

Wake Up! Clean Up! Grow Up! (Part 2)

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, which simply means that He could return for His Church at any moment, is a powerful incentive to cultivate Christlike character and conduct.

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

11 And do this...

- Nine exhortations that we, as followers of Christ, are to obey:
 - 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 exhortations is that we...

...understand (know, recognize) 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)
 - The day Paul is referring to is the day of our complete salvation—the day of our glorification—when we will receive our glorified body and our sinful nature will be done away with forever.

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

- It's time to wake up spiritually; time to make our spiritual health and maturity the top priority of our lives.
- But instead, many Christians and many churches are falling away and being led astray 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.
 - Whenever there is a reference to the fact that we are the children of God, it reminds us of two applications:
 - 1) Our relationship with God – the privilege of relation.
 - 2) Our responsibility to God – the responsibility of reflection.
 - We shall be like Christ, both in body and in spirit: we'll have a glorified body and a purified soul.
 - Hope = a confident expectation based on the character and promises of God.
- 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.
- Titus 2:11-14 – while we wait (look for) the Lord's return, God is purifying us; God's grace motivates us to cooperate with Him in that process.
 - This is one of the purposes of Bible prophecy. (cp. Luke 21:28)
- 1 John 2:28 – abide in Christ so as not to be ashamed at His appearing.
 - John 15:1-8 – to abide in Christ is to be vitally connected with Him 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.

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 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