

“Wake Up! Good Things Are Coming!”

A. Sleepwalking

- Good or bad, life can feel like a dream
- We can live in “if only” world – if only _____ happened I could wake up!

B. Israel’s Afflictions

- Babylon had captured Jerusalem and taken God’s people
- The comfort of home was gone. Imagine the “if onlys” they had

C. Our Afflictions

- What’s afflicted you and you want it to end?
- What makes you feel captive and makes you long for something better?
- What “if only” do you need to feel like everything will be ok?

E. Afflictions Cause Sleepwalking

- When is life tough, we long for better. That’s not always a bad thing
- However, our faith can start to fall asleep
- God says, Wake Up! But we don’t always listen. Afflictions plug our ears

F. Wake Up, Israel!

- Sleepwalking made Israel lazy and their service stagnant
- They would be redeemed from physical captivity
- Jesus would redeem them from spiritual captivity
- God was calling them to see something better was coming!

G. Wake Up, Zion!

- God calls to you, “Wake up!”
- The longing you have for something better is a longing for God.
- Heaven on earth doesn’t exist. Heaven with God does

H. God Will Wake You Up

- God will wake you up by the grace of his promises
- The Word wakes up our sleepy eyes by his Word and Sacraments

I. Saints Triumphant

- Because of Christ, we are saints triumphant
- That lifts high above the problems of this life
- He makes our longing for better a reality
- No matter what, Jesus wins! That means You Win!

For Your Week: Points to Ponder

List 3 things that can easily cause you to “sleepwalk” through your days?

God calls to you and says, “Wake up!” What promises can you hold to this week that will help you “wake up”?

Explain: With God there are no “if onlys”. He gives me everything I need in this life and in the next.