

Sound The Alarm

- *Romans 13:11-14*

- The day was April the 18th, the year 1775, and the British had brought their troops into Boston. And the plan was at nighttime, when everyone was asleep, to take small boats, go across the Charles River, and attack Concord and Lexington. Everyone was asleep, the British had their plans, but there was one man who was not asleep. His name was Paul Revere.
- He was awake. He knew what was happening. And Paul Revere got on his horse and he began to gallop from village to village and from house to house and he began to cry, Wake up, wake up, the British are coming, the British are coming, and he sounded the alarm and he knocked on doors and cried in the streets and galloped from place to place, telling everybody, Wake up! The quick thinking & prudent warning from Revere allowed some men to get up & prepare themselves for battle, they called themselves the Minute Men, and they went out into the streets to defend their honor, their country, their children from the British who were coming in the night.
- As tragic as that situation was, we have another war, a far greater war, that is taking place today, and somebody needs to sound the alarm to remind us to Wake up because the enemy is upon us!
 - The church in general is in a state of slumber and we need to wake up before it's too late.
 - This is exactly the message that Paul is sending in Romans 13 beginning in v.11 ...
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- Have you ever been lying in bed & in your mind you think it is one time, but when you roll over & pick up your watch you find out it is much later than you thought? I feel like that is exactly where many are today ... even the church.
 - We are planning our life & not worried about tomorrow with little consideration that it is much later than we think.
 - Vance Havner said, “in today's world there is anarchy in the world, apostasy in the church, and apathy in the pew, we're asleep and we need to wake up.”
 - As startling as this may seem, there is a lot of truth to it. The more I think about it, one could certainly argue that there is anarchy in our world today. Let me give you some alarming things.
 - A famous female politician recently stated in a forum that, “American culture, including religion needs to change so that abortion reform can take place.
 - Aaron and Melissa Klein, owners of a bakery found themselves faced with an over \$130,000 fine for refusing to bake a cake for a gay wedding.
 - A “church” calling itself United Fellowship Center, is basically nothing more than a swingers club that has located itself in downtown Nashville. After zoning laws rejected the approval of their establishment, they called themselves a “church” to curb the law. It is a planned church where adults will meet together to have illicit activities with each other after enjoying a little beer which they are encouraged to bring.
 - Do I even need to mention the homosexual agenda that is being pushed not only in our state, but throughout our country?
 - What I want to tell you folks is the alarm has sounded in America.
 - We're being told that wisdom & competency in the White House is all that matters, not character, that there's no relationship between a person's private life and his or her public life.
 - As we look at our world today, I believe it is easy to see that anarchy is on our world.

I. Look Up

a. Be Alert

- i. I believe it is our responsibility to be alert & I also believe that God wants us to know the times in which we live.
- ii. In Luke 21, we are warned & told of things which will come to pass:
 1. Deceivers will come in the name of Christ.

2. Wars & commotions. Nations rising against nations & kingdoms against kingdoms.
 3. Earthquakes, famines, and pestilences.
 4. Persecution of Christians, betrayal & even be hated by those closest to you.
 5. Distress all over the earth.
- iii. And then in v.28 we read, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."
 - iv. I Thessalonians 5:1-4 – "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."
 - v. Church, we need to wake up!
- b. Not paying attention to the signs will not be an excuse.**
- i. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man." You say, "Preacher, what were the days of Noah like?"
 1. Men were multiplying upon the face of the earth, or population explosion.
 2. The wickedness of men was great.
 3. Every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually.
 4. The earth was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence.
 5. Paul speaking of the last days said in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."
 - ii. Folks, I am not a prophet by any means, but it doesn't take a prophet or theologian to see that our world is growing more wicked by the day & our Lord's return is drawing near.
 - iii. [Verse 11](#) says "it's high time," that means the hour is here. [Verse 12](#) says, "the night is far spent," that means it's later than you think.
 - iv. And with all this taking place, what is the responsibility of the church?

II. Wake Up!

a. We Must Be Urgent About Our Decision

- i. If you are here this morning & you are unsure about your faith, there is no way I would let another day pass unless I knew for sure my faith & my eternity was sealed.
- ii. I understand that many people think they have plenty of time, I use to think the same thing. No doubt many in hell today thought the same thing.
- iii. But the reality is our time is quickly passing & we are not promised another breath, another day, or another opportunity to accept Christ.
- iv. It may be later in your life than you think. You only have so many more days, so many hours yet to serve the Lord Jesus.
 1. James 4:14 says, "What is your life but a vapor, that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away."

b. We Must Be Intentional About Sharing The Gospel

- i. Have you tried to talk to someone about the return of the Lord here lately? You talk to some people about the coming of the Lord, and they look at you like you are crazy. As if it is some kind of fairy tale.

- ii. Jesus told a parable of the ten virgins as He told His disciples of His coming again for the church, He said,
 - 1. Matthew 25:10 – “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”
- iii. I'll tell you, it's later in the day of opportunity than you may think. We have opportunities right now to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Jesus said in John 9:4: "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, for night cometh when no man can work."
- iv. There are a lot of things you can do, but I'm going to tell you one thing you cannot do when you get to heaven and that is you cannot win souls in heaven. All the soul-winning that you're ever going to do you're going to do while you are here on this earth and it may be later in that day of opportunity than you realize.

c. We Must Be Bold To Make Our Stand

- i. As the church in general, we have failed miserably in sitting comfortably in our pews while the world around us is spinning out of control & like Samson we have awoken & don't even know the Spirit has departed from us.
 - 1. We slept through the removal of prayer from the public schools.
 - 2. We slept through our young people being introduced to condoms in school.
 - 3. We slept through the opening of the doors of the abortion clinics.
 - 4. We slept through the agenda of drugs, pornography, and homosexuality pushing itself on our generation.
- ii. Church ... we can't sleep anymore! We can't continue to allow the destruction of sin to continue to pollute our generation & the generation behind us.

III. Clean Up

a. Cast off the works of darkness.

- i. In our text Paul details the works of darkness ...
 - 1. the works of rioting and drunkenness (partying & drinking),
 - 2. not in chambering and wantonness (sexual immorality without shame or shamelessness),
 - a. If you're a child of God and a member of this church and you're living in sexual immorality, you need to do one of two things. You need to get right or get out.
 - b. This church loves you, but how can you live in sin & expect God to bless you or this church.
 - c. People are in church today, living together when they are not married, committing fornication (which is still a sin by the way) and they are not ashamed of it in the least.
 - d. We have sin today that is arrogant and proud, no shame. In Isaiah 3:9, he says, “The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not.”
 - 3. not in strife and envying. (Strife means the desire for power. Envy is wanting more and wanting what somebody else has.).
- ii. To the Corinthians Paul said, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh or spirit."
- iii. James said, "Cleanse your hands sinners, purify your minds, you double minded."

- iv. Too many sermons are being preached today about prosperity & blessings & soothing our conscience; But I believe we need to get back to preaching about sin & the coming judgment.

b. Let us put on the armor of light.

- i. Ephesians 6:13 – “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
- ii. Then the writer goes on to list the defenses that have been provided for us.
- iii. Finally Paul closes by saying. "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ,"
 - 1. Your life is going to be controlled either by your flesh or by the Spirit. Whichever force you yield to.
 - a. What do you feed your mind?
 - b. Things that build up the flesh or things that build up the Spirit?
 - 2. In chapter 8 Paul told us that the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life peace and hope.
- iv. As I go out into this world, and as you go out, you're to have Jesus on. Put Jesus over your sorrows and around your tears. Put on Jesus. Over your aches and your pains, put on Jesus. Over your failure and your shame, put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

c. And then he says, last of all, "make no provision for the flesh."

- i. That is, those old clothes that you cast off, don't keep them, get rid of them, make no provision for the flesh.
- ii. If you are battling with a certain sin or habit this morning, get rid of it, get it out of your sight & don't turn back to it.
- iii. You put on Jesus Christ. We can put him on for deliverance because he's Savior. Wear the Lord Jesus Christ.

➤ **Church, the hour is late and the night is far spent. What we're going to do for Jesus we better do, we better get at it right now. Life is too short. Eternity is too long. Souls are too precious. The gospel is too wonderful for us to sleep through it all. And soon he's coming and when he shall come with trumpet sound, God help us to be found, dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.**