

Salvation, Sleep And Sin

Introduction. How does the Christian get from salvation to a life of sin? Many religious people believe this cannot occur, but Romans 13:11-12 implies otherwise. The child of God should recognize a growing closeness to final salvation. However, when the greatness of salvation is not appreciated, the path to sin begins and spiritual sleep of indifference sets in (1 Corinthians 15:2). The indifferent Christian is a great target for the devil: ready and defenseless.

I. ***The Nearness Of Salvation***

- A. The certainty of God's promises are well evidenced (Hebrews 6:13-20). We need to keep our minds on our heavenly citizenship (Philippians 3:20-21).
- B. The Christian's service brings one closer to God and the forsaking of assembling is a sign of trouble (Hebrews 10:19-25).

II. ***The Greatness Of Salvation***

- A. There is a great blessing in being called a "child of God." Superior greatness is assured. This motivates the Christian to live in purity (1 John 3:1-3).
- B. The depth of the riches of salvation surpass understanding and are past tracing out (Romans 11:30-36).

III. ***The Danger Of Spiritual Sleep***

- A. We need to watch and be sober to avoid sleep (Mark 13:35-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10; Revelation 3:1-3). Failure to zealously grow brings indifference.
- B. We must reprove evil and show the light of truth to avoid spiritual slumber and death (Ephesians 5:11-14).
- C. Consider Israel's spiritual sleep:
 - 1. The rejection of Israel was due to spiritual sleep (Romans 11:7-8).
 - a) The history of Israel well illustrates the problem.
 - b) From the wilderness wondering to Malachi the Israelites turned away from God.
 - 2. The watchman of Israel failed to watch and warn (Isaiah 56:10).
 - a) Isaiah likened them to dogs who slept instead of sounding an alarm.
 - b) Are "watchdogs" condemned or commended?

IV. ***The Effects Of Indifferent Sleep***

- A. Falling away leads to hardening of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13). When weakness is not reversed, sin results (Hebrews 12:12-17).

B. Those described in 2 Timothy 3:1-8 are lulled by the world. The result is that they are "men of corrupt minds, reprobate ..."

Conclusion. When we examine ourselves, we need to ask some serious questions. Do we dwell on our salvation in Christ? Do we really view heaven as being near? In our daily service, are we truly zealous? In our worship, are we sleepy bystanders, restless pretenders or alert participants? Has our spiritual sleep caused us to be in peril of falling to spiritual death? It is time for some to awake out of sleep!