**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Wake-Up Call |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 13:11-14 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2082 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is an invisible war, and we need to wake up and see that the enemy is upon us.
      1. We need to sound the alarm.
      2. And the sad thing is that the church is asleep with the covers pulled up over her head, and the sanctuary is dark.
         1. The church needs to wake up before it is too late.
   2. Romans 13:11-14
      1. What time is it on God’s clock?
         1. It is time to wake up.
         2. It’s probably later than most of us think.
      2. This was a wake-up call that the Apostle Paul gave to saints long ago.
         1. And he wants to give it to us today because the alarm has sounded.
   3. Vance Havner said that there is anarchy in the world, apostasy in the church, and apathy in the pew.
      1. Anarchy in the world
         1. We in America today are in a moral free-fall.
            1. Standards have gone to an all-time low.
            2. The alarm has sounded.
         2. Something is happening in the hearts and minds of boys and girls.
            1. There are school shootings.
            2. Some are worshipping Satan.
            3. There are magazines and comic strips that try to persuade kids that Hell is a better place than Heaven.
            4. Public school teachers cannot lead students in prayer.
         3. We are told that it is competency in the White House that matters, not character.
            1. That there is no relationship between a person’s private life and his or her public life.
      2. Apostasy in the church
         1. Many Christians today believe that there is no such thing as absolute truth.
            1. If there is no absolute truth, then we cannot know that the Bible is absolutely true and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
         2. Some do not believe in a personal God who hears our prayers and petitions.
         3. There are those who say that it is nonsensical to seek to understand that Jesus is the incarnation of the theistic Deity.
         4. Humanity’s fall into sin, the virgin birth, and the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ have been rejected by some.
      3. Apathy in the pew
         1. People just roll over and yawn in the face of God and go back to sleep.
         2. It is high time to awake out of our sleep.
         3. Romans 13:11
            1. “It is high time” means that the hour is here.
         4. Romans 13:12
            1. “The night is far spent” means that it’s later than we think.
   4. It’s later in the age than we may think.
      1. Romans 13:12
      2. Jesus Christ is at the threshold, and the trumpet is about to sound.
         1. Jesus is going to come soon.
      3. It is only the restraining hand of Almighty God and the Holy Spirit that keep the floodgates of evil closed as much as they are.
   5. It’s later in your life than you think.
      1. We only have so many more days and so many hours yet to serve the Lord Jesus.
      2. James 4:14
   6. It’s later in the day of opportunity than we may think.
      1. We have opportunities now that are unparalleled to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
      2. John 9:4
      3. One thing that we cannot do when we get to Heaven is win souls.
         1. All the soul winning that we will ever do will be done while we’re here on Earth.
   7. In today’s message, we will focus upon three things that the Apostle Paul told the church at Rome that are also meant for us today.
2. it is time to wake up
   1. Romans 13:11
   2. Too many sermons today are like bedtime stories rather than reveilles, and God’s alarm clock is going off all around us.
   3. Jesus is coming as a thief in the night.
      1. 1 Thessalonians 5:2
      2. But the Apostle Paul said that we are not in darkness that that day should overtake us as a thief.
         1. 1 Thessalonians 5:4
      3. How can we sit so comfortably in the pew when civilization is crumbling around us?
      4. Many churches are like Samson asleep in the lap of Delilah.
         1. When they do finally wake up, they do not know that the Spirit has departed from them.
            1. And they go out with no power.
      5. We wake up, not by feeling like it, but by just getting up.
         1. If we wait until we feel like it, then we may not get up.
         2. Don’t push the snooze button.
         3. Wake up and get up.
3. it is time to clean up
   1. Romans 13:12-13
      1. The picture here is of someone who has been out on the town all night long in wantonness, strife, envy, drunkenness, and reveling.
         1. He comes in with his filthy clothes reeking with the spots and stains of sin.
         2. He doesn’t even undress, but he falls into a stupor, into a sleep.
      2. Paul says to wake up and clean up.
   2. The Apostle Paul mentions six things that we need to put off before we are ready to meet the day; these are works of darkness.
      1. Rioting and drunkenness
         1. Romans 13:13
            1. The word “rioting” means “carousing.”
         2. This is what keeps the taverns, nightclubs, and casinos in business.
            1. We have no business being in these places.
            2. If you are a child of God and frequenting these places, then you need to stop and put it off.
      2. Chambering and wantonness
         1. Romans 13:13
            1. “Chambering” means “sexual immorality.”
            2. “Wantonness” means “without shame or shamelessness.”
         2. A person who is a child of God, a member of a church, and who is also living in sexual immorality, needs to either get right or get out.
            1. Put these things off.
         3. Hebrews 13:4
         4. Many people are living together without the benefit of marriage.
            1. Today, it is an accepted thing.
            2. But it is not acceptable in the Word of God.

The Bible calls it fornication and absolutely forbids it.

1 Corinthians 6:18

* + - * 1. We need to order our lives by the Word of God, not in sexual immorality or shamelessness.
      1. There is no sense of shame today.
         1. We have a generation of unblushables.
         2. Jeremiah 6:15
         3. It has been said that man is the only animal that can blush, and he is the only one who needs to.
         4. There is sin today that is arrogant and proud; no shame.
         5. Isaiah 3:9

They’re literally proud of their sin.

* + 1. Strife and envy
       1. Romans 13:13
          1. “Strife” means “the desire for power.”
          2. “Envy” is wanting more and wanting what somebody else has.
       2. Hate, envy, and jealousy are works of darkness that God says to put off.
          1. We may think that we can’t, but we can.

The Word of God can change hearts and lives.

1. it is time to dress up
   1. Romans 13:12,14
      1. This is the heart of the whole thing:
         1. What good is it to wake up and clean up if we do not dress up?
   2. We are to dress up in the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Romans 13:14
         1. The full title for Jesus is used in this verse.
      2. “Lord” means “Master.”
         1. Put on the Lord Jesus as Master for direction.
         2. Jesus is our Master, and we are His slaves.
            1. The Master tells the slave what to do, what to say, where to go, and when to come.
            2. Is Jesus Christ your Master?

He is if you put Him on.

* + 1. “Jesus” means “Savior.”
       1. The name “Jesus” actually means “Jehovah saves.”
       2. Put on the Lord Jesus as Savior for deliverance.
          1. It is a vile world; and as we go out, we will have to be clothed.
          2. We need someone who can deliver us, dress us in robes of righteousness, protect us, to cleanse us, and to keep us clean.

We need to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and then we will be dressed in His righteousness alone.

Not only is He Lord, but He is also Savior.

* + 1. The word “Christ” means “Messiah, King.”
       1. Put on the Lord Jesus as Messiah for dominion.
       2. He is the one who rules over us and teaches us how to rule in this life.
          1. Because He is the Messiah, Lord of lords, and King of kings.
  1. We are to wear Jesus like a suit of armor; armor of light.
     1. As we go out into the world, we are to have Jesus on.
        1. Put on Jesus over your sorrows and around your tears.
        2. Put on Jesus over your aches and pains.
        3. Put on Jesus over your failures and shame.
     2. Jesus Christ is behind us, ahead of us, within us, and we are dressed up in Him.
  2. Romans 13:14
     1. Don’t keep those old clothes that you cast off.
        1. Get rid of them.
        2. Make no provision for the flesh.
           1. If anyone has a problem with alcohol, get rid of it.
           2. If you are trying to quit smoking, then do not keep that carton in case you go back to it.
           3. If you are in an improper relationship, then quit.

This does not mean to quit gradually.

Get out of there and saturate that place with your absence.

* 1. Put on Jesus Christ.
     1. Put Him on for direction because He is Lord.
     2. Put Him on for deliverance because He is Savior.
     3. Put Him on for dominion because He is King and Messiah.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. The hour is late.
   2. It is time to wake up, to clean up, and to dress up.
   3. Whatever you are going to do for Jesus, you need to do it now.
      1. Life is too short, and eternity is too long.
      2. Souls are too precious.
      3. The Gospel is too wonderful for you to sleep through it all.
      4. And soon, He is coming.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16