

**The Dangers of a Sleeping Church**  
**Revelation 3:1-6**

**Introduction:**

- I. There are many jokes made about sleeping in church
  - a. “Sleeping in church never hurt anyone”
    - i. Wrong! It killed Eutychus in Acts 20!
    - ii. All it took was once for Adam to fall asleep, and it all went downhill!
  - b. Sometimes, with people’s work schedules, medications, etc., it can be difficult to avoid.
    - i. This is not what the aim of today’s lesson is. (Notice “in a church”)
- II. The “dangerous” sleep occurs when the members are not aware of the dangers and pitfalls, especially in their own lives, that are taking place around them.
  - a. Its root lies in laziness and clouded judgment.
  - b. The church of Sardis in Revelation 3 is a prime example.
    - i. [READ TEXT]
  - c. The city of Sardis did not have a much better reputation
    - i. Idolatry coupled with hideous sexual atrocities made them appalling even to pagan nations.
    - ii. They were conquered twice (by the Persians and Greeks) in much the same way.
      1. They fortified the front of the city that faced the main road.
      2. The back was a sheer cliff, with no way for an army to take it.
      3. The first time, a soldier dropped his helmet, and went down the cliff to retrieve it, witnessed by a Persian soldier.
      4. This Persian went up with a few others and opened the city gate to allow the entire army in.
        - a. They were asleep, because they thought they were safe.
- III. This sleepiness causes several problems for the Christian. We’ll talk about three of them today.
  - a. Sleepiness prevents preparation.
  - b. Sleepiness endangers endurance.
  - c. Sleepiness produces poverty.

**Discussion: Sleepiness...**

- I. Prevents Preparation – Matthew 25:1-13 (Watch therefore)
  - a. Amos 6:1, 4-7
  - b. I Thessalonians 5:6-7
- II. Endangers Endurance – Romans 13:11-14; I Corinthians 15:33-34
  - a. Ephesians 5:6, 11-15
- III. Produces Poverty – Proverbs 6:10-11; 20:13

**Conclusion:**

- I. How to prevent it:
  - a. Laziness is prevented by busyness – Overcome it by making yourself work!
  - b. Realize the problem/need – What happens if I don’t prepare/endure/store up?
    - i. Philippians 2:12; Revelation 2:10; Matthew 6:19-21 (cf. Rom. 2:4-5)
  - c. Stop making excuses and just make it right!
    - i. You are not invulnerable to the pressures of sin, to the struggles of this life, and especially not to the judgment of God!
    - ii. “If you have already been baptized, but have fallen asleep, “ + Rev 3:2-3.
    - iii. “If you need to be baptized, “ + Acts 22:16.