

Title: Rise and Shine**[Slide 1]****Text: Romans 13:11-14****Get Up!****Apps that are alarming:**

Need to get up on time but too fond of the snooze button? There's an app for that.

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SpinMe Alarm Clock does the normal routine of blasting you with loud sounds and jarring vibrations. But that's just the beginning. To shut the thing up you have to stand up, hold your phone perfectly flat, and then spin around slowly – two times.

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Or you might try Walk Me Up! Alarm Clock. To shut this one off you actually have to walk a minimum of 5 steps. You can't fool it by shaking it. If you move it too rapidly it will simply tell you to stop, deduct a few steps, and eventually reset you all the way back to the beginning. By then, you're probably awake for the day anyway.

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Then, there's the Puzzle Alarm Clock. This app presents you with a time limit for solving a puzzle, like remembering things, doing a math equation, or rearranging pieces of a random image from your gallery. Give up? All you have to do is scan a designated tag, shake the phone a select number of times, or capture a QR code. As one reviewer puts it: "This app really is a one-stop-shop for getting out of bed.

But you'd better set the alarm 10 minutes earlier than you need to get up, just to make sure you can turn it off!

Time's a wasting!

Did you know that God's alarm clock is ringing? Paul writes:

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Romans 13:11-12a NIV

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.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

The word "time" can mean two things. It can refer to the endless march of seconds, minutes, hours, days and years. Or it can refer to a *specific moment* of time. For instance, when you arrive at the airport to catch a flight, the first thing you do is look up at the departures board to see at what specific time your flight is leaving. You don't want to miss that moment!

Paul uses a word that expresses this special meaning for time. He says, "Make sure you understand this moment! It's high time you were out of bed and on your way. Time's a wasting God's New Day is almost here!"

In between the times:

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here."

These words describe an in between time: still dark, but a glow on the horizon. Night still rules, but it's minutes are number and running out.

When we're in an in between time like this we can choose to stay in "night mode," or we can get a jump on the day. Hit the snooze button or decide it's time to get out of bed.

Paul commands us to refuse to hit the snooze button. Instead, he reminds us that it's high time we get out of our spiritual slumber and wake up to what God is doing right now in our lives and our world.

Get Dressed!

Off with the old/on with the new:

Getting up means getting dressed for the day. No wearing our pajamas to work! Just the simple act of choosing our wardrobe and putting it on resets our mind and attitude. No going back to bed once we're dressed for work!

Paul says that the same thing needs to happen each and every day in our spirit:

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Romans 13:12b NIV

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

The word translated "put aside" was used to describe taking off clothing. Likewise, the word translated "put on" refers specifically to putting on our clothes. In other words, Paul is saying take off your night clothes and get dressed in God's armor of light.

Paul uses the same word when he writes to the believers in Ephesus:

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Ephesians 6:13 NIV

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

We wake up and put on our armor so that we can stand in this dark world as advance troops of God's New Creation. That's something worth getting out of bed for!

Behaviors matter:

What does it look like to take that stand in an evil world? Paul writes:

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Romans 13:13 NIV

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

Here are the same old sins that are ravaging our society today:

- Rampant abuse of drugs and alcohol
- An anything-goes mentality when it comes to sex
- A society fractured by partisanship.

These same evils can and will creep into God's family here on earth, if we don't take our stand against them. They are all ways in which Satan is corrupting God's good Creation.

Our mission: to live in the light of God's New Day – a day in which these things will be no more.

Rise and Shine

New Creation clothing:

Paul comes back one more time to our New Creation wardrobe. This time the clothes are not described as armor but as a Person:

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Romans 13:14 NIV

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

To "clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" means to become a part of God's New Creation family, the family that Jesus birthed into being at His resurrection. Paul describes this family as one that encompasses the whole human race – transformed by the presence of Jesus the King:

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Colossians 3:9-10 NIV

*Do not lie to each other, since you have **taken off your old self** with its practices and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge **in the image of its Creator.***

*Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, **but Christ is all, and is in all.***

No compromise with the old:

And that means *no compromise* with the old ways or the old wardrobe:

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Romans 13:14b NIV

...and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Remember the snooze button and its temptation of just a few more minutes of sleep? When you have a plane to catch or a job to do, hitting the snooze button can derail your whole day. And you don't show up for work still wearing your pajama bottoms. You embrace the new day 100%.

The same is true for us as New Creation people. We're called to 100% engaged in fulfilling God's mission for us as His advance forces in the liberation of His world. That means no compromise with the brokenness of this world.

Rise and shine:

So what does God's alarm clock sound like? Paul describes it with these words:

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Ephesians 5:14 NIV

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Then he goes on to set the agenda for the day:

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Ephesians 5:15-16 Phillips

Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do.

Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days.

Time. That special moment that will slip by if we don't seize it and make the most of it. We live in *that special moment*. We are Christ's reflection in this darkened world.

But only if we rise and shine!