

November 28, 2021 – First Sunday of Advent

Wake Up! Romans 13: 11-14

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

When I read Romans 13 verse 11, it reminds me of when Jesus was with His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, and he asked them, “Could you not stay awake for just one hour?” Jesus in one corner of the garden – tormented, terrified – and for a good reason. The disciples, soundly asleep, blissfully unaware of what Jesus was going through and would soon go through.

He went back to them twice. The answer was no. They could not stay awake. No matter what the situation or circumstance, they couldn't stay awake.

Back in my college days, I played football, and it was a common occurrence for our coach to look at us and say, “Wake up!” It usually came after we did something unwise or failed to do what we were supposed to do. It meant that we weren't paying attention. We weren't concentrating. Our bodies were there, but our minds were taking a break.

As Christians, how many times does God look at us and say, "Wake up," put on your armor, stand and fight against all that is evil in this world, put aside the deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of light?

When you get up each morning, I am sure that you have a routine that you follow; you may get a shower, brush your teeth, and then put on your clothes. You spend time thinking about what you are going to where, and knowing that your clothes will be part of you all this day, that they will go where you go and do what you do. They will cover you and make you presentable to others. That is the purpose of clothes.

In the same way, the apostle is saying to us, put on Jesus Christ when you get up in the morning. Make him a part of your life that day. Intend that he go with you everywhere you go and that he act through you in everything you do. Call upon his resources. Live your life in Christ.

***Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, as we get ready for each day please help us to remember that we are a light and an example for you. Please help us to remember to wake up, put on your armor, stand and fight against all that is evil in this world, put aside the deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us each day praise you for all that you have done in our lives and give us the strength to fight against all that is evil in this world. In Your holy name, Amen.*

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