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WAKE UP, CLEAN UP, DRESS UP

Wake Up

“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand,” Rom. 13:11-12. You know that feeling when you’ve overslept and you should have been up hours ago? You jump out of bed with lightning speed, rushing to start getting ready for the day that has already begun to quickly pass by. If any of us are stuck in spiritual idle mode, seemingly asleep in our own slow dullness, let this passage be the sudden alarm which causes your head to spring up from off your

pillow as you realize what time it is. The bright light of the gospel of Jesus Christ is shining out and the time of His return to bring all the faithful workers in the Kingdom home to glory is even nearer than when you first obeyed! “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing,” 1 Thess. 5:9-11. The night is far gone. That time of spiritual darkness and ignorance when the world was lost in sin is far

over and the message of salvation in Christ is shining over all of us. Sinners' eyes have been blinded by the god of this world from seeing it, and we have been summoned by our Savior to help open them. "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God," 2 Cor. 4:4. "I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me," Acts 26:17-18. How can Christians "sleep," busying themselves so much with the temporary distractions of this present world when the day is at hand? "For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober," 1 Thess. 5:5-6.

Clean Up

"So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the day-time, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy," Rom. 13:12-13. It is time to clean ourselves up with the blood of our Savior, and walk properly in the day. We have much to do in the work of bringing lost sinners to the light of the gospel, so we must be cleaned up and ready to serve the gospel by living a pure life, showing others the beauty and glory of living in the grace of our King and Savior, having been washed in His own blood! "Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God," Col. 1:10. "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in

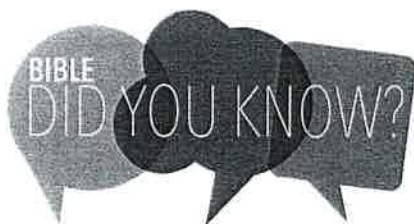
one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,” Philip. 1:27.

Dress Up

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires,” Rom. 13:14. It is time to be properly dressed for the day and fully equipped to spread the message of Christ. Let us be clothed fully in Jesus, having the mindset of servants in loving humility. Any selfishness or greed for our own personal interests or self-serving desires must be completely thrown off. We must be fully dressed in the attitude of Christ, serving in love and humility the needs of others that we may show how deeply interested the Lord is in their souls and well-being. “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace,” 1 Pet. 4:8-10.

Are you awake or are you still sleeping?

— Daniel Ruegg



“In 100 years the Bible will be forgotten and eliminated,” – Voltaire. Shortly after his death, Voltaire’s private residence became the headquarters of the Geneva Bible Society and became a major distribution hub for the very Bible he assigned to extinction. “Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will by no means pass away,” – Jesus.

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

- What prophet purified some deadly stew and a water supply?**
 - Isaiah
 - Nathan
 - Elisha
 - Elijah
- What did Judas Iscariot do after he betrayed Jesus?**
 - He killed Pontius Pilate
 - He begged the apostles for forgiveness
 - He wept bitterly
 - He hanged himself
- Ahab, a very wicked king of Israel, had a very wicked wife. What was her name?**
 - Sheba
 - Jezebel
 - Lilith
 - Naomi
- According to Paul, who is called to be the temple of God?**
 - The church in Jerusalem
 - Christ
 - All believers
 - Preachers
- Which book says that children will not be put to death for their parents' sins?**
 - Deuteronomy
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Joshua
- How many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness before entering Canaan?**
 - Fifty years
 - Forty years
 - Eighty years
 - Sixty years
- Where was Jesus when He healed the son of an official from Capernaum?**
 - Bethsaida
 - Jericho
 - Bethany
 - Cana
- What priest had seven sons who were casting out demons in the name of Jesus?**
 - Zechariah
 - Sceva
 - Annas
 - Caiaphas
- On what day of Creation did God make the plants?**
 - The second day
 - The fourth day
 - The third day
 - The fifth day
- In Jesus' parable, what was the woman who searched her house with a lantern looking for?**
 - A lost coin
 - A flask of ointment
 - A missing comb
 - Bear sausage

- 1) C, Reference: 2 Kgs. 4:38-44
 2) D, Reference: Mt. 27:5
 3) B, Reference: 1 Kgs. 16:30-31
 4) C, Reference: 1 Cor. 3:16
 5) A, Reference: Deut. 24:16
 6) B, Reference: Num. 32:13
 7) D, Reference: John 4:46
 8) B, Reference: Acts 19:13-14
 9) C, Reference: Genesis 1:11-13
 10) A, Reference: Luke 15:8