

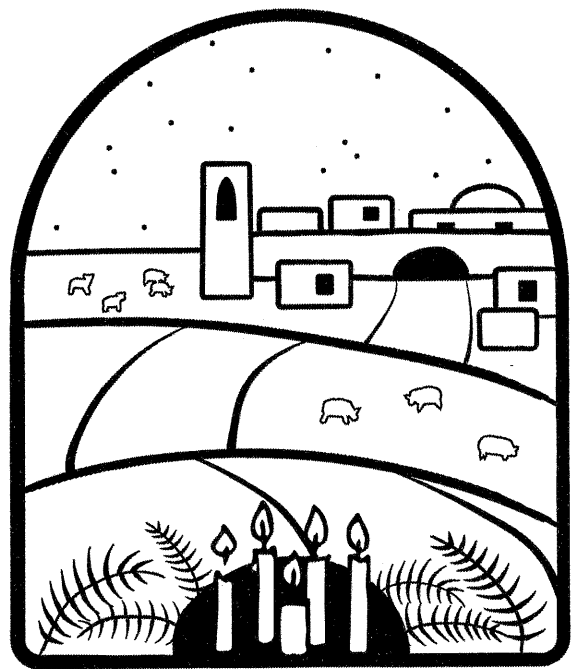
Did You Hear the Alarm?

- Hear alarm? I most certly did! 4:15am, Blck Fri morn, S's alarm sounds off; she/girls going stnd outside, in cold/drknss, waiting Kohl's open. Did I join? Not change! Hear alarm? I most certly did not! This morn Sarah elbows me at Q/8: "It's Sun; you have ch!" So I scramble out bed, race get ready, & barely make it here on time for wrshp. Okay, just kidding re this last one. But that: ev pastor's worst nightmare; and that's why ev Sat night I set multpl alarms; I do not want wake up late on Sun morn!
- That's why we set alarms: we don't want wake up late; want wake up on time; want be ready for imprtnt events of new day; gotta get ch, work, school, store; don't want miss out by staying in bed. So we set an alarm to pull us out/slumber & start day off strong.
- Today, God sounds an alarm, a wakeup call to pull us out/slumber & get us ready for import day. Questn is: Did you hear alarm? Listen for it: **vs. 11b, 12a**. As NT Xians we live in the twilight btwn drknss/night & bright sunrise of Xp's return. Think of btfl sunrise you've seen at twilight: pinks in sky, oranges/yellws, just over horizon. Up above, sky is still dark w/night, but horizon is glowing bec sun is rising. That's twilight. Maybe you drive to wrk during twilight, or enjoy coffee looking out at twilight. In this psg, Paul: we living in twilight. Horizon glowng; sun rising; day/Xp's return coming; and it'll be here any moment! The nighttime of this present evil age of sin/drknss is beginning to brighten w/imminent arrival/Sav. He's coming; sun is rising; we're in twilight now, but not for much longer! **Vs. 12a**.
- That's the alarm God sounds today. Can you hear it? **Vs. 11ab** – bec don't want: miss this, sleep thru this! Here, sleep: metphr for unbelf. If smone's an unbel, it's like they're fast asleep, coma, unconscious, unaware what's hapnng arnd them. They're going sleep thru return of J on Last Day & wake up in hell; they slept thru alarm; missed their chance; now it's too late; opptnty has passed. **Vs. 11b, 12a**. J: almost here! Last Day: almost here! Do you hear alarm?
- I know that I'm speaking to Xians, not unbels. Problem: smtms (maybe more than just smtms), we live like unbels; act, behave, talk, joke, make decisions, watch media like unbels. You know your own hrt; you know this is true. Paul knows it's true. That's why: **vs. 12b, 13**. These: deeds/drknss, behavrs of non-Xians that smtms Xians get sucked into. So in 1 Thes 5, Paul: **"You are all chldrn/light & chldrn/day. We do not belong to night or to drknss. So then, let us not be like others... since we belong to day" (5-8)**. If you're a Xian, then act like one! Actly try to act like one. If drknss is yr sin, then learn control yr alcohol intake. If sexual immrlty is yr sin (sleeping/living w/smone not married to), then learn control yr passions. Dissension: word means bitter conflict/disagrmnt. If you're an argumnttv prsn, then learn how be team player. Jealousy is like coveting, and we have 2 Coms re coveting (9th & 10th). And if yr partclr sin is not incldd in this list, then pinpoint/turn fr it. This is called sanctfd Xian living; & this: what Paul is urging us twrd. **Vs. 12b, 13a**. Behave on earth like you'll behave in hvn. Live yr life as if J were right next you – bec is! If you wouldn't do/say/think in front/J, then don't do/say/think that at all!
- And here's why: bec if we claim be chldrn/light but make no effort at all to chng our lives & **"put aside deeds/drknss,"** then we really don't belong to day & we forfeit Gos. If we ignore alarm; we reach over in somnolent stupor & slam God's alarm clock off bec we'd rather stay in bed, in drknss, asleep – then we belong to night & we'll sleep thru sunrise; then we'll miss day/Lord & wake up in hell.

- So, when you hear God's alarm blaring fr his Word, then **"wake up fr yr slumber; put on armor/light; and clothe yrslvs w/LJC."** What's one/1st things we do in morn? Get dressd for day. When God sounds his alarm, get dressed in/clothe yrself w/LJ. How? Return to yr bap; clothe yrself in bap! In Gal 3: **"In CJ you are all chldrn/God thru faith, for all/you who were baptzd into Xp have clothed yrslvs w/Xp" (26-27).** When you were baptzd, Xp clothed you w/himself; wrappd you in his rightsnss. So now, when God/Fr looks at you, sees holy perfctn/Son. Yr bap changes you; you're diffnt now. You do not belong to night, and so you do not act like child/night. In yr bap, J, light/wrld, liberates you fr drknss/sin; forgives yr deeds/drknss; and equips you to live as child/light. **"Put on armor/light."** And Eph 6, **"Put on full armor/God, so that you can take yr stand vs devil's schemes" (11).** You put on armor when go to war. Being a Xian means: going to war; fighting vs tempttn; not vs. **14b** but instd bringing glory to J in way you live.
- So wake up! Hear the alarm! **Vs. 11bc.** This summer, Sarah & I drove fr central FL to central MI in one day. Left FL at 5am, arrived in MI after 1am. Long drive; along way heard "There yet?" many times. But ev time stopped (for gas or meal), we were just that much closer. **Vs. 11c.** It's a long journey fr birth to hvn. But day/day we get closer/closer. And really, hvn: not that far away – just few more days/life til we die; just few more moments/twilight til sun rises & J returns. So **vs. 11b-12a.** J is almost here! His arrival is imminent! Did you hear the alarm that sounds fr his Word? Get up, get dressed, and get ready! The day is almost here, and you don't want miss it.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And 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. ¹² The 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. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.



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