

(1). "The Great Journey through Enchanted Ground"

Intro:- (L). Many of you will know what I mean by TITLE. "Pilgrim's Progress"..Well on in that famous journey from City of Destruc. to Celestial City..Christian and Hopeful came to the Enchanted Ground..where became intensely, unnaturally drowsy..sleepy..lethargic..Satanically induced..and only delivered themselves by heeding warning of I Thess. 5:6-8...and then conversing together about spir. matters. (2). Bring this to your atten. bec. I am abso. convinced that X'n Church today is on enchanted ground..Concerned. Satan has two great attacks on X'n people. a. Defilement. b. Deferment. One is attempt to soil us..that fell. with God might be broken..c/f Priest not approach golden altar with soiled hands..feet. (Laver there)..Other is attempt to put to sleep. Don't think devil minds which..prob. pref latter..bec. we are not so much aware of it..Contented..comfortable..enchanted (delighted bey. measure)..fascinated Have you felt this? Not to feel it is per. most dangerous.

I. I believe this time may well be called "The Great Lethargy" (a). Historians in future days will stand aghast at records The lethargic Age! Term comes from Roman and Greek mythol. Lethe was that great river that flowed around lands of the dead..(1 of 5)..By Elysian Fields of righteous..Tartarus of the wicked. Belief that righteous sometimes returned to be reincarnated required explan..Why not remember former lives..or period when dead? So myth said they were required to drink at river Lethe..River of forgetfulness..(sleep)..to wipe out memory of former things. So our words "lethargy" and "lethal". Almost think river flowing in Canada today! (b). Think of this:- Recently meeting arranged in Calif..for hearing of qualified speaker on sub. of safety measures in case of nuclear war. Planned for 5,000.. But 30 came out Forced to cancel future meetings. LETHARGY in face of emergency like of which human race never known. Annihil. (c). But not just social world. THIS HAS INVADDED THE CHURCH e.g. Preacher in Alta..other night..8 people at prayer meet. One deacon. Left him in charge..drove round to other deacon "WHY Pastor, what doing here..pr. meet". "So you do know? Why you here?" Vis. many home..8 out of 10..T.V. instead of pr. meet. THAT IS SPIR. LETHARGY! Let me give you another grim example. Our miss. writing home..support is dwindling..what is matter?" Drought? NO. Visited many. Things sapping away God's money..and His work cut let.. Joel 1:4...9. Lethargy. What fearful responsibility!

II. Now let's face facts. This is common matter..Satanic.

(a). There were sleeping farmers in parable of tares..Matt. 13:25 "While men slept" enemy sowed tares in fields..God's. There were sleeping men in Gethsemane..Matt. 26:40, 43 Beyond natural..Satan busy..leading onto enchanted ground..Lethargy. There will be sleepers when Jesus comes back again...Matt. 25:5. And so our Lord warned earnestly..re last days..that lethargy increases..We are to beware..Mk. 13:35-37. Paul warned the church at Rome..Romans 13:11. Wake up! So easy to lose a SENSE OF URGENCY about God's business. "Spending unnecessary time on necessary things" (or unnec. things). (b). What is causing this deadly sleepiness? I suggest three things. First is per. peculiar.. Luke 22:45 "SCORROW". Per. nev. think of that. True. What made disciples sorry? He had told them He was going to die. Hopes evap. Deeply disappointed "That be far from thee, Lord". Emmaus couple.."We trusted that it had been he..deliver Israel". Past tense of despair! All lost..over. HOW MANY X'NS TODAY disappointed..over person, church, circumstance.."Thought all be well..Now". One came to me like that..despair. Did YOU ever give up? Quit? Throw up hands? Lethargy! c/f Martin Luther..despair..wife in mourning "What?" "God dead". "Foolish woman". "No, foolish Martin". Jesus said "Be of good cheer". We need message of good cheer today. Jesus is Victor! Jesus is coming! Jesus shall reign! Second:- Materialism. c/f Luke 21:34. "Cares" of this life. Cares lit, means a "distraction"..dividing attention..to be anxious about something. WORRY. Why people worry? Bec. the own a few things and are afraid lose them. Rich people worry. And prod. spir. lethargy..Energy sidetracked..attention gone. What an age is this in which we live! Distractions! Cares! How get rid of worry? REFUSE TO OWN ANYTHING...STEWARDSHIP. Third:- Flourishing of self-life. Rom. 13:13 Self-gratific. Self-will..Self-exaltation. And when self-life grows..spir. life goes to sleep..into drowsy lethargy. Satan delighted.

### III. What can be done to dispel this dreadful sleep. sickness?

(a). Not easily understood. Would to God we knew more about it. Ev. Pastor,,like to have recipe. HOW DO YOU WAKE PEOPLE UP? WHAT WAKE ME UP WHEN..THIS...? Let me make some Bible suggestion Three FIRST:- And always..PRAY..Luke 22:45. As long as there is a praying remnant, there is hope. c/f 4 men in Hebrides..2 elderly ladies. c/f Hanneh..God finally moved her to pray c/f Daniel..prayed..Revival came from that. PRAY. For selves. As Amy Carmichael did.."Let me not sink to be a clod. Make me Thy fuel Flame of God". Pray for danger and disturbance..for an earthquake..(Philippi..Acts 16:25-27). Men need disturbing out of lethargic complacency. s/f Dunkirk. PRAY for revival. (b). SECOND:- Proclaim the Word of God..its exhortations..its warnings..its demands. Let Voice of God sound out. c/f Samuel. c/f Peter in jail.."A light shined"..Eph.5:14 ..I Cor. 15:34.

(c). THIRD:- Spread the news that will soon be in every newspaper on earth! Stir up a holy anticipation in every heart..In my own. It will wake people up..Rom.13:11. Like alarm clock.."What time is it?" High time to awake! Proclaim it! I Cor. 15:51-52..and its conclus..vs. 58. I Thess. 4:16-17..and its conclus..5:6. THIS MESSAGE MUST BECOME MOST PROMINENT IN PULPIT TODAY..to stir anticipation enthusiasts, desperation. concern for lost men, women..THIS May be our last day on earth..LOOK UP.

Conclus:- 1. Let's begin. "Let ME not sink to be a clod. Make ME Thy Fuel, Flame of God". II Chro.7:14.

ISA 64:1, 7-8

Red Deer - Feb 26/65

Black Diamond - Nov. 1/63

EDMONTON - F.B.C. - Feb. 17/63

New Sweden - Nov 26/61 (consec.)