

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 13:11, **“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”**

The word “sleep” can mean several things as used in scripture. It can mean: 1- taking a good rest when the body is tired and needs renewing (Mark 14:37-41), 2- a state of death as when Jesus referred to Lazarus as being asleep (to Christ it was as if he was just asleep in John 11:11 and vs.14, also read Luke 8:51-53), or 3- the condition of a child of God when they are not being profitable in the cause of Christ. It is this last meaning of which Paul refers to in Romans 13:11. He was admonishing the Christians at Rome to wake up from their condition of idleness and be up and about the business of righteous living and standing up for the truth. The time was that of the gospel age, when the gospel of Jesus Christ was to be proclaimed and its truths taught and defended. We are still living in that time today and it is high time, maybe even past time in some cases, for Christians to arise and speak the words of peace, comfort, righteousness, and godly living and their importance to God’s people. Paul referred again to this type of sleep in I Thessalonians 5:6 when he admonished the church at Thessalonica by saying, **“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”** Certainly Paul is not telling them to leave off natural sleep, but rather to be diligent in following Christ as in Hebrews 11:6, **“...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Let us do as Isaiah commanded the Israelites when he told them to, **“Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem:...”** Don’t be one that has fallen asleep in your responsibility in serving God, even to the point that dust has collected upon you. At the end of verse 11, Paul reminds them that **“our salvation is nearer than when we believed.”** As we get older, this becomes more of a reality than ever before. The very thought that we are nearer now to our Eternal Salvation and being at rest in Paradise brings us much peace and comfort. Certainly, we should **Think about it!**

