

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 13:8-11**.
- B. This sermon was delivered in Decatur, IL at the Morningside Chapel Church of Christ in part of the pulpit exchange for 1985.
- C. We all enjoy sleep, but many things can happen while we are asleep. Some kinds of sleep are good, other kinds are not.
- D. Today's lesson looks at some different kinds of sleep in the Bible, and what bad things are associated with some of them.

I. THE SLEEP OF JONAH.

- A. This is the sleep which will not face reality, He slept even while a raging storm was going on.
- B. This is an unrealistic sleep because Jonah thought he could run from God, and then relax knowing he had accomplished it.
- C. The storm raged around Jonah, but he slept anyway. Today men have the storm of sin around them but they are spiritually asleep.
- D. Awake from this sleep before it is too late. Time is fleeting (Eph. 5:14-17).

II. THE SLEEP OF THE WEARY.

- A. This is the sleep of Peter, James, and John in the garden of Gethsemane.
- B. Sometimes the hectic pace of this world, responsibilities of family, ob, church, social clubs, etc., are just too much.
- C. If we become overly busy Satan can take advantage, in that we become too tired to do what is right. While the apostles slept Judas betrayed our Lord in agreeing to a deal with the High Priest.
- D. The Christian wanting to do what is right will not overburden himself, as to let physical sleep rob him of the energies needed to live a faithful Christian life (1Th. 5:4-8).

III. THE SLEEP OF PRESUMPTION.

- A. Samson fell asleep upon the knees of Delilah and did so knowing of the possible dangers in doing it. Men today knowing the truth of God, are still sleeping in thinking they have a lot of time to get their life right.
- B. When we know to do right, and do not do it, to us it is sin (Jas. 4:17).
- C. We can presume that we have tomorrow, or that by our own strength and ability we can withstand the temptations of sin.
- D. To neglect prayer, giving, and Bible study for sleeping is "playing" with spiritual starvation and death.

IV. SLEEP OF THE SLUGGARD.

- A. Similar to the one above, this sleep is the one who is slow about obeying the truth he knows to be right. They believe they will have time to obey God in a more convenient season (Prov. 24:30-34).
- B. There is no better day than today (2Cor. 6:2).

V. THE SLEEP OF THE INJURED.

- A. Eutychus fell out of a third story window and was taken up for dead. Paul said that his life was yet in him. He was injured by the fall and had to be awakened.
- B. Some have been injured spiritually by sin, and may be near spiritual death because of sin. These need to be wakened before it is too late.
- C. It may have due to a church problem, and family problem, and/or a work problem. But whatever, these people should not be allowed to sleep.

D. Let those wake up for their deeds are not complete (Rev. 3:2).

VI. THE SLEEP OF THE FOOLISH, NEGLIGENT AND CARELESS.

- A. Jesus mentioned this type of person in his parable of the sower. While his men were asleep his field was sown with tares (Mt. 13:24-25).
- B. Someone should have been on guard to protect the field. This might be made parallel with elders who are to shepherd the flock (to keep watch) so that men do not sleep and be overtaken with temptation.
- C. Parents should not sleep to the cares of the children, children of the age of accountability should not sleep but obey.
- D. The foolish man who built bigger barns to hold his grain was asleep to his spiritual needs (Lk. 12:16-21).

VII. THE SLEEP OF SPIRITUAL DEATH.

- A. Those in Corinth had the worst sleep of all. Paul mentions in 1Cor. 11:30 that some were spiritually asleep.
- B. Those who give no care to the spiritual condition whether they be a member of the church or one who has fallen away from the church need to be woke up from their sleep (Eph. 5:14).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We have looked that the following kinds of spiritual sleep;
 - 1. The sleep of Jonah (won't face reality).
 - 2. The sleep of the weary.
 - 3. The sleep of presumption.
 - 4. The sleep of the sluggard.
 - 5. The sleep of the injured.
 - 6. The sleep of the foolish, negligent, and careless.
 - 7. The sleep of the spiritually dead.
- B. Wake up before Jesus comes again (Rev. 16:15)!
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.