

THE TRANSFORMED MIND KNOWS THE TIME
(Romans 13:11-14)

I. The waking (vs. 11-12a).

- A. The ASV is interesting in this text and provides a better translation of this verse: “And this, (let us do) knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed.”
 - 1. This gives us the idea that all that has been said from 12:1 until now is under consideration.
 - 2. Everything that Paul has said the transformed mind does is to be done because of the closeness of eternal life.
- B. Too many Christians walk around as if they have all the time in the world.
 - 1. You and I don’t have any idea how much time we have left.
 - 2. All we do know is that death is nearer today than it was yesterday.
- C. We walk around as if we are asleep.
 - 1. You look at how Christians are living and you see this is the truth.
 - 2. Many engage in the same activities they were doing while in sin.
- D. Paul has eternal salvation in mind here, because one is saved when they believe and are baptized, which is the idea of believed.
- E. It is time to be prepared for death and what awaits and stop being lazy in life and actions for Jesus.
- F. It’s high time, or the right time, right now because the night is of life is nearly over.
 - 1. The darkness of this world and its power is under consideration.
 - 2. The light of the great day of judgment is close.
- G. We need Christians who are aware of this fact and live in a way that shows they are.
 - 1. If our minds have been transformed by the gospel, it will show in our attitude towards God and His word.
 - 2. This will result in it showing in our actions towards God and one another.

II. The warring (vs. 12b).

- A. There is a battle going on between sinfulness and righteousness in our lives.
- B. Sinfulness is here depicted as the works of darkness.
 - 1. Those things that are worldly in our lives must be put off.
 - 2. It carries the idea of removing dirty clothes.
- C. All those things that we once did, not just some of them, when we lived in sin must be removed like dirty laundry.
 - 1. We would never purposefully wear dirty laundry for our everyday clothing.
 - 2. As Christians, we can’t wear sinfulness as we once did while in the world.

3. Christian soldiers are not going to be encumbered with sin.
- D. Instead, we are to put on the armor of light.
 1. This, of course, is a reference to what we call the Christian armor found in Ephesians 6.
 2. It is the opposite of the sinfulness, or darkness, of this world.
- E. Anything that is connected with sinfulness is what Paul is talking about concerning the works of darkness.
 1. So many things promote darkness, or sinfulness, in the lives of people.
 2. Anything that does is considered a work of darkness.
- F. As soldiers of Christ, we must be adorned properly.
 1. We will wear all the armor we can get.
 2. Each of us needs help in fighting the battle that is for our souls.
 3. We must be willing and able to use all that God gives us for our protection.
- G. Could you imagine a soldier in the US military telling his commanding officer that he didn't need the body armor he was issued or maybe the weapon he was issued?
 1. Could you imagine him saying that they were giving him too much ammunition?
 2. We know that this would be ridiculous and would never happen.
- H. We must get rid of that which hinders us and hold to that which aids or helps us in this battle for our souls.

III. The walking.

- A. When we remove all that hinders and put on all that helps, we will walk in a noble way before others and God.
 1. The idea of walk is a way of life.
 2. Our way of life will be lived under scrutiny by others, as in the light of day.
 3. We will have nothing to hide, and be able to live life nobly before others.
- B. Paul then listed three sets of sins that were very common in that day and we will see they are in our day as well.
- C. Rioting and drunkenness.
 1. The Greek word translated rioting is from the Greek god of feasting and reveling.
 - a. Worship of this idol involved large feasts with great amounts of alcohol consumed.
 - b. The oldest Mardi Gras association in New Orleans is named after this god, Comus.
 - c. These would be parties where drinking and dancing went hand in hand.
 2. These parties would lead to drunkenness.
 - a. We know the Bible condemns drunkenness in other

- passages as well.
- b. Again, the only way to have a drinking problem is to drink.
- D. Chambering and wantonness.
 - 1. The word for chambering literally means a bed.
 - a. This refers to fornication.
 - b. It carries the idea of conceiving.
 - 2. Wantonness is also translated lasciviousness.
 - a. It carries the idea of readiness for all types of pleasure.
 - b. It refers to a person who has no restraints.
 - c. They do not keep themselves from anything that they believe is pleasurable to them.
- E. Strife and envy.
 - 1. Strife means contention and debate.
 - a. When a person is full of strife, he does no good.
 - b. He is harmful to those around him because he is always stirring up trouble.
 - 2. Envy is desiring what someone else has.
 - a. These two go hand in hand.
 - b. It is literally pain or discomfort at someone else well doing, success or honor.
- F. These three sets of sins were heavily engaged in by the Gentile world.
 - 1. Those that came out of them into Christianity would still be tempted by them.
 - 2. Paul was encouraging these brethren in their transformation process.
- G. Instead of being worldly, we are to put on Christ.
 - 1. This is that transformation process at work.
 - 2. We are to be more like Him all the time.
- H. When we are busy being Christ-like, we won't have room for fleshly lusts.
- I. Remember, we must replace the evil with good or the evil will come right back and even grow.