

Ephesians 5:11-16 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. (12) For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. (13) But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. (14) Wherefore he saith, *Awake thou that sleepest*, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. (15) See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, (16) Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The seconds turn into minutes, the minutes into hours, the hours into days, the days into months, the months into years, and before we know it, we have wasted our lives on things and causes, that are at best, only temporal in scope. We wished to see our friends and neighbors saved, but we did not take time to even cross the street to tell them about Jesus. We wanted to see our churches prosper, but no one would do our part for us. We raised our children at arms length, then wondered why they drifted away form the Lord when they leave home. Our desk, and cabinet drawers are filled with good intentions, that we did not follow up on. Oh God help us, we say! Others seem to prosper, so why can't we? Oh where has the time gone? We have used it up in moral and spiritual sleep. The Bible has a lot to say about SLEEP!

Do you know that if we sleep 8 hours a night for 70 years, that we have slept for more than 23 years! But we say, we need our sleep, but have you ever noticed that the more sleep you get, the more you want to sleep. Sleep is a wonder thing, but like anything else, we can often abuse our sleep time. Jesus was a man, of like passions, as we are, and because He was the God Man, He still had a human body. Listen to what the Scripture said about Him.

John 8:1-2 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. (2) <u>And early in the morning</u> he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

Mark 1:34-35 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. (35) <u>And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.</u>

Mark 14:38-42 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. <u>The spirit truly is ready, but</u> the flesh is weak. (39) And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. (40) And when he returned, <u>he found them asleep again</u>, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. (41) And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, <u>Sleep on now, and</u> take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (42) Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

Often, we are over come by the enemy, Satan, because we are un-disciplined and lazy. In my opinion, I personally think that depression is often triggered out of a heavy spirit of discouragement that turns into hopelessness and a feeling of failure. In short, we feel over-whelmed. This failure might be bred by un-belief and doubt. Satan wants to destroy Christians. Sometimes, all he has to do is to get us to take our-selves more seriously than we do Christ. Tell him to take a long hike off the end of a short pier. He does not have any right to your time, your mind or your strength! .Get angry with him and let him know that you belong to Jesus and stand firm upon the finished work of Jesus!

In Judges 4, .Sisera, the enemy of Israel, was killed in the tent of Jael when he went to sleep. Jael drove a tent peg through his temple and into the ground as he slept. Often, we find our selves coming up short in our spiritual battles, because we are taking our eyes off of our enemy, Satan.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeing whom he may devour:

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

It is not about us at all — But it is all about Jesus!