP CALL

The men of Issachar, in their day, understood the times and knew what Israel should do (1 Chron. 12:32). Do we?

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. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts (Romans 13:11-14).

The world is in a moral free fall like never before seen in history and we need to sound the alarm. There is anarchy in the world, apostasy in the church, and apathy in the pews (Adrian Rogers). According to God's calendar and clock, it's high time to wake up.

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP

It's a note of urgency! Time is running out. Opportunity is brief. It's time to listen and obey! It's no time for apathy. It is a time to wake up from the sleep of sin and of carnal security. It's time to do the works of God. Read John 9:4.

Paul's words in verse 11, stir us to spiritual watchfulness and zealous service, "*for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*" The day of our glorification is nearer than we think. Will we be found to be faithful servants?

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand." Night represents the present age. It is also symbolic of sin, evil, and of ungodliness. It is the night of Satan's reign; it is the night of the power of darkness. Man's time of unbelief, rebellion and sin is about to end, and God's time of judgment, glory and righteousness is about to begin.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP

Paul has 3 practical admonitions for believers. First, "*Let us cast off the works of darkness.*" Second, "*Let us put on the armor of light.*" Third, "*Let us walk properly (or decently), as in the day.*"

There are 3 pairs of works of darkness which should have no part in the lives of children of God. We are exhorted in verse 13 not walk in "*revelry and drunkenness...lewdness and lust...strife and envy.*" We are exhorted to purity and integrity.

IT'S TIME TO DRESS UP

We are to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Christ and His practical righteousness should cover us. We should allow Him to be like our outer garment, so that when others see us they see His righteousness. Christ "in us" is the hope of glory. Christ "on us" is the light for men to see.

"Make no provision for the flesh." The provision for sin originates in our hearts, minds, emotions, and will, which are still influenced powerfully by our sinful nature. We are called to starve the old man, and feed the new man.

IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first to the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom. 1:16).

Paul was eager and unashamed to speak up for Christ. O that God would give us that holy zeal, and over-flowing love, that would make us eager to go out and tell others.

*Millions now in sin and shame are dying;
Listen to their sad and bitter cry!
Hasten brother, hasten to the rescue!
Quickly answer, "Master, here am I!"*

How are we to win the lost if we do not give forth the Word? Paul's eagerness and audacity for soul-winning is exactly what the Church is in desperate need of, at this hour. Sadly, too many Christians today, tend to shelter themselves within the boundaries of church walls.

They have lost all will to testify. Disinterested, self-satisfied, slothful and lean in spirit they are being kept ineffective by spiritual coldness. There is nothing like compromise, sin, and worldliness, to make one inoperative for Christ and evangelism.

IT'S TIME TO LOOK UP

I don't know about you, but I would rather look up in hope than look down in despair.

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near (Luke 21:28-32)."

Although these words were meant for the Jewish people of the future Tribulation period, we can spiritually apply them to church. True believers have no future here on earth. Our home is in heaven and our redemption lies in the completion of the Church.

Here, our Lord tells us not to be bowed down, but to look up and lift up our heads in anticipation of resurrection glory.

Paul sounded the alarm in the first century and we need to sound it today as well. It's time to wake up, clean up, dress up, speak up and look up.

It's late!

*"Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light."*

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:14-17).