

“It’s Time!”
Romans 13:11-14

Introduction:

1. Has This Ever Happened To You?
 - You Wake Up Suddenly:
 - Because Of How Bright It Is Outside:
 - And You Realize That You Woke Up Late:
 - Because Your Alarm Did Not Go Off!
 - Immediately - You Check Your Phone Or Your Clock:
 - And Realize You Set The Alarm:
 - For PM Instead Of AM!
 - And That One Little Mistake Has Affected Your Entire Day!
 - Because - From Then On:
 - It Seems Like You Are Running Behind!
 - All Because You Slept In Longer:
 - Than You Should Have!
2. Well - As We Return In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 13 - We Will Find That:
 - What Can Easily Happen To Us:
 - In Our Every-Day Lives:
 - Can Also Happen To Us:
 - In A Spiritual Way!
 - And This Is What The Apostle Paul Deals With Next:
 - As We Finish Out This Chapter:
 - In Romans 13:11-14 - Where We Read:
 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. / The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. / Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. / But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof!”
 - 3. We Need To Remember This Morning:
 - That It’s Time For Us - As Christians:
 - In Fact - Its “High Time” - It Says - For Us:
 - “To Awake Out Of Sleep!”
 - Spiritual Sluggishness & Sleepiness:
 - Is Such An Easy Thing For Us To Succumb To, Isn’t It?
 - And - It Can Happen To Us:
 - At Any Time!
 - When You Are In A Spiritual Valley:
 - Sometimes It Feels Like Its Easier:
 - To Just Lay Down & Give Up:
 - Even “Striving Against Sin!”
 - But Even:
 - When You Are On A Spiritual Mountain-Top:
 - You Enjoy The Spiritual Vistas That You Find In God’s Word:
 - And You Lay Down & Forget To:
 - Use & Live Out Those Things You Learned!
 - Such Was The Case Of:
 - Christian - On Several Occasions:
 - In John Bunyan’s Book:
 - “The Pilgrim’s Progress” - Which:
 - We’ve Been Exploring Together On Sunday Nights This Year!
 - 4. Well - No Matter The Reason:
 - For Your Spiritual Grogginess:
 - Let These Verses & Let This Message:
 - Be Your Wake-Up Call!

- Because - Its Time & Its Even:
 - “High Time To Awake Out Of Sleep!”
- And So - The First Thing That We Find:
 - “It’s Time” For Is:

1. *Its Time To Be Revived!*

- I Think This Is What The Apostle Paul Is Getting At In 13:11:
 - We Need To Be Revived:
 - In Our Walk & Life With The Lord!
 - And This Applies To All Of Our Duties:
 - As Christians - Which We’ve Been Looking At:
 - Since The Beginning Of Chapter 12!
 - And So - When It Comes To:
 - Our Lives Of:
 - Sacrifice To The Lord:
 - Its Time To Awake Out Of Sleep!
 - Because - We Have Been Called To:
 - 12:1 - Present Our Bodies As Living Sacrifices, Holy, And Acceptable Unto God!
 - And Yet - Have You Done This? Are You Doing This On A Daily Basis?
 - If Not - Its Time For You To Be Revived!
 - When It Comes To:
 - Our Lives Of:
 - Service To The Lord:
 - Its Time To Awake Out Of Sleep!
 - Because - We Have Also Been Called To:
 - Serve The Lord & His People Out Of Love - 12:10 - “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another!”
 - And Yet - Have We Been Doing This?
 - If Not - Its Time For Us To Be Revived!
 - And - When It Comes To:
 - Our Lives Of:
 - Submission To The Lord:
 - Its Time To Awake Out Of Sleep!
 - Because - We Have Also Been Called:
 - 13:1 - To “Be Subject Unto The Higher Powers!” - The Authority Of God & The Authorities God Has Placed Over Us!
 - And Yet - Is This Something We Do From Our Hearts?
 - If Not - Its Time For Us To Be Revived!
 - And So We See That:
 - Its Time To Be Revived - Because:
- The Need Is Great!
 - 13:11 - “And That” - Paul Writes - Or:
 - Because Of All Of These Responsibilities:
 - To Sacrifice & Serve & Submit To:
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - “Knowing The Time, That Now - The Very Hour Has Come - For Us To Wake Up From Our Sleep!”
 - The Truth Is - We Are All Prone To:
 - Spiritual Slumber In Our Walk With God!
 - Not One Of Us:
 - Is Where We Should Be - Or:
 - Where We Can Be:
 - By The Grace & Reviving Work Of God!
 - And So - Our Need For Revival - Personal Revival:
 - Is Great! And We Need It:
 - Daily & Hourly & Even Moment By Moment!
 - May Our Personal Prayer Be:
 - The Words Of J. Edwin Orr:

- As We Will Sing Later:
 - “O Holy Ghost, Revival Comes From Thee;
Send A Revival, Start The Work In Me!
Thy Word Declares Thou Wilt Supply Our Need;
For Blessings Now, O Lord, I Humbly Plead!”
- Its Time For You & For Me:
 - To Be Revived:
 - Because The Need Is Great!
 - But Also Because:
- The Time Is Short!
 - As Paul Continues In 13:11:
 - “For Now Is Our Salvation Nearer Than When We Believed!”
 - One Of The Things That We Find In The New Testament:
 - Is That There Are Different Stages:
 - In Our Salvation From Sin!
 - The First Stage:
 - Is Redemption - When You Are Saved:
 - From The Penalty Of Sin:
 - By Turning To & Trusting In Jesus Christ - With Saving Faith In:
 - And His Life, Death, Burial, And Resurrection:
 - For You!
 - The Second Stage Of Salvation:
 - Is Sanctification - As You Continue To Be Saved:
 - From The Power & Pleasure Of Sin:
 - Through The Work Of The Holy Spirit Who Now Indwells Your Heart!
- And This Will Continue Your Whole Life!
 - But - It’s The Third Stage Of Salvation:
 - And Your Glorification - That Paul Has In View Here - A Future & Final Salvation:
 - From The Very Presence Of Sin!
 - Sin Within You & Sin Around You! And Truly, What A Glorious Day That
Will Be!
 - And - The Truth Is - This Salvation:
 - And Your Glorification:
 - Is “Nearer Than When We Believed!”
 - But It Is Also “Nearer” Than You And I Think!
 - Though The Second Coming Of Christ:
 - May Be In View Here:
 - I Think It Can Also Apply To:
 - God’s Coming For You:
 - Even At The Time Of Your Death!
 - Because - As Your Birthdays Start To Accumulate:
 - As Mine Have - Even While Serving Here At This Church:
 - The Little Time Of Life That You Have Left To Sacrifice & Serve & Submit To The
Lord:
 - Is Dwindling! And This Is Why:
 - We Need To Stay Awake In The Time We Have Left!
 - And - If You Have Forgotten This:
 - It’s Time For You To Be Revived!
 - Its Time For You To:
 - Plea For & Pursue After:
 - Revival From The Lord - Starting Today!
 - But - As We Go On In These Verses:
 - Also:

2. ***Its Time To Be Ready!***

- And - Ready For - That Day When:
 - Our Future & Final Salvation:
 - Actually Arrives!

- Whether Its When You Die Or When You Are Raptured To Heaven!
- And We See This Again In:
 - 13:12-13 - “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. / Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying!”
- When Paul Tells Us That:
 - “The Night Is Far Spent” & “The Day Is At Hand!”
 - **IE**: I Imagine What It Must Be Like:
 - In Places Like Alaska - During The Winter Months:
 - When There Are Days When The Nights Never End - Because The Sun Is Too Far South For It To Even Rise!
 - Sometimes This Is What It Feels Like:
 - For Christians In This Fallen World!
 - It Seems Like That Final Day:
 - Of Our Salvation:
 - Will Never Come!
 - But - It Will Come!
 - I Like What Henry Alford Once Wrote:
 - “On The Certainty Of The Event, Our Faith Is Grounded; By The Uncertainty Of The Event, Our Hope Is Stimulated, And Our Watchfulness Aroused!”
 - So - As We Long For The Light:
 - We Must Continue To:
 - Live Through The Night:
 - But In A Different Way Than The Rest Of The World!
- So - In These Verses - Not Only Do We Find What It Looks Like To Be Revived - We Also Learn:
 - What It Means:
 - To Get & To Be Ready:
 - For That Day Of Our Final Salvation!
 - It Means:
- Be Ready In Your Works!
 - In 13:12b - We Are Told:
 - “Let Us Therefore Cast Off The Works Of Darkness!”
 - The Analogy Paul Is Working With Is This:
 - What Do You Do:
 - When You Get Up & Get Ready For The Day!
 - Or - What Should You Do?
 - You Should, At The Very Least, Change Out Of Your Bed-Clothes & Pajamas!
 - **IE**: Isn’t It Sad That Some People Think Its OK To Wear Their Pajamas All Day Long?
 - Well - The “Works Of Darkness” Are:
 - The Worn-Out Bed-Clothes:
 - Of The Time When We:
 - Not Only Lived *In* The Darkness:
 - We Were *Of* The Darkness!
 - But Now - Since The Day Is Getting Closer:
 - Its Time To “Cast Off The Works Of Darkness!”
 - These Are Those Works:
 - That Cannot Stand The Holy Light Of God’s Nature!
 - They Include Deeds & Words & Thoughts:
 - That Would Scurry Like A Cockroach From:
 - The Light Of God’s Glory!
 - This Is What You & I Need To Do:
 - To Get Ready:
 - For The Final Day Of Our Salvation!
 - Get Ready By - 12:9 - Abhorring That Which Is Evil, And Cleaving To That Which Is Good!
 - Also:

- Be Ready For Your Warfare!
 - So - Just As You Would Get Ready For:
 - A New Day & Even A Special Day:
 - After You Take Off:
 - Your Night-Clothes:
 - You Need To Put On:
 - Some Day-Clothes:
 - And Clothes That Will Sutable For The Occasion!
 - So - In 13:12 - Paul Adds:
 - “And Let Us Put On The Armor Of Light!”
 - You See - For Christians:
 - Not Just Any Clothes Will Do!
 - We Need Spiritual Armor:
 - For The Spiritual Battles:
 - That We Will Continue To Face:
 - In The Darkness Of This World!
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - Ephesians 6 - We Need To:
 - “Put On The Whole Armor Of God!”
 - And This Includes:
 - “Having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; / And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; / Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. / And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: / Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints!”
 - This Is The Only Armor:
 - That Will Work:
 - Because It Alone Reflects:
 - The Nature & Character Of God:
 - As Light!
 - So - How Ever Many Days You Have Left:
 - Before Your Final Salvation:
 - It Is Not A Time:
 - For Slumber - It’s A Time:
 - Of Struggle!
 - So - Its Time To Be Ready!
 - Ready In Your Works!
 - Ready For Your Warfare!
 - But Also - As We Find In 13:13:
- Be Ready In Your Walk!
 - 13:13 - “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying!”
 - We Are To Walk Now:
 - As We Will Walk Then:
 - In The Day Of Our Final Salvation!
 - To “Walk Honestly” Means:
 - To Walk In A Way That Is Becoming:
 - And Appropriate:
 - For Who You Are In Jesus Christ!
 - Even As He Walked!
 - **IE:** I Enjoyed Watching Some Of The Olympics - As I Do Every Time The Games Come Around - Especially Swimming - One Event - Marathon Swimming - Grueling! But To Help - Swimmers Will “Draft” Each Other - To Let One Cut Through The Water First - To Make It Easier For Those Behind! Didn’t Know You Could Do That!
 - This Is How We Need To Walk With The Lord! We Need To “Draft” Him! Each Day & Each Stroke - Carefully Following The Example Of Christ Through The Enabling Of Christ And The Holy Spirit!

- And As You Do This:
 - You Will Purposefully Avoid The Following List Of Sins & Vices & Lusts Of The Flesh!
- “Rioting And Drunkenness” Are:
 - Sins Of Self-Indulgence!
- “Chambering And Wantonness” Are:
 - Sins Of Sexual Immorality! And:
- “Strive And Envyng” Are:
 - Sins Of Immodesty & Pride!
 - Because - As We Are Told In Proverbs 13:10 - “Only by pride cometh contention!”
- And These Are All:
 - Sins That Are Related To:
 - Both The Literal & Spiritual:
 - Darkness Of The Night!
 - And That Is Why:
 - The Darkness Of Sin Is Most Comfortable:
 - In The Darkness Of Night!
 - As It Should Be!
 - But - As The Shame Of Sin:
 - Is Lessened - So Will Be:
 - Its Quest For Secrecy!
 - But - They Forget Hebrews 4:13:
 - That - “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do!”
 - Sin & Sinners Are Not Hidden:
 - From The Eyes Of God!
- But - As Paul Reminds Us In:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:5 - “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness!”
 - So - Its High Time For You & For Me:
 - To Be Revived - And:
 - To Be Ready - In These Ways:
 - To Meet Our God!
 - But Then - Third - Also:

3. ***Its Time To Be Renewed!***

- Which Is What We Find Next In:
 - 13:14 - “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof!”
 - Now - According To Galatians 3:27:
 - When You Are Saved - By Trusting In Jesus As Your Savior:
 - You Have Already “Put On The Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - And Yet - Here - We Are Told To:
 - Keep On “Putting On The Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - So - What Does Paul Have In Mind Here?
 - Well - This Means That:
 - As A Christian:
 - There Needs To Be A Daily & Deliberate & Decisive Renewal:
 - In Your Relationship With & Commitment To The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - **IE:** As You Would Change Your Clothes Each Day - Dress Yourself Up In Christ Each Day!
 - How?
 - In Your Daily Resignation To The Lord:
 - As Your Lord & Master!
 - To Put On The Lord Jesus Christ Means:
 - Each Day You Renew:
 - Your Submission To His Authority And Control:
 - In Your Life - No Matter What! Also:

- Are You Still Asleep:
 - In Your Walk With The Lord?
 - Have You Grown Drowsy & Apathetic:
 - Or Even Comfortable:
 - With Your Own Spiritual:
 - Status Quo?

- If So - Then This Alarm Bell:
 - Is For You - Even As It Is:
 - For Me!
 - Do You Hear It?
 - Will You Heed It?
 - Or - Will You Hit The Snooze:
 - One More Time?

3. If You Won't Be:

- Revived & Ready & Renewed **Now**:
 - Then **When?**
 - Remember These Words From James:
 - James 4:14 - "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away!"
- The Time You Have:
 - Is **All** The Time You Have:
 - To Serve & Submit To & Even Sacrifice Yourself:
 - For The Lord:
 - In This World!
 - But - **That** Time:
 - Is Getting Shorter & Shorter!
 - 13:11 - "For Now Is Our Salvation Nearer Than When We Believed!"

4. So - Right Now - On This Very Day:
 - Its Your Time:
 - "To Awake Out Of Sleep!"

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com