

Rom. Ch. 13. v. 11. And that knowing
the Time, that now it is high Time to
awake out of Sleep, for now is our Sal.
nearer than when we believed.

St Paul. in the Epistle before us is address-
ing himself to the Believer at Rome.
He points out to them several both
social and relative Duties. enjoins
upon them a peaceable and quiet
Subjection to earthly Governments, as
God's ministers, appointed to protect the
Lives and Properties of Subjects, and to
punish those who dare invade the
Rights of civil Society. Therefore says the
Ap. the civil magistrate is a minister
to the good, a Revenger to execute
wrath upon him of doeth evil. After
circumventing several Com. mandments
contained in the ^{moral} Law. he exhorts them
to the love of their Neighbour, alleging
that love is the fulfilling of the Law.

and in order to stimulate the Christian
to the full exercise of these Duties
he calls upon you in words of our Text
that knowing the time, if now is
high time to awake out of Sleep.
As much as if he had said my Brethren
you have a great work to do, the time
is extremely short for you to perform
it ⁱⁿ you have not a moment to spare
therefore, awake out of Sleep. Unconverted
men always sleep on in the same state
of sinful security, till awakened by
some extraordinary Act of Almighty
either of mercy or of Judgment. and
sincere Christians are too Apt to fall
into negligence & carelessness to contract
an indolent, dull stupid Temper in respect
to Religion and divine Things. while if
by day room turned the wise virgins
as well as of foolish all slumbered and
slept. Go awake out of Sleep according

to the language of the A. in of words
before us implies the casting off of all
carnal security, to shake off spiritual
stupidity and lethargy, and to engage in
the concerns of Religion with vigor
and full exertion like men awake
and active in secular Employments.
The Christian sh^d. be as busy and ^{active} ~~power~~
in the concerns of his soul, as the men
of the W^{ld}. are in temporal Affairs. and
if the nearer their salvation is of more
lively and zealous sh^d. they be, the nearer
they are to heaven the more heavenly
mindedness they sh^d. possess with a
view of ~~awakening~~ awakening every
individual in this Assembly to the
weighty and important concerns of
Religion. let me exhort you first to the
necessary and much neglected Duty of
Self-examination; a Duty w^{ch}. probably
most of you have hitherto been strangers
thence it sh^d. awaken every one in this
Assembly, the idea of entering upon a new year

without knowing whether he sh^d. be in Heaven
or Hell sh^d. he die this year... The man who
has formed no Idea of Religion, who
has never studied to redeem his Time can
give but a very poor Account how he
has spent the year w^{ch}. is just at an
end, and perhaps 20 or 30 years before it.
To vain and empty Pursuits as the whole
of such a one's Time been devoted. Time is
given us for the express Purpose of
knowing, and doing if will of our great
Creator. of preparing and making ready for
eternal State to w^{ch}. we are every moment
Passing. Examine yourselves whether you
have thus improved it or no. what know-
ledge have you gained of G^d? and how have
you studied to please him? have you not at
all times been in Doubt and uncertainty
about the immortal Happiness of your Souls
so if if you had been called away this year by
Death, or any other proceeding, w^d. you not
have been compelled to have taken a Leap in
y^e Dark. and to have rushed into the awful

Presence of a him avenging G^d. in all your guilt
ilt upon your Head. Come I beseech you to resolve
if you will not live another year Strangers to
yourselves, and utterly uncertain what will become
of you thro. an endless Duration. This Day put
this Question to your Hearts. what am I? am
I am I a humble servant of G^d? or ^{am I} a disobedient
independent ^{man} ~~man~~? am I a Disciple of Christ
Really as I have been baptized into the
Christian Religion, or do I only bear the name?
whether am I bound. and whether have I been
travelling to ^{for} last year, and the years that
have gone before? have I been journeying to
Heaven or Hell. which Society am I most
fit for this Day. am I a companion of
righteous? or a companion of sinners?
Let the Society I keep, the Actions I do? and
the Pleasure I find in of company of my Associates
Determine this important Point. what is my
Temper fit for, the ~~heaven~~ Region of perfect
Holiness and Joy; or for y^e of Sin and misery.
Surely it is a Point worthy to be settled.

what the Place of your future Destination
will certainly be. Will you stupidly delay this
Determination till it is past by the awful and
supreme Judge of quick and Dead, before whom
it is probable some of you will appear before
the End of ^{your} Approaching year. Alas if it
sh^d. then be against ^{you} you know it will in
your present state, your doom will be ~~remediless~~
remediless. you know as well as you know
you exist you are living it out G. and of G.
and if you had died this year you w^d. not proba-
bly have gone to Heaven. and if die when
you will in your unconverted state you
can never go there. yet you put far off if evil
Day. you avoid self examination; you shun
the idea of Death. & you will not look into
eternity lest your consciences sh^d. disturb
you in enjoyment of your carnal gratifica-
tions. To awaken you to a sense of your Danger
let me further call your Attention to a few
general Considerations, w^{ch}. naturally arise from
of present subject.

Consider the great uncertainty of Time as to
you

you may die if next year, if next month, the
next week, if next Hour, nay if next moment.
when you look forward to no if year you are now
just entering upon you see what may never
be your own. you cannot call a Day of it your
own :: you cannot tell what a Day may bring
forth. before you see if next year as near expiring
as this you may have expired yourself, you may
have done it. Time and may have entered upon
Eternity - men presume upon Time as if
they were sure of enjoying it so many years
as their own fancy may fix. and this is the
fatal Delusion of vain multitudes. w^{ch}. men
who are to die ^{approaching} this year if they knew their doom
I say w^d. they live in Fornication & Adultery,
in theft, Lying, and Drunkenness, in Idleness
and Dissipation surely they w^d. not they w^d. then
awake out of sleep, and bethink themselves what
was to be done. they w^d. then begin to call upon
G. if they might not perish unless their lengths
were rendered past feeling. How many ^{are now in Hell} begin
this year with as little Expectation of Death as you
have at this moment. and this may be

your Down before the End of the approaching
Year. Sh^d. a Prophet instructed in the Secrets of
Heaven open to you the Book of if Divine Decrees
as Jerem^{as} did to Haranish some here
present w^d no Doubt see his Sentence written
there in these awful words (this year thou
shalt die); Some unexpected moment in
the year we are entering upon will put an
End a fatal End to all the Labors and Enjoy-
ments of this present State, will end both
the seasons of Living and the seasons of Grace
ungodly men when called away by Death not
only lose their life: but all if means of salva-^{tion}
they lose all opportunity of Repentance and
Pardon; all possibility of going to Heaven is
over for ever and ever. A wretched State of
Deep Despair: to see my G^d. remove and see
my Doleful Station where I must not taste
his face. Therefore ye careless thoughtless wret-
ches, who glory in your Shame, if you w^d. repent
and believe, if you w^d. go to Heaven when you
die, it is high time for you to wake out of sleep

This moment is the time, because this is if only
moment you are certain of. now is if Day of
Salvⁿ. Time is so uncertain, if the young cannot
ensure it, or if young w^d. not die. The healthy
if Health was any security ag^t. D. w^d. not die.
but neither youth, nor beauty, nor Health,
nor Strength, nor business, nor Riches nor
Power, nor wisdom afford the smallest
Protection against the Storms of Death.
The thread of life is slender, it is held by a Divine
Hand and G^d. can snap it asunder in a moment
you who are sinning it an high Hand and an
outstretched Arm cannot expect if the Divine
Patience will bear it you much longer. G^d.
will command you to be cut down as burn-
bers of if you w^d. Over than life is not only
at if best uncertain, but short. Time is
its fullest extent including what is past from
the Creation, and what still remains till
it is no more is nothing in comparison
to Eternity. Then how short is your life. It is
uncertain when it will end, but certain it will
end soon. you cannot hope to keep the

common bounds of human life is seventy
or eighty years. may you have but little reason
to hope you shall arrive at this Period. The
~~wicked~~ wicked says Solomon shall not live out
half their Days. Now indeed, if we take in the
whole of man kind who lead a wicked and
dissipated life live to 40 or 80 years. By their
Excess of different kinds they impair their
Constitution, and early lay the foundation
for sickness Disease and Death. The chance
against many of you living to the above Age is more
than 10 to one against you for some of you tho'
young in years are old in Constitution. It is
probable if a much shorter share will remove
you to Heaven or Hell. Is it not then now
high time for you to awake out of sleep? your
work is great. you have much to undo. ^{as}
you have done: your time is short: you have
not a moment to spare: not to trifle away
none to indulge sinful gratifications: none for
sleeping in sin and carelessness
Again how much ^{of your} time has been lost in mispent
already

many of you it is but too plainly evident have
lost all of Days and years if have ever rolled over
your Heads? you have staid all the Day of your
Life idle, and neglected the whole of your Duty. Time
is not merely given us to follow secular Employments
this is of very lowest use of it, but it is given us
for far greater & more noble purposes. It is given
as a share for Repentance and Preparation
for Eternity. but have not you entirely
lost it in this sense. may are not your
Hearts more hardened, and yourselves less
prepared for the Eternal O! than what
you were many years ago. In stead of
improving every year in holiness and
virtue. Every new years Day finds you
more corrupted and degenerated than what
you were before. will you not have many
more crimes to answer for this new years
Day than what you had of last. Is this
they way are there the steps you take
to prepare to meet your G? To show the
futility and unreasonableness of your
conduct does not require a ^{moment} reflection

nothing is more impossible than to recall
a moment of lost time. It is gone for ever.
Yesterday can no more be recalled than
a year before the flood. If time when
one goes cannot be recalled, much less
can a soul when once lost, be redeemed.
If you who are now in a state of condem-
nation w^d. escape out of it; if you who
are slaves to sin w^d. become sincere
converts now is your time. now is your
day for calling upon G^d. There is none of
the means of grace to be found in Hell, no
Pardon preached to the damned. The precious
Name of Jes is never heard amongst those
miserable souls who are banished from
God's Presence. no gleam of Hope thro' all
Eternity will cheer their dreary Abode.
nothing but Dark. ness. Despair and Death
inhabit there. who then can dwell in devotion
here? who can dwell in everlasting burning.
you will all be ripe for eternity before
you are removed out of time

The good will be ripe for Heaven and if wicked
for Hell. The vessels of mercy prepared for
glory, the other vessels of wrath fitted for
everlasting Destruction. In Hell indeed sinners
Repent, but there their Repentance is their
Punishment, and has no tendency to
amendment. they mourn and weep and
gnaw their tongues and gnash their
Teeth for pain; they cry and pray, but
the hour of Acceptance is past, past for ever.
The means of grace are all gone, the kind
Restraints wh^{ch} G^d in his goodness puts upon
even wicked men's minds are all removed
and of sanctifying influences of the Spirit
are all withdrawn for ever. men there
become an unmingled mass of sin and
iniquity. Realize to yourselves O ye careless
sinners this awful thought, how you can
endure to be banished from G^d and condemned
to dwell in such a wretched society as this
here it must rouse you out of your sleep

only trifle on a little longer. at it will
be over with you. Spend a few Days more
as you have spent the Time past, and you
will be plunged in as hopeless misery
as any Devil in Hell. Another ~~year~~
year now meets you and invites you
to improve it for Eternity. I here call
upon you in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~name~~ ^{name} and beseech you
to be reconciled to G^d. and by the Favors
of the S^t. endeavor to persuade you.

We Inhabitants of Heaven are Spectators
of your Conduct. and long to praise G^d
for your conversion? Hell it self is not
unconcerned about you. It is more than
probable some of your wicked Compan^{ions}
have long ago taken up their Abode
in the rich man in Torments, and
trembling like him lest you sh^d. also
come into the same Place of Torment.
Are none of your Companions dead?
none who were partners of your

Dissipation, and sinful Hours. you once
cland and schemed together, and encouraged
and emboldened one another to Acts of
Sin and Iniquity. Al! where are they now
Do you never inquire what is become of
them? or whether it is probable or no
you shall meet again in the eternal S^t.
Can you be happy at the Reflection they are
gone, and if you were the principal Authors
of their Destruction? or at least if they must
suffer thro' all Eternity for those Crimes
w^h you stirred up to commit.

surely it is time for you to awake out of
Sleep. He calls both of the living and
the dead, of Earth Heaven and Hell
are for your Repentance - what Resolution
will you come to, what Plan will you
lay down for your future Conduct this
new year - will you dare to begin
this year as you have all others hitherto
in neglect of God, and Religion

you cannot say you have not been warned
of your danger and admonished to
return unto the Lord your God?
you cannot plead ignorance as an
Excuse for your neglect of your souls.
God has graciously afforded you the
means of Salv.ⁿ he has given you
his word, a clear and express Revela-
tion of his will. but all will not do
if you will not receive your sins, you
will not attend to the warnings of your
Soul. and therefore there remaineth no
more sacrifice for you - you chose Death
rather than life, and therefore you
must die - O God in his infinite mercy
awaken this Day awaken you to a sense of your
danger, and move you to engage the
Intercessors of your Soul for Pardon & Salv.ⁿ
that you might be delivered from the Power
of Sin, the Curse of the Law, and from
Everlasting Death