

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Rom 13:11-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Where did Daylight Savings Time come from?
- B. A system intended to "save" daylight, as opposed to "wasting" time such as sleeping while the sun shines. The official time is adjusted forward during the spring and summer months, so that the active hours of work and school will better match the hours of daylight." (Wikipedia, Online Encyclopedia)
 - 1. First official in 1916, then dropped in 1918
 - 2. Reinstated 1942 but erratically implemented
 - 3. Mandated nationwide 1966 - "Spring ahead, fall back" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time
- C. Hard to know, a couple of times a year, what time it is.
 - 1. Confusion if not diligent about setting all the clocks in your house.
 - 2. We want to know what time it is!
 - 3. Important to make best use of time spiritually: Rom 13:11-14
- D. What time is it? The passage tells us that it's time to:

DISCUSSION:

I. TIME TO WAKE UP - Rom 13:11

- A. Hard to roll out of bed on 1st day of time change losing hour of sleep makes some bleary-eyed & slow!
- B. Yet, we're instructed to be alert, energetic, and zealous.
 - 1. Spiritual apathy can cause neglect which is disastrous.
 - a. "How will we escape if we neglect....?" Heb 2:3
 - b. Short answer: We won't!
 - 2. Apathy leaves us in a careless state. Simple logic tells us no one puts any real effort into something he cares nothing about.
- C. Must be "up for it" Eph 5:8, 14-17, 1Thess 5:1-11, Heb 10:24
 - 1. We are called to be zealous, enthusiastic, energetic! John 9:4
 - 2. Let's wake up, recognize opportunity and work enthusiastically!

II. TIME TO CLEAN UP - Rom 13:12-13

- A. Surprised by how many professing Christians are no different than the rest of the world.
 - 1. Language, actions just as worldly, desires just as material
 - 2. Their end will be just as tragic.

- B. Life in Christ is new, clean 2Cor 5:17 Yet, some keep hanging on to things that are better left in past life.
- C. There can be no room for lifestyles that offend the Father
 - 1. Realize that we're "sanctified" - set apart to be different! 2Cor 6:14 - 7:1
 - 2. In the world but not of the world Jhn 15:19
- D. The list of things to avoid are too numerous to mention but God tells us exactly the kind of person He wants us to grow into. Eph 4:15

III. TIME TO GROW UP - Rom 13:14

- A. Commitment to spiritual growth needs to be priority for EVERY Christian, whether young or old. Phil 3:13
 - 1. There is never a point when one "arrives," we work at it constantly, "perfecting" holiness in the fear of God." 2Cor 7:1
 - 2. We must learn to recognize the danger spots, then avoid them.
- B. To do this, we must train ourselves. Heb 5:12-14
 - 1. Examine everything in light of God's word 1Thess 5:21-22
 - 2. When a carpenter looks at a board, it might look straight until he puts a straight edge to it, then finds it warped or untrue.
- C. There is much in the world that can easily hinder or warp us.... if we let it.
 - 1. So important to know God's will for us and He doesn't leave us in the dark. Gal 5:19-24, 2Pet 1:5-11
 - 2. Growth is not optional nor is it easy. It's for those who have a real commitment to the Lord and His cause and recognize that only through maturity will they be a real asset to the people of God.

CONCLUSION:

- A. What time is it? It's time to wake up, clean up, and grow up!
- B. Get serious about your walk with Christ. Realize that there's no time like the present to start working.
- C. "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end..." Heb 3:12-14

adapted from an outline by Zeke Flores