

He says we're so much asleep we're almost as if we were dead! He says, Arise == Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light.

I imagine you've seen the ad that I've seen a number of times that shows a ~~xxx~~ man lying in bed. They say, It's time to get up and he says, Which way is up? He drags himself out of bed with a struggle, and then he uses a certain kind of soap. This soap brings him back to life. It shows him later on with his wife. He is waking here. Telling her it's time to get up. He says, Other people have much more trouble waking up than I do! The answer is he's using the right kind of soap. The answer for us is to arise, get up, and do what ~~w~~ you are going to do and Christ will give you light, for the next step. We ~~xxx~~ look to Him, but we have to arise and step out and to do the things we know we should do.

How are we going to know what these things are? How are we going to be understanding what the will of the Lord is? I believe we can say that the will of the Lord is for all men is that they should be saved. If a person does not know Christ there is just one simple answer to what the Lord's will is, and that's that he repent of his sin and turn to Christ for salvation. That's the most -- that's the Lord's will; the one thing that is vital in the case of the one who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ.

But here he is talking to Christians and he sees many of us as if we are asleep and he calls us to arise. I think then it is fair we ask this question, When we turn from sin to Christ, when he saves us from our sins, then we are headed for heaven and we have eternal life. Why then does He leave us here in a world of suffering, a world of misery, a world of death? Why doesn't he take us up there to heaven with him immediately? Why should He leave us here? I believe the answer is definite. And clearly taught in Scripture as to why He leaves us here and I believe if we understand why he leaves us here, then we can truly say that we understand what the will of the Lord is. I would say that the will of the Lord as to what we should do after we are saved falls under two primary categories. There are two primary reasons why He leaves us here.

He leaves us here in order to make us His jewels, and He leave us here in order to make us and to use us as His tools. I believe these two are the primary reasons why the Lord leaves us here and they are the understanding what the will of the Lord is for the Christian. To develop in these two directions.

Now as to the first: His jewels. That is something we do not often think about. Quite naturally because we are thinking about the most tremendous thing in life that God thought we were worth saving, that he thought it was worth while for Jesus Christ to die for our sins. But after we are saved we find in Scripture that this is a very important element. It is brought out in Paul's prayer in Eph. 1. I will start with v.15 and will read to the end of v. 18 where we come to the particular point relating to God's jewels.