

ren to be instrumental in saving others; that all Christians are endowed with saving influence, which is to be exercised prayerfully and self-sacrificingly.

In a certain sense each soul is responsible for its condition before God; but in another and very important sense *Christians* are responsible for souls around them. They are set as "lights" in the world. They are to be the "salt" of the earth. Their "good works" are to be *seen* that others may thereby be led to glorify their "Father in heaven." The *waking church* begins to recognize these facts, and to feel responsibility for the triumph of the gospel over hearts and lives around.

3. The *waking church* BEGINS TO MOVE. The sleeping church is unconcerned and oblivious of its conditions and of its surroundings. *Waking up*, it will resume. Sabbath congregations will increase. There will be more in attendance on the prayer and conference meetings. The members will begin to talk with one another of the things of Christ and of His kingdom. There will be a general getting-together for consultation. Old indifferences will give way to fresh concern; old listlessness in worship will be supplanted by a longing to know the mind and will of God. Songs will grow more tender; prayers more devout; experiences more free of expression; exhortations more feeling. In a word, there will be *signs of life in the church!* *Things will MOVE!* Christians will experience a difference in their feelings. The world will see a difference in everything pertaining to church work and worship. *Waking* is different from *sleeping*. Sight comes back. Consciousness comes back. A sense of responsibility comes back. Motion succeeds inaction. Anxiety succeeds indifference. *Everything is changed!*

There is no hope for a sleeping church unless it *wake!* It may

dream, and be dazed, but there is nothing done in dreams. Vision comes of waking. Action follows. When the great things of God are seen by a church, and realized as everlastingly true, and when the great wants of the world are felt, there is *hope*.

"It is high time to awake out of sleep," oh, drowsy Church of Christ, wherever you are. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand." So much of life as has been lived is gone beyond recovery! Every year in which a church remains *asleep* leaves it a cumberer of the ground. Every year in which a soul lives unregenerate lessens the probability of the salvation of that soul.

Brethren in the ministry, look out on the church of which you are pastor, and answer. Is your church *asleep* or *awake*? See how it is with *yourself*. Are *YOU* *asleep* or *awake*? Our age is wide awake and all alive as to business, as to scientific researches, as to everything that is secular. God summons His churches to see their privileges and seize their opportunities.

But can the *church wake at will*? Somebody in the church surely is *awake*. Five hundred souls can scarcely be asleep at once! It would be very strange if the two hundred or the one hundred comprising a church were *all asleep!* There surely is some watchman on the walls waiting for the break of day! Some earnest, anxious one who sees Zion languishing and the enemy exulting! Who is this one? Is it *you*, the preacher? It belongs to *you*, then, to ring the call-bell! God has set you as a leader. More than any other one in all the church, *you* are to wake up the sleeping. Perhaps you ought to preach with more zeal; to pray with more fervency. It is possible that your words should be more of warning and appeal. You may be lulling the church to sleep with fine-spun rhetoric or soothing