

Romans 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep— Kai touto eidotes ton kairon, hoti hōra ēdē hymas ex hypnou egerthēnai (καὶ τοῦτο εἰδότες τὸν καιρόν, ὅτι ὥρα ἥδη ὑμᾶς ἐξ ὑπνου ἐγερθῆναι). Kairon (καιρόν, time) is not chronos (chronological time) but opportune moment, eschatological urgency. Hōra ēdē (the hour already) signals imminence. Ex hypnou egerthēnai (to awake from sleep) uses hypnos (spiritual drowsiness, moral lethargy) and egeirō (awake/resurrect)—the same word for Christ's resurrection (Romans 6:4).

For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed— Nun gar engyteron hēmōn hē sōtēria ē hote episteusamen (νῦν γὰρ ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἡ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν). Engyteron (nearer) indicates progressive approach. Sōtēria (salvation) here is glorification—Christ's return, resurrection, final deliverance (Romans 8:23-25). The aorist episteusamen (we believed) marks conversion; every day brings believers closer to consummation. Eschatological expectation fuels moral urgency—live as those whose redemption draws near (Luke 21:28).

Historical Context

Early Christians lived with intense expectation of Christ's imminent return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31). Paul wrote Romans circa AD 57; he expected Jesus' return within his lifetime (1 Thessalonians 4:15, 'we who are alive'). This 'not yet' tension—already justified, not yet glorified—shaped early

Christian ethics. Two millennia later, Christ tarries, yet the call remains: live as those whose salvation is 'nearer than when we believed.' Every generation stands on the precipice of eternity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does eschatological urgency (hōra ēdē, 'the hour already') affect your daily priorities, relationships, and use of time?
2. What does it mean to 'awake from sleep' (ex hypnou egerthēnai) —what spiritual drowsiness needs to be shaken off in your life?
3. How should Christians live in light of salvation being 'nearer' each day—with anxiety, urgency, hope, or all three?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	τοῦτο	εἰδότες	τὸν	καιρόν	ὅτι	ὢρα	ἡμᾶς	ἡδη
And	that	knowing		the time	that	it is high time	to awake	now
G2532	G5124	G1492		G3588	G2540	G3754	G5610	G2248
								G2235
ἐξ	ὕπνου	ἐγερθῆναι	νῦν	γὰρ	ἐγγύτερον	ἡμῶν	ἡ	
out of	sleep		now	for	nearer	is our		G3588
G1537	G5258		G3568	G1063	G1452	G2257		
σωτηρία	ἢ	ὅτε	ἐπιστεύσαμεν					
salvation	than	when	we believed					
G4991	G2228	G3753	G4100					

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Ephesians 5:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

1 Corinthians 15:34 (Parallel theme): Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

Revelation 22:20 (Parallel theme): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Luke 21:28 (Parallel theme): And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Revelation 22:12 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Jonah 1:6 (Parallel theme): So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (Parallel theme): Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Matthew 16:3 (Parallel theme): And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?