

HOW SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AFFECTS YOU!

Scripture: Romans 13:11-12

Introduction

History has shown that preceding the fall of every great civilization, there has been a marked spiritual declension. Satan, being the wily deceiver that he is, has found that if he can lure righteous men into a lethargic spiritual sleep, and make them unwilling to speak out against the evils of the system, he can plunge nations into great periods of spiritual darkness.

Paul wrote this scripture to combat this bit of subtil trickery. He said that the church must not become drowsy, but should intensify its alertness, and be prepared for the events which are about to transpire.

I. New consecrations must be made (v. 12)

A. Consecration implies willingness to sacrifice

1. Time, effort, money
2. Subjugate personal plans to God's plan
3. Ex: Washington at Valley Forge, 1777-8

B. In perilous times, greater consecration is necessary.

1. This know thou also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- I. New consecrations must be made (v. 12)
- B. In perilous times, greater consecration is necessary

- 2. Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you.

2 Corinthians 6:17

- a. Abstainence from sin
- b. Abstainence from some things which may not be sin
 - 1. Things tending toward sin
 - 2. Things which sap spirituality

- II. Vigilance must be increased

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

- A. We have a very real enemy
- B. Invigilance produces defeat
 - 1. Trojan horse
 - a. Greek army thought to be gone
 - b. Breach made in wall to bring horse into the city
 - c. Vigilance relaxed
 - d. City defeated
 - 2. Belshazzar
 - a. False sense of security
 - b. Great feast
 - c. River diverted by Darius
 - d. Babylon overthrown
- C. Vigilance brings victory
 - 1. Nehemiah
 - a. Desires to rebuild Jerusalem walls
 - b. Opposition--Sanballat and Tobiah
 - c. Men carry weapons and work
 - d. Walls completed

III. Preparation made for Lord's return

For now is our salvation nearer than
when we believed.

Romans 13:11

And when these things begin to come to
pass, then look up, and lift up your heads;
for your redemption draweth nigh.

Luke 21:28

A. Signs point to soon return

B. Only those prepared will enter

And they that were ready went in...
and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:10

C. It is time to make preparations