

Therefore, Let Us Not Sleep, As Do Others; 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 Verse 6

1Th 5:1 ¶ "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

Let us begin with **1Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**"

"**that that day should overtake you as a thief.**" What day is spoken of here? It is the end of time, as we are told in: **1Th 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**" We know this to be true; because, by God's marvelous grace; we have been brought, out of the blindness of who Jesus Christ is, to the marvelous light of the glorious gospel. Wherefore, having been awakened from the sleep of death in trespasses and sins, let us be careful to walk in wakefulness the Christian way. We do not want to become sleepy, and our senses be dulled to who Jesus Christ is to us, or that he is coming again. If that happens we are going to stumble and fall out of the way.

Remember, in the book of the Pilgrim's Progress; Christian and Hopeful, as they journeyed towards the Celestial City, said to themselves, "To prevent drowsiness in this place, let us fall into good discourse." Christian enquired, "Brother, where shall we begin?" And Hopeful answered, "Where God began with us." Then Christian sang this song—

*"When saints do sleepy grow, let them come hither, And hear how these two pilgrims talk together;
Yea, let them learn of them, in any wise, Thus to keep open their drowsy slumbering eyes.
Saints' fellowship, if it be managed well, Keeps them awake, and that in spite of hell."*

This is a stark reminder of our need for Christian fellowship. We need to be conversing with one another about the way of Jesus Christ and his word of truth. Not only will this help us to remember what we are, and what we were, but it will help us to remember what we have been made into by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Also, it is good to remind ourselves and one another of our beginning, as Hopeful reminded us, *"Where God began with us."* Knowledge of how we were brought out of the slumbering darkness of death, in trespasses and sins, into the marvelous light of Christ, is something to be remembered always. God established the annual memorial of the Passover, so Israel would not forget how they were delivered from the bondage of Egypt. Likewise, Jesus established the Lord's Supper as a memorial feast to remind us how we were delivered from the bondage of death in trespasses and sins. As we journey on our pilgrimage here in time; it is easy to become complacent. It is easy to rest in the knowledge of the blessing of eternal life in Christ, which cannot be taken away nor destroyed. However, we are not commanded to sit idly by in the rocking chair of 'saved by grace,' but rather to be about our Father's business.

Wherefore, when you detect, that you are growing sleepy in your Christian journey, find a fellow citizen of the land of promise and begin a dialogue with them. This will refresh your soul, and revive your senses to the remembrance of the great and abundant mercies of God and Christ. Another way, to shake off sleepiness, is to enter into fervent prayer to God. Spend time in thanksgiving to God and Christ. Spend some time rejoicing in the joy of the salvation of the Lord. Spend time in the bible. It is God's written message to us to help us and guide us in our Christian walk in life.

We are often lulled to sleep in our Christian lives by the daily strains and stresses of everyday living. Working to provide for our families is a time consuming thing for most people. This is why we need the one day of rest each week, the sabbath of rest for us is Sunday, to go to the assembling of God's people together. Singing, praying, preaching, and fellowshipping with one another, are all good ways to be refreshed, and for the sleepiness of worldliness to be shaken off. The unsaved continue in sin ignorant of the coming day. Wherefore, we sin not, nor slumber. Remember, there is coming a time when we will no longer be sleepy. Having been awakened from the slumbers of dead bodies, or changed from mortal to immortal bodies, we will arise to be carried away to that glorious land of eternal rest. A rest that will not require sleep, but each moment spent in praising our God and King, Jesus the Christ. Hallelujah! Amen!