

Wake Up!

Joe Slater

Paul exhorted the brethren in Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus to wake up! If he were still living in the flesh, would he tell us the same thing?

It's too easy to hit the snooze button when it comes to our responsibilities to God. He wants Christians to be the best law-abiding, tax-paying citizens any country ever had. That holds true even if the government is hostile toward us (Romans 13:1-7). We owe it to every human being to demonstrate genuine, Biblical love (13:8-10). *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed”* (13:11). In view of this, the apostle urged them to reject the *“works of darkness”* that characterize the world (13:12-14).

Corinth faced the same issues and received a similar admonition: *“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil companions corrupt good habits.’ **Awake to righteousness** and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame”* (1 Corinthians 15:33-34).

Like Rome and Corinth, the church at Ephesus consisted largely of converted pagans. Leaving that way of life proved difficult. Paul wrote, *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret”* (Ephesians 5:11-12). In contrast to the darkness of sin and ignorance, the apostle wrote, *“**Awake, you who sleep**, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light”* (5:14).

The cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the pleasures of this life are distracting far too many of us. We have gone to sleep. May God help us to wake up before it's too late!

You Can't Take It With You

Probably you have heard stories about people who tried various schemes to “beat the system” to take some of their valuables with them to Heaven. Maybe you haven't heard this one:

A man had a collection of valuables he really wanted to take with him when he died. He bound them carefully into a package and told his wife he was placing it in the attic right above his bed. He hoped to die in bed and, as his spirit soared upward, he would pick up the package and take it with him.

He did die in bed as he had planned. Some time later his wife remembered his scheme, so she and the children went up to the attic to see if he had been successful.

The bag was still where he had put it. “Well,” she exclaimed, “Maybe the rascal should have put it in the cellar!”

Cecil May, Jr. (Montgomery, AL) via *Preacher Talk*

o o o o o o

Power Outage

We had a power outage at our house this morning, so my PC, laptop, TV, DVD, iPad, and my new surround-sound music system were all shut down.

Then I discovered that my phone battery was dead, and to top it all off, it was raining so I couldn't play golf.

I went into the kitchen to make coffee, then remembered that this also required power. So I sat and talked with my wife for a few hours.

She seemed like a nice person.

--Via *Voice of Truth International*

A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT

I recently read how Douglas Corrigan got his nickname. On July 17, 1938, he left Floyd Bennett Airfield on the east coast of the United States bound for Long Beach, California. He was flying his 1929 Curtis Robin monoplane with only two compasses as his navigational equipment. Twenty-nine hours later he landed in Dublin, Ireland. Until his death in Long Beach in 1995 he was always known as “Wrong Way Corrigan.” I'm rather certain Corrigan would agree that it makes a difference how reliable our guide is, and how closely we follow it.

The Bible is our only guide from earth to Heaven. Many today are confused and are asking the same question Thomas asked: *“How can we know the way?”* Jesus answered: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:5-6). Jesus told His apostles that He would send the comforter to them. *“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide you into all truth**”* (John 16:13). Peter wrote that *“holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:20).

We have the Bible, the word inspired by the Holy Spirit, as our guide to all truth. We do not need, nor should we accept, any latter-day revelations because we already have all truth! Paul said, *“But even if we or an angel from heaven preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed”* (Galatians 1:8-9).

Peter wrote, *“There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies . . . and many will follow their destructive ways”* (2 Peter 1:1-2).

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 16:25).

--Cecil Burch (Amarillo, TX) via *Old Paths*