

Be Aware of the Time!

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Being aware of the Time with all that is taking place in the world is a 24/7 concern—and we are not to allow the devil to distract us from that concern. Daniel predicted AV Daniel 12:1 “*There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.*”

With so many signs pointing to the return of Jesus, we need to be *aware of the time* in which we are now living—AV Romans 13:11 “*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*”

The devil wants to lull us to sleep spiritually—having us spend too much time; too much energy; and have too much interest on non-spiritual things—anything that does not pertain to our spiritual readiness for the Lord’s return.

The apostle advises—AV Romans 13:12 “*The day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*” There are some things to *put off* and something to *put on*—like AV Romans 13:12 “*Cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*” Get rid of wrong attitudes but *put on* right responses to people.

AV Romans 13:13 “*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness [immoral, immodest behavior, extreme indulgence of], not in strife and envying.*” Following that advice enables us to be a right example for others. We should *not* desire

worldly activities and *not* hold on to unscriptural attitudes. We are to AV Romans 13:14 “*Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*”

Being *aware of the time* means being ready to *leave with the Lord* when He returns—suddenly and unexpectedly. No matter where we are—at school, work, leisure activity, or anywhere—we must be *alert* and *ready* for a surprise event!

The devil will do anything he can to get us *back* to the old ways and attitudes, so we must recognize *his* voice—which is any suggestion that is not in harmony with *God’s* voice—the Bible. There may be some things to *get rid of* and some things to *hold on to*.

The *works of darkness* are called—Romans 13:13 “*Chambering and wantonness AV, lewdness and lust*” NKJV. It means to not desire, nor attend worldly parties, consume alcohol, or being involved in any type of immorality. It means to *not* live “*in strife and envying*”—quarrelling, fighting, or being jealous of someone.

Alcohol should always be avoided, as consuming it brings us *under its influence*, and making us behave in ways we would *not* normally act, or to say things we would *not* normally say. We must, rather, be under the *influence of* and the *control of* the *Holy Spirit*. AV Ephesians 5:18 “*Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*”

Satan tries to discourage us by having us expect the worst to happen; and suggesting we give up praying or trusting God—but AV Galatians 6:9 “*Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season*

we shall reap [a harvest of eternal life], if we faint not.”

We are to constantly be aware of the terrible spiritual condition of the world—*Knowing the time* is short and the devil is evil. He will increase his attacks as the world becomes increasingly rebellious and opposed to God. Satan is out to destroy souls—and he will succeed with those who are *not aware* of his evil intentions.

Many have already allowed the devil to make them unconcerned and indifferent to spiritual matters—for that reason, it is our Christian duty to Hebrews 3:13 “*Encourage one another, day after day, so long as To-day lasts, so that not one of you may be hardened through the deceitful character of sin.*”

Today’s film industry, online videos, and shows of all types promote sinful and shameless living. They want to make *bad* things look *good*; and *good* things look *bad*. It is why God inspired the prophet to write AV Isaiah 5:20 “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness.*”

We may have seen a highway sign: *Deer Crossing*—making us *be aware* of an animal darting across the road and onto the path of our vehicle in a blink of an eye. We need to stay *alert* and not be *careless* or *unaware* along life’s highway.

Allowing the devil to make us lethargic spiritually, results in our being vulnerable to sinful ways, unscriptural attitudes, and making decisions that would not have God’s blessing or approval. We must always ask for spiritual light to guide us in the right way.

God found David, the son of Jesse, to be NKJV Acts 13:22 “*A man after My own heart, who will do all My will.*” But after walking with the Lord and doing His will for years, he allowed the devil to deceive him. Instead of leading his troops into battle, he was sending his general to the front lines.

He was not on-guard to Satan’s temptations and fell into serious sins. After seeing another man’s wife across from his palace, AV 2 Samuel 11:3 “*David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*” He pursued the matter and because he was not aware of Satan’s hand in this, David fell into sin.

Some people take a spiritual vacation from the Christian life—but there is no taking time off from a life of faith in God. The Christian *life* is an ongoing *spiritual battle* with the enemy of our soul. The minute we take time off from our spiritual life, we become vulnerable to the evil plans of the devil.

The apostle wrote NKJV 2 Timothy 2:22 “*Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*” That advice is directed to every *one* of every *age* and *experience*.

We are *not* to *feed* the sinful nature with wrong pictures or thoughts—it is like throwing gasoline on a fire. We are to *starve* that nature—*not feed* it. We must stay away from things that encourage immoral desires.

NIV Romans 8:5 “*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance*

with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

The obligation we have is NIV Romans 8:12 “*Not to the sinful nature [flesh AV], to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*”

We are not to *compete, fight, or to argue* with one another. We should walk *honestly* AV Romans 13:13—“*Not in strife and envying.*” Strife is constant arguing, bickering, and disagreeing with others which leads to anger, hostility, and resentment.

Strife is evidence of a competitive spirit that *strives* to have its own way. It is a desire to prevail over others and shows a deep-seated *pride* in our heart. That self-important attitude must be *dealt with*, and any *pride removed*.

The devil wants us to think we have to *win* over others—and has us be upset if we lose. We may *say* it’s just a game, but inside be very resentful over it. Only God can give us a right attitude about things and enable us to recognize any pride that caused it all.

To *be aware of the time* means dealing with wrong attitudes *before* they get worse. We are *not* competing with one another in God’s Truth—we are only competing with *sin, self, and Satan—they* are the *real* enemies and only God can help us overcome their influence!

Humility should be *put on* as a garment each morning—AV 1 Peter 5:5 “*Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*” Pride will lead us to destruction; a haughty spirit precedes a fall Proverbs 16:18.—and the

spiritual fall can be a *serious* one if corrections are not made and that deadly pride removed.

We are *not* to envy what others may have or possess. We may be okay with what God has provided us—until we *see* what someone *else* has. That is when the devil causes envy—he says: *They have it; You don’t*, and he makes us feel dissatisfied with what God has given us.

The devil can suggest: A coworker received a salary increase; Your friend just went on an expensive vacation; Your neighbor just purchased a new car; or Look at the job promotion your friend received. Satan will use anything that works for him and against us. It’s been said: *Envy shoots at another and wounds itself.*

We must *be aware of the time* in which we now live; *Keep your faith* in Jesus—that is what matters! He gave *His* life so that we would live a *faithful* life of trust on God. It is *He* who provides all things richly for us to enjoy—but it is *our* decision to *enjoy* what He has *already* given. ***Be Aware of the Time***—and God will help us to overcome temptations.

Satan is out to *destroy* us—but if we have the Holy Spirit within, and *He is in control*, we will prevail and win this battle for our soul.

NKJV 1 John 5:4 “*This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*”



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