

**I. Introduction: The practical use of eschatology**

**II. Do you realize what time it is? Get up! v. 11-12a**

**A. This is no time to sleep. v. 11a**

1. Christians have a tendency to spiritual drowsiness.
2. You ought to have a great sense of urgency.
  - a. There is much to do.
  - b. Much time has already been wasted.
  - c. Your days are numbered. Heb. 9:27 Ps. 90:12
  - d. Your enemy is not sleeping. Mt. 13:24-30
  - e. The time until the end is short.

**B. The Day of Salvation is at hand.**

1. Of what aspect of *salvation* is Paul speaking? v. 11b I Th. 1:9-10
  - a. We have already been saved from the *penalty* of sin (Justification). 4:5 5:1,17 8:1 Eph. 2:8-9
  - b. We are presently being saved from the *power* of sin (Sanctification). I Pe. 1:5 Phil. 2:12
  - c. We eagerly await our salvation from the *presence* of sin (Glorification). 8:21f I Th. 5:8-9 Heb. 9:28 I Pe. 1:5,9
2. The consummation is nearer now than it ever has been. v. 11b
3. The night of this present evil age is nearly over. v. 12a 8:19-22 12:2 Gal. 1:4
4. The Day of the Lord is about to dawn. 16:20 He. 9:28

**C. Do you understand the times?**

1. It is important to understand the times in which you live. Mt. 16:1-3 I Chr.
2. Did Paul expect Jesus to return in his lifetime? I Th. 4:15 II Th. 1:6-7 I Co. 7:29f
  - a. Some critics have accused Paul of being wrong.
  - b. Jesus taught we cannot know the time of the His return. Acts 1:6-7 Mk. 13:33
  - c. Paul seems to expect certain events before the Lord's return. 11:12f II Th. 2:1f
  - d. Paul did teach that every generation of believers should be ready.
3. We live in the last age. Acts 2:17 I Co. 10:11 He. 1:1-2 9:26 Js. 5:3 I Pe. 1:20 I Jo. 2:18 Re. 1:3 22:10
4. Be patient. God doesn't view time the same way you do. II Pe. 3:3-9 Rev. 6:11
5. The certainty of Jesus' return and the uncertainty of the time motivates believers throughout all generations. Mark 13:33-36 Titus 2:11-14
6. Bad eschatology saps motivation. II Th. 2:1-2

**D. We live in the age of the already and the not yet.**

1. We already have been delivered out of the world's darkness and have been brought into the light of God's kingdom. Col. 1:13-14
2. We eagerly await the Lord's return in which His kingdom will be fully realized.
3. Live in light of the times.

### III. Get dressed, and get moving! v. 12b-14

A. Your life should reflect the realities of your conversion. I Th. 5:4-6 Ti. 2:14 Eph. 5:8

B. Change your clothes. v. 12b

1. Lay aside the deeds of darkness. Eph. 4:22 Col. 3:8 Heb. 12:1 Js. 1:21 I Pe. 2:1 Job 24:13-17 I Th. 5:7 *Crime, sin.*

2. Put on the armor of light. I Th. 5:8 Eph. 4:24 6:13-17 II Co. 6:7 10:4 Col. 3:10

C. Walk worthily. v. 13

1. No longer engage in your old nighttime activities. Gal. 5:19-21

a. Christians have been saved out of the world. I Co. 6:9-11 Titus 3:3f

b. You may be tempted to go back to your old vices. I Pe. 4:3-4

c. Partying and drunkenness. I Pe. 4:3

d. Sexual promiscuity and sensuality. He. 13:4

e. Strife and envy rank up with these other awful vices. 1:29 16:17f I Ti. 6:4 Titus 3:9 Js. 3:14,16

2. Instead live (walk) as those who belong to the daytime. Eph. 5:8 I Jo. 2:6,9-11 II Pe. 3:13-14

D. Put on Christ. v. 14a

1. You have already been clothed in His righteousness for your justification. 6:3-6 Gal. 3:27 Isa. 61:10 Mt. 22:12 Phil. 3:9

2. Now you should reflect His character. 8:29 Col. 3:10 I Jo. 2:6 I Pe. 2:21 Ga. 5:22f Phil. 3:13-14

3. How do you do this?

a. Remember who you are. 6:11

b. Live in light of who you are. 6:12f.

4. One day you will be like Christ. 8:29 I Jo. 3:2-3

E. Having put on Christ, make no provision for the lusts of the flesh. v. 14b 8:12f

1. The battle for the body takes place in the heart. Js. 1:14f Ga. 5:13,16,24 I Pe. 2:11

2. Plan ahead to stay far from sin. Pr. 5:8 24:8 Ps. 36:4

3. Don't make allowances for your sin.

4. Be prepared to take drastic action, for the stakes are high. Mt. 5:29-30 Acts 19:19

### IV. Concluding applications: Are you ready for the future?

#### Discussion questions

1. According to Paul, who needs to wake up?

2. In what sense are we living in the last days?

3. Did Paul teach that Jesus was going to return in his lifetime?

4. Why has the Lord not revealed the time of His return?

5. In what sense are we *already* living in God's kingdom? What has *not yet* taken place?

6. What should we do in light of the nearness of the Lord's return?

7. What is the armor of light?

8. Is it possible for a real Christian to be drunk, immoral, and quarrelsome?

9. What does it mean to put on Christ?

10. What can you do to prevent making any provision for the lusts of the flesh?