

representative of their bodies that have turned to dust, are, in figurative language, spoken of as asleep in Jesus. Sleep is represented in the Bible as emblematical of death. It is an apt emblem well chosen, as it most clearly exemplifies the death state of man. When a man is asleep he knows nothing of what is transpiring around him; his body is inactive, but the spirit is *alive active*. His thoughts are constantly roaming; often he can remember these exercises in the shape of dreams, frequently quite accurately, sometimes less distinctly, and at other times not at all; yet we say the man is asleep, meaning the whole man. So when the term sleep is applied as a figure to the death state of man, it means the same thing. The body is motionless, inactive, dead; and he, like the man asleep, knows not anything, yet the spirit is active and conscious; but the man being dead, the spirit has moved to another sphere,—the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns unto God who gave it. Therefore as the man who is asleep is insensible, and knows nothing of what is passing around him, while his spirit is active, whose thoughts cannot be confined by the dormant power of sleep, but roams at large in its own domain, so when man dies he knows nothing of all sublunary things, but lies silent and inactive in death; and the corporeal man, the organism that was formed of dust, returns to the earth as it was. But as in the case of the man asleep, the spirit or inward man, although subject to the power of death in the dissolution of the man, yet cannot be held in his dark domain,—it cannot be brought within the precincts of the grave (as that is not its native element), and there lie dormant like the body; but as the spirit in the man asleep, it remains conscious and active, and soars away to its native element, and remains in accordance with his state at death as the identity and representative of the man at the resurrection.

Let us read a little of what the Bible says about them which die in the Lord and sleep in Jesus. 1 Thess. iv, 14-16: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God