

## Eschatological Time and an Awakened Victorious Life

**Scripture Rom. 13:11** And do this, **understanding the present time**. The hour has come for you to **wake up from your slumber**, because **our salvation is nearer (ἐγγύτερον) now** than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The **night** is nearly over; the day is **almost here (ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν)**.. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

In our Scripture today, We have two things happening in Biblical perspective. One is knowing the nature of the time we are in relative to the Return of Christ (Eschatological Time), and secondly, responding to the need we have to wake up as a result and live a victorious life.

### Understanding the Present Time

First that **season** that Paul and the Romans were in... They were to have a sense, a spiritual understanding of the time they were in. It wasn't just what was going on in the Roman Empire between the Roman senate and the emperor, or the foreign battles Rome was in at the time. It related to the eschatological return of Jesus Christ.

"The "parousia" **had come near**. Yet, it was not the time." **Paul did not know when that time would be**

But secondly, **We too are** to have a sense of **the time we are in**. It's not just the change in political parties in the last election, etc. Whether it is the time or not, it **has come near**. ... This concept of "nearness" occurs repeatedly when it comes to the eschatological kingdom of God, the return of Christ, when it refers to the end, when it comes to the "end" of all things.

We will realize that the hour has come for us to be raised up from our deep slumber. Why? Because our salvation/deliverance is nearer than when we first believed.  
Salvation is more than we experience on this earth

A Spatial Way of looking at things "has come near".

**The night is far spent**. Maybe part of that night was everything that Satan did in an effort to stop Christ from gaining His Kingdom. I mean his being arrested, his trumped up trial, his being beaten and flogged, and then crucified as a criminal. In the Gospel of John, John says this: **John 13:30** As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was **night**.

**1Th. 5:5** You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the **night** or to the darkness.

**Rev. 21:25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no **night** there.

**Rev. 22:5** There will be no more **night**. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

## **Eschatological Time and an Awakened Victorious Life Diving into it from Paul's vantage point:**

So there is a question that comes to each of us. **Do we have this perspective on time?** Or are we spiritually asleep,

The importance of the return of Christ **didn't wane among the Apostles** as the years passed by for them.

In His humanity Jesus did not know the day or the hour of His return. He said **Mark 13:32** “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. The Apostles did not, know the day or hour either. In fact Jesus told them: **Matt. 25:13** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**Acts 1:6** So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**1:7** He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ( οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ, ) <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; ...

Each of the apostles learned and lived the time perspective described here in Romans 13, and they did so victoriously.

***In the nearness of Christ, they triumphed!***

***The Apostles pass on this perspective to us***

But they had to **pass on this time perspective to those in the church,**

**James** who as you might remember replaced Peter in Jerusalem as the leader of the early church when Peter was driven out of Jerusalem. It was James who presided over the Jerusalem council in Acts 15. James 5: 7-9. **\*\*James 5:8** μακροθυμήσατε καὶ ὑμεῖς, στηρίξατε τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, ὅτι ἡ παρουσία τοῦ κυρίου ἤγγικεν.

**James 5:7** Be patient, then, brothers, until the **Lord's coming**. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the **Lord's coming is near**. <sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

=**James 5:9** Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the **door!** = He is near!

**2Pet. 3:3-4** First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

**2Pet. 3:8** But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand **years**, and a thousand **years** are like a day. ...  
God-time is different than our time.

**1John 2:18** Dear children, this is **the last hour**; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is **how we know it is the last hour**. He is Near

**1John 3:2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall **see him** as he is.

He knows more than 30 of the saints in Rome—See Ro 16.

Aquila and Priscilla were kicked out of Rome. (Acts 18:2) Others came to Christ through the downstream effect of the Gospel shared at Pentecost by Peter in which 3000 Jewish pilgrims/& inhabitants of Jerusalem came to faith in Christ. That would have been in c. AD 30 or 33.

At the time of Romans it was now c. AD 57, about a quarter of a century later. Within 11 years both Peter and Paul will have been martyred. Their dark night of persecution would be over. Their night was far spent ... it would soon be over ... and they needed to be awake and active in the work God gave them to do.

The time has **come near**.

Yet it is not fully here.

The pattern -- the preaching of John the Baptist as he begins his ministry, and starts the ministry of Jesus as well. **Matt. 3:1** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν **Matt. 4:17** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.**" μετανοεῖτε ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

**As we gather this perspective, we also receive a wake up call. When we are called to wake up, we are called not to slide back into the fallen culture we were in before we came alive in Christ.** For the saints in Rome, Paul speaks to them of the immoral parties many would have known of: ... too much alcohol ...inhibitions diminished, sexual immoralities. They go together.

Marriages damaged or completely broken. Qualifications to minister shattered.

**Degree of Divine Warning re sexual immorality.**

How did Satan bring down the nation of Israel after the Exodus? After something like 18 months of the ten great miracles that God did in Egypt-- that discredited all their false religions, what tool did Satan through Balaam use to bring Israel under the judgment of God? Sexual immorality (Numbers 25:1-2; Rev. 2:14).

How did Satan bring down the amazing spiritual life of a man after God's own heart ( 1 Sam. 13:14; )? **David**. Sexual immorality with Bathsheba. ... the death of 25,000 soldiers, and a time when David was discredited as a spokesman for turning others to God.

**Solomon?** ( 1 Kings 11:3—see Dt. 17 ) Sexual relationships with many women who pulled him away from the wisdom God had given him.

In **Paul's** ministry: In the lists of works of the flesh, which sin comes at the head of the list most often? **Out of the 7 lists of evils Paul writes, the word fornication is included in 5 of them** (1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5) **and is 1st on the list each time.**

**1Cor. 5:11** But now I am writing you that you must **not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral** or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. **1Cor. 6:9** Do you not know that **the wicked will not inherit the**

**kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders...****Gal. 5:19** **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; Eph. 5:3** But among you there must **not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**

**Col. 3:5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: **sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.**

Christ's letters to two of the seven churches in Revelation 2, **Rev. 2:14** (church at Pergamum) **Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Rev. 2:20** (Church at Thyatira) **Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.**

Overcoming sexual temptation:

Romans 8:4 Walk by the Spirit! <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Proverbs 5: 1-6

Temptation is **sweet**, leaves you with a temporary high; is **slick** like oil—hard to put on the breaks; can appear to come from one who is **sincere**—her ways are crooked but she does not know it

Actions and Reasons Proverbs 5:7—keep to a path far from her (beware of the virtual harlot)

5: 9,10, 11 Know the consequences of caving in

Give your strength to others, affects the strength your children bring to you, compromises your health, worry produces sickness, so you die before your time, (learn the STD's) flesh and body are spent!

All preventable

Know the "Good Stuff" in the covenant of marriage Prov. 5:15-20 like fresh cool pure water in the Middle East

something to rejoice in, blessed of God, , may her breasts satisfy you always, satisfied with her love, captivated!