

# The Bulwark

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## “AWAKE, SLEEPER...”

It was beyond obnoxious, yet there he was seeming to be banging the television screen from the inside, screaming “wake up”. Fortunately the commercials only appeared after 11:30 pm and on a local station, nevertheless it served its purpose. Paul in his epistle to the brethren in Ephesus sought to rouse them as seen in chapter five and verse fourteen. *“Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”* In like manner we today need to **WAKE UP!**

Society is changing in rapid fire succession, under the guise of the “woke agenda”. The “Age of Enlightenment” served as the nexus for what is now referred to as “woke”. In part, atheism is central to the “woke agenda” that is being touted by many; if not most who make the claim to being “woke”. David Greenfield describes it as “a cultish term for a political cult that reframes extremism as a revelation.” Regardless of how one or another may define “woke”, there is no denying the fact our society is categorically going through monstrous changes on many fronts. Which will have an impact on us individually as well as collectively.



*“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”* (Isaiah 5:20)

The Scriptures are replete with an imploring cry for the righteous to awaken. A classic example of such can be seen in Paul’s writing to the brethren in Thessalonica. *“So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.”* (1Thessalonians 5:6-8)

A child of God must always bear in mind we are engaged in a dire conflict; we are as it were “soldiers of Christ”. As a soldier one must be ever vigilant. Awake, sober and watchful. In the second epistle Paul wrote to Timothy, in the second chapter, he reminds Timothy of being a soldier for the cause of Christ.

While in the sixth chapter of his letter to the brethren in Ephesus he noted the following. *“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of this wickedness...”* (6:10-12)

It is striking to consider that within a span of about thirty years or less, many congregations in the first century had “gone to sleep”. They had spiritually dozed off and allowed things to arise that were clearly contrary to the directives seen in God’s Word. *“Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain...”* was directed at the church in Sardis as seen in the third chapter of Revelation and verse two. Of the seven churches noted in the first three chapters of Revelation, five had in effect “gone to sleep”, one of which was Ephesus.

The religious world is going through a massive upheaval with respect to accepting any number of things, which in times past were categorically rejected as being sinful. Sadly, what has been seen in hindsight is that many things the denominations embrace, some how have a way of creeping into the Lord’s church, over a period of time. It would be trite to say, “now more than ever” we need to be awake. Then again members of the body of Christ should always have been fully awake and such should be the same today.

Factor in what Paul penned to the brethren in Rome. *“And this do, knowing the times, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.”* (Romans 13:11) The words of Christ resonate seen recorded in Mark thirteen and verse thirty-seven. *“And what I say to you I say to all, Be on the alert!”* (wbe)