

Fil-Am Community Church

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GOD'S WAKE-UP CALL

"If you snooze, you lose."

Definition: Wake-up Call – it demands an immediate attention.

Romans 13:11 (NLT) 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.

INTRODUCTION:

I am truly amazed by how TIME flies so quickly. (Parang kailan lang.) It seems like yesterday. Can you even imagine that 7 months had passed already this year. Major portions of the year 2011 like a river has flowed passed us. And will not pass by this way again. Ever.

Believe it or not beloved, **WE ARE NOT** traveling onward on a detached way from all that is going on all around us. Nor are we traveling aimlessly nor endlessly but we are headed to a definite destination: To **MEET GOD!** Death is sure...unless the Lord comes back to bring us home to heaven.

YES, death. But also what is beyond it. Eternity. We are headed toward a meeting with God. We will see Him sitting in His throne to give an account of how we lived our lives and receive our due rewards.

But mind you, this journey we are in does not only involve us as mere individuals, it also concerns you as a church as a whole. Because from the very day of Fil-Am Church's founding you have been on a mission for God.

What a timely reminder because Fil-Am Church is focusing on missions this month.

A mission that entails worshipping God and serving Him and seeking to influence others by your words and by your actions. That they too will become lovers of the LORD. That they too will become Christians. They too will repent of their sin and exercise faith in Christ the Savior.

A haunting question should then be asked, ***are you still fulfilling your divine mission as a church?*** Are you still serving His purpose? Are you still on-target? Are you...? Are you not? You alone holds the answer to that question.

YES! You may have been active in the past, but are you currently engaged NOW? Or have you quietly detached yourselves and isolated yourselves in your great mission? Have you abandoned your mission totally, partially? If so, then there is a wake-up call for every one of us. And that wake-up call is a heavenly one, a divine one, it comes from God himself. And it is found in a verse that I want you to focus on this morning.

In Romans 13:11-14 (New Living Translation)

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. 13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

WE are all familiar with the daily grind of reporting to work every day. We set our alarm clock every night before going to bed. And when it goes off, we are forced to get up in a rather rude fashion every day. We take a cup of coffee and take a shower and off we go. But also in the same fashion, in God's work, from time to time, God sets the alarm for us. Calling us to alertness to get involve in the work He has called us to do. So today, I want

to talk to you about God's wake-up call. Bakit tayo ginigising ng Diyos? (Why is God waking us up?)

1. THE DANGEROUS (IT IS AWFUL AND TERRIBLE) CONDITION THAT WE ARE IN

Whenever an alarm goes off, we are awoken to the condition we have been in. Of course we need a healthy dose of 8 hours of sleep nightly so our body can recover. Sleeping has many benefits, because God gives his beloved sleep, and yet like all of God's gift, it can be abused. DI BA? There are times that it is not appropriate nor relevant for us to be asleep.

First, sleeping make us very insensitive to what is going on around us.

Some people finds it easy to find sleep sitting on a chair, a car, in an airplane, a train, in church, in a class or in bed.

Whenever we are asleep like the verse describes, we become insensitive to needs of people around us. When we are a sleeping church, we are an uncaring church. We are detached from the needs of others. Whether they are emotional, physical or particularly spiritual needs. People's relationship with God does not concern us whatsoever whenever we are asleep.

The greatest need people have is the salvation of their souls and their need of a Savior. And because we are indifferent to them and insensitive to them, God says WAKE UP!

Second, sleeping not only makes us insensitive but also inactive.

A man or a woman who is asleep is not going anywhere. They are rendered immobile. While life is moving on for others, he is entirely out of it. Let me ask you: Have you left the field of harvest? Have you abandoned your mission? Did you quit the job? God says "Don't You Quit"

Third, it renders us ineffective.

We cannot do anything worthwhile as a church while we are asleep. Remember Jonah and the crew where their boat caught a storm because

Jonah fled from his commission. He was in the hold of the ship fast asleep. The sailors came and awaken him up. There was an alarm. "Awake thou that sleepest." They were rebuking for being asleep. Call upon your God. Do something. The terrible storm was raging but he was asleep. His conscience didn't bothered him at all.

In Matthew 25, we have the parable of the ten virgins. The bible says they were all waiting for the bride groom. But they all fell asleep.

And at midnight when the bride groom has delayed his coming, a picture of the return of Christ, the cry went up "Behold He cometh". The ten of them woke up and there was an alarm that went off. The ten were ineffective. The five has enough oil in their lamp but the other five did not have enough oil in their lamps and were shut out.

And if as a church remain asleep to the needs of society around us, its wickedness, the burdens of people around us, their pleasures and all the modern gadgets that is suppose to make life easier has not provided the peace of mind and peace with God. We need to feel for them. We need to be concern about people who are lost and those who are wandering aimlessly like sheep without a shepherd on their way to perdition.

Proverbs 10: *"A son that sleeps in a time of harvest, is a son that causes shame"*

Lastly it is also a condition that imperils us. It is dangerous for us to sleep.

Remember Samson in the book of Judges? Samson fell asleep on the lap of Delilah. And she tried to find out by different ways the secret of his strength that she might betray him. And finally she succeeded. His strength was evidenced by his hair. His long hair was a sign of his consecration. Part of his Nazarite vow. And he told her his secret after he was pressured for so much. She cuts off his hair. The Philistines came and Samson tries to get away as he did before. He did know that the LORD has departed from him. And there he was rendered weak and helpless unable to defend himself. His life was

imperiled and resulted to Samson being taken captive in prison and his eyes gouged out.

When he call us, he is preventing us from backsliding and getting out of the will of God. Listen **IT IS HIGH TIME TO BE AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP**. Let us not cause shame to the Lord in the time of harvest.

1. THE DANGEROUS CONDITION THAT WE ARE IN

2. THIS WAKE UP CALL REVEALS TO US THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS THAT HAS TO BE TAKEN

Now that we know the dangers and the curse, let's see the mid-course correction...the cure. **The action of course is: To Get Up! GET UP NOW!**

And this is not the first time God call people to wake people up. In 1Corinthians 15:34 "*We should awake to righteousness*" and in Ephesians 5:14 "*Awake thou that sleeps and rise from the dead and Christ shall give you light.*"

First , IT'S CORRECTNESS. It is just right that we stop sleeping.

Tama lang na gumising na kasi umaga na. (It's just right to wake up because it is daylight.) This is not a snoozer alarm that we can afford to have 10 minutes of extra sleep. When He calls, He wants us up "pronto". This passages we are looking at has a predicate found in verse 10 "**LOVE WORKS NO EVIL TO THE NEIGHBORS**" knowing the time, is connected to the verse prior to this talking about loving one another.

In short, the idea was that: we do it because we care about other people. We just don't live for ourselves. We are responsible for others as well. Many today lives contrary to the will of God for their lives. They are doomed. They are enemies of God. They are blind. They are lost. They are perishing. They are condemned.

How in the world could we be insensitive to their plight? How could we refuse to get up from our sluggishness to reach out and rescue them.

It is just but right because we are debtors to those who are lost we need to bring the good news to the lost. We cannot do it if we are asleep.

Secondly, the URGENCY of this action.

He says it is high time. That means the time has gone long enough for us to be asleep. Verse 12, “the night is far spent, the day is at hand.” We have in this condition for so long. That is why there is an urgency.

We do not know how long do we have in this church. We do not know how long before the Lord comes back again. We do not know how long we will live before death can take us or we are gone because of some circumstances. So therefore it is imperative for us to wake up and get involve in serving the Lord.

Remember the Lord in John 9:4, “*Work while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work.*” For Him while he was still on the earth, for us while we are still alive, have our health, and having a testimony. When we die we do not have the opportunity to serve the Lord and witness to unbelievers. Either way you look at it, there is an urgency here.

This is a divine call from God. From above, challenging us what to do.

Remember the disciples he took to the GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE. Three of them Peter, James and John. He went out just a stone throw away from the to pray. “Father let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not my will but your will be done.” He sweated with great drops of blood. His soul was in such agony, so sorrowful even unto death. After he prayed he went back to the disciple and found them sleeping. “Could you not watch with me for an hour?” Same thing happen 3 times. [Pray that you enter not into temptation because the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.]

He wants us to be on our knees. There is a growing community out there. A sea of humanity who are lost. They are growing daily. They need to be reached by people who are spiritually alert, tune in and able to respond to the call.

Paul writes the 1Thess 5:5-7 “You are all the children of light, and the children of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as do others. But let us watch and be sober. They that sleep sleep in the night and they that be drunken are drunken in the night” Let us be sensitive to God’s purpose, and God’s desire, and God’s vision for us as a church.

1. THE DANGEROUS CONDITIONS “It is getting late and time is running out”

2. THE MID-COURSE CORRECTIONS “It is urgent and you better get up now”

3. THE THIRD AND LAST, THIS WAKE-UP CALL SHOWS US A NEW FRESH AND EXCITING MOTIVATION!

WAKE UP CHURCH! GET UP CHURCH! GET READY CHURCH!

WHY? “Because our salvation is now in nearer than when we first believe.”

What a great idea this is. Salvation Nearer??? Salvation Closer??? WOW. YES. It is true each day you wake up, you’re closer. OH that,s the reason! I believe that this one single idea kept Paul fired up! It kept him hot. It is his secret. Bakit ka babangon? (Why will you wake-up?)

Salvation is always connected to our sin. The Bible says for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. For the wages of sin is death. Beloved if you are not yet saved, you need to be. You need to be forgiven. You need your life purified. You need to have your destiny set.

Salvation is connected to sin.

It is also connected to the Savior.

To be saved, this could only be linked to a certain person. Not a church leader nor a sacrament. It is the Lord Jesus Christ and no one else. Acts 4:12 “No other name given under heaven that can save us” He is talking about Christ.

It is all centered in Christ. You need Him today.

For Jesus to be the Savior, he has to die. Bearing our sins as a sacrifice. That is what he did when he bled and agonize at the cross of Calvary. He cried ‘MY GOD, MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME.’ HE SHOUTED IT IS FINISHED.”

After 3 days he rose again from the dead because God was pleased with the sacrifice. He is able to save. He is willing to save.

But it is not simply enough to know all this. You have to decide to put your faith and trust in him by repenting of your sins. You need to crossover the line of faith. Where are you? Have you crossed the line?

Will you believe today if you haven’t? What does it mean? How can it be nearer. We exercise that initial act of faith. It develops an attitude to live by faith. The just shall live by faith. Yes it is important that we made that decision then.

But what about now? Today as we speak? It was important then, but what is more important is NOW: How are you now? Are you still in love with Him? Are you still in intimate fellowship with him? Are you still living for Him? Are you still following him? Are you still excited to see him in his return?

Sadly many are simply counting on their decision, I do not decry that. But many shows no appetite for God. It is obvious.

When you and I die or when Christ comes back, our salvation will be finally fulfilled in its fullest degree. We sin still sadly as Christians. We still do wrong. We make mistakes we are still human and I’m not making excuses.

We have bad temper, we have gossipy tongues, we have harsh feeling and harsh hearts that should not be a part of our lives.

But when we die or Christ comes back, whichever comes first, our salvation will be complete.

..Never again that we have to confess our sins. We will be with Christ in glory. Our sin nature will be totally gone. So, Paul said now our salvation is nearer than when we first believe.

It's like a movie – “The End” It's finished. You want more but it's over!
(Parang pelikula, the end na ang movie. Gusto pa, wala na!)

And this is our motivation. Wake-up. Be alert. Get ready. Take the gospel to the lost. Help them in their needs. Specially point them to Christ!

Because our salvation is closer now than when we first believe, we do not have much time left to do it. We are closer to meeting Him.

Salvation from the penalty of sin (we are saved by the grace of God)

Salvation from the power of sin (we are dead in Christ as a
believer)

Salvation from the very presence of sin (we are home with God for all
eternity)

CONCLUSION:

Imagine you are flying and your plane is now on its final approach to your intended destination. It has been a very long journey. Soon, you hear the announcement: “Ladies and gentlemen, we are now on our final approach. We request that you put your seats back in it's upright position, and please fasten your seat belts. We are getting ready to land.”

You have not seen this country before. You haven't seen anything like it. You can't hardly wait. OH YES a call, or even just a gentle tender whisper or a

nudge from a traveling companion telling you to get ready will be enough to re-waken all your senses. You will be all ears. Excited? You bet!

You may be sluggish, tired and hungry, but you are never going back to sleep. You want to be awake for the landing. WHY? Because you have arrived...at your destination. As a child of God you are going to a special place called heaven.

*Just think of stepping on shore
And finding it's heaven
Of touching a hand
And finding it's God's
Of breathing new air
And finding it celestial
Of waking up in glory
And finding it home
Finally home!*

And when we do, all our opportunities to serve the Lord in the area of evangelism, among the ungodly here on earth will be over. Our salvation is nearer than when we first believe.

As you think of world mission, let us be awake and get busy in our Christian commission. This is why we should be alert and be involved and not detached in reaching the masses for Christ. We have a very limited opportunity.

This is a wakeup call for Christians, but also a wake call for unbelievers as well. Our salvation is closer, but their damnation is equally closer now than when they first heard the gospel because they refused to believe. Lost people are traveling full speed headed to a Christ-less eternity, condemned! Do not let another opportunity pass you by without accepting Him.

Let us pray.

For the unbeliever:

I invite you to pray this prayer. Lord, “I believe you paid the full price for my sin on the cross. I believe you rose again from the dead. I now repent of my sin. I ask you to come to my heart and save me. Help me crossover the line of unbelief. I ask you to be my Lord and my personal Savior today. Amen.

For the saints: “We are His body, His hands and His feet.”

Dear God, you are sovereign. You knew we will fall and you provided the Savior, your Son as the ultimate sacrifice to save us from sin and deliver us from the power of Satan. Your blood was shed. Your body was offered. Thank you!

God you called us to a life of service spreading the Good News. Spirit of the living God, use the Scriptures to open our eyes. Help us to get up. Awaken us from our slumber. Forgive our apathy. Nothing in the world can satisfy except you, Jesus. Your message of love, forgiveness and eternal salvation is superior than any other message. It only make sense to offer our lives back to you as an offering.

Forgive us. Cleanse us. Revive Us. Use us. We are your hands, your feet, and mouth. Help us to serve you with joy and excitement, to fall in love with you again. To love you with all our hearts, mind, soul and strength while we still have the opportunity to do so. Help us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom. Sanctify us. In Jesus name, Amen!