

“Get Moving; Time is Short”

Romans 13:11-14

Recently we talked about how we become new creations when we receive Christ as Saviour: 2 Corinthians 5:17. This is a marvellous experience. However, many Christians begin high, sensing joy and peace knowing their sins are forgiven. Of course, this is very good, but after a time it seems they change. Perhaps they get used to being a Christian, it’s “old hat.” They take their new birth for granted and settle into a mediocre spiritual existence. It may be because the cares of this world have distracted them. Or they have allowed sin to dominate. Depending on their feelings they sense a boredom in their spiritual walk even though they still attend church. The new creation/creature is just a memory.

Yet it is God’s will that we daily experience the new creation. And for this to be so we must live the way a new creation lives—in keeping with our new identity. This is precisely what we are urged to do in today’s passage. Paul challenges believers to stop being casual about their faith; to stop being lazy; to stop playing church. He calls them to give themselves full-heartedly to the process of *sanctification*—of living like a new creation. There is an urgency about this call, and it can be summarized in three commands: Wake up! Throw off! Put on!

1. Wake Up! 11-12a

- What do Christians look like who are in a “spiritual slumber”?
- How can the truth contained in the phrase “*salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed,*” motivate us to spiritual alertness? (compare 1 John 3:2-3)
- If you knew that you had only a week to live, would you live differently for Jesus Christ?

2. Throw Off! 12b-13

- Three categories of “improper walking” are given. Can you explain each one?
- How is it possible for sincere Christians to fall into these improper attitudes/actions?
- How can each one be avoided?

3. Put On! 14

- What does it mean to “*put on the Lord Jesus Christ*”?
- How can you “*make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires*”? Apply this specifically to your life.