

"AWAKE AND ARISE"

Eph. 5:14

V. 1-13 - Shaping life with love - two elements - purity and light.

Martin Luther said some texts in the Bible are little Bibles such as John 3:16, Rev. 3:20.

This text is addressed to the individual Christian - to the church - the congregation of the Lord and to the lost.

"Wherefore he saith, awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

(Sleepers at noonday) - Paul has been telling about a life being shaped by purity and light. Now He is going to tell them how - awake and arise from the dead.

*Man See Dr. advice - habit of snoring.
Dr. see it disturb your wife?
Man " " " my wife, why it disturbs the whole congregation!*

He saith--a common formula and quoted from the Old Testament - "Arise! Shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon Thee.")

Our text is a complete one, contains a whole sermon. It is like Eph. 2:1-5 - you hath be quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.

A man dead cannot raise himself - he must receive life giving power from the outside if he is to live. A dead body cannot raise itself.

Awake thou that sleepest as though we raised ourselves.

Part for man and part for God.

There is a salvation that only God can work.

In our service and work for God there is much we must do.

A little girl and her brother were late for school. They had played along the way and forgot the time. Still some way from school they heard the school bell ring. The little girl said, "Brother, let us kneel down and pray that God will not let us be late for school." But the little brother replied, "No, Sister, let us run just as fast as we can and let us pray as we run."

Our work must be like that - a blessing from God and an effort from man.

That is the way to live before God - He can pray "O God, give me a house for my home." Then he ought to say amen with a hammer and saw. He could pray, "O God, give me a job." Then let him say amen, and read the Want-Ad Columns and knock on the door of some employer. We pray Lord save the world. Then we ought to say amen and give to missions. We can pray Lord strengthen the church. Say amen and roll up our sleeves and go to work. Any place is a good place to serve Jesus.

Fix the condition of the persons addressed:

- 1 Slumberers and dead.
- 2 Sleep is image of death - both are unconscious of external world.
- 3 Unaware of things of world.

Apply the text individually (Christian), church, and the lost.

I. AWAKE INDIVIDUALLY - CHRISTIAN

Many are awake to the world.

We can see how to make a profit - if we are invited to dinner, entertainment or amusement, how ready we are to be present!

God calls us - we are sleepy.

No other way to do God's work. A man cannot do his work and sleep.

A man can walk in his sleep and some people can talk in his sleep, I heard a preacher this summer who preached in his sleep! But one cannot work in his sleep - He must be quickened and awakened.

Preacher: Was your husband ill, that he walked out in middle of my sermon? - the spirit: NO.. its just his terrible habit of walking in his sleep"

Lord found Moses tending sheep. Gideon at the threshing floor. Elijah found Elisha plowing. Jesus found Peter fishing. Matthew at receipt of custom.

Dormant power - no such thing for Christian. God made a great mistake in making you what you are, if there is no place for you to exercise your powers in - if there is no place except in the things that perish and pass.

Why not use your faculties for God? The best part of you as a Christian is asleep and it is only the lower nature of you that is awake.

Unless we are living for God our best self is slumbering. *like Man in Bed -*

This text is for Christians.

Thou hast a name that thou livest but thou art dead.

Jesus said, "Whilst the Lord was away they all slumbered and slept."

I am not on a committee - therefore I have (no) assignment in the Kingdom of Jesus. It is addressed to all of us - all are elected - all are appointed.

If you saw a house on (fire) - not wait for appointed.

If you saw a man fall in the (river) - not wait for the committee.

Somebody said a (camel) is a horse that a committee put together.

We are all elected - all are chosen.

Teachers - leaders - officers - those who have accepted responsibility. We are not all geniuses, not all ten talent people. But we can do our work with enthusiasm and inspiration - which means in God - inspired by God.

But what I can do, I lay at the feet of Jesus inspired, dedicated, committed.

So many Sunday School Teachers stand before a class or before a group like wooden poles

On my trip to Alaska on a preaching mission - I saw some totem poles, just there, dead, unquickened and asleep.

Awake thou that sleepest - do what ought to do with enthusiasm - in disappointment,

despondency, despair, we are still to be awake - pour our lives into the assignment God has given us.

There is no one who does not have heartaches, defeats, despairs, disappointments.

The person you think would have the least heartaches or know grief, and he will be the person who has the deepest hurts, most grievous of all.

There is no one of us but who has hurts. But awake in spite - we commit ourselves to the task.

Alaska, a preacher and wife begin the work in Juneau - in pan handle of the state. Sometimes (rains) more than 100" a year. Days passed - rain fell, and fell, and fell. The wife oppressed in spirit began to sit by the window and cry. Some people learned of it and came to her and said, "Do not do that. Get up and get out in the rain, do something."

Get out. She did. She and her husband went berry picking in the rain. Alaska is covered in berries and all of them are good not a poisonous one. Some taste like cantalope, some like watermelon, some on little bushes. There are blackberries, blue berries, purple berries. They also went out in the rain and caught King Salmon. They went out in the rain and shot ducks. They did what every body else did out in the rain. And they did the work of God out in the rain.

The time is never perfect, never just right, there are always handicaps, and discouragements. But get out and go.

II. AWAKE AS A CHURCH

Text addressed to the congregation - there is private prayer and Bible reading. There is also public prayer and Bible reading, and public worship!

We are under a mandate and command from God to assemble together publicly and openly.

*Q: Are you acquainted with Charlie Smith?
A: I should say a-l-a-m. We have slept in the same church pew for 20 yrs.*

It is here publicly confess our faith in the Lord, coming down the aisle before man and angels.

It is here the author of (Hebrews) commands forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.

This is done in the quickenings of the Spirit. It ought to have life in it.

When Satan was cast out of Heaven he was asked what do you miss most? I miss the blowing of the trumpets in the morning when the host of Heaven gather for the worship of God.

That is the way it ought to be here in the services - let us wake up.

We do not honor God by being dead. Whatever your part is in waking up, you have the ability to obey. God would not mock a man by telling him to do something he cannot do.

Stretch out thy hand Christ said to the diseased man. He told a (cripple) man to arise and walk. No power in his limbs. He told (Lazarus) to come forth - his ear was cold in death.

Lazarus, heard, his feet tangled in graveclothes. He stumbled out because he was bid by a power wrapped in a command to do it.

Why tell a man cannot move a limb - a new ability came into the withered hand - willing obedience.

You can wake from slumbering and rouse yourself by desire.

The more sanctified we are the more alive we ought to be.

This not only applies to our services but the whole outreach of the church.

Old Testament story Moses at Red Sea. Lord said "speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." Get up and go - march! move!

There were 2 1/2 million people in camp. To get the word out he sent runners out. Might have gotten strange reception. Man said, I can't go, I'm fishing
Another, I'm duck hunting.

God says go - move. But my wife is sick - I cannot move her - God said move.

A man putting up hot dog stand - man, did you know the Egyptian army is passing this way? I am getting ready - runner said, you getting ready to sell hot dogs, hamburgers to Egyptians? Yes, said he ("I am neutral") I am not for Israel and I'm not for Egyptians either. I'm for selling hot dogs and making lots of money. God said move, march.

Another man said look out there, march in that sea I do not want to drown in the riptides. God never said anything about getting drowned. All we know is God said march - move!

This is the church - God says move. He says to the pastor, every member, let us march, move, let us go! Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.

God Still Holds to his church - Needs people to work do what beckons us to do,

Dr Duke McCall Pres. 30. B. Sem.

Told at Ridgely - experience visiting evangelist in Abdai's Nagaland for 2 days - Had to stay 3 more days Baptizing the converts: There were more people converted than at Pentecost: opportunities unbelievable.

III. AWAKE THE LOST

There is something to awaken to - something to arise to.

There is light life - salvation.

It is offered before judgement.

If we refuse to arouse ourselves, if we continue in indifference, there is a judgement to awaken to.

Paul - Get up - awake so Christ's light can shine upon you!

"Christ shall give Thee light."

Shake off your slumber - open your eyes - you have light enough - get light enough and to spare.

In Goshen the midnight darkness was in the homes of those who chose it - a solemn thing to choose the darkness rather than the light.

If you have heard the call and say just a little longer and soon you are in dead sleep.

Only safe course is spring up at once.

6:00 A. M. Gans, Okla. A freight train pulled into the town - engineer pulled the whistle over and over and over.

And some wondered why - arouse the town at 6:00 A. M.

At 6:04 a terrible tornado swept to the town and destroyed it.

The sounds of eternity are rushing us. "Awake - arise" - there is something to awaken to, it is not just I. It is also you - the whole family stand before judgement.

The gift of salvation - the light of Christ shall shine on you. For the receiving --

Paul - 2 Cor. 4:6 - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

"O come to the light, tis shining for Thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me,
Once I was blind, but now I can see;
The light of the world is Jesus."