

# TIME TO AWAKEN II

## Rom. 13: 11- 14

Sermon By Donald Townsley

### INTRODUCTION

1. Today we are going to study "THE SCARCITY OF DEEP SPIRITUALITY".
2. I believe this is a lesson we all need.

### I. IT IS TIME TO AWAKEN TO THE SCARCITY OF DEEP SPIRITUALITY IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

1. We live in a materialistic society, and too much of our thinking is materialistic in nature.
2. We are all too concerned about material security.
  - (1) Security for old age.
  - (2) Young men today are hunting jobs with security.
    1. Not many young men want to preach for this reason -- no material security.
  - (3) Men rob God that they might lay up material security for themselves--Luke 12: 16 - 21; Mal. 3:8; 1: 7 - 8
3. We measure almost everything with a material yardstick.
  - (1) We even try many times to measure the spiritual with material things.
  - (2) Sometimes we are reluctant to spend money in the spiritual realm because we cannot see concrete results of the money spent.
  - (3) Can you measure the work and good a gospel preacher does with a material yardstick? -- Matt. 16:26
4. The emphasis that is put on the material can be seen by viewing many of the meeting houses built lately by the brethren.
  - (1) These buildings reflect the materialistic view more than we realize.
  - (2) Illustration: Jeweler with a diamond that has a defect --he builds up the ring fancy to hide the defect of the diamond. When the church loses spirituality it puts greater and greater emphasis on an outward show, the material.
5. We fret over the material too much.
  - (1) By our fretting over the material we show our lack of faith in God -- Matt. 6: 24 - 34.
6. Little insights into our lack of deep spirituality:
  - (1) The lack of Bible knowledge among us -- Heb. 5: 12 - 14
  - (2) The indifference on the part of many members toward increasing their Bible knowledge.
    1. Many never attend Bible study.
  - (3) The lack of love among brethren for one another -- John 14: 34 - 35; 2 Pet. 1:7; I Pet. 2:17
  - (4) The lack of love for the lost -- this is seen in the way brethren attend gospel meetings and do personal work -- John 3:16

## II. IT IS TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO AWAKEN TO THE PROBLEM OF PREACHING.

1. There is no more important problem facing the church than this one.
2. The character of the church is determined and has always been determined by the character of its preaching.
3. As the pulpit goes, so goes the church.
  - (1) Have strong preaching and you have a strong church.
  - (2) Have weak preaching and the church will be weak.
4. A lot of our problems are rooted back to the wrong kind of preaching.
  - (1) The spirit of neutrality in preaching -- stay off of "loaded issues" -- Gal. 1:10
  - (2) Preaching that is nearly always negative or nearly always positive will not get the job done.
  - (3) Our preaching must be balanced -- II Tim. 4: 1 - 5
5. Well-balanced preaching will cause the church to grow and to be sound in the faith.
  - (1) Well-balanced preaching will lead sinners to see that there is a God to glorify -- Eph. 3:21; I Pet. 4:16; I Pet. 2:9
  - (2) Well-balanced preaching will cause us to realize that we have a soul to save -- Acts 2:40
  - (3) Well-balanced preaching will impress upon people's minds that there is evil to be shunned -- I Thess. 5:22; II Cor. 6: 14 - 17; II John 2: 15 - 17
  - (4) Well-balanced preaching will teach Christians that Truth must be defended -- Jude 3.
  - (5) Well-balanced preaching will lead people to see and to remember that there is a Savior to imitate--I Cor. 11:1; I Pet. 2:21
  - (6) Well-balanced preaching is preaching that emphasizes that we will come day give an account to God in Judgment -- II Cor. 5:10

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