

Selected readings from Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, By
Charles Spurgeon

Reading 123

“Let us not sleep, as do others.” 1 Thessalonians 5:6

There are many ways of promoting Christian wakefulness. Among them, let me strongly advise Christians to converse together concerning the ways of the Lord. Christian and Hopeful, as they journeyed towards the Celestial City, said to themselves, “To prevent drowsiness in this place, let us fall into good discourse.” Christian enquired, “Brother, where shall we begin?” And Hopeful answered, “Where God began with us.” Then Christian sang this song—

“When saints do sleepy grow, let them come hither,
And hear how these two pilgrims talk together;
Yes, let them learn of them, in any wise,
As to keep open their drowsy slumbering eyes.
Saints’ fellowship, if it be managed well,
Keeps them awake, and that in spite of hell.”

Christians who isolate themselves and walk alone, are very liable to grow drowsy. Keep Christian company, and you will be kept awake by it, and refreshed and encouraged to make quicker progress in the road to heaven. But as you take “sweet counsel” with others in the ways of God, take care that the theme of your converse is the Lord Jesus. Let the eye of faith be constantly looking unto him; let your heart be full of him; let your lips speak of his worth. Friend, live near to the cross, and you will not sleep. *Labor to impress yourself with a deep sense of the value of the place to which you are going.* If you remember that you are going to heaven, you will not sleep on the road. If you think that hell is behind you and the devil is pursuing, you will not loiter. Would the murderer sleep with the avenger of blood behind him, and the city of refuge before him? Christian, would you sleep while the pearly gates are open—the songs of angels await you to join them—a crown of gold ready for your head? No! Continue in holy fellowship and pray that you enter not into temptation.