

# COMPARING WATCHERS AND SLEEPERS

In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 we have a comparison between those who are looking for the return of the Lord and those who are not.

## I. THEIR EXPECTATION DIFFERS

- A. Watchers know the Lord is coming as a thief (v. 2). A thief takes the valuables and leaves the junk.
- B. The Sleepers expect peace and safety (v.3; Jer 6:14).

## II. THEIR REWARD DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are prepared to obtain salvation from coming wrath (v. 9).
- B. Sleepers shall find sudden destruction, travail and no means of escape (v. 3).

## III. THEIR CONDUCT DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are alert and sober (v. 6).
- B. Sleepers are asleep (Rom 11:13) and drunken (vv.6-7).

## IV. THEIR POSSESSIONS DIFFER

- A. Watchers have faith, hope, love, salvation and comfort (vv. 8, 12, Isaiah 59:17).
- B. Sleepers have nothing.

## V. THEIR CHARACTER DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are children of the day and light (v. 5).
- B. Sleepers are children of the night and darkness (v. 5).
  - 1. They remain so because they hate the light (John 3:18-21).
    - a. The light is the word of God (Ps 110:105, 130).
    - b. And the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:8-9).

## VI. THEIR RELATIONSHIPS DIFFER

- A. Watchers have a union with Christ (v. 10) and with one another (v. 11).
- B. Sleepers, likened to a man in a drunken stupor (v. 7), can enjoy no manner of fellowship.

## VII. THEIR WARNING DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are warned not to adopt the practices of the sleepers (Romans 13:11-14).
- B. Sleepers are called upon to repent (Ephesians 5:14).

**Note:** The term “the day of the Lord” signifies the second advent of Christ, not the catching away of the church. (See Amos 5:18-20, Zephaniah 1:14-18, Joel 2:1-3, Jeremiah 30:7).

**Note:** Harry Ironside tells of a man who lived in a city of great steel mills. They were constantly pounding, pounding, pounding; twenty-four hours a day. When one asked the man how he could sleep he told them he was used to the noise. Once there was a power failure in the city, the mill work was halted, and the man awoke with a start.

The world has grown so used to the sound of the gospel that it has lulled them to sleep. One day the church will be removed, and the silence will so jolt the sleepers that they will awaken with a start.