

# It's time to wake up

Preached: Sunday, August 2nd 2020

## Introduction

### Spiritual warfare

- In our reading this morning - Hezekiah and the people of Judah came under attack by the Assyrians. When he realized the threat - he began to prepare. (See 2nd Chronicles 32:1-8)
- As I read that, I thought about us. We are living in a time when the enemy is advancing and we (the Church, believers) have to realize the time in which we are living.
- I've been thinking about spiritual warfare - and realize it's time for the church to get busy fighting off the enemy!
- Understand - The enemy would devour and destroy us if he could! He's like a roaring lion seeking those he could devour
- Over the next couple of weeks, I want to speak as the Lord gives me his messages on this topic.

## This message

- Today I want to share from **Rom 13:11-14 (NIV)** (11) *And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (12) The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. 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. (14) Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*
- I want to point out three things from this text today and call us to the appropriate action

## Message

### It's later than you think

- **Illustrate:** Clock on the front pew helps me keep track of time - making sure I don't carry on too long. Last week the batteries were dying, and the clock was slow. It was later than I thought!
- This passage warns us that time is almost finished.
- See v11 *Understanding the present time*

- I don't know how you can have lived through this year and not realize that something is happening right now. This is not like any other time
- **Note:** The Lord warns us to stay ready - even though we don't know when he will return, but I caution us to be ready right now. There is nothing preventing his return
- Pray for discernment - ask that God open your eyes to the reality of this hour!
- See the **promise:** *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here* It has been a long night - but Christ is ready to return. No more suffering and struggle - we must just hold on until he comes!

## There is much to be done

This is a call to action: *and do this...* in v11. The passage outlines three actions we must take in this late hour

### Wake up

- This is the message for the Church today. It is time to wake ourselves from our slumber
- This slumber is caused by more than weariness - it is spiritual in nature. The enemy fears a church on her knees praying and engaging in Spiritual warfare.

- He has lulled us to sleep: distracting us with trivial pursuits, making it difficult to come to church, keeping us preoccupied and out of the word, causing us to lose faith in Jesus Christ .
- It's time we wake up! We must act now, or we will miss his return.
- See **Luke 12:39-40** *"Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."*
- Please see the signs and understand where we are! Prepare for his return

## Put aside

- Written to/for the believer
- There are things that we need to get rid of.
- Ask yourself - is that what you want to be doing when Christ returns?
- Remove our *dark deeds* like dirty clothes
- **Illustrate:** Coming in after walking the dog this morning - I had to put aside the soaking wet clothes
- See Joseph when called to stand before Pharaoh **Genesis 41:14b** *After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.*
- We are just about to appear before the King of kings and Lord of lords. Time to get cleaned up!
- We can't allow ourselves to live like unbelievers. Carousing and engaging in drunkenness or sexual immorality

- Also quarreling and jealousy. We have to get rid of the deeds of darkness!  
**Note:** This is in the context of loving (see vv8-10).
- How sad to allow some petty argument or fight to keep us from the kingdom of God!

## Put on

- Shining armor of right living
- It's time to start doing what we're supposed to do
- **Note:** Armor - used when under attack. We must clothe ourselves with the armor of God in this last battle.
- Down in v14 *clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ*
- How can we clothe ourselves with the presence of Christ - if we are never *partaking of the presence of Christ???*

## Begin by changing how you think

- Recall the 2nd part of v14 from our text: - See **Rom 13:14 (NIV)** (14) *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*
- Once we are awake, we must change what we are thinking about
- If we are going to be victorious - we must win the battle of the mind

- We have been reading the book of Romans this past week, and Paul makes it clear that what we think about will determine what we do and who we become!
- See **Romans 12:2** *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*
- What are we taking in? What are we thinking about??
- Spirit born (and filled) believers are allowing their thoughts to still be controlled by the flesh - the old nature!
- If we are going to be ready for Christ's return - we must allow His Spirit to change how we think
- See **Rom 8:5 (NIV)** *(5) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*
- Are we listening to the world with its fears and pursuits - or are we listening to the word?
- Are we recollecting failures or reminding ourselves of His victories
- Past or promises
- We must be listening to the Spirit (Prayer, reading the word, preaching) and not taking in the garbage of the world!
- **Warning:** The enemy wants to keep you from the truth - so he will try to blind your eyes and stop your ears!

# Call

## Let me remind you...

- Lord is returning
- We must be ready and working
- We are in a battle for our souls - and the souls of all who depend on our testimony and example
- We have the victory
- We must engage in battle

## Make the choice

- You choose to change how you're living before it's too late!