



-- **Big Idea: Wake up, o sleeper! Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!**

1.) ***Listen Up!*** (v. 1a)

- Because Jesus owns the churches and sends the Holy Spirit, He alone has absolute Lordship over every aspect of the church.
- While we have a mission field of many, we have an audience of one.

2.) ***Get Real!*** (v. 1b, 2 Corinthians 13:5)

- For many who profess Christ, how we look to people is far more important than how we actually stand before our God.

Five ways that churches can look more impressive than they really are...

a.) ***Formalism***

b.) ***Traditionalism***

c.) ***Spiritualism***

d.) **Entertainment-ism**

e.) **Big-ism**

- “What you win people with is what you win people to.”
- The chief **Attraction** of First Baptist Carmi must be one thing only: Jesus Christ and His glorious Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:2).

3.) **Wake Up!** (v. 2)

- The worst thing anyone can do is to sit under the preaching of God’s Word and never do anything in response to it! (Luke 12:47-48).
- Just as surely as we are saved by faith and not works, a faith that saves will surely produce works.

4.) **Get Back!** (v. 3a)

- Jesus is imploring slumbering churches and sleepy believers to get back to the gospel.
- Earnest meditation upon the power and glory of the gospel is the first step to coming awake in Christ.

5.) **Get Busy!** (v. 3b)

- Authentic faith will result in real repentance of sin and a transformed life, in which you stop living for self and start working for Christ (Jam. 2:17-18).

6.) **Stay Awake!** (v. 3c)

- Jesus will return at an unexpected hour to judge the world and the church. (Mark 13:33-37, 2 Peter 3:10-12).
- If you are spiritually asleep when Jesus returns, you won't go to heaven.

7.) **Look Ahead!** (v. 4-5)

- Unto those who truly want Christ and not just His silhouette, Jesus promises the white linen of righteousness and names that are indelibly etched into the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 19:7-9).

8.) **Listen Up!** (v. 6).

- **Those who truly belong to Christ will take the warnings and promises of this text to heart, and will respond as Christ commands.**
- Some, however, will hear this text and fall right back to sleep.
- *“Wake up, o sleeper! Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!”*