

# A RUDE AWAKENING - 7

## Contagious Christianity

"So let's not sleep walk through life like those others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart."  
- 1 Th. 5:6, *The Message*

Our motivation to faithfulness shouldn't be affected by knowing the *specificity* of the day the Lord returns, but by its *certainty*.

Most people live as though there's never going to be a last day, a time of accounting, a day of judgment. Satan is quite successful in keeping people from thinking about the return of Jesus. Usually, Satan keeps people so occupied with this world that they forget that this world is doomed. The Bible insists that those who sleep walk through this life are in for a rude awakening.

### Welcome

Have you ever been caught napping at an inopportune time? Explain.

### Worship

As Christians, we ought not only to sing about the return of Jesus with our lips, but our lives as well. Our lives ought to reflect our anticipation of His return. Our longing to be with the Lord--today, as well as on that last day--is what sustains us. Songs: "I Just Want To Be Where You Are," "In His Presence" (99), "Don't You Want To Go: (969), "Heaven Is In My Heart" (735), "Father I Adore You" (53).

### Word

#### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. What do the two analogies (the thief, and labor pains) imply about the nature of the Lord's return? Why should the exact timing of His return not be of real concern for a Christian?
2. Does the reality of Jesus' return encourage or threaten you? Explain.
3. What are the dangers associated with living in darkness (vss 5-7)? In what ways are you most susceptible to being lulled into drowsy thinking about the Lord's return and coming judgment?
4. What area of your life would most benefit from becoming more alert and self-controlled (vs 8)?
5. In addition to being wide-awake, we are to be well-armed (vs 8). In practical terms, what does it mean to put on faith, hope and love?

### Works

You've got to ask yourself, "Why would I want Jesus to come back so that I can be with Him forever, if I only want Him around part-time right now?" Your anticipation of the Lord's return is a reflection of your desire to spend time with Him every day. Prayerfully consider what the Lord might be telling you about changes you need to make in your daily walk.