

How to Keep Spiritually Awake.

Issue date: 18 Aug 2007

Things in the world are moving swiftly to a climax! There are many things that match the signs as foretold in The Bible. However people do not see that Armageddon is approaching to be the greatest monumental event as Jesus told us in Matthew:

Matt.24v21-22 For then shall be great tribulation (*stress/disaster/unrest*), such as was not since the beginning of The World to this time, no, nor never shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days be shortened.

The reason is that most people are spiritually asleep and thus becoming only self-interested!

Rom. 13v11-14 Know that the time, now it is the high time, to awake out of sleep; for now the time of our salvation is nearer than we believed! The night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us then cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in debauchery, and licentiousness, not in strife and envying. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

If the time was almost here then, think how much nearer that it is now!
Are we sleeping?

1Cor. 15v32-34 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, Because they say 'Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die! Do not be deceived; evil communication ruins good morals.

Bad association can corrupt one's thinking.

We may think that we should taste of worldly pleasures before we become old and die. We must uphold our Christian standards, desires and hope. Wake up to righteousness - be sober. Telling Galatians that people reap what they sow - the weeds must all be pulled out; and any root left will grow again to be a weed.

1Cor. 16v13 You watch, stand fast in the faith, be courageous and strong.

1Thes. 5v6 Therefore we must not sleep like others do, but let us watch and be sober.

We must be awake to what is going on, however some do not listen!

Isa. 42v18-20 Hear you; and look, you blind, so that you may see. Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my perfect one, and blind as the servant of God? Seeing many things, but he did not observe, he has ears but did not hear!

Isa. 42v25 So he has poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it has set him on fire round about, yet he did not know; and it burned him, yet he did not take it to heart.

All the signs were performed but they did not mean anything.

Jer. 4v13,22 Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind; his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! For we are spoiled. O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, so that you may be saved. For my people are foolish, they have not known me; they are rebellious children, and none of them have understanding; they are wise to evil, but have no knowledge on how to do good.

Seems to be talking to foolish people!

If they heeded warnings, then the events in 607 BC may not have occurred.

Noah also preached the truth, then the people around saw the fulfilment of what he had said!

In Matt. 24 Jesus implies that the people do not listen to the truth but rather follow their own desires.

These people think: The world is still going on, perhaps it will not change - it will get by and recuperate - man can do it, because he has 'sorted out' things before with technology!

2Pet. 3v3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall be people whom are scoffers in the last days, walking after their own lusts, and saying: Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.

Rev. 21v8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Clearly there will be people who are still practising these acts when they are permanently removed.

1Cor. 7v29 But I say this, Brethren, the time is short; it remains, that those who have wives, live like those who have none.

The scene of the world is going to change.

1John 4v4-6 You are of God, little children, and have overcome evil ways, because he that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. They are of the world; so they speak of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God: he that knows God hears us, he that is not of God does not hear us. We then know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

We either listen to the ways of the world, gain knowledge of God by listening as being the faithful discrete slave.

How do we keep spiritually awake?

Meditate (= *consider and deeply reason upon*) on fulfilled prophecy

Yearn for the coming deliverance and the Promised Land.

Preaching of God's word.

Reading and learning from God's word.

Magnifying God's name (*in our preaching work and lifestyle*).

1Pet. 4v7 But the end of all things is at hand; so you must be sober, and rely on prayer for strength.

Matt. 26v40-41 And Jesus came back to the disciples, and when found them asleep, said to Peter, Why could you not watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray, so that you may not enter into temptation, the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.

Are we falling asleep?

1Thes. 5v6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do; but let us watch and be sober.

Lets spend a few minutes and wake up!

1Pet. 1v3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead To an incorruptible inheritance, and undefiled, and does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

Our Father is there to help us and provide a good relationship.

Let us then feed from a spiritual organisation, either through private study and regular attendance - with eagerness.

We must follow theocratic ways.

Rev. 15v3 And they sing the Song of Moses the servant of God, and the Song of Lamb, saying Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Lets aim to be singing that song!

Rom. 12v4,6-8 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teaches on teaching. Or he that exhorts on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules with diligence, he shows mercy with cheerfulness.

We all have different abilities; do not quibble about others and their abilities.

Matt. 13v41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom, all things that offend, and them who do iniquity;

God will protect True Christians (= those humans who imitate Jesus' lifestyle) when assignments are given to us. We should persist in prayer. This will help us in giving us more spiritual gifts.

Isa. 61v5-6 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your ploughmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the Priests of the Lord: Men shall call you the Ministers of our God: You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall you boast yourselves.

We will have everything we need.

Eph. 4v13-14 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; So that we are not like children who are tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

We go along and put up with it, waiting for the bond of peace and love. We have to be like the oil between the cogs. If there is no oil then the cogs seize!

Hew. 13v17 Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

This is important for you, but God allows them to be above you and they will be accountable. It will be damaging to those who are not submissive. What made us to think this? Peter, Paul and Barnabas have had problems with relationships, but they recognised their shortcomings and prayed about it. Satan was always hunting voraciously then, so how much more now when he knows that his time is short!

Matt. 24v11-13 And many false prophets shall rise, and deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

We must always be careful and remember the above. This applies to all of us, both Christian and the rest of the humanity. We must look and be careful.

Spare 'leisure' time is spiritually devastating – if no self-control is exercised.

People always seem to find money to finance entertainment - even those short of money for the necessities of life!

Another example would be the times when Christian people are sorely oppressed, eg Germany during the war or Russian under communism. As soon as the people escaped from these authoritarian regimes, the unity of many families collapsed and also the love for Christian values as they followed the material desires of this world. The bondage of the worldly oppressive regime was not there to hold them together!

Thus we can see that Satan has many ways of pulling us away from Jesus Christ.

Rev. 16v15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, otherwise he will walk naked and everyone will see his shame.

In the army, the Officer of the Guard may carry out a surprise inspection at 2,3,4 O'clock in the morning to ensure that the officer on watch has not fallen asleep! If he was there would be serious trouble in the morning. This is the same for all of us with Jesus Christ's 1st 2nd C.

The fruit of the Spirit makes us to excel and do more. A good virtuous cycle, but the reverse is also possible so be aware!

Rev. 21v8 As already quoted on page 1 - We must keep awake.

Prov. 10v5 He that gathers in the summer is a wise son; but he that sleeps in the harvest is a son that causes shame. Harvest time is a time when we work from dawn to dusk to get the work done. The time is harvest is almost over and the pace is quickening to gather the remaining harvest in for Jesus.

We must pray incessantly for this Holy Spirit to give us strength to carry on with this work.

Colos. 4v2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the gained understanding with thanksgiving.

We pray ourselves, fellow brothers and sisters to keep awake.

Heb. 10v24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some! But exhorting one another and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.

We must be positive and contribute to the Christian meetings. Be diligent in our Bible studies and any aids. Spend time to research any given information.

Luke 21v34-36 And take heed to yourselves, otherwise at any time your hearts be overcharged with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life and so that day comes upon you unawares. So you watch , and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

So pay attention to yourselves, you cannot blame anyone else if you are caught in a snare.
Keep awake, make supplication to escape.
Don't causally walk away from disaster but run quickly away out of Satan's system.

If we do all of this then we will be awake for Jesus' coming and the New World which he offers all of us.