

## Be Alert

Three types of sleep are mentioned in the Bible. One type of sleep is refreshing and revitalizing to the body: and Jesus “was in the stern, asleep on the cushion: and they awake him, and say unto him, Teacher, carest thou not that we perish?” (Mark 4:38). Another type of sleep we have yet to experience, but some day shall, is the sleep of death: Job said, “man dieth, and is laid low: Yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, And the river wasteth and drieth up; So man lieth down and riseth not: Till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, Nor be roused out of their sleep” (Job 14:10-12). The third type of sleep is that of religious carelessness and inactivity, and it is this type of which the Apostle Paul speaks, saying, “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that aught be written unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief: for ye are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night: and they that are drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8).

The sleep of carelessness is one of which the Apostle Paul spoke in three additional epistles: saying, to the Romans, “And this, knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:11-14); to the Corinthians, “Awake to soberness righteously, and sin not; for some have no knowledge of God: I speak this to move you to shame” (1 Corinthians 15:34); and to the Ephesians, “Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon thee. Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:14-18).

Are you spiritually alert? Ross Triplett, Sr.