

“The Hour Has Come”

Romans 13: 8 – 14

Many people who call themselves Christians wonder why they have so little influence on other folks spiritually and why it is so difficult to help them see their need for Christ in their life. This problem is usually brought about by lack of total commitment to Christ, or maybe their love for Christ and concern for others has grown cold and indifferent. We are standing today right in the middle of the most confusing, discouraging and frustrating time many of us have ever had to deal with. Having said that, it seems like the perfect time to consider the Apostle Paul's admonitions concerning our way of life, considering his words to the church in Rome. The hour has come, and within the scripture text there are three things we “ought” to do.

1. We ought to wake up. (vss. 11 – 12). When should we wake up? Now, according to (2 Corinthians 6:2) this is the accepted time, the time of God's favor. Why should we wake up? The night is nearly over and the day is dawning meaning Christ's return is nearer than we may believe. There is danger in delay both for ourselves and for others since there are many who need to hear the gospel message. However, it is not enough just to wake up, we must take action putting off the night clothes and putting on proper dress described as the armor of light, ready for the day.
2. We ought to walk (behave). (vs. 13). How to walk? Honestly, decently, worthy of the calling we have received in Christ Jesus. We walk by faith not by sight and as we also walk-in love as we have been loved by Christ. We walk in the truth of God's word that brings joy to our lives as we are obedient to the Lord's commands. Where do we walk? We walk in the day, in the light as Jesus is our light. We walk in newness of life for the old life has been put off and we then walk after the Spirit who leads us in the way we should go. After we wake and walk, we then sense that;
3. We ought to worship. (vs. 14). Who? Worship God, our heavenly Father who is the only One worthy of worship. How? We are called to worship Him in spirit and truth and also in holiness and reverence. Why? God seeks those who are willing to worship him as He is great and worthy of praise and adoration. Ultimately, worship is what we

were created for, it is what God desires and it helps to keep us awake and walking uprightly and finally gives relevant meaning to the words of (Isaiah 35: 3), "Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way."

There is now a very real need for us to wake, walk and worship, so that we are prepared and alert to take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen ourselves and others. Indeed, the hour has come!

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