



ROMANS 13:11-14

Wake Up Call

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SERMON NOTES: Romans 13:11-14

The first step in “Finding ME”: Realize I’m not God: I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable. (Romans 7:14-25)

The second step in “Finding ME”: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me. (Romans 8:1-17)

The third step in “Finding ME”: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control. (Romans 12:1-2)

The fourth step in “Finding ME”: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. (Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17)

The fifth step in “Finding ME”: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. (Romans 12:9-21)

The sixth step in “Finding ME”: Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I’ve done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others. (Romans 13:8-10)

- Love is the **dominant rule** of the Christian life
- Love is an **action** word

Romans 13:11–14

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.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GO BACK TO SLEEP

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.*

- Time is running out (vs. 11)
- We must heed the warnings (vs. 12)

WE MUST CHOOSE WISELY

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- A life dedicated to knowing and serving God (vs. 12b)
- A life of non-conformity

WE MUST ACT APPROPRIATELY

¹³ *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime . . .*

- Our actions indicate the condition of our heart
- Our actions reveal the depth of our love for God and neighbor

What can we do to make certain that we remain awake?

14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

1. Reserve some time to reflect upon scripture
2. Spend some time in personal examination
3. The result: Clarity and power will be the fruit of such an endeavor

The seventh step in “Finding ME”:

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will. (Romans 13:11-14)

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 13:11-14

OPENING

- Who is the alarm clock in your home?

GOING DEEPER

Actions spring from our thoughts. We were reminded in Romans 12:2, ² *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

The concept of “putting on the armor of light” and “putting aside the deeds of darkness” will require a change of mind and action. Below is another passage that may aid your discussion:

Leaders Note: Spend some time discussing how our thoughts can change our actions. How does filling our minds with the right things contribute to doing the right things?

Galatians 5:16–26 (NIV84)

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Leaders Note: This verse deals with getting control of our passions. How can reflection on scripture and self-reflection help us manage our passions? What can we do to increase the effect of scripture in our lives?

CHALLENGE:

- Discuss some steps you will take to stay awake in your walk with God. Share those steps with someone for accountability.