Rise and Shine

Ephesians 5:14

Objective: Help folks recall their conversion commitments.

Reading: Ephesians 5:1-16.

Memory: Ephesians 5:14, “...Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Introduction:
1. As we look around at Christianity, trying to be observant and real without being judgmental, we are still struck with radical differences in those who profess to be Christians.
2. Some are very serious, devout, dedicated. Whatever their actual spiritual level of growth and understanding, they are real about it.
3. Others seem to be unaffected by their declaration to be Christians. Somehow their relationship with the Lord seems to be words only, like being part of a club that they are not really active in. This ought not be so. Folks,

We need to experience the life of genuine conversion. (HOW?)

Ephesians 5:14 is not really a compilation of Scriptures being quoted. It is really a song that relates Biblical concepts. It is generally understood to be a baptismal song, routinely sung at conversions. As such, it bears our looking at for reminder of what our conversion and our baptism are supposed to mean. The concepts held here apply to those who need to be converted to Christ and so, are a reminder to us of what we are trying to do for folks who do not yet have a saving relationship with Jesus; “...Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” BUT, not only that, I would suggest the hymn should also stand as a reminder and motivation for any of us who have lapsed or stagnated in our Christianity. Some of us, who may never have fully awakened or risen from the dead, may need to renew our commitment so Christ will shine on us as well. Here are some conversion essentials;

The first call of the song is a call to

I. Wake up.
   A. Hear God’s call.
      1. Why do you sleep, why do you slumber when there is so much going on in cosmic realms? Why are we spiritually lethargic – numb? Numb to truth, Numb to life. Numb to the schemes of Satan. Numb to the opportunities and gifts and blessings available to us. (Like sleeping through Christmas!) Folks who don’t know God are about to stay in bed, the grave, and rot for eternity when life is available to you!
      2. God is calling to us. He is everywhere about us, to be seen in life, in nature, in love in revelations of His life and Presence everywhere.
      3. Why are folks living as though there were no God, no Creator, no Judge? No judgment Day coming. No accountability for our actions and deeds?
         a. Romans 14:10-12, “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. "11 For it is written," AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
      4. We need to wake up and get ready!
         a. We are supposed to be Holy as He is Holy! Wake up! See what we are doing. See what is happening.
         b. We are supposed to be just like our Father. We are supposed to imitate Him. Ephesians 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; “
         c. That's why the Apostle says in Ephesians 5:3, “But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints;”
         d. Wake up and see how we are being led as in sleepwalk, by the ways of this world. How we are being influenced and corrupted so we are no longer recognizable as children of God.

B. Realize the truth!
   1. Stop floating along in this life. We are like some folks on a raft, enjoying ourselves and not noticing the huge waterfalls ahead. We are about to go over the brink – time to wake up!
2. Realize the horror of sin.
3. Realize the serious nature of things.
4. Church, religion is NOT just some nice thing for nice folks to do – souls are lost! There will be serious consequences to errant lifestyles!
5. There IS a God. He DOES care. He IS holy and will NOT abide with those who continue in sin.
6. Folks need to wake up! And so, here is

C. A personal prayer.
1. Lord, wake me up! I want to respond. I want to know truth. I want to hear your call. I want to see. And know and live.
2. Shake me and wake me. Whatever it takes, wake me up – I don’t want to miss out on anything you have to offer. Don’t let me sleep through the party.
3. And, Lord, use me to wake others up as well. I wish I could be so joyous and noisy in my Christianity that no one could continue to sleep! Use me to wake them somehow.

First wake up and hear God’s call, then **DO** something about it. Respond to the power and authority of God in Christ and come to life!

II. **Rise from the dead.**

A. A new life.
1. You were DEAD in your sins, in the way you used to walk. Ephesians 2:1-2, says it; “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”
2. Then God steps in; Ephesians 2:4-5, “BUT because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions–it is by grace you have been saved.”
3. God has provided life for us IN CHRIST! Jesus IS the resurrection and the life. That life is there for us IF we are actually “IN HIM”.
4. Those who “put on” Christ, who abide in Him, who receive and live by His Spirit have life. They have risen from the dead. They have experienced the power of God in their resurrection already.
5. Resurrection is NOT just entirely something that awaits us in the distant future if we are faithful. It is supposed to be here and now as well.
6. Jesus says in John 10:10, “…I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
   a. He wants you to have everything. He wants it to be real. He has provided the Way and the means, but we also need to wake up and do our part. We need to rise from the dead and put on the new life.

B. Put off the old, put on the new.
1. We need to treasure the gift of life He has given and actually respond to it with personal energy and commitment and discipline.
2. That’s why the Apostle urges Christians in Ephesians 5:8-10, “…Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.”
3. In Ephesians 4:22-24, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”
4. Colossians 3:5-8, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”
5. These verses all put a responsibility on us personally! We have to participate, latch on to it. God has thrown us a life raft. If we drown and die, it is now our own fault. So,

C. A personal prayer.
1. Lord, raise me up! Lift me up. Give me new life. I want resurrection now. I want you to be the life in me.
2. I want to be up and living and active for you.
3. I want your life in me. Fill me with joy and hope and energy. Fill me with your Spirit.

Finally, as we awaken, we are not supposed to grouse around or cower in the darkness. We are supposed to rise and

III. Shine.

A. Actually, Christ will shine on you.
   1. As you come to life, pure and holy, can’t you just see Him just a smiling on you?
   2. God directed Moses how to word a special blessing back in Numbers 6:22-27, “The LORD said to Moses, 23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 “The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.’” 27 “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”
      a. Can’t you picture God’s face lighting up when He looks at you?
      b. Like a proud parent in love with his/her child – face just glows!
      c. I want that blessing upon me! I want Him to look at me like that!
   3. I want to walk in the light, in His glory and glow. I want to live in the light. All deeds in the open to be seen as having been wrought in God.
   4. I want to grow in His glow. To be spiritually nurtured to real and vigorous spiritual life. To continually grow in grace and knowledge.
   5. Shine like sunlight on my garden, I want God’s glowing love to bring spiritual nourishment. Shine on me so I’m not a spiritual midget – I want to be a Giant Redwood spiritually!

B. Shine to enlighten me.
   1. Shine on me with epiphanies! “Wow” moments of clarity and understanding, wisdom and insight.
   2. I want Him to be a lamp for my feet, to guide me through the trials and tribulations of this life.
   3. Shine on me to teach me and help me find out what pleases God. Ephesians 5:10-11, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” That’s what I want.
      a. To know what pleases God and to live by it.
      b. For me and others to SEE the benefit of light.
      c. To expose fruitless deeds of darkness by the very life I live and the image I bear.

C. Shine so I will stand forth as an example.
   4. Let others see the glory of God in you / me.
   5. In Christ, you have been glorified! Romans 8:30, “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”
   6. Matthew 5:16, “…let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
   7. Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you. Shine as the very image of the Son of God.

D. A personal prayer.
   1. Lord, shine on me! Let the glory of Jesus be seen in me and through me.
   2. Work with me. Mold me, transform me, grow me so I am your son, in the very image of Jesus. I want to also be the radiance of God so folks will be drawn to you through me.

So What?
Each of us was dead. But we have been given the most incredible gift of life in Christ Jesus. So don’t revert to your old ways of death. “…Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Closing Prayer:
Rise and Shine
Ephesians 5:14

Reading: Ephesians 5:1-16.
Memory: Ephesians 5:14

“...W_ u_, s_, r_ f_ t_ d_, a_ C_ w_ s_ o_ y_.”

We need to experience the life of genuine conversion.
Here are some conversion essentials;

I. Wake up.
A. Hear God’s call.
   Romans 14:10-12   Ephesians 5:1   Ephesians 5:3

B. Realize the truth!

C. A personal prayer.

II. Rise from the dead.
A. A new life.
   Ephesians 2:1-2   Ephesians 2:4-5   John 10:10

B. Put off the old, put on the new.
   Ephesians 5:8-10   Ephesians 4:22-24   Colossians 3:5-8

C. A personal prayer.

III. Shine.
A. Christ will shine on you.
   Numbers 6:22-27

B. Shine to enlighten me.
   Ephesians 5:10-11

C. Shine so I will stand forth as an example.
   Romans 8:30   Matthew 5:16

D. A personal prayer.

So What?
   Wake up, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.