

1: Awake From Your Slumber Sermon by Kevin L. Jones, Proverbs - www.enganchecubano.com

A spirit of slumber has endangered their homes and they are trapped both in church and at home! David adds, "Let none dwell in their tents" (Psalm). There is such gloom there in that home, such desolation, no one will want to enter or stay there.

When my parents sold that house it had been completely renovated. It was like new. The kitchen and bathroom had been remodeled. The bedrooms and family room each had been painted, new carpet was installed. There was a new roof, and new siding on the exterior. Today that house is in a state of disrepair. The siding is falling off, the roof is caving in, the windows are broken out, the floors are rotten, the walls have holes in them. All that remains is a shell of what once was a nice home. It happened rather quickly. Neglect quickly leads to decay and destruction. If you neglect your physical health problems arise. The same is true concerning your spiritual health. We all know people who were once "spiritual giants". They were soul winners, prayer warriors, faithful servants, church leaders, load bearers and burden sharers. They were people of the Word. They were faithful to the church and the ministry. But somewhere along the way they began to neglect the things of God. And like the old home place they are now mere shells of what they once were. Maybe you would be honest enough to admit that you are not where you once were spiritually. Your passion and zeal has been replaced with complacency and apathy. The fact is, that this is a far too common problem in the modern church. The problem is described as "spiritual neglect". I would like to look at Proverbs In these verses Solomon recounts a time where he journeyed past a local field and vineyard. Though he was the wisest man who ever lived, anyone could see that there was something amiss. The field was grown over with thorns and nettles. The wall that once protected this estate was now broken down. In those days agriculture was a very honorable profession. Farmers and vineyard husbandmen were well respected. But the owner of this land earned no respect from Solomon. In fact, Solomon calls him slothful, lazy and lacking sense. He calls out the obvious neglect and proclaims the results of such slothfulness. He says that poverty is imminent for the man who had abandoned his duty. I am afraid that there are many of our brethren who are headed towards spiritual poverty. Even worse, some of them are already there! Look with me to verses and we will see: The Crisis Of Spiritual Neglect -v30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. If the owner of this property refused to give proper attention to issue at hand, it would only get worse. If you refuse to address the spiritual crisis in your life, things will only get worse. If you would honestly appraise your spiritual condition you will see that you have become slothful concerning the things of God. Your spiritual life is withering away. Your heart is as hard as the fallow ground. You are indifferent toward the things of God. Like the church at Ephesus you have "left your first love". The vineyard was not overgrown in just a few days. The wall did not decay in a short period of time. An extended period of neglect caused all of these issues. If you find yourself away from God, chances are things have gone unaddressed for some time. You began to stray and step by step you walked further and further away from the Lord. The crisis of spiritual neglect begins when we take our eyes off of the Savior. This followed by apathy and complacency concerning the things of God. The natural result of this is returning to the things of this world. David Wilkerson said - The river of neglect slowly carries you farther and farther away from the Lord. And the farther downstream you go, the swifter and more dangerous that river becomes!

2: Greenwood Baptist Church: Ooltewah, TN > Spiritual Slumber

The church in the West, on the most, is in a state of spiritual slumber - unaware of the powers at work in the nation, to destroy the legacy that's been built over years. God is speaking to us, to 'wake up' out of that spiritual slumber.

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed" Isaiah One of the most heartbreaking of all Scriptures in the Bible is this: An entire race of people spent their lives looking for satisfaction, rest, and fullness; and they never did find it. Even to this day, only a small remnant of Jews have found the grace and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The rest of them are blinded! Paul said, emphatically, "God hath given them the spirit of slumber. There is not an evangelist or teacher on earth who can penetrate their darkness! Very few of them are saved. Paul called them "a remnant according to the election of grace" Romans Paul speaks of a day when "all Israel shall be saved They need not die in such blindness! Paul said, "And they also, if they abide not in unbelief, shall be grafted in: Has it never amazed you that many heathen can hear the gospel once, see it clearly, accept it, and be born again by faith in Him?! Prostitutes, drug addicts, the poor, and the illiterate--all have gladly received the message of Christ and have been gloriously saved. They have been awakened! Their eyes see it--their ears hear it! Yet the Jew is under the grip of the spirit of slumber! A deep sleep from the Lord has fallen upon them, and they simply cannot understand anything that is said or preached about the Lord Jesus Christ! Did God cast them away? Did God arbitrarily cut them off His vine just to save Gentiles? Were they predestinated to such horrible blindness? Paul make that very clear! They were the natural branches; they were those who should have obtained what they were looking for. They should have accepted Christ. They should be the present-day preachers of the gospel. They should be the ones going as missionaries to the world, preaching the message of Christ! They should have found what we Gentiles found! Jerusalem should have become the Christian capital of the world. But they stubbornly held to their unbelief! They refused to yield to His lordship! They said, "This man shall not reign over us! They tempted God, proved Him, and saw His mighty works, yet they maintained an "evil heart of unbelief. They would not hold on to a confidence in the Lord. They were so deceived by their sins, they purposely hardened their hearts. They preferred Moses above Christ! None of them could enter into rest. None could find or obtain what they were seeking, and God grieved over them. Paul wrote, "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" Hebrews 3: What a tragedy--millions of spiritually hungry, searching, seeking Jews; and they cannot find what they are looking for. They are in the dark about Him! They are in a spiritual coma! But Paul is writing all this to Gentiles--Christians! His message really is: But rather say, Poor blind, slumbering saints! He said, "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: Paul goes further and warns those in the faith of the severity of God. We hear much preaching today about the goodness of God! It is said, "Just believe; God is good; He wants only goodness and blessings for you! The other half of the gospel is this: God is very severe with those who harden their hearts through unbelief! There are those who preach, "Once in the vine, always in the vine! Once you are in, you can never be cut off again! Otherwise, thou shalt be cut off. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He spare not thee. Let every lukewarm, backslidden Pentecostal open his ears! Let all playboy Christians hear it: We reckon ourselves dead with Christ. Jesus paid it all! See you in heaven! Some preacher has made them believe they are going to be redeemed because, way back, they prayed a little prayer and made a public confession; but then they went back to their old ways. No power on earth can wake them up. They have been blinded by the deceitfulness of sin! They are under the spell of the spirit of slumber. I listen to street harlots, smiling in my face with a trick on their arms, boasting to me, "I am saved! I am just as holy as you are! Jesus loves me just as I am! I am on my way to glory! How can one like this actually believe such a lie? I am more concerned about the deep sleep that is falling upon believers in the house of God! In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus said, "They all slumbered and slept" Matthew The majority will be "caught unaware. Five of them had lamps that were going out! Those words send a chill up my spine--lamps going out! A fire that is dying! A vessel in which there is no more oil! The anointing is gone! A lamp that once burned so brightly--going out! No joy, no faith, no confidence, no leading or convicting of the Holy Spirit! What it

means is: The glory of the Lord is departing from some in this midnight hour! Preachers who used to thunder with unction and anointing are now squatting in front of the TV idol, getting fat and lazy, with no word from God, no fresh unction! Their lamp is going out! Christians who once were on fire for God, once full of love and joy in Jesus, once looking for His return--are now drifting, cold, full of doubt and fear. They are half asleep, but will soon fall into a deep sleep! They once had the glory of God, the power of the Holy Ghost. But now, their lamps are dim and dying! They now have adultery in their hearts; they play hard; they eat and drink; they act religious, but their hearts now grow cold and a hardness is setting in. Look at the wise virgins with their lamps ablaze. They are full of Holy Ghost fervor and excitement, and they are going out singing, marching into the marriage supper! Their eyes are only on their Beloved and they are ready to leave this wicked world. But look at the foolish ones--weeping, rushing about, trying to regain the fire! They are rushing about in circles, begging, pleading, "Somebody, help me! My lamp is going out! Your lamp is going out! You have just a spark left! You are spiritually empty! You need a fresh baptism of the Holy Ghost! You are living on an old anointing!

3: Spiritual Slumber (2 of 3) (Mike Connell) Sun 8 Nov AM

Part of the church woke up from slumber with the strength and commitment to seek the Bridegroom high and low. These people were strong enough to overcome and pass by the problems they encountered out in the world.

Since sleep is such a significant part of the human experience, it is no surprise that biblical writers should allude to it frequently. There are a variety of ways in which this term is employed in the literature of scripture. On one occasion when Jesus and his disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee, the Lord was sleeping on a cushion in the stern of the boat Mk. This is but one of the many evidences which argue for the true humanity of the Savior. It is interesting that the Scriptures refer to different levels of sleep. This is determined by the measurement of brain waves on an electroencephalograph EEG. A consideration of these makes a fascinating study. The concept of sleeping is biblically employed with figurative language to stress certain truths about God. In emphasizing the fact that the Lord is ever watchful of our needs, a psalmist wrote: On the other hand, when the Hebrew people drifted into sin, and the Lord allowed them to suffer the consequences of their rebellion, it was as if he was asleep i. Why do you sleep, O Lord? A symbol of laziness Sometimes sleep is used as the equivalent of being lazy. Go to the ant, O sluggard. Observe her ways and be wise How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest. The destruction of the wicked Sleep can portray the utter and final punishment of a wicked power that has stood in opposition to God. The prophet Jeremiah foretold the complete destruction of the evil Babylonian regime. Spiritual apathy Sometimes spiritual lethargy is represented as a sleep. To the brethren in Rome Paul wrote: The apostle subsequently amplifies the significance of the figure by suggesting that the pursuit of an ungodly lifestyle is tantamount to a spiritual coma v. Being unprepared Sleep can suggest the notion of being unprepared to meet the Lord at the time of his return. When Paul corresponded with the brothers in Thessalonica, he warned about a false sense of security. And so he admonished: To be awake is thus to be vigilant, ever prepared. The dead are asleep Sleep is commonly used as a designation for death, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. David petitioned the Creator: When Lazarus of Bethany died, Jesus informed the disciples: They initially thought that Christ spoke of natural sleep; he therefore had to tell them plainly: Why is death figuratively depicted as sleep? First, there is a common appearance between a sleeping body and a corpse. The analogy is thus quite natural. Third, as the sleeping person awakes and rises from his bed. We must briefly pause and comment further about these final two points. It is not the case, as alleged by some, that the dead are unconscious, i. There is ample evidence that the dead are entirely conscious in their own realm of existence. Both the rich man and Lazarus were cognizant Lk. For a more detailed discussion of this theme, see Are the Dead Conscious? Whenever the Bible describes death as a sleep, it is only the body that is under consideration. Note that the part of man which sleeps is that part which is planted in the dust. As the Lord awoke from the dead, so shall we. May we be enriched by an investigation of this theme.

4: Messiah in Isaiah Bible Study - Chapter 52 Wake up you sleepy head

Bible Study on spiritual slumber than causes a person to not notice their need of a right relationship with God and how to become alive to reality.

The softness of bed sheets and the comfort of the pillow is, sometimes, too much to overcome. We are stuck between the beckoning of the day that lies ahead and the warm embrace of our slumber. We are slumbering not only in our sheets, but in our souls. As we snooze, we miss out on the things God is working on and working towards for His glory. Our snores are drowning out the call to salvation for the lost among us and around us. There is a great need for awakening in the church today. Awakening is as simple as it sounds. We must wake up from our slumber to the realities that surround us. Gone are the days of privilege and preference because we are the church. Those days have been replaced by skepticism and reluctance toward the church. The church needs to awaken to the communities that surround them. The church I serve as pastor is a neighborhood church. Our church campus is surrounded by apartments, duplexes, and houses. Let us wake up to the ministry field to which God has planted us. When the church awakens to its own need of the gospel, it becomes aware of the gospel needs that surround them. What does that mean? The greatest mission field for the gospel in America is found in churches across our country every Sunday. While our churches may be filled with people, many of them only have a gospel inoculation – they have been repeatedly exposed to the gospel, but have never had a gospel encounter with Jesus. All of the proper steps have been taken, but no real life changed occurred. How can this happen? We have lulled people into believing that if they say these words, check this box, join this small group, and so on that they are saved. All of those things can be done apart from Jesus, but it does not change the fact that Jesus saves! So what do we need to do: Church, I am calling you back to Jesus. I am calling you to search your heart and determine if you, as an individual, have repented of your sin and confessed Jesus as your savior. If so, praise the Lord! If you have not, then stop right now and do it. Then, go and tell your pastor, your small group leader, your spouse, your kids, your neighbor, and anyone who will listen. Church, I am calling you to pray. Pray for your church to be awakened. Pray for your church to rise from the slumber of its comfortable sleep and to awaken to the uncomfortable call of following Jesus. Pray for your church leaders to be awakened to what God desires to do in and through your church. Plead with the Lord to awaken your church, to shake it from its slumber that it might be the mighty body of Christ that it is intended to be. Church, I am calling you to pray for your city. Pray that God will bring His church together as a mighty force of the gospel in your neighborhood, town, and city. Pray for those who do not know Christ to surrender their life to Christ. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share your story of how Jesus changed your life and is changing your life. Ask the Lord for chances to share with people what God is doing in your church, and then invite them to be your guest. Let this serve as a wake up call that startles you awake and reminds you that there is still work to be done. Get up from your sleep. Get down on our knees. Get in the word. Get out among the lost.

5: Spiritual Slumber (2 of 3) (Slumber of Jezebel): Summary Notes

The Church in Sardis had fallen into a spiritual slumber and was nearing a fatal coma, which is why Jesus calls out to her to, "Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die" (verse 2). Interestingly, this spiritual napfest they found themselves in, parallels another tragic event that occurred in the same city many years earlier.

View All Saved in at age Nearly immediately I fell in love with the Song and grew very fast the first two years memorizing large portions of scripture purifying my mind the started chewing on meat to soon and struggled for 12 years and Christ has me on track like always but I just took the long way around and now I love leading others closer to Christ by seeing His love reflected in Solomons love for an enemy slave girl. There are many portion of the Word where she experiences extra ordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God. If you have a burning desire for a close intimate relationship with God by experiencing His Love to you over and over again at greater and greater heights, depths, lengths and breaths then The Song of Songs is where you need to be. As of I have experienced everything prior to chapter 8. The Song of Song is progressive in experience. If you are not so mature then the delights in the first chapter of the Song will satisfy your thirst for experiencing the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. It feels good to be loved and to love Him. His burden is not heavy and His yoke is light, Jesus said in Matt. If you see the book literally you will not understand nor grasp the Love God has for you. I will pray for you daily and guide you every step of the way. I grew up going to church but was a hypocrite. I lived my life how I chose but went to church on Sunday because my family went. Mom and Dad divorced when I was about 5. About this time I was sexually abused by "Bob" a made up name. This incident changed my life for the worst. I had no clue how to deal with it. As I got older I grew in my hatred for Bob. Some of what happened during the abuse was in a bathroom. So overtime I would use the bathroom and look at my private parts that night would replay in my mind. My hatred for Bob would continue to grow each time. Now I know this only happened to me one night. Even as I write this now I cry with many tears for those hurting. God love you even though you may not know it or feel it. Go to Him in your time of need. I was a really bad teenager. I only cared about myself and not even my family. I always came first in my mind. Even at the expense of hurting others. I was growing in my hatred for God by now. I was going to church and was learned that God was in control. I thought well, if God was in control then He must have let me be sexually abused. I hated Him for it. My hatred for Bob grew as well. I was still using the bathroom and memories kept coming back. My heart grew even harder for Bob and God. As far as I was concerned God would have nothing to do with my life so I lived even worse. I remember hating Bob so much that the only thing that would relieve my pain was actually thinking he would suffer forever for what he did. I grew so much in my hatred for him that I had to continue to think that he would get even worse than what I imaged before. After some time I would only be relieved of hatred for him unless I thought he would burn in a hotter and hotter hell for all the suffering he put me through. I never told my mom or family what happened, although I think some of them knew something had happened. I grew up quite rebellious and even went to jail at the age of I was living the fast life pursuing all my sinful desires and wanting more. It never seemed to be enough. I was quite happy in my sin but I just wanted more of it. I lived life thinking I would die at a young age, riding motorcycle and living on the edge put me in the hospital many times and I should have been dead. California at age I moved to California for a job opportunity at the age of While trying to figure out what radio stations to program in my car, I ran across a RC Sproul talking about "people who have the faith that saves and people who only say that have faith" only the people who have the faith that saves will go to heaven. I found a church and thought people there could help me get this faith that saves. All along God kept showing me how sinful I was and that I deserved punishment from Him for living my life hating Him. One weekend I read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John desperately trying to find out how to get this faith that saves. By now I knew that if you had the faith that saves that Jesus would be saving you from a life of sin. By the time I got to John, I saw "believe" everywhere. This was just an intellectual belief. I knew that in history and the Bible that Jesus died for everyone, so I believed it. But this belief did not change my life. I would go on night after night saying the same prayer only to wake up the next day wanting to fulfill

my sinful desires. After about 2 weeks of this I was fed up with it all, nothing was happening. I still was living in my sin and wanted more of it. I thought to myself "God, I tried with all my might, I searched the Scriptures, went to church, read the Bible and prayed all to no avail. If I'm going to be saved you're going to have to do it because I tried. I was so scared of God, where could I run. It seemed like forever that I was under these terrors of being punished by a Holy Angry God. This lasted about 10 minutes then this is how I understood it. God let me understand that all that anger that He had for me for all my sin should come my way but He had poured that anger out on Jesus 2,000 years ago. All the sins that I could think of I confessed for that 20 minutes one after another after another, I was so sorrowful and grieved it physically hurt inside. After I stopped crying I thought that was the weirdest thing that ever happened. Now I was really wondering what was going on. I pondered all of this as I drove to work that day. I brought my Bible to work and was thinking what am I doing, I want to take my Bible to work so I can read it. As soon as I got to work I started reading my Bible. It all was so wonderful. It felt so good to just read my Bible. My client showed up and as I was training them the only thing I could think about was getting back to my Bible. I read all night and slept about 2 hours and was reading again. I had sinful things in my apartment and I rounded everything evil up and threw it in the garbage. It was weird I was thinking but it felt good so I left it all in the garbage. She said "I'm glad you're a Christian, so am I" I thought to myself, "I have a strong conviction that sleeping together is wrong and she thought it was okay" I wondered how she could think that. Anyway we broke up. I kept reading my bible and repenting, there was so much to repent of and I had lived a very sinful life. I was a thief for some part of my life and all the people I stole from kept coming to mind. I owed so much money. As I could I paid them back. The guy in the car felt so bad. I just looked at him and said "God bless you and have a great day, I am okay" smiled at him and moved on. Now I was really wondering what was going on because I normally would have cussed him out left and right and instead of cussing I blessed him. That was so weird. But again it felt good. I learned to do good by what my conscience told me was good and that it felt good. I got hooked on this feeling good by doing good and did it more often. About two weeks after being saved I thought of Bob. I immediately prayed for him, something like "Lord help him.. I stopped again midway in the prayer and started pacing around. But again it made me happy to pray for him so I did. Bob would often come to mind when I went to the bathroom and each time I would pray for Him. The more I did this the less weird it got. And the greater my love grew for him. I started memorizing large portions of scripture and this was wonderful because it felt like the words were cleaning my mind and as Proverbs 2:

6: Spiritual Slumber | OUTLOOK magazine

Transcript: The church in the West, on the most, is in a state of spiritual slumber - unaware of the powers at work in the nation, to destroy the legacy that's been built over years.

Specifically, the rock band, Evanescence. Only one song should come to mind when you hear that name. Say it with me: Plus, I may or may not have had a crush on Amy Lee – the lead singer. Not only was it a great song musically, but the lyrics were eerily Biblical. Read the lyrics and see for yourself: How can you see into my eyes, like open doors? You know who would have really appreciated this song? The congregants in the Church of Sardis! This Church had essentially become a museum filled with spiritually dead, but well-polished smiling believers. Hear Him roar in Revelation 3: I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. In the previous four letters to the Churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira, Jesus went out of His way to commend each congregation for their works. Luckily, just as quickly as the question popped in my mind, so did the answer. The only way a Church can maintain so false a reputation is if indeed, it at one point was an alive Church! So, if this were in our day, the Sardian Church would be the Church in the community that was well known as a mega-Church back in the 90s. They probably hosted sold-out leadership conferences and may have even been blessed with multiple gifted preachers and worship leaders on their staff. But that was then. In the last few years, however, something had changed, dramatically. Spiritual death happens when your affections for the past is greater than your excitement for the future. This is true of the Church at large and individual Christians. So, think of your own life. How are you doing with nostalgia? You may be dying or are possibly already spiritually dead! Conversely, to awake from your slumber, your excitement about the God who is ever present should outweigh your affections and memories of the "good ole days. Spiritual death happens when we spend more time working on our reputation than we do on building godly character. Think of this Church in Sardis for a moment. The only way they could have maintained a reputation of being alive, even though they were dead, is if they were pouring lots of energy into maintaining their reputation to their neighbors. Did you catch that? They were more focused on how they were being perceived than they actually were on the Gospel-mission they should have been about! As a result, they became cautious, territorial, took very little risks and stopped innovating for the sake of the Gospel. They began to focus on pleasing the congregation rather than reaching their community! Interestingly, this spiritual napfest they found themselves in, parallels another tragic event that occurred in the same city many years earlier. Sardis was once the ancient capital of the Lydian kingdom and was ruled by an extremely wealthy king named, Croesus. In his pride, Croesus launched an attack against Cyrus, king of Persia, but was defeated in battle. He later returned to Sardis to regroup and rebuild an army, only to discover that the entire Persian army was mounting their own counterattack. At the time, the main city was on an acropolis about 1, feet high. So complacency crept in and security became very lax. The watchmen on the towers became less vigilant and apparently fell asleep. Unfortunately, their misguided complacency led to an invasion, as skilled Persian climbers easily scaled their walls and invaded the city. The first one I just recounted was sometime in B. The second time around was three centuries later in B. C when Antiochus the Great conquered the city through the exact same strategy his soldiers climbed up their walls undetected. Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. So, how do you wake up from a dead sleep? Generally, a bucket of ice-cold water on the face or a sharp slap to the face will do it. Its spiritual equivalent, however, should be no less jolting. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. This then, calls for some drastic action. Imagine being in your home late at night and tucked in bed with your family. Then you hear burglars breaking into your living room. Because the threat is so close! This is no different from what Jesus is calling dead-Christians to do! Secondly, waking up from a spiritual slumber according to verse 3 will require you to return back to the basics of the faith. Jesus is instructing them to leverage their last breath so they might find life, the source of which is: For you, this simply means along with any drastic action you need to take that you need to go back and do the things that stirred your affections for Christ when you first became a Christian. For you, it may mean you start

by going back and prayerfully rereading the Gospels so that you see Jesus Christ anew. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Being on the guest list of heaven means you will be known in heaven. In that moment, Jesus will give a speech on your behalf because, along with all the redeemed saints, you are a special guest whose name is in His Book of Life. He will talk about how you overcame adversity and persevered in faith in spite of the difficulty He allowed you to encounter. He will brag about the high points of your life when you functioned in His anointing and power. This speech is going to be the most incredible moment of your life! He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

7: The Biblical Concept of Sleep : Christian Courier

Awake From Your Slumber!! (The Peril Of Spiritual Negligence) Proverbs Almost 20 years ago, as a 13 year old boy our family moved from my childhood home.

Some would say I am well qualified to speak about the former but not so the latter. I would probably give partial agreement to such a comment but we are not talking about sleeping in the natural here! So you are not likely to find much discussion about counting sheep or drinking camomile tea in this study. What will we be looking at? Well, there are three main scriptures in this little part of Isaiah that speak about waking up. Clothe yourself with strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of old. Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced that monster through? Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed might cross over? Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. What is spiritual sleep? Why do we fall asleep spiritually? What did Jesus say to prevent falling asleep? What will God do to awaken us from our slumber? The context of the first scripture Isaiah But is it reality Does He need to be awakened from a slumber? The answer, obviously, is that God does not sleep! I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. How about you wake up? The second and third scriptures are straight from God to His people. You need to awaken. You need to rise up! Mankind since the time of the fall has always had a propensity to fall asleep spiritually. And a slow choking of the life of God is generally the enemies preferred method. Well, maybe it is easier to first talk about spiritual renewal. What is a spiritual awakening, for that is what God was asking from His people in Isaiah. A spiritual awakening occurs when your eyes are opened through a fresh revelation of the greatness of God and often after a fresh revelation of your own state leading to an inward hunger to seek and follow and experience more of Him. Spiritual sleep, which is obviously the opposite, is the process through which the heart grows cold to the things of God. The spiritual senses are dulled and the person of God and His relevance in your life no longer takes the place that it once did. More often than not, those things will continue. It is quite possible that a person spiritually asleep will carry on with the normal outward routine though the heart and passion have long gone. There are lots of reasons but some of the common ones are: Prolonged difficulties which has led to bitterness towards God. A hardening of your heart by the deceitfulness of sin as Hebrews tells us about: But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. So be on guard as the Bible tells us! So what should we do about it? So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. Yet not as I will, but as you will. Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. It occurred at a time when Jesus, as He contemplated the cross, was at a point of extreme temptation and testing [3]. Having taken Peter, James and John into the garden with Him, He asked them to keep watch while He went away and prayed during this difficult time. Yet what did they do? And if you think that is bad, I bet you do it as well! Now they fell asleep physically but when Jesus saw them, He knew that what they really needed to be wary of was falling asleep spiritually. So what did Jesus tell them? Keep watch over yourself and your relationship with God. Keep watch over your heart and the affections that it is drawn to. Keep watch over your doctrine always remembering that there are swamps and marshes to the

left and the right! Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. Pray that the Lord will keep you. Pray that His strength will overcome temptation. Pray that you will have eyes to see and that spiritual sleep will not overtake you. Pray that you will not become bitter or hardened by sin. Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; Colossians 4: Why do we have to watch our heart? Because the flesh is weak. Why do we need to pray and bring God into the situation? Now the human spirit is often willing. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak! So watch and pray! The hour is near! Now was not a good time to be dozing off! Keep watch for that hour is at hand! And, as Jesus warned, spiritual deception will rampant in the last days. In the natural there are several methods that can be employed to wake someone up. You generally start by calling their name. Should they not respond, a light shake is usually effective. Failing that, a vigorous shake or a bucket of water should do the trick. But what about God? Well, He too starts by calling our name. The Bible tells us that eventually, in the last days when the hearts of men are hardened to the thought of God, this shaking shall be on a global scale. As the scripture says: And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Read again the following command by God in the book of Isaiah: Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. So how can you put on your garments of splendour? Only by walking in a close relationship with Jesus Christ and by recognising that He is your strength and He is your beauty. Is there dust that you need to shake off? Do you need to awake and rise up? If so, tell the Lord about it first and foremost and believe His promise that He will shine upon you to be what you cannot be in yourself! Let me close with that:

8: 34 Bible verses about Sleep, Spiritual

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They are warned of the dangers of spiritual sleep, that such a slumber is like a coma that will result in death unless the believer awakens. There is a figure in the book of Proverbs called the sluggard. He is the slothful man who sleeps while others work and God casts on him a pitiless gaze. This is the era of the new covenant, but Christians can sleep. They can hear the gospel preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, but Christians sleep. These were years of successful evangelism and revival but Christians could still sleep. They could see mighty miracles but still sleep. So you have our Lord telling his disciples to watch and pray. He charges the Corinthians to awake unto righteousness. All these references tell us one thing that it is possible for a true believer in Jesus Christ to become a sleeping Christian, and a real gospel church to fall asleep. The prophets and apostles and our Lord himself all charge our conscience with that message. When this state falls upon a congregation we cannot say that it is because of God. We cannot say that the reason the professing church in Europe sleeps today is because God has given it sleeping sickness. We are too deeply asleep. Let us be about our business, trusting in God to work in us both to command and to do his will. It is high time now to wake up out of our sleep. Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. There are not two classes of Christians, the sleeping Christian and the awakened Christian, but rather there are times when every Christian can fall asleep and that sleep last far too long. What are these times? Take thy rest; eat, drink and be merry. You can remember the trial you passed through and you were relying on the Lord every hour. Your troubles forced you to the throne of grace, more faithfully and for longer periods than ever before. Maybe you can look back to church planting times when no new faces were in the congregation from one month to the next and you had to cry mightily God to help you reach out to sinners. Few men sleep with a thunderstorm overhead and lightning striking nearby trees; many more sleep on a calm night. But now you have passed through that trial; the wheels of providence are turning over very smoothly today, and you thank God that he has taken you through that trial, but tell me are you relying on God as much today as you did then? Are you praying as earnestly now as you did then? When Jonah was inside the great fish he watched and prayed, but when he was safe on board ship he slept. Everyone else could see the danger. Everyone else was praying. Everyone was calling on the name of their gods, but Jonah was sleeping on indifferently. Once he was swallowed by the fish he began to pray. Are you asleep now while other people around you in this church are praying? Was there a time when you can remember not missing a prayer meeting or your own time of devotions. Are churches sleeping in southern Sudan or in Iran and Iraq? If it were made an offence to gather and worship Christ would we be so apathetic? But we can trot along to church none daring to make us afraid, and so we Christians sleep. Men sleep when their outward circumstances are most pleasant. Poor prisoner, he almost wished that he could have slept there. But when he got half way up Hill Difficulty he came upon a pretty little arbour, a cozy resting place, and he put his feet up and off to sleep he went. It was there that his scroll slipped out of his pocket; he lost his assurance by sleeping while getting out of a great difficulty. Is the god of this world asleep? Do principalities and powers sleep? Are they less dangerous today than they used to be? But then the enemy arose and sowed the tares. So it was that in the years following with its revival that modernism and false doctrine were taught everywhere in Wales, in the theological colleges, and then in the pulpits, and then into the pews it seeped. It was a time of ecclesiastical prosperity, of large congregations and ministerial eminence, but then Christians slept and unbelief was spread. When ministers and elders should have been watchmen and guardians they turned over instead and went to sleep. The enemy had no resistance in sowing his tares. An unwatchful church soon becomes an unholy church. Evangelical churches are prosperous churches; they have no problems in paying their bills. There is no defeat so great as imagining we are living lives of constant victory. Think of a man under conviction of sin, seeing hell open and only a thin spun thread preventing him from dropping in, his sins so heinous, the chains binding him to them so immensely strong, facing a just and holy God without a single plea. What are we told of the disciples who had been on the Mount of

Transfiguration is that they descended from the mountain top and slept. They went into the Garden with him to watch but rather they slept. He had told them of the danger, and he had asked them to watch and pray for an hour, but off to sleep they went. They were admitted to the most sacred spot on earth; they saw the holy place where he poured out his soul in prayer; his sweat was as it were drops of blood but they slept. We awakened them twice more and twice more they went back to sleep. The Christian can sleep when all has gone well in spiritual things. John Bunyan sets Enchanted Ground right at the end of the pilgrimage. It is at the end of their journey when they are weary of all the fightings and struggle. In the Bible few young people fall into gross sin. The Scripture is full of warnings of mature believers sleeping. Lot was not a young man when he got drunk. Abraham was not a young man when he lied. Jacob was not a young man when he tricked his brother. David was not a young man when he fornicated. Peter was not a young man when he denied his Lord. Demas was not a young man when he forsook Paul and fell in love with the world. The classic case is Samson; he is a great warning to us. Here is a man who was once strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Years ago perhaps he was the man we were or a man we knew, and there were others like him who did mighty things for the Lord, and we looked at them and wondered and coveted their gifts. Where is he now? All the people of God knew him. His name was a tower of strength. Our enemies knew him too, a valiant man in battle, a veritable Captain Great Heart. We hear nothing of his seeking for souls. Surely he has gone to sleep. He thinks he has spiritual goods laid up for many years and now he is taking his rest. O that we could wake him up. Delilah is the companion of carnal security. She gives many believers a hug and a kiss and soothes them to sleep. Once they were good and great but now they are lying asleep. Bless the Lord O my soul if he has not let you lead a merely formal life, but possibly now you are degenerating, and taking things easy. Would to God that an immoderate affection was still there, constraining you to work for God so that nothing was too demanding or too difficult if you were called to do something for his sake. I see peril of the deadliest kind. The Philistines are not asleep are they? When Samson sleeps the enemy creeps up – do you see the scissors snipping away and the bushy locks falling to the floor? His hair of consecration has gone. Our strength comes through our faith; our victory over the world only comes through trusting in Christ, and if that goes we are as weak as other men, yes weaker, and by degrees perhaps Satan is stealing away all our spiritual strength. We have seen men announce a text and begin to preach, but soon we are remembering other times we heard them when there was a life and authority and vitality and unction about them. It has all gone. The Philistines have bound us; our strength is gone; our glory has gone, and all we have are memories, bitter grief and pain. So there are three times when Christians may sleep, when our outward circumstances are most pleasant, when all goes well in spiritual matters, and when we think we are approaching the end of the journey. The Christian was dead once, but now he is alive in Christ Jesus never to die again. You find people like that in the Bible, for example king Solomon, and we wonder could such men be believers at all. The fact that the question is raised at all indicates that there is something wrong with their profession. What then characterises the sleep of a slumbering Christian? A sleeping man is unaware of what is happening all around him. People are sick in the house crying for someone to bring them medicine.

9: The Danger of Spiritual Slumber

ii] A Christian is most likely to slumber when all is going well in spiritual matters. In Pilgrim' Progress you never read that Christian slept when the lions were roaring, or when he was wading through the last great river, or when he was fighting with Apollyon, or when he was lying in Giant Despair's dungeon.

Related Media But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense. Nehemiah After seeing the revival that happened in Israel, we also see how prone they were to fall back into sin and compromise. Some have compared the spiritual life to walking upstream; if you are not fighting to move forward, then you are, by default, going backwards. At this point in the final chapter of Nehemiah, Nehemiah returned to Persia for some unspecified amount of time. This may seem like a surprise after all God had done for them and their seemingly genuine repentance; however, this not only happened with Israel, it commonly happens to us individually and corporately. If we are not fighting to move forward, then we are sliding backwards. It is for this reason that we must be tenacious in seeking to practice a holy life and also fighting for holiness in our churches. There is a continual inertia drawing us and others towards spiritual decay. Certainly, we see this in our churches and Christian communities. Why are so many of our churches in disarray? We are seeing a very rapid spiritual decay happening in the church. As we consider Nehemiah 13, it can seem a little depressing after such a great revival. And, it also can be depressing as we consider the decline of Christianity happening in so many parts of the world; however, there is hope. We see hope in a man who was zealous for the Lord named Nehemiah. Four times he prays for God to remember his works in this chapter. He is a man who wants to please God. Yes, there is hope for us individually and as a church as well. God still uses people like Nehemiah, people like John the Baptist, godly leaders who are zealous to turn communities and individuals back to God. In this text, Nehemiah is a type of Christ. As Christ went into the temple, he pulled out a whip, turned over tables, and harshly rebuked the leaders of Israel. Scripture says of Christ that zeal for the house of God consumed him John 2: Nehemiah was the same. He threw a man out of the temple who was defiling it, rebuked the leaders for their lack of faithfulness in giving, locked people out of the city who were abusing the Sabbath, and pulled out the hairs of those who married foreign women in order to turn them back to God. In the same way, God is calling for people in this generation to be zealous for personal holiness and also holiness in the church. He is looking to raise people who are consumed with zeal for the house of God cf. In this text, we will consider common signs of spiritual decay not only in the church but in our spiritual lives. Godly leaders must be able to spiritually diagnose their people, their society, and even their own lives. They must be able to diagnose so they can participate in the restoration process. In this text, we will not only see common signs of spiritual decay but also steps to restoration to restore our churches and our lives. What signs of spiritual decay do we see happening to Israel in Nehemiah 13; how does Nehemiah confront them, and how should we apply these truths as leaders to our spiritual lives and our ministries? He was closely associated with Tobiah, and he had provided him with a large room formerly used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests. They broke all the commitments they made in chapter It is no surprise that when he started to list their sins, he started with the leadership of Israel. The High Priest was disrespecting God by allowing an Ammonite official into the temple cf. This is how moral compromise often begins in the people of God it begins with the leadership. The leadership starts to compromise by disobedience and disregard for the teachings of the Word of God, which eventually affects all the people. Have we not seen the effects of bad leadership throughout Scripture? In what ways have we seen the negative effects of bad leadership throughout Scripture? Solomon compromised by marrying pagan women in disobedience to the law, and consequently, all of Israel was led astray into worshipping idols. They would have a good king and, therefore, start following

God. And then they would have a bad king and, consequently, stumble away from him. During this time period, not only were the kings corrupt but so were the priests. In fact, right before God judged Israel by Assyria, God rebuked the priests through the prophet Hosea. The more the priests increased, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. In fact, they enjoyed the sins of the people and made a profit off of them. God promised he would punish the priests and the people together for their compromise. Theological and moral compromises amongst the leadership of churches or ministries typically precede people going astray. In fact, when Christ appeared in the Gospels, Israel was being run by the Pharisees and Sadducees who were corrupting the teachings of Scripture and leading people astray as well. In the Gospels, Christ spent a significant amount of time correcting and rebuking the leadership of the people. Why is the leadership of the church so important? Consider what Christ said: The people can go no farther than their leaders. The leaders create the ceiling for the church. When we look at the state of our churches, it is often a reflection of its leaders. When we have leadership that does not preach the Word, leadership that is not on fire for God, leadership that does not run their household well, it is no surprise that the light in the church is so dim. Paul described the church in the last days in a similar manner. He said that the church would not be able to stand sound doctrine and, therefore, would heap up many teachers to itch their ears and to say what they wanted to hear 2 Tim 4: Why was the High Priest compromising? What could be some of the reasons? We are not sure why the High Priest compromised; it could be many reasons: Maybe, he had liberal doctrine. Even though they had just read that Moabites and Ammonites could not enter the temple cf. We see that happening in many churches today, and consequently, instead of submitting to the Word of God, they stand in judgment over it. They take liberty to decide what God said and did not say. Eliashib might have rebelled because of his doctrine which, no doubt, would have also negatively affected the people. Maybe, he was a people pleaser—meaning he wanted the applause of the people instead of God. Potentially, it was the Israelites clamoring for more liberality and for him to stop being so narrow-minded. As mentioned previously, Paul declared that this would happen in the last days. People would heap up many teachers that would itch their ears and make them feel good. Maybe, he was simply a hypocrite. He might have been preaching the truth but not practicing it in the temple. In that case, he would have been a hypocritical leader. Whatever the reason, we can be sure that his actions contributed to the sins of the people. As we look at the rest of the text, we see that the people are living in great compromise as well. Like priest, like people; we see this happening all around us, and therefore, decay has crept into many of our churches. It is the leaders who set the spiritual ceiling for the congregation. It is enough for a student to be like his teacher. If the pastor, elders, and teachers are no longer growing in zeal for Christ, how can they expect it from the congregation? If the leadership in the church is no longer growing in the knowledge of Scripture, how can they expect it from the congregation? The leadership sets both the ceiling and the direction of the congregation. Let this challenge us as we serve in any form of leadership to never be lacking in zeal or obedience and to always be abounding in the work of the Lord cf. But also let this challenge us to pray daily for the leadership of our local church and churches around the world. It is enough for a disciple to be like his teacher. In what ways have you seen both the positive and negative effects of leadership in the church? How can the church better support our leaders in order to encourage their continual growth in the Lord? Misuse of Finances Is a Sign of Spiritual Decay I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and singers responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. Because they were not being supported they moved back to their fields to earn a living. Listen to what Nehemiah said: They had stopped giving to God. Similarly, this is a common sign of spiritual decay with us. Whatever we really love, we put our money into. If we really love books, movies, food, or anything else, one can tell by looking at our bank statements.

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