

WARNING TO LATE SLEEPERS AND SLEEP WALKERS

TEXT: *Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

There is nothing more wonderful and valuable than that marvelous gift of God — nature's sweet restorer, the balm of sleep. It is like a new creation to awaken each morning with a fresh anointing of life and strength.



But there is nothing more full of peril sometimes than sleep when the robber is taking away the treasures of your home, or an assassin is lurking at your door, or when fire is creeping thru your home and threatening your life and your possessions. Sleep is disastrous when you are on the highway and you doze off. Suddenly you are in danger!

Sleep is tragic when some great opportunity of a lifetime is passing by, and the Bridegroom Himself may have come and gone and left you behind. Oh, then it is precarious — perilous — and a solemn thing to sleep.

An important communique comes to us today. Not from Washington, but from Heaven. It is a warning for all Christians who are dozing and nodding to look out for — and beware of — the devil. He is going about as a wolf in sheep's clothing, carrying a specially prepared bottle of fragrant sleeping powders, doping lukewarm Christians.

Under ordinary conditions, this sly deceiver and enemy of all righteousness and holiness is not to be found working upon the ground where Jesus gives us the parable of two sowers.

Matthew 13:2-9:

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto Him, so that He went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And He spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:



5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:



6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Satan works his cunningness upon the ground of the Christian who is not fully consecrated, upon those who have shallow ground — ground uncared for by its owner. If you have not detected satan, you are in most danger.

I have watched the devil work effectively on Sundays and on church nights, keeping lukewarm Christians away from church. I have seen him work on the congregation of those who are worldly-minded, making them drowsy and insensitive to spiritual things.

One preacher took advantage of the occasion by shouting: “*Fire! Fire!*” “*Where?*” they asked. “*It is in Hell!*”

We had a similar experience when a sleeping brother was awakened by my throwing a song book at him and yelling, “*Fire! Fire!*” He awakened, most startled, and cried out, “*Where . . . Where?*” I said, “*In my soul! God’s fire is burning, the Holy Spirit and fire.*”

Dearly beloved, followers of the Lord Jesus, it is of little concern to me as to the hour you awaken physically each day. (Although I do believe that they which seek Him early find Him more precious.) But I am positively concerned about your spiritual consciousness to eternal values.



“***Knowing the time***” are the words of our text. Do you know the time on God’s prophetic time clock? God speaks on: “***it is high time to awake out of sleep.***”

Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

It is dangerous to sleep now. Jesus is coming soon.

Matthew 24:44: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

The pitiful cry of the foolish virgins should be warning enough to awaken us to the fact that their cry may be ours if we are not ready to meet our Saviour when He comes. Jesus is coming as a thief in the night — but with triumph and great glory.



When a special friend is coming to see us, we make all kinds of preparations for him to make everything pleasant and comfortable and clean. Are you making preparations for Jesus' Coming?

This is a call to awaken. There are many awakenings given in this life. There is the awakening that comes through nature herself. The beautiful touch of Mother Nature which is already in the air when Spring rises from her wintry pillow and comes forth in all the beauty of her vernal adorning.



Already we begin to feel its prophetic impulses and its stirring in our being. The warbling birds and humming insects, the flowing circulation of every plant — how beautiful is the awakening of Spring.

It is a sure resurrection, a prophecy, a parable of a new life that shall come into our bodies at that glorious morning when this universe hears its Maker's voice, and believers feel His touch — for this corruptible shall have put on incorruption. This mortal shall put on immortality. Then shall we come in to the New Heaven, our New Home, wherein dwells righteousness, forever.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54:

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.



Thank God! This hope we cherish is not in vain. Therefore, comfort one another by His Word which cannot fail.

There is the awakening of human life — a new immortal being, born to die no more. A soft, tender bundle of new life with two eyes to see the glories of its Maker's creation; two ears to hear the sounds and significance of earthly joys; a mind and heart to expand their powers until they are only less than God! How wonderful. How mysterious. But this is not all.

How vastly important is the awakening of the soul more than all the other awakenings put together. By this awakening of the soul by the Spirit of God, we discover there is another world that is far more vast and important than this one. We must make preparations to go there. In this awakening of the soul we find we were made by God and for Him and for eternity. We can never rest in this petty world of passing time, knowing we shall live forever in Heaven or in Hell.

How vastly important is the awakening of the soul more than all the other awakenings put together.

This awakening came to Moses amid the palaces and luxuries and ambitions of Egypt. He saw himself the heir of the greatest empire in the world — the leader of armies of that mighty land. He was learned in all wisdom of its ancient people. He had everything within his grasp which human ambition could claim. But in his heart there was an aching void that the world could never fill. He turned his back on the Palace on the Nile and on the Throne of the Pharaohs. He chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.



Hebrews 11:23-25:

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

God awakened His heart to the eternal. He chose it over the natural and the temporal. He got the revelation which must come to each heart before it surrenders to Christ for salvation. Once finding Christ as his Saviour, he can never again rest on earth. The magnet of God's love turned its true pole to the center of its attraction.

Like the awakened cry of David:



Psalms 42:2: My soul thirsteth for God, for the Living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 84:2: My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the Living God.

This is homesickness for God. This is the human heart crying for that world for which it is born. It is the light of the world that fell on Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road — the light of Jesus Christ, the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into this world.

John 1:9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

His whole life and future is changed. He casts aside all earthly prospects of splendid scholarships and earthly power. He cries out:

Philippians 3:8-9:

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

⁹ And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

This is the testimony of every true Christian.



Salvation is not a stopping place, but a glorious starting place into the fullness of Christ.

If you go on, you will be awakened to the need of Bible holiness and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you do not follow on to know the Lord, you will go back. The Holy Spirit's pleadings and wooing are to make you feel an intense, precious longing and love for more of Christ. The devil is trying to make you insensitive to this sweet music from above with all the clamorous noises of this world. To which are *you* tuned?

Paul appeared to the Ephesian church, stirring them to a realization of their intense need for a deeper life and the Baptism of the Spirit. God is trying to awaken His church today through the Spirit.

Revelation 2:7: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Many of the churches have gone to sleep in this materialistic, lawless Laodicean Age in the lap of the world's pleasures. Not even the sound of the Master's footsteps, or coming Judgment, can awaken them to a sense of their condition. Everywhere the question is being asked: "*What is the matter with our churches?*" A careful observer will not have far to go to find the answer. We are fooling with Heaven and frolicking with Hell.



Preachers are sleeping on past experience, as are the saints. Sermons are dead, and the chilly breath of winter is on their prayers. There is an unwinding of dull, and monotonous words of testimony from the saints which they have been saying for the last ten years.

Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Satan has put the suggestion into the minds of many: "**My Lord delayeth His Coming.**" "**Eat drink and be merry.**" Easy paths will tend to slumber and sleep. Very few sleep in the storm. Surely that is the reason God permits us so many tests and trails.

Luke 12:19-20:

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"



Luke 12:45-46:

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for Him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Satan has been working on some of you older saints, pitying you. Poor saints, weary pilgrims, rest a while. Take a nap. Thy journey has been long. Thou shalt have nothing to worry about. Beware! Beware! This is the devil's sleeping hypnosis. Once you had an irresistible longing to restore the backslidden from the error of his ways. You cared not about the coldest night or rainiest day. But now the peril of a lost soul is an old story, fit for the antique shop. *"Knowing the time, it is high time to awake out of sleep."*

Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

This was the condition of Jonah as the terrified mariners awakened him, crying out: *"What meanest thou, O Sleeper? Arise. Call upon thy God."*

Jonah 1:4-6:

⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.



⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

⁶ So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, "What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not."

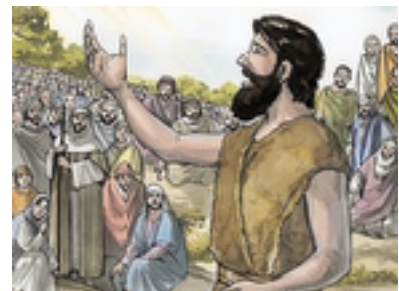
The Bible tells us:

John 1:6-8:

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him [Jesus] might believe.

⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.



This is my first visit with you, but I trust you will listen to this message and pay attention to my peculiarities. I have business for King Jesus and have come to bless you. If there is any other motive than the love for your soul and the glorifying of the precious name of Jesus, may the Lord reveal it. I trust the Lord

will use me to aid you in a better understanding of the Word, and a renewed awakening to your privilege through the full Gospel.

Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

There are a great many in the church who make one profession, and that is about all you hear of them. When the time comes for them to die, you have to go and hunt up some musty old church records to know whether they were Christians or not. God won't do that. What we want are saints with courage to stand up for Christ.



When Christians wake up, and every child that belongs to the Lord is willing to speak for Him, is willing to work for Him, and — if need be — be willing to die for Him, then Christianity will advance, and we shall see the work of the Lord prosper.

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