

Wake Up And Smell The Coffin!

Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

- Everyone has the same twenty-four hours in each day to manage, as we deem appropriate, to fit our own personal busy schedules. As we sit down to plan each day, week, month or even year we need to be good stewards of the time we are given. In our schedules we often plan time for such things as work, play, time to eat out, sleep in, spend time with loved ones vacationing or in other activities. Faithful **Christians** schedule **regular** time for **Bible** study, worship and prayer and fellowship. Ultimately though, we will be held accountable for the time we sacrifice to **God** for the expansion of **His** kingdom on earth, the church.

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom **toward them that are without** (*those outside the church*), redeeming (*Gk.1805- to buy up, that is, ransom; figuratively to rescue from loss [improve opportunity]*) the time. **6** Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, **that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

Rom 13:11 And that, **knowing** (*Gk.1492- to know, consider*) **the time** (*Gk.2540- an occasion: opportunity*), that now *it is* high time to **awake** (*Gk.1453-through the idea of collecting one's faculties*) **out of sleep** (*Gk.5258- [figuratively] spiritual torpor [Webster: apathy]*): for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

- Even through all the personal struggles that **Satan** puts up as road blocks in front of us, it's high time we get it together and stand up against his devices. Today we are closer to death than we were when we were first converted. According to **Tom Miller** of **E.T.S.P.M.** we are all terminal. The statistics are staggering. One out of every one does it.

Rom 13:12 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**. **13** Let us walk honestly, **as in the day**; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering (*Gk.2845- a couch; by extension cohabitation*) (*in other words-“shackin’ up”*) and wantonness (*Gk.766- licentiousness [Webster: morally unrestrained][sometimes including other vices]*), not in strife and envying. **14** But put ye on (*Gk.1746- [in the sense of sinking into a garment]; to invest with clothing: array, endue*)* the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision (*Gk.4307- forethought*) for the flesh (*Gk.4561- human nature*), to fulfil the lusts (*Gk.1939- a longing [especially for what is forbidden]*) thereof.

- **Paul** here is speaking to the church at **Rome**. These had already been baptized into **Christ** and he is reminding them that **Christianity** is not something one can put off at will to serve self. No one would want to walk around naked so the idea is that we are to put **Christ** on daily. As Jesus Himself said “*take up his (your) cross daily and follow Me.*” (**Lk 9:23**)

***Gal 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**

Eph 5:14 Wherefore He saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.** 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly (*Gk.199- exactly: diligently*), not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming (*Gk.1805- to buy up, that is, ransom; figuratively to rescue from loss*) the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.** (*2 Pet 3:9*)

Mat 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow (*Gk.4639- [darkness of error]*) of death light is sprung up.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness** (*Gk.4655- shadiness, that is, obscurity*) **rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, **lest his deeds should be reprov'd** (*Gk.1651- to admonish, convict*). (**Because sin feels so good!** If it didn't we wouldn't be committing it! But not everything that feels good is good for you!) 21 **But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest** (*Gk.5319- to render apparent*), **that they are wrought** (*Gk.2038- be engaged in: committed*) **in God.**

Joh 1:4 In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended (*Gk.2638- to take eagerly, apprehend, perceive*) it not.

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the **morrow**. For **what is your life?** It is **even a vapour** (*Gk.822- mist*), that appeareth for a **little time** (*Gk.3641- puny + season*), and then vanisheth away (*Gk.853- to render unapparent, consume, disappear*).

Mar 4:26 And He said, **So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;** 27 **And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.** 28 **For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.** 29 **But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.**

Joh 9:4 I must work the works of Him that sent Me, **while it is day: the night cometh,** when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light (*Gk.5457- luminousness*) of the world.

Heb 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into His (*God's*) rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from His. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (*The Israelites lost faith in God that He would lead them into the promised land.*)

2Co 5:10 **For** we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to **that he hath done,**

whether it be **good or bad**. (Not only for the things we've done but also for the things we haven't done!)

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that **knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**

1Pe 4:3 For the **time past** of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, **when we walked** in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings (*Gk.4224- a drinking bout or carousal*), and abominable idolatries: **4** Wherein they think it **strange** that ye **run not with them** to the same excess of riot, **speaking evil of you**: **5** Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. **6** For **for this cause** was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh (*speaking evil of you*), but live according to God in the spirit. **7** But **the end of all things is at hand**: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

- In the context this is a continuation of chapter three speaking of the flood of Noah's day. The gospel (*good news- you can be saved from the flood by entering the ark*) having been preached by Noah at that time to those who are now, at the time of the writing, dead. Noah was judged by those around him as being mad and any others who would join him in the building of the ark would have suffered the same scorn. But Noah continued to obey the instructions given to him by God and thus lived for Him and his soul was ultimately saved. Therefore the example to the saints then (*around 65 AD*) concerning the "end of all things", the coming destruction of Jerusalem (*70 AD*) and the end of the Mosaic age, thus the reason they were to watch. (*read Mat 24:33-39*)

Of sticks and stones.

Luk 12:1 In the meantime, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, He began to say unto His disciples first of all, **Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.** **2** For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. **3** Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken **in darkness** shall be heard **in the light**; and that which ye have spoken in the ear **in closets** shall be **proclaimed upon the housetops.** **4** And I say unto you My friends, Be not afraid of them that **kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.** **5** But I will forewarn you Whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, Which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.

- Jesus was telling His disciples that the message they would be spreading in the shadows because of those who were against it would one day be spread everywhere in the open. They were not to fear them though because, as Polycarp put it before he was burned at the stake, "*You threaten with the fire that burns for a time, and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire that awaits the wicked in the judgment to come and in everlasting punishment. But why are you waiting? Come, do what you will.*" *The Eternal Kingdom- F.W.Mattox*

The persecutor became the persecuted.

Act 26:14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?** it is **hard for thee to kick against the pricks** (Gk.2759- *goads*). **15** And I said, Who art Thou, Lord? And He said, **I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest.** -(Mat 25:40 ...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.)- **16** But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee **for this purpose**, to make thee a minister **and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Act 26:17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, **unto whom now I send thee**, **18** To **open their eyes**, and to **turn them from darkness to light**, and from **the power of Satan unto God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me. (*darkness = Satan and light = God*)

Why spread the message of light and hope?

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are **asleep** (Gk.2837- *to put to sleep; figuratively to decease*), that ye (*those who have hope*) sorrow not, even as others **which have no hope**. **14** For if **we believe** that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep** (Gk.2837) **in Jesus** will God bring (Gk.71- *to lead; lead away*) with Him (*back to Heaven*). **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (Gk.5348- *to be beforehand, that is, anticipate or precede*) them which are **asleep** (Gk.2837). (*If we are alive during the resurrection we will witness the most powerful event ever in the history of mankind. To see the dead rise! I know where I would want to be...*) **16** For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout (Gk.2752- *cry of excitement*), with the voice (Gk.5456- *by implication an address*) of the archangel, and with the trump (Gk.4536- *[through the idea of quavering or reverberation]; a trumpet*) of God*: and the **dead** (Gk.3498-*nek-ros; [a corpse]; dead-[Webster: necrosis<the death or decay of tissue in a part of the body]*) **in Christ** shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up together** (Gk.726-*har-pad'-zo; to seize [in various applications]: -catch [away, up]*) with them in the clouds (*no word of a rapture exists in the Bible*), to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever (Gk.3842- *every when, that is, at all times*) [*not for a thousand years as the false doctrines of rapture and millennialism teach*] be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore **comfort** one another with these words.

*Did you ever have neighbors that played such loud music that you felt they would raise the dead? Well, that wouldn't be as loud as the "trump of God" which actually will raise the dead. And the sound would be different from the "sounding brass" of **1 Cor 13:1** in that this sound won't be irritating, especially to those in Christ.

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and **the noise of the trumpet**, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. **19** And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but ***let not God speak with us, lest we die.**

- The words from God (*the Bible*) have a tendency to do that to the heart of the unrepentant sinner (*and Christian for that matter*).

1Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **2** For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.** **3** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **4** But ye, brethren, **are not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief. **5** **Ye are all the children of light**, and the **children of the day**: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. **6** Therefore **let us not sleep**, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **8** But let us, who are **of the day**, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** Who died for us, that, **whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: **7** But if we **walk in the light, as He is in the light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth (*continues to cleanse*) us from all sin.

Act 17:28 For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; ...For we are also His offspring.

Our mission to evangelize.

1Co 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts (*Gk.2341- to encounter [furious men]*) at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die. (*quoting Isa 22:13*) **33** Be not deceived: evil communications (*Gk.3657- companionship, that is, [by implication] intercourse*) corrupt good manners (*Gk.2239- usage, that is, [plural] moral habits*). **34** Awake (*Gk.1594- to rouse [oneself] out of stupor*) to righteousness, and sin not; **for** (*gives a reason to awake*) some **have not the knowledge of God**: I speak *this* to your shame (*Gk.1791- confusion*).

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me (*to understand to the point of obeying*), hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation (*Gk.2920- a tribunal: - accusation, damnation, judgment*); but is **passed** (*Gk.3327- to change place*) **from death** (*Gk.2288- than'-at-os; death*) **unto life** (*when the body dies the spirit continues to live, thus the "person" or rational and immortal soul doesn't experience death**). **25** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and **now is**, when the (*spiritually*) dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and **they that hear** (*Gk.191- understand*) **shall live** (*be converted*).

**Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour **is coming**, in the which all that are **in the graves** (*physical dead*) shall hear His voice, **29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1Co 15:24 Then *cometh* the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom (*His bride the church*) to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power*. **25** For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death (*the seed of Satan: Gen 3:15*).

**Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

1Jn 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you: because **the darkness is past**, and **the true light now shineth**.

It's time to wake up while we still have that Light!

Hear: **Romans 10:17** ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: **Heb 11:6** ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: **Lk 13:3** ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: **Mat 10:32** "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: **Acts 2:38** ..."repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: **Rom 6:4** ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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