

# Wake Up! Clean Up! Grow Up!

## *Romans 13:8-14*

**Thought for the Day:** In light of the Lord's soon return, we need to wake up from our spiritual lethargy; purify ourselves from anything that contaminates us in body or spirit; and commit ourselves to the pursuit of spiritual maturity (Christlikeness).

The doctrine of the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ is not an abstract theological concept! It is a powerful incentive to cultivate Christlike character and conduct.

### **I. Wake Up! (vs. 11)**

#### **11 And do this...**

- Do what?
  - 1) Vs. 8 – Love one another
  - 2) Vss. 9-10 – Love our neighbor as we love ourselves
  - 3) Vs. 11 – Wake up from our spiritual slumber
  - 4) Vs. 12 – Put aside the deeds of darkness
  - 5) Vs. 12 – Put on the armor of light
  - 6) Vs. 13 – Behave decently, as in the daytime
  - 7) Vs. 13 – Do not behave indecently, as in the nighttime: engaging in orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality, debauchery, dissension and jealousy
  - 8) Vs. 14 – Clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 9) Vs. 14 – Do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature
- The motivation for obeying these nine exhortations is that we...

#### **...understand the present time.**

- What is it that we need to know or understand about the present time?
  - 1) Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed (vs. 11)**
  - 2) The night is nearly over; the day is almost here (vs. 12)**
    - Paul is referring to a particular day, the day of Christ's imminent return—the day when our salvation will be brought to its full completion—at the Rapture of the Church.
    - What is that day going to look like?
      - John 14:1-3 – it will be the day Jesus keeps His promise.
      - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – it will be the day that all believers, both dead and alive, will be reunited with one another and with the Lord—FOREVER!
      - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 – it will be the day that believers will put on their immortal, imperishable, eternal, glorified bodies and leave behind FOREVER their fallen, sinful Adamic nature as they go to be with the Lord.

#### **The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber...**

- It's time to wake up spiritually! But instead, many Christians and many churches are departing from the faith.
- It's time to prepare for the Lord's coming!

## II. **Clean Up!** (vss. 12-13)

**...So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.**

How should we prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming?

- 1 John 3:1-3 – purify ourselves; pursue holiness and cultivate Christlike Character and Conduct.
  - We shall be like Him, both in body and in spirit: we'll have a glorified body and a purified soul.
  - Hebrews 10:10, 14 – we have been made holy; we have been made perfect forever (Justification); we are being made holy (Sanctification); we are looking forward to being like Christ (Glorification).
- 2 Corinthians 7:1 – let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
  - We need to cultivate the fear of the Lord; a reverential awe and respect for God that motivates us to pursue holiness.
  - If we are looking forward to our Glorification, then we need to be seriously occupied with our Sanctification.
- Titus 2:11-14 – while we wait, God is purifying us; we need to cooperate with Him in that process.
- 1 John 2:28 – abide in Christ so as not to be ashamed at His appearing.
  - John 15:1-8 – to be vitally connected with Christ so as to receive our spiritual life and nourishment from Him. "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you..."
  - Matthew 4:4 – man lives by the Word of God. Faith and obedience.

## III. **Grow Up!** (vs. 14)

**14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**

- Galatians 5:16-25 – our sinful nature and the Holy Spirit are in constant conflict with one another. We must live every day in light of the fact that we have crucified our sinful nature.
- Galatians 6:7-9 – we sow, either to our sinful nature or to the Holy Spirit, by doing what the one or the other desires.
- Colossians 3:1-4 – we must set our minds and hearts on things above. (cp. Mt. 6:19-21)
- Philippians 4:8-9 – think about such things as are pleasing to the Lord. (cp. 2 Cor. 5:9-10)
- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – the Holy Spirit is transforming us into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ as we contemplate His glory. (Cp. Romans 12:2)

"Looking for Christ's coming with loving expectation purifies our lives, because to long for Him is to want to please Him, and to want to please Him is to want to be like Him."

*–Dr. John MacArthur*