

# "Awake or Asleep?"

Tony Williams

"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him" (I Thessalonians 5:8-10).

This short passage written by Paul and intended to comfort the Christians at Thessalonica, causes some to speculate about its meaning. He addressed their questions in earlier verses by referring to being "awake" as being diligent and sober. In chapter 4, he referred to being "asleep" as a metaphor for being dead. With both "awake" and "dead" used as metaphors, what could Paul mean?

A woman I know outside the church, sent an email saying she came across this verse (10) and has reread it several times and it appeared to her that no matter what, souls have salvation since Christ died for lost souls. I replied that if this was the case, it would nullify the rest of the Bible.

Paul is comforting the Thessalonians concerning their questions about loved ones. The question is how to understand Paul's ideas of waking and sleeping in this verse, especially as they relate to the immediate context and to the general context of the rest of Scripture. Two possibilities are: 1) Paul is either referring to literally sleeping when the Lord returns or, 2) someone who is already dead when the Lord comes. Were the Thessalonians concerned about whether they would be asleep in their beds as opposed to awake in their daily routine when Christ returned? The possibility seems remote. Most likely Paul was reconfirming what he stated in 4:14.

What Paul cannot mean is a spiritual condition. Someone who is spiritually asleep (not in Christ), cannot live together with Christ without multiple contradictions throughout the New Testament.



# Welcome

TO  
KOUNTZE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nov.

"I can do all things  
through Christ who  
Strengthens me."

*Philippians 4:13*

7<sup>th</sup>

## Meeting Times

Sunday Bible Class – 9:30

AM Worship – 10:30

PM Worship – 1:30

Wednesday Night Bible Class – 7:00

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Kountze, TX 77625

101.3 FM Radio

Kountze Church of Christ

# Today's Lessons

AM.....The Book of Philippians: Christ is Our...  
PM.....Singing

# Men to Serve

Announcements.....  
Song Leader.....Sterling McDonald  
Opening Prayer.....  
Communion Leader.....Steve Deatrick  
Sermon.....Corey Tackett  
Closing Prayer.....

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Secret Sister will draw names on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the party will be Dec 19<sup>th</sup> after second service.
- Heath Stapelton will be with us next Sunday.
- If you have other announcements to be added to next week's bulletin, please give them to Corey.

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – End of Daylight Saving Time  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day  
Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving

# Records

Sunday AM..... Wednesday PM.....N/A  
Sunday PM..... Contribution.....N/A

Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

# Visitors,

You are welcome and wanted. We are glad you made the decision to be with us.

If you have any questions or needs, please reach out to any of our members and we'll be more than happy to help you.

If you're looking for a Church home, we'd love the opportunity to study with you and have you join our congregation's family.

# Prayer Requests and Updates

Members:

- Dwayne Baker
- Ed & Linda Bumstead
- Gaylon & Gladys Williams
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Family and Friends:

- Tony Wright
- Kyle Shavers
- Danny Roberts
- The Walter's family
- Steve Martinka
- Shawn Gunter
- Susan Golden
- Kyle Tantillo
- Donna Melton
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