

XIII

Time to Wake Up

ROMANS 13:11-14

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. ¹² 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. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

READ | ROMANS 13:11–14

THINK ABOUT

Paul often uses metaphors that are related to everyday life to grab the attention of his reader. In these verses he calls us to “wake up” and be responsive and conscious about the things of God. In Ephesians 5:14, the apostle cries out: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” He is not speaking to unbelievers who do not know Christ, but to genuine believers who are being spiritually lethargic and lazy. He urges believers to wake up, because Jesus could return at any moment.

In this passage, we are exhorted to throw off the sin that we tolerate in our lives. Sin has a way of lulling us to sleep spiritually. It makes us selfish and prideful, ignoring that our lives are not for earthly pleasures but eternal glory. This “waking up” is something that must happen through the work of Christ in one’s heart. Christians must clothe themselves with His character and abide in Him daily as we fight the lure of sin. Putting on Christ is a daily task each believer must do!

APPLY

Each day our alarm clock goes off to warn us that we need to wake up. And we have a choice — continue to sleep or get out of bed and begin our daily tasks. At times, laziness gets the best of us, and we hit the snooze button. This causes stress, panic, and frustration for the rest of the day. God has given us the Holy Spirit to prod us to wake up about how we are living our lives. Alarms will sound in our souls, reminding us that we need to take our spiritual lives seriously. This can happen through devotional times, sermons, worship music, prayer, trials, and many other ways. We must not sleep-walk through life. Be alert about what God wants to do through us and in you. Don’t fall asleep to the reality that we are in a spiritual battle each day.

ASK

If you stood before Jesus Christ today, would you have confidence of your salvation?

Scripture teaches that we are to walk with Christ. List the spiritual battles that you have faced this week. How have you seen God at work in those battles?

What impact does the holiness of God have on your life? In what areas has God been convicting you regarding holiness? Are you continuing to make provision for sin?

PRAY

God, Your pursuit of me in the midst of my failures is something I will never understand. Why do You pursue me even when I drift away from You? You truly are a good Father, and for that, I worship Your beautiful name. Thank You for forgiveness through the cross of Christ and for the Holy Spirit to awaken me daily to my need for You.

Father, I need Your help to pursue You in the midst of all the distractions. Help me realize that I need nothing other than the grace You have given me. I desire to live a holy life, but often I find it difficult. Help me to wake up and pursue You with all of my heart and soul.

EPHESIANS 6:10–13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

GALATIANS 5:19–26

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.



SING

“Wake Up” — *Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring*

