

You Snooze... You Lose

Every culture has its idiomatic expressions and one of our modern idioms suggests, "If you snooze... you lose!" Snoozing has to do with not paying attention or being neglectful in some enterprise. Neglect will cost you something, therefore "you lose." It may be surprising to some that this idiom has its spiritual applications and is suggested by a couple of statements from the pen of the apostle Paul.

"And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed." **Romans 13:11**

Paul is saying that if we are neglectful about the way we conduct ourselves, we could lose out on salvation. He is exhorting his brothers to wake up to the hour in which they live. It is the last hour and they are near salvation. But... if you snooze, you lose.

"For this reason many among you are weak and sick and a number sleep." **1 Corinthians 11:30**

Here, Paul is trying to get the attention of Christians who were spiritually asleep, neglecting to do things the way God had commanded. They were not observing the Lord's Supper as it was intended, so they were bringing judgment upon themselves (v. 29). Thus, if you just go through the motions of God's worship, spiritually asleep, then... you snooze, but lose.

It's easy to fall asleep and neglect the things that God expects of us. Perhaps, knowing the consequence of our neglect will awaken us to the work at hand. As Paul said, "...it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep."

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