

**I. Introduction: The practical use of eschatology.**

**II. Do you realize what time it is? Wake up! v. 11-12a**

**A. This is no time to sleep. v. 11a**

1. Christians have a tendency to spiritual drowsiness. Acts 20:9
2. You ought to have a great sense of urgency Heb. 9:27 Ps. 90:12 Mt. 13:24-30

**B. The day of salvation is at hand.**

1. Of what aspect of *salvation* is Paul speaking? v. 11b 4:5 5:1 8:1,21ff Eph. 2:8-10 I Th. 1:9 5:8-9 I Pe. 1:5,9 Phil. 1:7 2:12-13 Heb. 9:28
2. The consummation is nearer now than it ever has been. v. 11b
3. The night of this present evil age is nearly over. v. 12a 8:19-22 12:2 Gal. 1:4 II Th. 1:5-8 Heb. 10:35-37
4. The day of the Lord is about to dawn. 16:20 He. 9:28

**C. Do you understand the times?**

1. It is important to understand the times in which you live. Mt. 16:1-3 I Chr. 12:32
2. Did Paul expect Jesus to return in his lifetime? 11:12ff I Th. 4:15 II Th. 1:6-7 2:1ff I Co. 7:29f Acts 1:6-7 Mk. 13:33
3. We live in the last age. Acts 2:17 I Co. 10:11 He. 1:1-2 9:26 10:25 Js. 5:8 I Pe. 1:20 I Jo. 2:18 Re. 1:3 22:10
  - a. The great events anticipated by the Old Testament prophets have taken place.
  - b. The last major event is the return of Christ bringing the final consummation.
4. Be patient. God doesn't view time the same way you do. II Pe. 3:3-9 Rev. 6:11
5. The certainty of Jesus' return and the uncertainty of the time motivates believers throughout all generations to pursue holiness. Mark 13:33-36 Titus 2:11-14
6. Bad eschatology saps motivation. II Th. 2:1-2

**D. We live in the age of the already and the not yet.**

1. We already have been delivered out of the world's darkness and have been brought into the light of God's kingdom. Col. 1:13-14
2. We eagerly await the Lord's return in which His kingdom will be fully realized. Phil. 1:20-21
3. Live in light of the times.

**III. Get dressed and get moving! v. 12b-14**

**A. Your life should reflect the realities of your conversion. 8:29-30 I Th. 5:4-6 Ti. 2:14 Eph. 5:8 I Jo. 3:2-3**

**B. Change your clothes. v. 12b**

1. Lay aside the deeds of darkness. Eph. 4:22 Co. 3:8 He. 12:1 Js. 1:21 I Pe. 2:1 Job 24:13-17 I Th. 5:7
2. Put on the armor of light. I Th. 5:8 Eph. 4:24 6:13ff II Co. 6:7 10:4f Co. 3:10

**C. Walk worthily. v. 13**

1. No longer engage in your old nighttime activities. Gal. 5:19-21 I Co. 6:9-11 Titus 3:3f I Pe. 4:3-4 He. 13:4

2. Strife and envy are ranked with these other awful vices. 1:29 16:17f I Ti. 6:4 Titus 3:9 Js. 3:14,16 4:1ff
3. Instead live (walk) as those who belong to the daytime. Eph. 5:8 I Jo. 2:6,9-11 II Pe. 3:13-14

**D. Put on Christ. v. 14a**

1. You have already been clothed in His righteousness for your justification. 6:3-6 Gal. 3:27 Isa. 61:10 Mt. 22:12 Phil. 3:9
2. Now you should reflect His character. 8:29 Col. 3:10 I Jo. 2:6 I Pe. 2:21 Ga. 5:22f Phil. 3:13-14
3. How do you do this?
  - a. Remember who you are. 6:11
  - b. Live in light of who you are. 6:12f
4. When the Lord returns you will be perfectly Christlike. 8:29 I Jo. 3:2-3

**E. Having put on Christ, make no provision for the lusts of the flesh. v. 14b 8:12f**

1. The battle for the body takes place in the heart. Js. 1:14f Ga. 5:13,16,24 I Pe. 2:11
2. Plan ahead to stay far from temptation. Pr. 5:8 24:8 Ps. 36:4
3. Don't make allowances for your sin. I Co. 15:33
4. Be prepared to take drastic action, for the stakes are high. Mt. 5:29-30 Acts 19:19
5. In some cases the application of this exhortation is individual. 14:1ff

**IV. Concluding applications: Are you ready for the future?**

**Discussion questions**

1. According to Paul, who needs to wake up?
2. In what sense are we living in the last days?
3. Did Paul teach that Jesus was going to return in his lifetime?
4. Why has the Lord not revealed the time of His return?
5. In what sense are we *already* living in God's kingdom? What has *not yet* taken place?
6. What should we do in light of the nearness of the Lord's return?
7. What is the armor of light?
8. Is it possible for a real Christian to be drunk, immoral, and quarrelsome?
9. What does it mean to put on Christ?
10. What can you do to prevent making any provision for the lusts of the flesh?