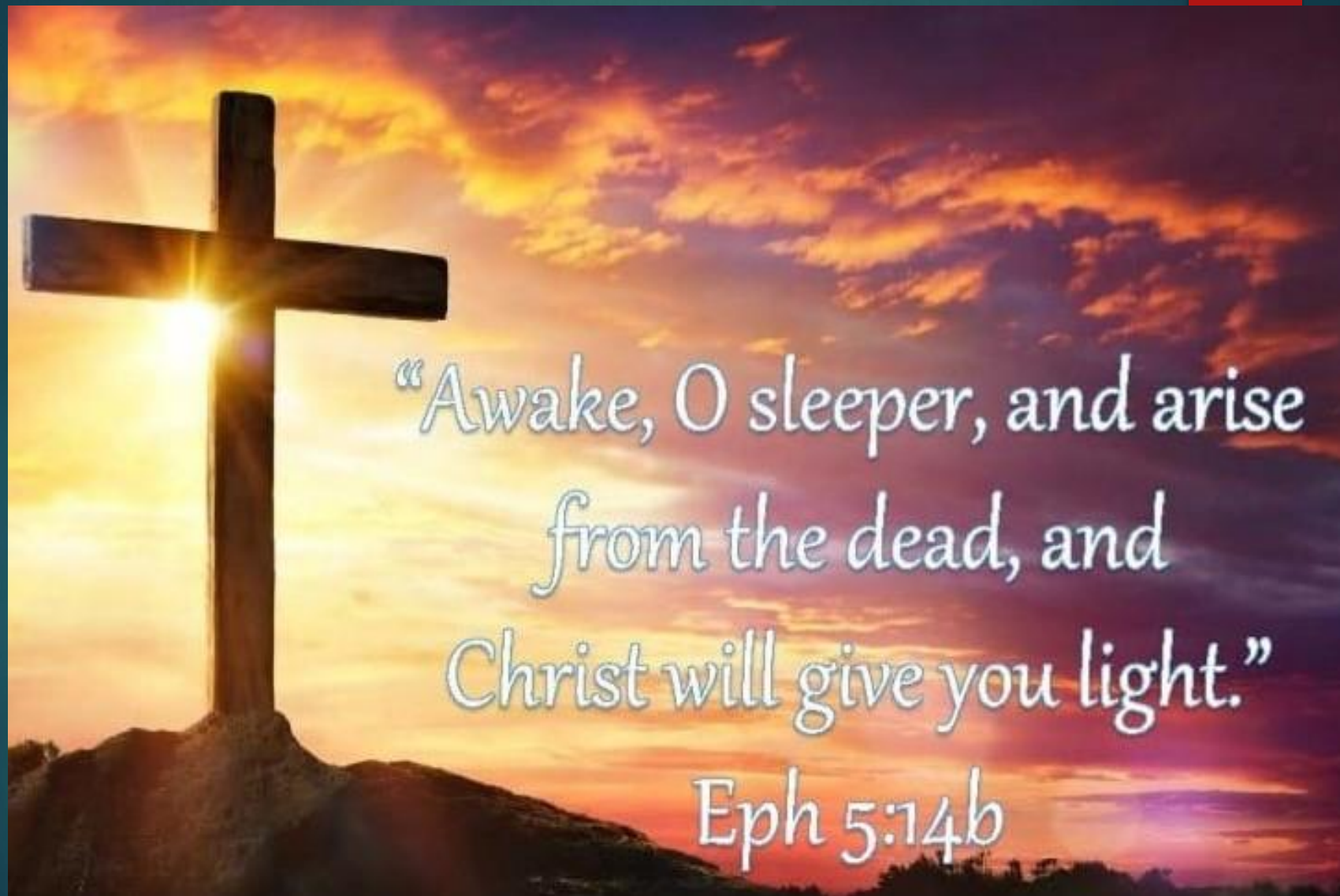


“AWAKE AND ARISE”



*“Awake, O sleeper, and arise
from the dead, and
Christ will give you light.”*

Eph 5:14b

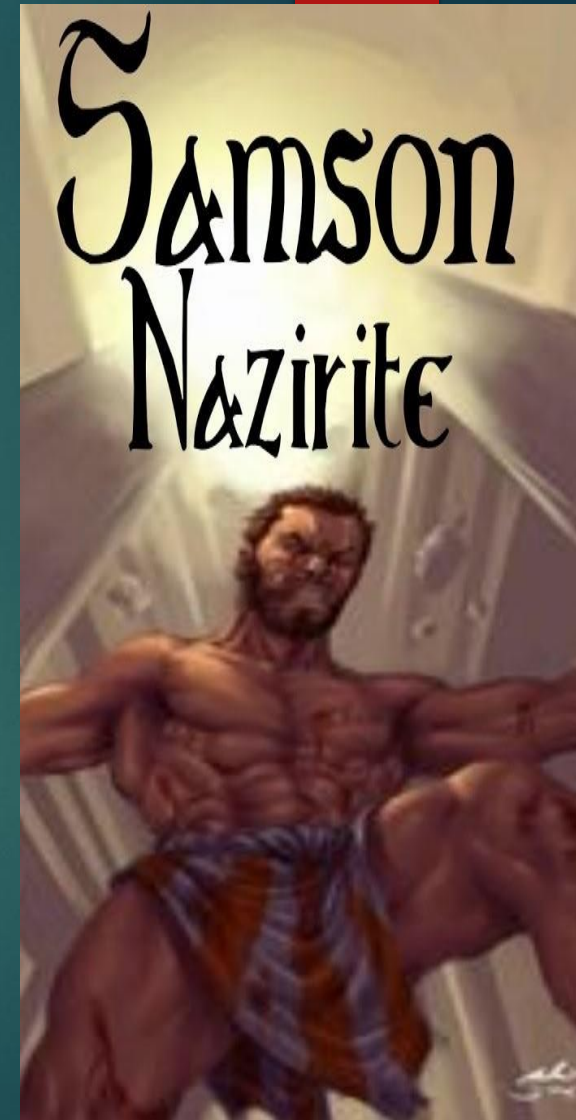
INTRODUCTION

- ▶ **Eph. 5:14** *“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (ESV)*
- ▶ It is sad, how many are spiritually “sleepwalking” through life. The Scriptures exhorts believers to awake. Believers are warned of the dangers of spiritual sleep. Such a slumber is like a coma that will result in death unless the believer awakens. Let’s look at the example of Samson (**Judges 14-16**)



1. SAMSON AN EXAMPLE OF A SLEEPER

- ▶ Samson is one of the most recognizable of the judges who ruled over Israel before the time of the kings. There are three major portions of his story that illustrate the “spiritual sleepwalking” of Samson and the degradation of morality due to his “spiritual sleepwalking”
- ▶ **(1) SAMSON WAS BROUGHT UP TO BE SET APART AS A NAZIRITE**, as a miracle child to an infertile family, Those who took the Nazarite vow could not drink anything alcoholic, cut their hair, or go near anything unclean, such as a corpse ([Numbers 6:3-7](#)). Samson seemed to try and break every rule in the book.



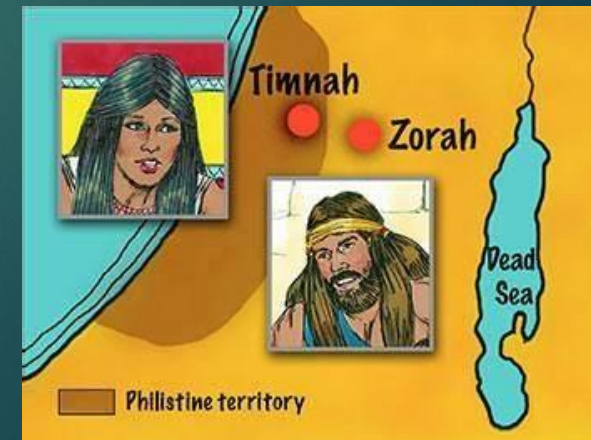
(2) SAMSON WAS VIOLENT AND PROUD.

(i) SAMSON IGNORES THE RULES OF HIS NAZARITE VOWS.

(a) He eats honeycomb out of the carcass of a dead lion he slew (Judges 14:9)



(b) He attends a wedding feast, where alcohol is present. Although the text does not indicate whether or not he drank, this article says he still sinned during that occasion when he kills 30 Philistines when his Philistine wife from Timnah, tricks him out of a wager (Judges 14). Whether killing them came from a sound mind or a mind under the influence of alcohol, he sinned.

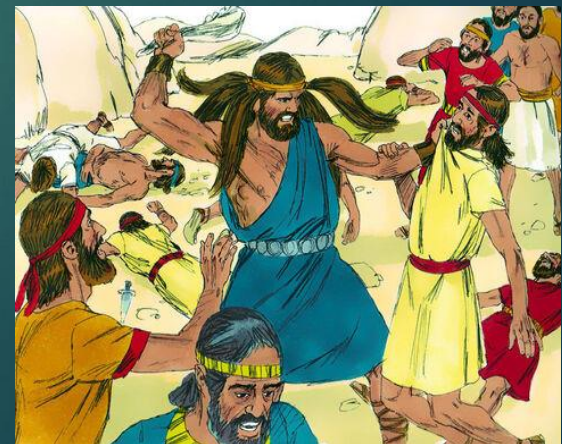
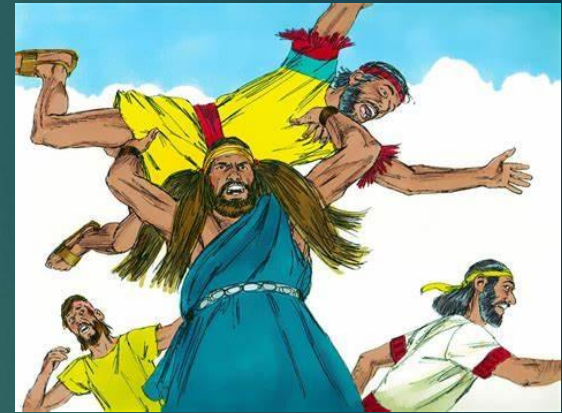


(2) SAMSON WAS VIOLENT AND PROUD.

(ii) KNOWN FOR VIOLENT ACTS AND A BENT FOR REVENGE, SAMSON ALSO ENDS UP COMMITTING A NUMBER OF OTHER ATROCITIES. He ties the tails of 300 foxes together, fastens ablaze torches to them, and sets them loose in Philistine fields ([Judges 15:4-5](#)). When the Philistines retaliate and burn Samson's wife and father in law. Samson attacks them viciously and kills many of them ([Judges 15:7](#)). Later, he kills a thousand men with a donkey's jawbone ([Judges 15:16](#))

(iii) SAMSON WAS PROMISCUOUS:

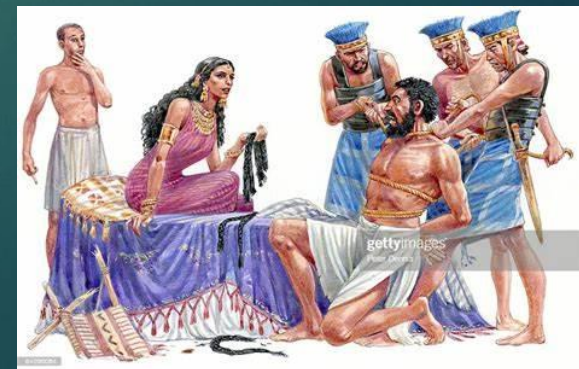
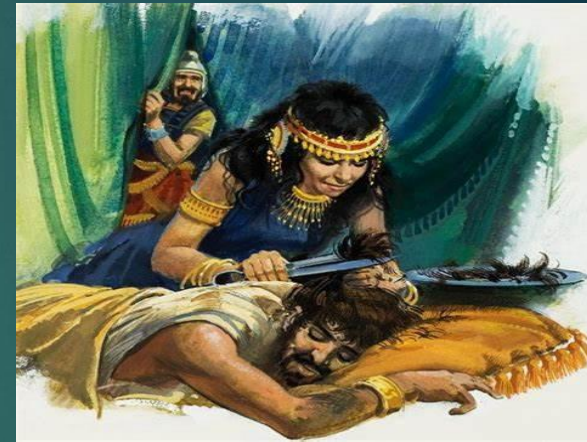
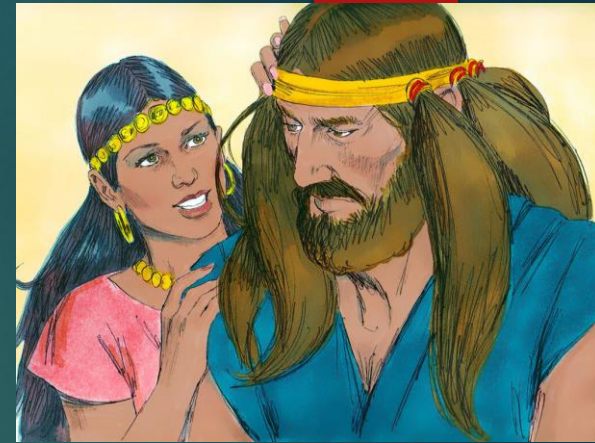
Judges 16:1 One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.



▶ (3) SAMSON LOVED DELILAH, WHO BETRAYED HIM.

▶ **SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.** For Samson, it came in the form of Delilah, a Philistine woman whom Samson fell in love with. The Philistines used this to their advantage and bribed her with 1,100 shekels (about three years' worth of wages) to divulge the secret to Samson's strength so they can overcome him (Judges 16:5).

▶ After a great deal of trial and error, Delilah procures the source of his strength, his hair, and cuts it. Then the Philistines blind the now weakened Samson and take him captive (**Judges 16:20**)



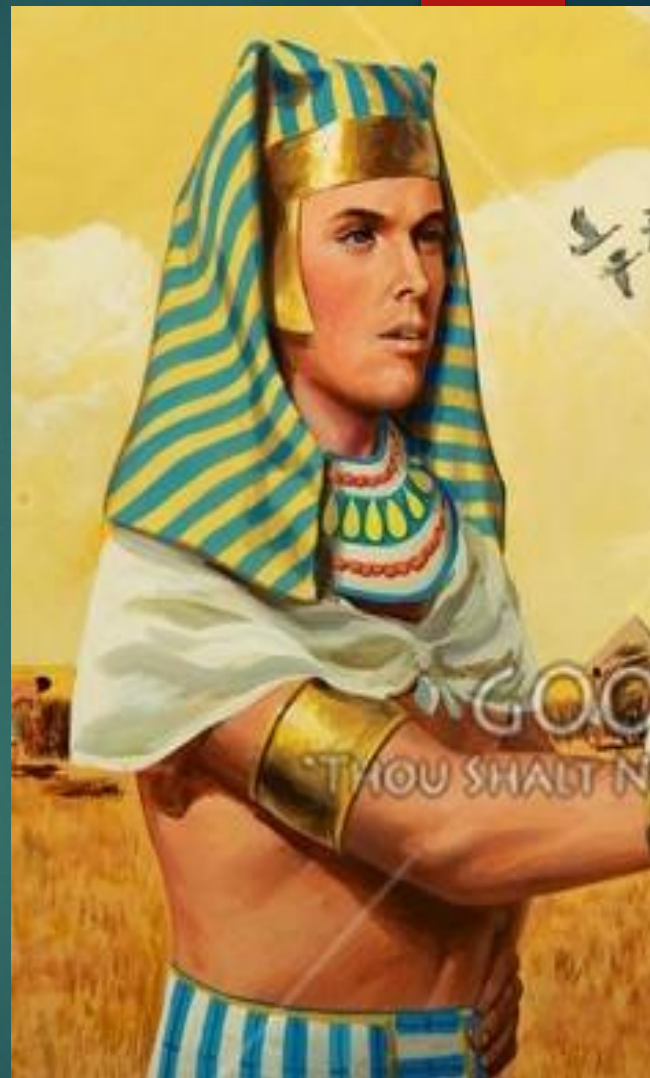
1. THOSE WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP ARE ACTUALLY LIVING DEAD LIVES.

- ▶ (1). THE PERSON WHO LIVES FOR PLEASURE IS DEAD EVEN WHILE HE LIVES:
- ▶ **1 Tim. 5:5-6** ⁵ *The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. ⁶ But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.* (NIV) The life lived for mere pleasure and ease is no life at all. It is a living death, whether lived by a young widow or anyone else. They have lived their lives for the pleasures of alcohol, drugs, or whatever; now they are in need and they want the church to help. It's legitimate to say, "No, we cannot help you"



► **(2) . MOSES “WOKE UP” AND
CHOSE TO LIVE. *Heb. 11:24-27***

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. (NIV)



► Moses showed faith when he let God chart his destiny instead of allowing Pharaoh or raw ambition to do it. Choosing to suffer affliction than the passing pleasure of sin. This choice had consequences. Sin does have its pleasures; but Moses properly saw them as passing, even if they should last our entire earthly life. Moses probably didn't know it at the time but the persecution he suffered for his choice of serving God and His people put him in the company of Jesus — who suffered to set men free.



► **APPLICATION:** *1 John 2:16* For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.



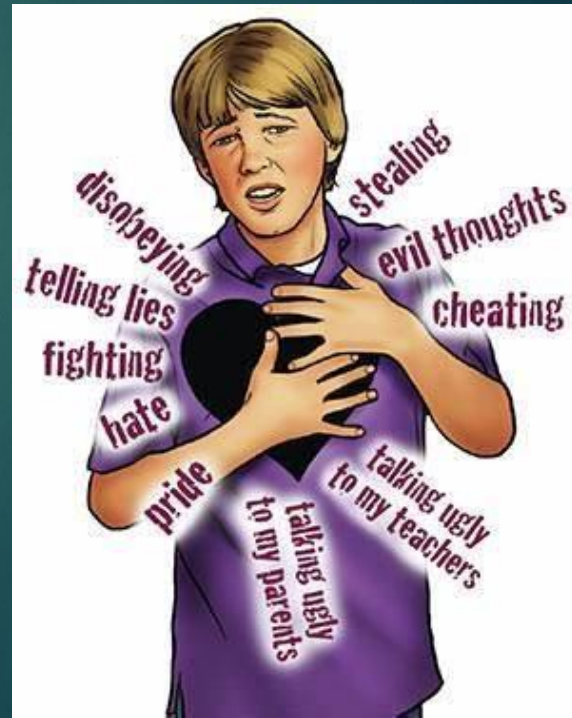
Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,
but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.
— PROVERBS 19:16

2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD NEED TO COME TO CHRIST SO THAT THEY CAN REALLY LIVE.

► (1) DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS

Eph. 2:4 *⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

► **TO BE SPIRITUALLY DEAD** does not mean that we are physically dead, socially dead, or psychologically dead. Yet it is a real death, a “dead death” nonetheless. “The most vital part of man’s personality — the spirit — is dead to the most important factor in life — God.” (Wood)



2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD .

► (2) MANY DIFFERENT PICTURES TO DESCRIBE THE STATE OF THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD PERSON:

► THE BIBLE DESCRIBES HIM AS:

- (i) Blind ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)).
- (ii) A slave to sin ([Romans 6:17](#))
- (iii) A lover of darkness ([John 3:19-20](#)).
- (iv) Sick ([Mark 2:17](#)).
- (v) Lost ([Luke 15](#)).
- (vi) An alien, a stranger, a foreigner ([Ephesians 2:12](#), [2:19](#)).
- (vii) A child of wrath ([Ephesians 2:3](#)).
- (viii) Under the power of darkness ([Colossians 1:13](#)).



2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD NEED TO COME TO CHRIST SO THAT THEY CAN REALLY LIVE.

► (3) FAITH LEADS TO WORKS

James 2:14-17 ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

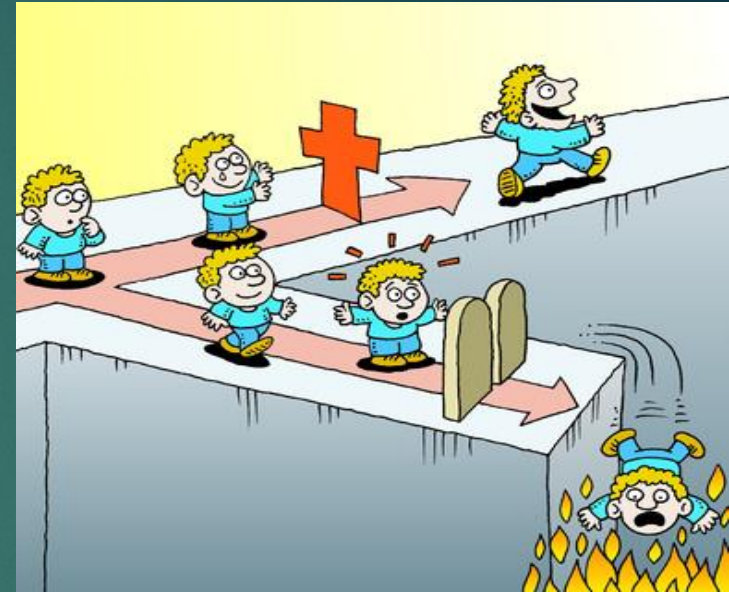


2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD NEED TO COME TO CHRIST SO THAT THEY CAN REALLY LIVE.

▶ (3) FAITH LEADS TO WORKS

▶ (i) THE MAN WHO IS ASLEEP DOES NOT CARE WHAT BECOMES OF HIS NEIGHBOURS; how can he while he is asleep? Some Christians do not care whether souls are saved or damned...(Spurgeon)

▶ (ii) TIME FOR US “EACH ONE REACH ONE.” Have you formed a small group to speak about the gospel “Each one Reach one”?



2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD NEED TO COME TO CHRIST SO THAT THEY CAN REALLY LIVE.

▶ **(4) THE SLEEPING CHRISTIAN:** A SLEEPING MAN IS UNAWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND HIM.

▶ **(i)** A burglar might break into his house and take his money, laptop and his wife's jewellery. His children might be molested, but while he's sleeping he knows nothing.

▶ **(ii)** There's a fire across the street, his neighbour's house is burning down, men are shouting out of the windows for help, but while he's asleep he can't do anything to help them.



- ▶ **(iii)** People are sick in the house crying for someone to bring them medicine. “Call for the doctor,” they are shouting, but he is asleep and hears nothing. They may die but he will not weep for them while he sleeps.
- ▶ **(iv)** A revolution may be taking place in the city. The old government is being swept out of power and a new ruler set up in his place, but he displays no patriotic feelings because he’s asleep.
- ▶ **(v)** A volcano erupts and his house is in the path of flowing rivers of lava, but he’s sound asleep and insensible. Winds are howling, peals of thunders are rolling but he is asleep and couldn’t care less what the elements do because he is asleep.



2. THE LOST & THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD NEED TO COME TO CHRIST SO THAT THEY CAN REALLY LIVE.

(5) WE CAN BECOME USED TO THE “NOISE” & BECOME COMPLACENT,

There was once a blacksmith who bought a puppy. He chained it up in his smithy and when he began to hammer a horseshoe and bend it into shape the dog barked and yelped and pulled on the chain in terror. The old blacksmith ignored the dog. You return three months later to that blacksmith's forge and the smith is still hammering away at his anvil but the dog has grown so accustomed to the noise and the fire and the sparks that he sleeps through it all.



(6) WE CAN BECOME COMPLACENT SLEEPERS:

APPLICATION: So it is with us. (i) We hear the warnings of Christ of the outer darkness, and the broad road leading to destruction. **Matthew 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

(ii) We express our regret and put in our contribution, but our heart isn't in it. We want to be awake, but we groan because we feel ourself to be in this state of slumber.

(iii) What characterises a slumbering Christian? A lack of feeling for others. **SLEEPER AWAKE AND ARISE.**



3. “AWAKE AND ARISE”.

- ▶ (1) LIVE AN “ABUNDANT LIFE”
- ▶ (i) FOLLOW JESUS: *John 10:10* *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundant.*
- ▶ The Greek word for ‘abundance,’ *perissos*, generally denotes a surplus...The abundant life is above all the contented life, in which our contentment is based upon the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus.”



3. “AWAKE AND ARISE”.

► (ii) **DON'T FALL ASLEEP:** *Luke 9:62* ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (iii) **SPEAK ABOUT JESUS:** Let me say this, that the persons I owe the greatest debt to in this world were the people who spoke to me about Christ. They were not eloquent or educated people. They were not special in any way, but I can never repay them what I owe them. They changed my whole life and my eternity. Every good and happy thing which I've got has come to me from the message of Christ which they gave to me. What would have happened to me otherwise?



3. “AWAKE AND ARISE”.

► (iv) THE DEATH-BELL IS RINGING OUT EVEN NOW, HELL IS CRYING OUT, HOWLING WITH HUNGER FOR THE SOULS OF MEN. “Bring out the sinner. Bring out the sinner. Put him here in the mouth of hell. Let him die and be damned.” And there you and I stand, professing to be a Christian and doing nothing which might make you God’s instrument in saving souls. **WAKE UP O SLEEPER AND RISE FROM THE DEAD!** The darkness deepens; Lord with us abide. He does abide though we do nothings! God does not slumber or sleep. To him we must go and must ask him for awakening grace, for life and vitality. **LET THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWER YOU.**

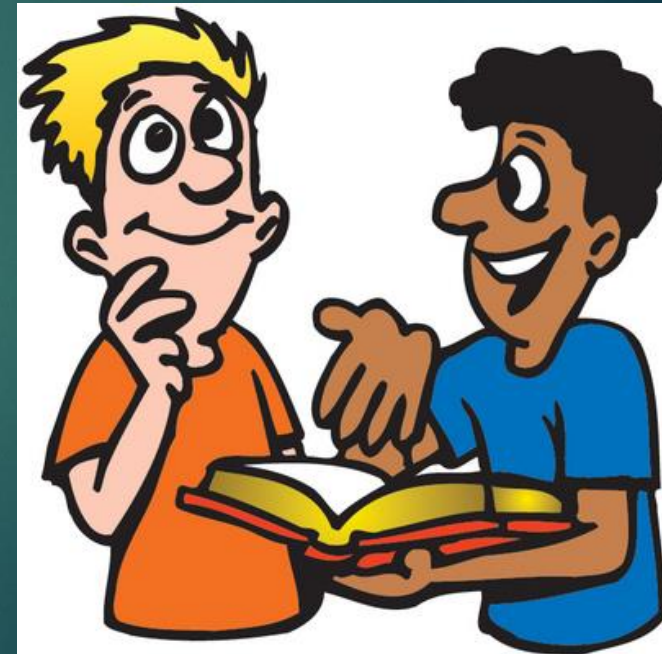
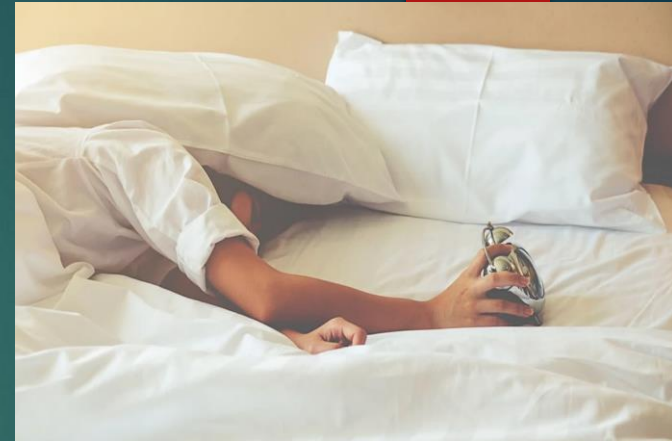


CONCLUSION

▶ 1. THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AN “ABUNDANT LIFE” IS AVAILABLE THROUGH CHRIST

▶ 2. WHERE ARE WE SPIRITUALLY?

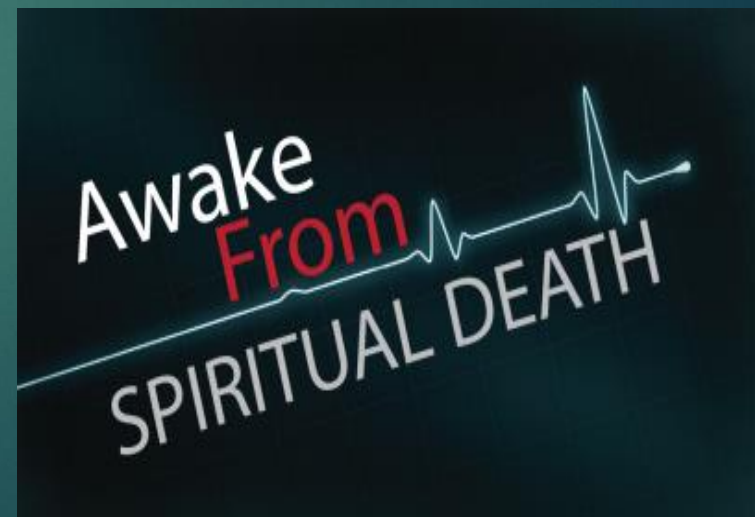
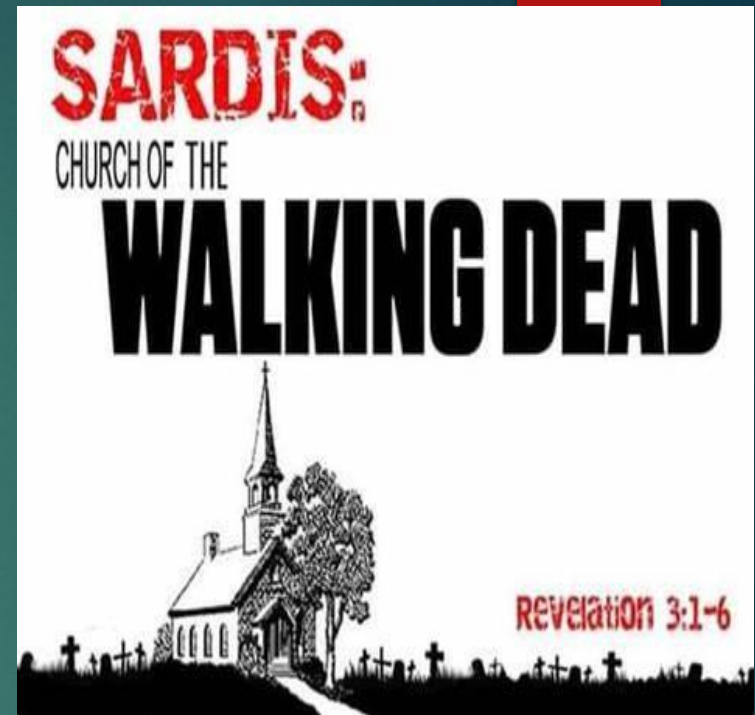
Eph. 5:14 “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”(NKJV) “The man who is asleep does not care what becomes of his neighbours; how can he, while he is asleep? Some Christians do not care whether souls are saved or damned...(Spurgeon)



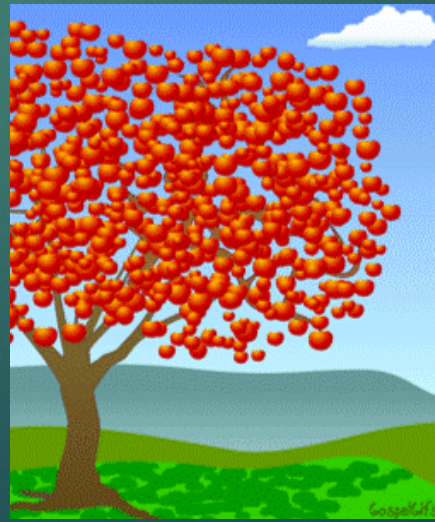
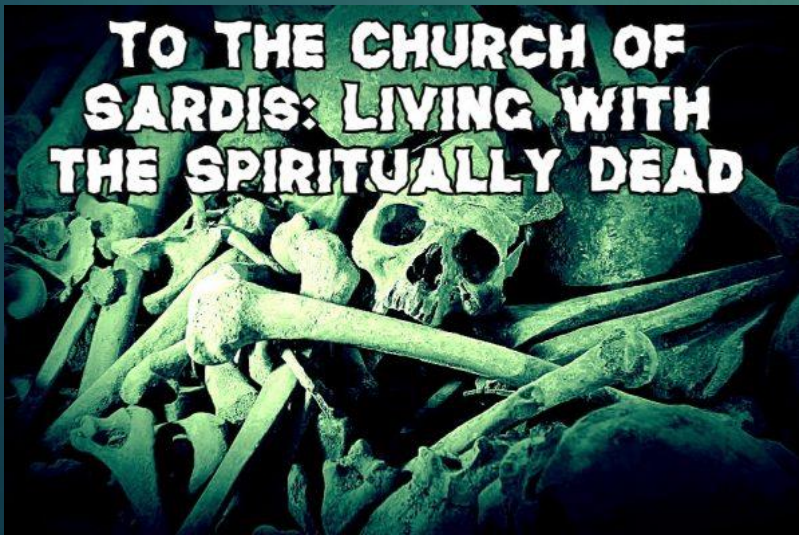
CONCLUSION

▶ 1. THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AN “ABUNDANT LIFE” IS AVAILABLE THROUGH CHRIST

▶ 2. WHERE ARE WE SPIRITUALLY? Don't be like the church in Sardis. **Rev. 3:1** *To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up!(NIV)*



- ▶ Sardis was also a city well known for its softness and luxury. It had a well-deserved reputation for apathy and immorality. In Sardis there was a large, stately temple to the mother goddess, Cybele. This mother goddess was honoured and worshipped with all kinds of sexual immorality and impurity.
- ▶ 3. Let us all make sure that we have our eyes wide open to living for God. **A GOOD TREE PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT. WHAT SORT OF TREE IS YOUR LIFE? . HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU SPEAK THE GOSPEL TO IN 2022?**



A good tree produces good fruit and an evil tree produces evil fruit. What sort of tree is your life?

LET US PRAY

- ▶ Heavenly Father, I realize there are times in my Christian life when I have allowed a spirit of slumber to overtake me and I have faltered in my Christian journey, but I pray that I would awaken from any soporific state, walk in newness of life, and live in the light of Christ's lovely presence. I pray that I would press on for the high call I have in Christ Jesus and produce the fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Help me to honour Your holy name by the life I live and the attitude of my heart. Thank You for the many privileges I enjoy as Your child and I pray that I would fulfil the responsibilities I have to live according to Your Word and to walk in the light as He is in the light. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.