

INTRODUCTION

1. 1970: song by Chicago - asks "Why?" - does time have meaning?
2. Rom 13:11-12 v11a - *do this* = concluding exhortation

1st: Our Perspective on Our Time - Rom 13:11a

1. *Knowing the time* - time terminology: *the time, already, the hour, now, nearer, when, the night, almost gone, the day, near*
2. Bible's view of time - created: sequential, linear -> end: Sabbath Rest. The pagan predicament: time as a chaotic swirl w/o direction or goal [purpose].
3. Our particular point in *the time* set w/i flow of time. Our *time* = epoch of Redemptive History tw/ 1st & 2nd comings of Jesus: *the last time*.
 - i. Time began w/ creation. This age & age to come.
 - ii. Historical events - Fall, Flood, OT Cov's -> Jesus & NCov
 - iii. *hour for you to awaken* - end of this age: return of Jesus & the resurrection of the dead
4. Biblical religion is thoroughly historical - God reveals Himself in His acts & words culminated in Jesus. His resurrection is our destiny: it is time!
5. *It is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep* - 1 Jn 2:18
 - i. *awaken from sleep* = Xn's res from dead [Jn 11:11].
 - ii. Resurrection at Jesus' return - 1Th 4:13-18 Death for Xn = *sleep in Jesus* [1C 15:51; 1Th 4:18]: words of *comfort*.
 - iii. Eph 5:14 What is Paul quoting? Ancient hymn or baptismal liturgy? conflation of Isa 26:19 & 60:1-3. [Mat 13:43; Dan 12:2-3]

2nd: The Proximity of the End Time - Rom 13:11b-12a

1. This age - night & we are on brink of dawn of eternal day [2Pt 3:12].
2. Our *salvation is nearer* - finish line just up ahead - Heb 9:28; *we see the day drawing near* [Heb 10:25]. Live in expectation.

3rd: Our Practice in the Meantime - Rom 13:12b-14

1. How can you tell if a Xn knows what time it is? The way we live: now.
2. v11 - *Do this* - The preceding [12:1ff] & ensuing [13:12ff].
3. 12:1ff => Live a live life of love: 13:8-10
4. A life of light - R 13:12 *put off deeds of darkness* = v13
 - i. *carousing & drunkenness*;
 - ii. *sexual promiscuity & sensuality*;
 - iii. *strife & jealousy* = raucous debauchery of pagans. 1Pt 4:2-7
5. R 13:12 *Put on the armor of light* as tho already in the day. Language of warfare: *armor* = weapon of light: shining light of Word, living as light of the world, living in light of Jesus' presence, waiting for light of the Day.
6. R 13:11 - *you; us - already - NOW*. Contrast this age as *night* [*deeds of darkness*] w/ next age - *the day* [*behave as in the day* - R 13:13].
 - i. *awaking from sleep* not only = res at end of age, but living life of res *now* - sleep = sloth, carelessness, drowsy inattentiveness, lazy neglect.
 - ii. Rom 6:11,13
7. *make the most of your time* - Eph 5:7-20. Neither legalism or asceticism - but live alive in Christ w/ hope for Christ - Rom 6:11,13
 - i. Bodily sanctity - bodily resurrection: neither ascetic or indulgent.
 - ii. As creatures of space & time, the Xn life is concerned for space: bodily life & time - *knowing the time* [history].
 - iii. Live united to the Jesus of 1st coming waiting for His 2nd coming.
8. What time is it? It is time for the Lord Jesus to return! 1 Thes 5:1-11