

“WAKE UP, PEOPLE!”

Romans 13:11-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Have you seen the soft drink commercial where one person yawns and it spreads to the people in his office? The yawn then goes out onto the street and beyond until it comes back to the office. Then the first one who yawned is drinking a soft drink that boosts his energy, spins around in his chair and the announcer says, “**WAKE UP, PEOPLE.**”
- B. This morning I want to talk about waking up.
- C. Sleep is a wonderful thing.
 - 1. It refreshes your body and rests your mind.
 - 2. When you lose sleep, it makes it difficult to concentrate and feel good the next day.
 - 3. If you have gone through a period of time where you had trouble sleeping, you know how precious it can be.
- D. The word “sleep” is used at least four ways in the Bible:
 - 1. Those who are *PHYSICALLY ASLEEP*. Jesus was asleep in the ship during a storm, **Matthew 8:24**. (See illustration of sleeping songleader at end of outline).
 - 2. Those who *HAVE DIED*. "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." **John 11:11**
 - 3. Those who are *LAZY*. “How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?” **Proverbs 6:9**.
 - 4. Those who are *SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP*.
- E. The last of those is what we will discuss today. Some Christians are asleep and need to wake up:

I. IT’S TIME TO WAKE UP, Romans 13:11.

- A. Paul told the Romans, "it is *high time to awake* out of sleep;" **Romans 13:11**.
 - 1. “*The hour has come for you to wake up* from your slumber,” (NIV).
 - 2. Sleep: hupnos (hoop'-nos); sleep, i.e., figuratively spiritual *apathy* or *inactivity*.
 - 3. Are we in a state of spiritual apathy and inactivity?
 - 4. Do we need to awaken out of *spiritual* sleep?
- B. “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand*. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” **Romans 13:12**.
“The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.” (NIV).
- C. Paul told the Ephesians, "*Awake, you who sleep*, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." **Ephesians 5:14**.
Greek word for *sleep*: katheudo, kath-yoo'-do); "to go to sleep," *is sometimes used of carnal indifference to spiritual things on the part of believers*. (Vine's).

II. THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, 1 Thessalonians 5:6.

- A. "Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober." **1 Thess 5:6.**
 - 1. Greek word for *sleep*: *katheudo*, (see above).
 - 2. Greek word for *watch*: *gregoreuo* (gray-gor-yoo'-o); "**to keep awake**, i.e., watch (literally or figuratively)." (Strong's).
- B. Jesus told the Church at Sardis: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God." **Rev 3:1-2.**
 - 1. "Be watchful," (NKJ). "**Wake up!**" (NIV).
 - 2. They were *spiritually asleep* and needed to wake up and perfect their works before God.
 - 3. Note **Verse 3**: "Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. **But if you do not wake up**, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you." How serious is that?
- C. Those who are indifferent to spiritual things need to wake up and be revived for the glory of the Church.
- D. ILLUSTRATION: One day at the MMD, one of the men told about a friend of his who had some health problems and had gone into a coma. In talking about his friend coming out of the coma, he said that his friend "had revived."
 - ◆ That caused me to think again about Christians who needed to be revived.
- E. There are some Christians who are in "*spiritual comas*" and need to be **REVIVED**.

III. IS REVIVAL NEEDED?

- A. IN THE BROTHERHOOD?
 - 1. The church of Christ once grew very quickly.
 - 2. Today most congregations are not growing very much.
 - 3. Yes, there is a need for revival in our brotherhood.
- B. IN THIS CHURCH?
 - 1. Are we satisfied with our present growth rate? I hope not.
 - 2. Could we do more? Give more? Convert more? Invite more? Attend more?
- C. IN YOUR LIFE? Now, what about each of us INDIVIDUALLY?
 - 1. Are we as zealous as we ought to be?
 - 2. Are we doing all we should and could in:
 - a. Visiting?
 - b. Teaching?
 - c. Encouraging?
 - d. Inviting?
 - e. Giving?
 - 3. One time a preacher was asked how to start a revival. He said, "Go into a room, and kneel down. Take a piece of chalk and draw a circle around yourself and pray to God that a revival would start within that circle. Then do your part to begin the revival."

IV. A FORM OF THE WORD “REVIVE” OCCURS ONLY TWO TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and *revived*, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.” **Romans 14:9.**
1. *revived*: anazao (an-ad-zah'-o); to recover life (literally or figuratively).
 2. Jesus came back to life ON THE THIRD DAY.
 3. Some Christians need to come back to life **TODAY**.
- B. “I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin *revived* and I died.” **Romans 7:9.**
1. In Romans 7, Paul was discussing his struggle with sin.
 2. A time when Paul was alive apart from the law (v.9) -- Could be:
 - a. In CHILDHOOD.
 - b. Once, when he was UNAWARE of his condemnation.
 3. Just when he thought he had control over sin, it would *revive* and defeat him again.
 4. Be careful that you do not let down your guard and allow sin to revive in your life.
- C. A SIMILAR CONCEPT IS FOUND IN **Acts 3:19.**
1. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord,” **Acts 3:19.**
 - a. Greek word: *anapsuxis* (an-aps'-ook-sis); “ a recovery of breath, i.e., (figuratively) revival.” (Strong’s).
 - b. The word rendered "refreshing," *anapsuxis*, means properly "breathing," or "refreshment," after being heated with labor, running, etc. It hence denotes "any kind of refreshment, as rest, or deliverance from evils of any kind." (Barnes Notes).
 2. Do you need “times of refreshing” or “revival” in your life?
 3. Pray for revival and then do your part.

VI. WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND BE REVIVED, Psalm 85:6.

“Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” **Psalm 85:6.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are you in a “spiritual coma”? Are you headed in that direction?
- B. **ILLUSTRATION:** “If I should die before I wake” should be “If I wake before I die.” Tony Campolo writes: In graduate school, I took a course in Chinese philosophy. The Buddhist monk who taught the course said to me, "As a Christian, you teach your children to pray all wrong. You teach them to pray, 'If I should die before I wake.' It would be better if you taught them to pray 'If I should wake before I die.' "
- The monk went on to point out that most of the people he knew were half awake when they ought to be asleep. But even worse, when they were asleep, they were half awake. No one seemed to be totally alive. Nobody seemed to be turned on to what was going on around them.
- Tony Campolo, "If I Should Wake Before I Die," Preaching Today, Tape No. 124.
- C. Do you need to WAKE UP?

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