

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Spiritual Sleep Walking

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Most of us have heard of or personally know someone who “sleepwalks.” With eyes wide open, a person may engage in various activities, but be asleep. I know a person who went to their closet to buy two tickets for the next show. Some sitting up in bed may rise to rearrange furniture. A misconception is that if you wake up such a person from their “sleep walking,” it will be harmful. In fact, the person oblivious to objects such as electrical cords in their way, can trip over dangerous obstacles if not awakened, resulting in personal harm.

We can actively engage in life’s activities but be oblivious to the malady of spiritual “sleepwalking.” We are busy, but asleep. Paul does not mind providing a verbal shaking to awaken us to spiritual reality. He writes, “...Awake, thou that sleepest, and rise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon thee” (Ephesians 5:14).

Paul is writing to people who are active. While pursuing down the wayward path of satisfying the desires of the flesh, they are spiritually dead. They are dead but speak. Their foolish and filthy speech clearly identify the speaker as producing unfruitful works of darkness. Such “sleepwalkers” need to be

awakened to conscious reality. They are dead in sin, destined to eternal damnation.

It is interesting to note that those needing to awake were spiritually dead. Such people are lost in sin. However, they did not need a direct operation of the Spirit to awaken them. Their need was to become aware of their spiritual condition of being “dead” so they could awake themselves. The command to “the dead” is “awake!” The inspired testimony of Paul as to their true condition and destiny was the means to awaken everyone from spiritual sleepwalking.

The Christian is not to be caught up in this spiritual malady. As Christ shines upon those being awakened to soberness, the Christian should be shining as children of light showing the way. The Christian is not to be deceived that spiritual sleepwalking has no dangerous consequences. Such were empty words, because the sons of disobedience sleepwalk through life, and are destined to experience the wrath of God (Ephesians 5:6).

Not only are Christians not to participate in the unfruitful works of darkness but they are to reprove the fleshly pursuant (Ephesians

5:11). Refusing to spiritually sleepwalk, but soberly walk in wisdom should characterize the alert Christian (Ephesians 5:15-17).

Paul offers another verbal alarm to awake us in our walk of life. He writes, “*And this knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light*” (Romans 13:12-13). The Christian should be as alert spiritually as we are physically at midday after our favorite energy jolt. Walking in the spiritual stupor of darkness has no appeal to those who love the soberness of the day. We are closer today to eternal salvation than we were yesterday. Why give up eternal bliss for momentary sinful pleasure (cf. Hebrews 11:25)? Casting aside the works of darkness allows us to put on the protective “armor of light,” sheltering us from spiritual sleepwalking.

The alert Christian, knowing the day of salvation is nearer, also knows the day of eternal damnation is close for the lost. Let us be alert and busy ourselves in awakening them!