

Awake Sleeper (Ephesians 5:14)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration: Two insects' response to light
 - B. Review context of the section – Eph 5:8-14
 - C. Outline of the sermon and reading the text

- II. ***Anything that becomes visible is light*** (Eph 5:14)
 - A. How are we to make sense of this verse?
 1. Comparing the ESV/AV translations vs. NIV
 - B. The transforming power of the light of God's Word
 1. God's Word is light (Ps 119:105, 130, Pr 6:23, Heb 4:13)
 2. Preach the Word, and allow it to judge hearts
 3. 1 Pet 1:22-25 – *born-again by the word of God*
 4. 1 Cor 1:21 – *the message preached saves those who believe*
 5. in creation – *God said, "let there be ..."* (2 Cor 4:5-6)
 6. Acts 17:30-31 – *God commands all men to repent*
 7. Luke 14:21-24 – *compel them to come ...*
 8. Invite yes, but more than this, preach with confidence in the transforming power of God's Word!

- III. **Awake ... Arise** (Eph 5:14)
 - A. The origin of these words (*Therefore He said ...*)
 1. A quotation from the Old Testament (Is 26:19, Is 60:1-2)
 2. An apocryphal reference attributed to Elijah or Jeremiah
 3. Paul's own writing (Rom 13:11-12)
 4. A word from God through Paul
 5. An Easter or baptismal hymn
 - B. This is a call to the sleeper to be aroused – to respond to the light that has exposed his sin

- IV. **To whom is the command directed?**
 - A. Unbelievers
 1. a call to the unbeliever
 2. how can an unbeliever hear this call if he's dead?
 - B. Believers
 1. a reminder of our own conversion
 2. a reminder of the hope (1 Pet 1:3-5)
 3. a call to repentance and action (Rom 13:11-12)
 4. a model for how we should preach the gospel (John 5:25)
 - C. Professing believers who are 'asleep in the light' (1 Thes 5:4-10)