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It's Time

Romans 13:11-14

INTRO: The passage before us is a reminder that time is fleeting. Andrew Marvell said that he could always hear, "Times winged chariots hurrying near."

There are a few things that we need to remember about time:

1. Lost times is never found.
2. The difference between yesterday and tomorrow is today.
3. The Lord wants our precious time, not our spare time.
4. Procrastination is a thief of time.
5. How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Financial mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever.

Friends, we need to know the time. Read with me Romans 13:11-12. Do you see what time it is? It is high time to awake out of sleep. It is late for, "the night is far spent, the day is at hand..."

I. VSS 11-12a, IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP

A. Vs 11a, It is high time to awake out of sleep...."

1. Time for sleeping is over; the time to work for the Lord is now. The fields are white unto harvest. Souls are on the way to hell. Christians, wake up!
2. Wake up and live for the Lord.
 - a) Many Christians act like the world. It is time for them to wake up, to respond to the spiritual needs around them.
 - b) The word sleep carries with it the idea of inactivity, a loss of consciousness, a decrease of responsiveness to what is going on.
 - c) How sad to say it. But friends, many Christians are asleep to the condition they are in and of the condition of the world around them.
3. In the books of I Corinthians and Ephesians, Paul cries out to believers to wake, up, get up, and get going for God.
 - a) I Corinthians 15:34, There are those who have not believed; there are those who haven't even heard the Gospel! Christians awake to righteousness! Live for Jesus, not the flesh.
 - b) Ephesians 5:14, the believer has not business acting like a lost man. He is no longer dead; so he does not need to be in the world's graveyard of sin. Christians are not to waste time by

unrighteous living. We are to redeem the time (Eph 5:15-16).

- B. Vs 11b, "Our salvation is nearer than when we believed."
1. Salvation (1:16) is in three tenses: past (justification), present (sanctification), and future (glorification).
 - a) In Romans 13:11, it is clear that what is referred to here is our future salvation, our final salvation.
 - b) Our glorification, the redemption of our bodies is nearer now than when we were saved (8:21-23).
 2. The fact that we are nearer to the coming of our Lord now than ever before is a call to holy living, a call to be ready, a call to be looking for Jesus (Titus 2:11-14). We are to exhort each other to serve the Lord, to be faithful to His church. And we are to do it "so much the more as we see the day [His return] approaching" (Heb 10;25).
 - a) God's people are to fight the good fight. They are to stay faithful (II Tim 4:7-8).
 - b) We do not know the time nor the hour when Christ will come. So we must be ready; we must not sleep.

- C. Vs 12a, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand."
1. The day that is at hand is the day of Christ's return. "The night is far spent," means that the dawn is almost here. The Son will be coming soon.
 2. We are living in the last days. We are seeing prophecy being fulfilled all around us. Jesus is coming soon!
 3. Christ is coming and many will not be ready because they have wasted time, they have put off trusting Christ. Day by day, men are saying I have time, I have another hour, another day; but you can't know that with any certainty.
 - a) James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is ever a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."
 - b) Proverbs 27:1, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
 - c) Proverbs 29:1, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."
 - d) In Luke 12:18, the rich farmer said: "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods." In Luke 12:20, the scripture says: "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...."

II. VSS 12b-13, IT IS TIME TO CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS

- A. Vs 12b, It is time to behave the way we ought to.
1. Christians are to cast off, disrobe themselves of the works of darkness.

- a) Take off evil and throw it to the side for this is not appropriate clothing for the believer.
 - b) Eph 4:22.
2. "Let us put on the armor of light." Because of the hour, we are to wake up, get up, and get dressed in the armor of light.
- a) We are to take off the night clothes, the deeds of darkness.
 - b) We are to put on clothing appropriate for Christian soldiers, the armor of light (Eph 6:11-12).
 - c) "The Christian's life is not a sleep, but a battle" (Denny 699).
- B. Vs 13, Christians are to behave in such a way that God will be pleased:
1. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day."
 - a) We are to walk honorably.
 - b) Christians are to behave properly.
 2. "Not in rioting."
 - a) *Kosmos* is the Greek word and the idea is that of revelry and carousing.
 - b) Christians are not to be involved in wild parties, orgies, rioting, or fighting.
 3. "Drunkenness."
 - a) To the Greeks drunkenness was a very disgraceful thing.
 - b) Intentional and habitual drunkenness is condemned.
 - c) "This was a vice which not only a Christian but any respectable heathen also would have condemned" (Barclay 178).
 - d) Rioting and drunkenness go together (Gal 5:21; I Pet 4:3).
 4. "Not in chambering."
 - a) Chambering, *koite*, means a bed, going to bed, a bedroom.
 - b) In Hebrews 13:4, the Greek word *koite* is used to describe the marriage bed as undefiled; and the bed used for illicit sex as judged by God.
 5. "Wantonness." This is shameless sensuality.
 - a) This person has no shame; he does not care who knows and who sees his filthy lifestyle.
 - b) He does not care what people say or think of him.
 6. "Not in strife."
 - a) Contention, petty disagreement.
 - b) A deep desire to win, to prevail over others.
 - c) Not able to get along with others, having to be top dog.
 7. "Envy" -- not being content with what you have. "Looking with a jealous eye on every blessing given to someone else and denied to self" (Barclay 179).

III. Vs 14, IT IS TIME TO PUT ON CHRIST

- A. We are to live for Christ, to honor Him to put on His character, His kindness, His love, His compassion, gentleness, etc.

- B. "Make not provision for the flesh."
1. We are not to make provision for the satisfaction of our sinful urges.
 2. We will be tempted, but we have victory in Christ.
 3. There are three areas of life that we must control. We must not allow them to control us+ pleasure, power, and possessions.

CONCLUSION: It is time to put on Christ and put off the deeds of darkness.