

## CHRISTIANS NEED TO WAKE UP

Romans 13:11-14

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Sadly, there are countless Christians who are simply going through the motions of being a Christian. Many churches exist, but so many have little zeal or progress if at all. Today's condition of Christians and churches is not something new for the very early churches experienced the same thing. Ephesus left their first love as described in Revelation 2:4, then Laodicea became lukewarm as described in Revelation 3:15-16. There is a need today for Christians and their churches to wake up, shake off all the laziness and sinfulness and refocus what their purpose for being here is all about. Christians! It's past time to wake up!

### I. WHY DO CHRISTIANS TODAY NEED TO WAKE UP? (vv 11-12)

1. Become aware of the "TIME":
  - Know that the nature of time:
    - is short
    - is fleeting - James 4:14-17
  - Knowing what time it is:
    - time to obey the Lord
    - this is the time/day of salvation - 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
2. Realize that "salvation" is more near than ever before:
  - Salvation is nearer - in what way?
    - Jesus' return is nearer than ever before.
    - One's own death is nearer if he/she should die before Jesus returns - Hebrews 9:27
  - Salvation is nearer than when one first believed:
    - Every day brings one closer
    - Look back and see how much time has gone by since becoming a Christian.
3. Understand that the "night" is far gone:
  - the "night" referring to the wicked, moral darkness of today's world - 1 John 2:8
  - the "night" is becoming short and hurrying to a close - 1 Corinthians 7:31b
  - this world and time as it is known today will not last much longer.
4. See that the "day is at hand":
  - the "day of eternal blessedness" is at hand - the glorious resurrection unto eternal life is about here.
  - 2 Peter 1:19

### II. HOW CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO WALK (vv 12b-14)

1. Christians should cast off the works of the world, of darkness:
  - as mentioned in the text
    - drunkenness, lewdness, revelry
    - lust, strife, envy
  - as mentioned in other texts:
    - adultery, fornication, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, murders, etc. - Galatians 5:19-21
    - passion, evil desire, covetousness, anger, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, lying - Colossians 3:5-8

2. Christians should put on the armor of "light":
  - the breastplate of faith and love, the hope of salvation as a helmet - 1 Thessalonians 5:8
  - the armor of God including truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, the hope of salvation, the Word of God - Ephesians 6:10-17
  
3. Christians should put on the Lord Jesus Christ:
  - In Baptism
    - Galatians 3:27
    - "raised with Christ," "made alive together with Him..." - Colossians 2:11-13
  - In developing a Christ-like character
    - Putting on the new person, renewed in knowledge, with tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiving one another, love - Colossians 3:10-14
    - Bring renewed in mind, a new person in true righteousness and holiness - Ephesians 4:20-24
    - Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ - 2 Peter 1:5-8; 3:18
  
4. Christian should make NO provision for their flesh:
  - It is a "must do" thing:
    - if one wants to live spiritually - Romans 8:12-13a
    - if one desires the love of the heavenly Father - 1 John 2:15-17
  - It is something a person can do:
    - with the aid of the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:13b; Ephesians 3:16 20; Galatians 5:16-17
    - with the aid of God's providence - 1 Corinthians 10:13
    - with the aid of watchful prayer - Matthew 26:41; 1 Peter 4:7; 5:8
  - Where is today's Christian in doing this?
    - What about avoiding circumstances that might bring temptation?
    - What about abstaining from things that might arouse fleshly desires/lusts?

## CONCLUSION:

1. Christians! Are we sleeping?
  - Is there a degree of indifference to matters of the Spirit, a carelessness about eternal things?
  - Is there a bit of laziness in doing things for the Lord and maybe a bit of un-concern about one's spiritual well-being?
  
2. Christian, WAKE UP!
  - The time to make needed changes and to grow will soon be gone for YOU.
  - The day of eternity will come and YOU won't be ready.
  
3. Christian, be a child of the day, not of the night:
  - Put on Jesus
  - Put on God's armor
  - Live/walk properly
  - Make no long range plans for the flesh or desire to fulfill human desires/lusts.