



THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS "Rouse to Reality" Romans 13:8-14

No. 298

Stuart Briscoe

It is surprising to discover that Paul evidently thought that the readers of his letter had dozed off, because he found it necessary to tell them it was time they woke of their slumber. That it was a spiritual sleeping-sickness is illustrated by the A.N.T. translations—"Rouse to Reality."

I. The Reality of Practical Obligation. vv. 8-10

- A. Obligations to government. v. 7
- B. Obligations to creditors.
- C. Obligations to neighbors.
 - 1. Love as obligation.
 - a. Not noble ideal.
 - b. Not optional extra.
 - 2. Love as fulfilling the Law.
 - a. Impossible in flesh. Romans 7:7-13
 - b. Possible in the Spirit. Romans 8:4
 - 3. Love as demonstrated in self-concern.
 - a. My safety.
 - b. My security.
 - c. My sustenance.
 - d. My station.
 - 4. Love as applied to my neighbor.
 - Is the opposite of:
 - a. Adultery.
 - b. Murder.
 - c. Robbery.
 - d. Deception.
 - e. Envy.

II. The Reality of Eternal Orientation. vv. 11-12a

- A. Knowing the time. See Luke 21:27-28
- B. Knowing the future—salvation. See 1 Peter 1:5
 - 1. When we first believed—initial, potential.
 - 2. While we go on believing—continual, perpetual.
 - 3. When Christ appears—final, eternal.
- C. Knowing the challenge.
 - 1. Vigilance.
 - 2. Involvement.
 - 3. Confidence.

III. The Reality of Spiritual Operation. vv. 12b-14

- A. Christlessness = night, darkness.
- B. Christ's presence = day, light.
- So:
- C. Put off:
 - 1. Dark deeds.
 - 2. Indecent behavior.
 - 3. Ill-disciplined activity.
- D. Put on:
 - 1. Armor of light—it will be a battle.
 - 2. Daytime decency.
 - 3. Lord Jesus Christ—His grace and graces.
- E. Control appetites.