

# **Asleep in Jesus**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Resting from their labors
  - 1. Esther 9:22 - "...rest from their enemies"
  - 2. Psalm 94:13 - "...rest from the days of adversity"
  - 3. Isa. 14:3 - "...rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve"
  - 4. Rev. 14:13 - "...they rest from their labors, and their works follow them"
  - 5. Have you noticed that the Lord promised rest in this world from war, sorrow, fear, and even bad days, but He never promised rest from our labors, in this world?
  - 6. Any rest we legitimately have here is very temporary and in special places and circumstances - Ecc. 3:1, 7:14
- B. We relax in the security of the local assembly because we are comfortable in a place where temptation is kept out for the most part
  - 1. We relax in the assembly of the saints because that is where we are comforted by the presence of God away from the pressure of the world.
  - 2. In a very similar way, the righteous dead do not have to be vigilant or resist temptation any longer.
  - 3. They have no more work to do, because there is no work to be done in Paradise - Ecc. 9:10
  - 4. They no longer have any temptations to resist, because temptation does not exist there - Ecc. 9:6

## **I. WHAT IS WRITTEN?**

- A. The scriptures often speak of death as a sleep
  - 1. Matt. 27:52; John 11:11-14; Acts 7:59-60, 13:36; 2Peter 3:4
- B. What this is not
  - 1. Not the doctrine of soul sleeping -- souls are unconscious between death and the resurrection
  - 2. Not the doctrine of the Witnesses -- there is no consciousness until the resurrection, because the dead cease to exist
  - 3. Nowhere do the Scriptures say that the soul of the departed fell asleep
    - a. Sleep is a metaphor for death
    - b. Sleep is appropriate because it implies rest
    - c. Sleep implies an end of participation in the waking world
    - d. Sleep is a prelude to an awakening; the resurrection
    - e. The term sleep became a euphemism for death because of the sleep-like appearance of the body
- C. The dead are not unconscious, but they are fully aware - Luke 16:22-24
  - 1. God will bring them with Jesus, implies they are with Jesus now
    - a. 1Thes. 4:14, 5:10; 2Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23
- D. We do not have an earthly form; we are waiting for our eternal form
  - 1. 2Cor. 5:1-4; 1Cor. 15:51-54; Acts 2:27; 1John 3:2-3