



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH (LAGOS PROVINCE 20)

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

TOPIC: SLEEPING 'LABOURERS' IN THE SEASON OF HARVEST!!!

TEXT: Prov. 10:5, Matt. 9:37

INTRODUCTION: When Jesus said there were few labourers, His disciples were there and many of His followers were there too. The harvest was plenteous, His followers were many but not available for the harvesting.

The situation has not changed today. There are many church members, many of them even registered as workers and ministers, but they carry on as if there is no harvesting to be done. They are not responding to the call of God, they are not responding to the call of the mission, they are not responding to the cries of the unsaved and they are completely unaware or unconcerned about the empty seats around them on Sundays. Only those sleeping can be like this. Indeed, the harvest is plenteous, but there are few labourers because the people of God are sleeping in this season of harvest. But how can they be sleeping when they still come to church?

THE SYMPTOMS: How can you know if you are spiritually (or literally) sleeping during the harvest?

- People who are asleep do not use their eyes – even if the eyes stay open. **Mk. 8:18, Isa. 43:8, Jer 5:21**
 - a. They cannot see the harvest around them. **Psa. 115:5**
 - b. They cannot see the reality of hell and the plight of the unsaved. **Matt. 5:29,30,**
 - c. All they see is their own needs and challenges. **Jn. 6:26**
 - d. All they see is silver and gold – pursuing these is their only vision. **Psa. 115:4, Rev. 3:17**
- People who are asleep do not use their ears. **Isa. 43:8, Psa. 115:6, Jer. 5:21**
 - a. They are deaf to the command of the Lord. **Matt. 28:19,20, Acts 1:8**
 - b. They are deaf to the cries of the unsaved.
 - c. Deaf to the empty seats around him/her – Blind to Vision 2032. **Lk. 14:23**
- Apathy – People that asleep are unresponsive.: Even if they can see or hear, they are indifferent and unresponsive to the sight and cries of the harvest.
 - a. They have no compassion for the lost.
 - b. Unconscious of people slipping to hell every second.
 - c. They have mouths but they cannot speak. **Psa. 135:6,**
 - d. They would not go out to the harvest field – to look for the unsaved. **Psa, 115:7**
 - e. Not able to do follow-up. **Pro, 12:27**

DANGERS OF SLEEPING DURING HARVEST

1. Staleness – Rev. 3:15-17 (MSG): Many Christians are not growing and are 'stale.' Why? Because there's no outflow. The Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee are near each other, but one has no life in it while the other abounds with life.

What's the difference? The Dead Sea has no outlet, so it stays full of salt and never gets freshened. The same is true of many Christians who never share their faith. One of the greatest rewards of being active in Gospel work is that God's life flows through the labourer to the one it is intended for, so that the "channel" gets new life and new revelation too! **Matt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:15-20**

2. Eternal hunger and loneliness. **Jn.4:36** Your harvest is your eternal reward. That is why you must be urgent concerning the harvest. The souls you gather now will determine how God will pay out your eternal wages. **1Thess.2:19,20**

3. Divine wrath. **Pro. 24:11,12**

4. Eternal accusations. **Jer. 8:20** We as children of God do not want to stand before the Lord without doing what He said to do.

5. The harvest will be destroyed, and the ineffective workers will be put to shame. **Joel 1:11, Jer. 8:13-22** **6. Evil will prevail in the land.** All it takes for evil to abound is for good men to do nothing.

CONCLUSION Those who are asleep spiritually are blind and deaf to everything that pertains to the souls out there. Even though the harvest is plenteous, they see nothing to bother them. Even though there are empty seats around them during the Sunday services, they are happy because they can seat more comfortably.

Just as any good farmer would be ashamed of a son who did not work during the harvest, and let the crops worked so hard for go to waste, so we bring shame to the heart of our heavenly Father when we spend our days in idleness. Some of us are like Jonah, who was spending his time sleeping in disobedience in the hold of the ship, running from God's call to work in Nineveh, when he should have been rushing to the harvest (**Jonah 1:5**). Or perhaps we are like Peter, James, and John, who slept because of weariness or indifference like they did on the night before Jesus was crucified (**Matt. 26:39-45**).

If you are in this condition, Paul wrote a message to you, in **Eph. 5:14-16**: ". . . "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. (NIV)

Awake thou that sleepest. It is time to awaken to the great urgency of the need for evangelism.