

18.4 Time to Wake Up!

I have a vine growing in my flowerbed that I do not want. It climbs onto my other plants and smothers them. I have repeatedly pulled it up from the roots but somehow I miss some and it grows back. It is a constant battle.

I had to be out of town for over three weeks to help my daughter and then lead my mother's funeral service. When I got home, that vine was everywhere! It took over one of my favorite plants. I need diligence in order to keep that vine at bay.

You are aware of the war within us against sin. Paul describes that battle in **Romans 7:21-25** (ESV):

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

As the writer of Hebrews tells us in **Hebrews 12:1-2**, sin really can easily beset us if we are not diligent and resourceful to keep it at bay. That is true for the individual, the family, the church, a community, and a nation. By the way, if America is going to be saved, our salvation will start when individuals return to God and commit to Him 100%.

Our Founders worked hard to give us independence. They also worked hard to give us a biblical republic. A sample of that is in **Exodus 18** when groups select leaders to represent them. A quote attributed to **George Washington** is:

“It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible”

Washington reminds us of God's place and ours. He is King and we are His subjects. He rules us through His word, the Bible.

When we turn away from God, first as individuals, then in groups, sin overtakes us. It is like that vine in my flowerbed that gets out of control. At first it is a small leaf, then suddenly it becomes an overwhelming mass. It is because we were asleep as it grew.

It's time for Americans to “wake up.” We've been spiritually asleep for decades. We have let sin creep into our culture either because we weren't watching or because we wanted to appear to be kind and tolerant. However it came, it is here and in full bloom.

In April of 1775 **John Hancock and Samuel Adams** were staying in the home of **Pastor Jonas Clark** in Lexington, Massachusetts. The famous “Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” (and others) came about to warn Hancock and Adams. It also served as a wakeup call to the Minutemen” who had been training for the day that the British might send their Regulars to confront the Colonists. Their Pastor, Jonas Clark had trained them in Biblical principles for this very purpose. What followed the next day was the “shot heard ‘round the world” on the Lexington Green as these Patriot Churchmen stood their ground against the onslaught of tyranny.

What if Revere had not ridden? What if Hancock, Adams, Clark and the Minutemen had slept? What if no one went out to withstand the “Red Surge” of the British Regulars? Most likely there would have been no independence for America.

We are reminded of the role of the “watchmen” in **Isaiah 62:6-7** (ESV):

**⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
they shall never be silent.
You who put the LORD in remembrance,
take no rest,
⁷ and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.**

Their job was not to sleep and not to be silent. If they were, the enemy could overcome and destroy them.

The application is easy. It’s time, maybe past time, to take our place as the watchmen on our walls. It’s time to wake up and speak up. It’s time to be diligent against the sin that is chipping away at our very foundation.

Keep The Light of Awareness Burning!