

**Today** we're going to look at TWO CONTRASTING messages  
- Our Text today - is really about EXTREME'S

Both Messages are Important - But they are most POWERFUL  
when Contrasted with one another

In the 1st half of our text today -  
We see Incredible, Maximum SERVING in the Church

In the 2nd half of our text today -  
We see Subtle, Hypnotic, SLEEPING in the Church

& these two Subjects form quite a Contrast  
for US to consider in our OWN lives

So stay with me - & we'll see TWO important lessons today

We'll start with SERVING & Encouragement  
& we'll end with SLEEPING in the Church

## Let's Pray

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We left Paul at the end of the RIOT in Ephesus last week

& Remember - we put OURSELVES in the people's shoes  
who "Unknowingly" became part of that RIOT CROWD

Then - at the end of Ch 19 - God used a City Official  
to break up the Riot - & spare the disciples

& during that time, Paul was kind of “Tucked Away” somewhere waiting for the UPROAR to blow over

& so we open today - as the DUST from Last week’s Riot - Settles

### Acts 20:1 (esv)

*1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.*

Paul stayed PUT during the Riot - & then he called the Disciples to him - & encouraged them on a great job

& then - using some WISDOM - Paul decided to LEAVE Ephesus & he Headed across the Aegean sea - to the Region of Macedonia

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Now - the next few vs’s may seem MINIMAL in importance  
But they are Definitely NOT Minimal

We see here an INCREDIBLE Commitment by PAUL (& his team)  
to go WAY OUT of their WAY

To Strengthen & Encourage the New Believers & the New Churches  
All thru-Out the areas he’d been on THIS Missionary Journey

& Paul had done this on BOTH of his previous Journey’s

He goes thru an area starting churches . . .

& then he retraces his steps BACK thru that same area  
Strengthening & Encouraging those same churches

Because Paul KNEW these New believers were NOT OK on their own  
& these NEW Churches were NOT OK on their own

& so he (& his team) headed back to each church - at great Sacrifice to make sure these new believers were doing okay

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In the Parable of the Sower & the Seed in LUK Ch 8  
75% of the seed INITIALLY BEGAN producing fruit

But TWO THIRDS of that initial Fruit was Quickly Wiped Out  
by either the Enemy or the World

Paul knew he had to BE THERE for the new believers  
to help them get Grounded - to send their roots DEEP

& he was going to do it - at great personal cost  
which is a HUGE lesson for US - w/ New Believers in our lives

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So Paul SLIPS OUT of Ephesus - After Incredible Ministry Success  
& heads back over to Macedonia

[PUT UP MAP - NOT VERSE]

Acts 20:2 (esv)

*2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.*

That's NO Small Verse

It means Paul ministered to ALL the new churches in:

Phillipi - Amphipolis - Apollonia  
Thessalonica - & Berea

& many believe it was While he was ministering to THESE Churches

that Paul wrote & sent ahead the letter of 2Corinthians  
to prepare the Corinthians for his upcoming visit

& then - V.2 says - AFTER he had given them MUCH Encouragement,  
He finally came to GREECE - Also known as ACHEA

But he's NOT staying at ATHENS - He's headed to CORINTH

& his plan was to Minister in Corinth during the Winter Month's  
then sail straight back to Jerusalem

& so Acts 20:3 says (esv)

*3 There he spent three months (in Corinth), . . .*

3 Months Ministering in Corinth -

AND - During that time, he wrote the book of ROMANS

*(cont'g) . . . and when a plot was made against him by the Jews  
as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through  
Macedonia.*

[MAP OF FULL JOURNEY] - & EXPLAIN . . .

So He's about to sail back to Jerusalem (Region of Syria)

But because he hears of a plot to kill him (probably at sea)  
he decides to return Back Up THRU Macedonia

Now - that may not sound like a big deal - But that's over 250 mi's  
of walking - & RE-Strengthening the Churches

That is Strong - Serious - Sacrificial SERVICE in the Church

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But I **want to show** you **1 other thing** - just as cool  
I want you to **see** the **Incredible Ministry Team** - **Paul** had with Him

& **notice carefully** (as I read) - that Paul had **guys**  
from **just about EVERY area** he'd been ministering in

### **Acts 20:4 (ESV)**

***4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.***

This is not a "**Rock-Star Entourage**" - this is a **MINISTRY TEAM**

Paul was **DISCIPLINING** these guys **on the Road**  
& then **SENDING** them on **ahead** of him  
or **LEAVING** them behind to **start or run churches**

In the **midst of Everything** else Paul was **doing** -  
He was **ALWAYS Disciplining** someone in the Ministry

He was **ALWAYS raising up** new **Pastors** & **Ministers**  
& **sending them out** to do the work on their own

In the **Midst of it ALL** - Paul's **ALWAYS Disciplining** & **Reproducing**

But there's **one other thing**  
that is **VERY, VERY Significant** about this group

We **know** from - **1Cor 16** , **2Cor 8** , & **Rom 15**

that **during this time** Paul was actually **COLLECTING MONEY**  
from the **Gentile Churches** - to **take back** to the **Saints** in Jerusalem

& so - **NOT ONLY** were all these men **REPRESENTATIVES**  
of all these **GENTILE** Churches

but they're all **Carrying Money** from their respective **Gentile** churches to **GIVE** to the **Jewish church** in Jerusalem

Paul had rounded up New GENTILE Leaders,  
from New **GENTILE** Churches . . .  
to Carry a **GENTILE** Offering  
Back to the **JEWISH** church in Jerusalem

**THAT** is what you call - the **Church in ACTION**

**Paul's team** was Serving in **High Gear**  
**spread** over **hundreds of miles** & two Continents

& **certainly** - **IF** Paul **would've NOT been** so committed to taking these **Leaders** & this **Money** - to the **Church in Jerusalem**

He would have **gone right on** from Corinth - to **ROME**  
**because** he was **over 1/2 way there** from **Jerusalem** already

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**& so we read in Acts 20:5-6 (esv)**

*5 These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,  
6 but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.*

So the **team goes** on ahead to **TROAS**  
& **Paul & Luke** walk the **250 miles** from **Corinth** to **Philippi**

& then they **sail to Troas** - to **catch up** with the team  
which took them **5 days** (for a 2 day journey) - **Ruff Seas**

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Now - **THAT** was a **LOT of Serving** - a **Whirlwind Ministry tour**  
**Strengthening & Encouraging** the New Churches

They had **WALKED** till they dropped - **RUN** from Danger -  
**SAILED** when they could

& the **ENTIRE TIME** they were **Collecting Money**  
to **take with them** on their journey to Jerusalem

**THAT** - is an **INCREDIBLE amount**  
of **Life-Changing Ministry** Activity - From **Paul** & his Team

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**BUT** - - the **REASON** I went thru **ALL that** - is **NOT to say**  
we should try to **MATCH Paul** in his **Ministry Zeal**

I **Primarily did that** - to **paint a STARK Contrast**  
for **what we see** in the **2nd half** of the msg today

It was **Phenomenal** what **Paul & his Team** *Accomplished* for the Lord

But for us - I think it's **MOST POWERFUL**  
When we **CONTRAST it** - with the **2nd Half** of the Msg today

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So - **Let's Switch over** - to the Contrasting Scene

I have to **give credit** to my **Bible Teaching Mentor** - **R. Kent Hughes**  
for the **2nd half of the msg** today

I was **having a hard time** with this half - until **Kent Hughes** opened my  
**eyes** to a wonderful "**METAPHOR**" **Painted** in these verses

Now - **this may sound** like High School **English class**  
but **allow me** to explain

## A Metaphor is a Phrase

that LITERALLY means one thing  
but is used IN PLACE of another thing  
in order to show the "SIMILARITY" of the two things

& so - while I DO mean to discuss "*Sleeping in the Church*"  
I DO NOT mean to discuss LITERALLY "*Sleeping in the Church*"

We're about to Meet a METAPHOR named EUTYCHUS

& Eutuchus is going to teach us BY EXAMPLE  
the OPPOSITE of what we've just seen in Paul & the Team

We meet our METAPHOR in the upper room of a 3-Story house  
poss owned by a guy named CARPUS

At the end of his life - Paul asks Timothy to swing by CARPUS' home  
in Troas & pick up his Cloak that he had left there

& THIS was the last time Paul was in TROAS (& prob left his cloak)

So CARPUS has a quite a spread - with a 3 story house  
& a LARGE room on the 3rd floor - prob the ENTIRE 3rd floor

& so we start our Metaphor - in Acts 20:7 (esv)

*7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them (all the people), intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*

On the FIRST Day of the week (Sunday)  
the church was gathered together to Break Bread (Communion)  
& to hear the Word of the Lord preached

That sounds like CHURCH today, doesn't it?

We see here - the church was gradually beginning to meet  
on Sunday - the Lord's Day - instead of on the Sabbath

This was a FULL Church service - & it was an Evening Service  
because Sunday was not a Day off  
So these people had worked all day

& they had PACKED the upper room of this house  
because Paul & his Team were there ministering

& since Paul planned to sail away the next morning  
He was giving them - the "Full, Unedited" message

The end of V.7 says *he prolonged his speech until midnight.*

& now - Finally - you guys can see  
I DO have something in Common with the Apostle Paul

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**Acts 20:8 further sets the stage for our METAPHOR (esv)**  
***8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.***

These "lamps" were BURNING WICKS in a small pot of oil  
& the SMOKE was building up a bit  
& the Burning Lamps we're taking up the OXYGEN  
& this room was PACKED with people . . .

**AND** - Paul was literally going on - Until Midnight!!

& **NOW** - the Stage is SET for our METAPHOR named Eutychus

## **Acts 20:9 (esv)**

***9 And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.***

**The tense of the verbs indicates GRADUALLY being Overcome & the word for SLEEP here is where we get - HYPNOSIS**

This young Metaphor named Eutychus - was LULLED into a Hypnotic sleep - & he simply FELL to his DEATH

Which seems a little funny - EXCEPT if you're Eutychus

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Now - before we see how Eutychus is such a good Metaphor - Let's see how the story ends

## **Acts 20:10 (esv)**

***10 But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."***

This is very similar to both the Prophets Elijah & Elisha

as Paul literally LAI ACROSS this boy's body & God brought him back to LIFE

& Now This WOKE Everyone Up real quick - Especially Eutychus

& so they all went BACK UP to the room - & they ATE & Paul continued talking with them till DAWN

## **Acts 20:11 (esv) → →**

## **Acts 20:11 (esv)**

***11 And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.***

& so after our Metaphor's **DEATH & REVIVAL**  
**Everyone** was **ready** for more church - till **DAWN**

& notice - that **THEN** - Just like **NOW** - **Eating** together  
was a **big part** of regular Christian **fellowship**

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## **& so Acts 20:12 closes the story (esv)**

***12 And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.***

**I LOVE** Luke's writing style - ***And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted*** (I guess so)

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Now - Remember **what a METAPHOR is**

### **A Metaphor is a Phrase**

that **LITERALLY** means one thing  
but is used **IN PLACE** of another thing  
in order to show the "**SIMILARITY**" of the 2 things

I've **ONLY** been on this side of the pulpit **for 10 years**

But I've **seen a LOT** of people "**Sleeping in the Church**"  
both **LITERALLY** - & **METAPHORICALLY**

But **you know** - I can **kinda understand**  
the **LITERAL** "**Sleeping in the Church**"

We work long hours - Don't sleep enough - Have slow Metabolism -  
Just ate a BIG Meal . . . I've even used some of those excuses

D.L. MOODY said - *“Never Preach After Lunch, the people are all full of Beef & Unbelief”*

Last year at the Sr. Pastors Conference - Pastor Chuck was delivering (probably) his Farewell Message to the Sr Pastors

(which came, by the way, right out of Acts Ch 20 - we'll see nxt week)

& they put him on right after we had all had a Big Lunch

& there were so many Sr. Pastor's asleep in that room that Pastor Chuck stopped his message

& “Shared From His Heart” what he was feeling at that moment

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So we all kinda understand LITERALLY “Sleeping in Church”

But what is Really CONCERNING - is the HUGE Number of people who are sitting in church every Sunday

with their Bodies Fully AWAKE - But their SOULS Fully ASLEEP

THIS - is what we call - a METAPHOR

There are so many people - in EVERY Church - week after week who APPEAR on the OUTSIDE to be awake . . .

but who are actually Spiritually ASLEEP  
& on the verge of FALLING from the 3rd story window

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& So - **CONTRASTED** with the **Ministry ZEAL**  
we've **just seen** in Paul & his Team

**Let's look** at some of the **reasons WHY** so many people  
seem to be **"Asleep in the Church"**

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**#1 REASON** - People may be **Spiritually Asleep**  
is because they've **NEVER been Awakened**

it's **very common** for people to be **AMONG** those Worshiping Jesus  
& **not really** be a **PART** of what's actually **going on**

They **may get** some **comfort** from being in **church**  
they **may think** church may help **"Clean Up** Their **LIVES"**

But **inside** - you know - **you're not really Spiritually Connected**

You don't have that **NEW LIFE - PERSONALLY** - Because you  
haven't **Personally SURRENDERED** your Life to Jesus Christ

& so - **for those** who have **NEVER BEEN** Spiritually Awakened

**Pls hear me** - - You need an **ALL-IN Surrender**

You need to **put your Faith** - Fully & Completely in **Jesus Christ**

**Ask** Him to **WAKE** you up Spiritually

**Ask** Him to pour His **NEW LIFE** into You

& then begin **Building** a **REAL RELATIONSHIP** with Him

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**# 2 Reason** - People may be in a **Spiritual COMA** - is **SIN**  
Sin will **LULL you** into an absolute **Spiritual COMA**

**How often** do we hear of a **regular church attender** - even a leader

**Whose** life has been **DESTROYED by Sin**  
while they **sat in church** week after week

They were there **Physically** - they **Looked** like they were **AWAKE**  
but they were Spiritually **ASLEEP**

& soon enuf - in their **Hypnotic Sin Trance** -  
**they will fall** from the **3rd story window** - & it will **NOT be Pretty**

**SAMSON** is our Great Example of this

Sin **slowly & subtly** took **such** a **hold** on Samson  
that he was **ASLEEP** to ALL **Spiritual Truths** around him

& He **FELL** from the **3rd story** window - - -  
Or - **should I say** - the 3rd story **window** **FELL on Him**

& So - If **SIN** has put you **to sleep** to the things of God - **WAKE UP**  
**REPENT** from you Sin - Run **FROM** Sin, & **TO** God

& God will **WAKE you** up to the things of **True Life**, of **Abundant Life**  
& you'll **WONDER** why you **lived** in the **Mire of Sin** for so **LONG**

*Don't Wait* - **THROW OFF** the Old **Sin Life**  
& really **PUT ON** the New **Abundant Life** in Christ

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**#3 Reason** - People may be Spiritually Asleep - is **FAMILIARITY**

This is the Danger - of being **LUKEWARM**

*I know - I've heard it all before - I can even QUOTE most of it*

This person becomes like the **Travel Agent** who's never left the Office  
they know **all ABOUT** all the destinations

But they've **NEVER actually** been there **themselves**

& so they **develop** a **LUKEWARM** heart  
**about** the most **incredible places** on earth

How **much more** shocking, for **a person** who **attends church** regularly  
To **be ho-hum** & **lukewarm** about the things **Christ DIED** to give us

**I can tell you** how **Jesus Christ** Himself **feels** - about those  
who have been **LULLED** into a **LUKEWARM Slumber**

**Revelation 3:15–16 (NLT)**

*15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold.  
I wish that you were one or the other!*

*16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I  
will spit you out of my mouth!*

**Being** in a **Lukewarm** state of **SLUMBER** in Church  
Is a Very Dangerous **NAP** to take

We have **GOT** to get a **Real, Personal,**  
Ongoing **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ **going** in our lives

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**If we are in Church**

having **NEVER** been awakened to **New Spiritual Life**

**If we are in Church**

in a **Hypnotic**, Sin Induced, **COMA**

**If we are in Church**

**LUKEWARM** to the incredible **Things of God**

Then we have **GOT** to **DO SOMETHING** about it

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We've got to **make it REAL** - We've got to **make it PERSONAL**

Our **NEW LIFE** in Christ - **MUST** have **SOME IMPACT**  
on our **OLD LIFE** of **SIN**

If we are **in the Midst** of the **things of God**  
& we **can't see** any real **CHANGE** in our lives

It **MIGHT BE** because - we are **ASLEEP IN CHURCH**

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**The reason** I spent **the time** going thru the **1st half** of this text  
was not to make you **FEEL** like you're **Not DOING Enough**

But it was to **Paint a Picture** of the Intensity  
of **following Christ** as Lord

It was **NOT** to say ***"You're not DOING Enuf"***  
It was to **BEG** the question ***"Are you DOING anything?"***

Can we - **EACH of US** - See Clear **SIGNS**  
that we are **AWAKE** to the **Life of Christ** - **IN** us, & **AROUND** us

We've already made it clear - that being in this room  
WHILE people are worshipping Christ

DOES NOT necessarily mean - we are Spiritually AWAKE

But when we start LIVING - like the Life of Christ IS in us  
& like Jesus IS really our LORD

Then we can KNOW  
we've been fully AWAKENED by the Spirit of God

& our lives will NEVER be the same

Ephesians 5:14 (ESV)

*14 . . . "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

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I'm going to pray - & the Ministers are going to come up here

& if you need to make a Change in your Life  
to MAKE SURE you're NOT Asleep in the Church

I want you to come up here & talk to someone  
& ask them how to get started

On a REAL DAILY Relationship with Jesus Christ

Let's Pray