

# Wake Up!

When it comes to God's word, how would you rate yourself? Does His word bore you? How about your tension span? Can you even deal with talking about His word the majority of the time? How about listening to it? Is it even important to you? Where does God really stand with His word in your life? Ponder on these questions. Have we made so many other things our priority (television, the phone, secular activities) and God is last or in the middle of the list, despite He gave His only begotten Son to show He loves us? You know mercy, patience and most of all grace! I'm not talking about people being spiritually sleep, but in this case just simply sleeping through what is most important in their lives. In other words tuning out on what God has to say. Oh we may be awake in the church service and bible study, but really looking forward to it being over with! It shows in the life styles of many. If any of these statements offend you and you decide not to read the meditation any further, I guess you wish not to hear the truth. However, the Holy Spirit will continue to do what He said He will do.

In the book of **Acts 20:7-12** NASB the bible tells us the following (7) "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. (8) There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. (9) And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. (10) But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." (11) When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. (12) They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted."

Think about the many things that keep us from focusing on God's word. Think hard before you read the rest of this meditation.

The passage above tells us that Paul preached to the people, ready to depart the next day: and he continued his speech until midnight. In many of our churches today Paul would have been told what time to finish. Paul, however, was not to be governed by the clock on an occasion like this. He had much to say, and the people might not see him again. All too often, in our fast paced society, time is the deciding factor in our church services. For a lot of our churches, it governs the pulpit with careless regard for the moving of the Holy Spirit. Above all, the preacher must finish on time! The song service, the announcements, the special music, the liturgy, the offering, the greetings and the pleasantries come first. Often each one runs a minute or two longer than planned, but the preacher must finish on time! The Holy Spirit may be moving, the message may be urgent, the closing moments, the invitation, the orderly close of service may be imperative. No matter. Cut it all short. It's time to close. Is it no wonder a grieved Holy Spirit moves on to bless else where?

This meditation does not apply to all churches, but to all remember, that His word is first! Otherwise let us all give God our full attention! In other words wake up!

Note: I am convinced that more sleep with their eyes wide open.

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 1:9-11

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything.

