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**It’s Time To Wake Up**

(Romans 13:11 KJV)

*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.*

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ll of us are slaves surrendering to the sanctity of time. We wear wristwatches with quarter-hour beepers to keep us on schedule. We have digital clocks in our automobiles and alarm clocks on our nightstands. Many of us have Apple Phones, Samsung, Blackberries or Palm Pilots or some other high-tech computerized personal assistant with a digital clock. Moreover many people keep a day-timer nearby so they can keep track of their appointments and responsibilities.

Let’s just face it that time is money. Researchers tell us that time is the new currency. Today time is more important than money. People will spend money to save time whereas an earlier generation raised during the depression would spend time to save money. In a world where most of us feel stressed out, we value our free time more than a few extra dollars in our pocket. How much time do you have left? No one knows for sure! Life is so uncertain. No one knows how long they have to live. However, the statisticians have figured out the average life expectancy for people of every age.

Our passage forces us to face this issue head-on. Paul challenges his readers to “understand the present time” (Romans 13:11). *Do you know what time it is? It’s time to wake up! Why? “Because salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed* (v. 11). That’s a reference to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus is coming, and each day brings us closer to that great world-shattering event. In light of that, Paul tells us to wake up, put off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. The long night is fading away, the sun is peeking over the eastern horizon, and Jesus is coming soon! Christian, do you know what time it is? It’s time to wake up and get dressed!

The word "time" refers to a "season of time". This whole verse has to do with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His people. The idea here is that the believer is to keep his eyes on the changing world around him and understand that the coming of the Lord is near. Sadly, many believers cruise lazily through life not even taking into consideration the fact that Jesus might return at any moment. Yet, all one has to do is cross-reference the daily news with the Word of God to see that His coming is near. Therefore, the advise Jesus gave in Matthew is still good advice for us today, (Matthew 24:42-44).

Paul tells us that our salvation is nearer than when we believed. As you know, there are three stages to salvation. We are saved, we are being saved and we will be saved. At the moment of conversion, we were saved from the penalty of sin. We are being saved daily from the power of sin. We will be saved eventually from the presence of sin.

Our salvation is fully accomplished in Paul’s writing, but it is being worked out daily in our lives. One day, when Jesus returns for His people, we will experience the complete effects of our salvation. What Paul means is that every day we pitch our tent one step closer to glory! He merely wants to remind us that Jesus is nearer today than He was yesterday. Are you living your life in the anticipation of His soon return?

Paul tells us that the time for slumber has long since passed. The words "high time" mean that a specific hour has arrived. And ironically too many of the people of God are sleeping on the job. Sadly, they are living their lives as they please without any thought for the will of God, the plight of the lost or the return of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I’m always reminiscing about the number of days in a person's life. The average lifespan is said to be 70 years of age. There are 365 days in a year. Actually, there are 365 days in a year, which is why every 4 years there is a leap year, adding one day to the month of February. Now if we multiply 365 days by 70 years, we get 25,550 days total in a person's life. Of course, a visit to any cemetery will evidence that many people die before age 70.

I have often questioned the claim that the average person lives to be at least 70 in the United States When you view life as being 25,000 days long, it puts a different perspective on things. It compels us to think about how we spend our time each day. Of course, today could be the last day of our life! This temporal life will be over before we know what happened. The Bible teaches that the invisible things of this life are the things that really matter the most. Let me pause and remind you that after this life—Folks! Heaven and Hell is real!

1. **The Saints Awaking**

(Romans 13:11 KJV)

*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.*

What time is it right now? Check your watch and see. Now read verse 11 again and answer the question. What time is it? It’s time to wake up. You sleep at night. You don’t sleep during the day. All of us understand what that means. It’s hard to sleep during the day. It doesn’t feel right. It’s not natural. Day is for waking and working; night is for sleeping and slumbering.