

You Fall Asleep, You Die!

"The Life of Paul" episode 33

Acts 20:1-12

"In the upper part of a tenement house in the middle of Troas, the Christians were gathered together...They were using the attic...and were crushed in, every man and woman, and their children who could not be left at home.

A young man named Eutychus had wedged himself on the window sill and listened fascinated as Paul unfolded mysteries of the faith....Midnight came and went....Suddenly there was a crash and a commotion. Eutychus had fallen right out of the window onto the narrow street below...he fell hard. By the time Paul had followed the agonized rush of the boy's friends and relations down the stairs, Luke had pronounced Eutychus dead. They stepped aside for Paul. He knelt and pressed the body close to his own, and those who knew their Scripture would recall that this is what both Elijah and Elisha did with dead boys. Paul said: "Do not worry. He is alive!" Pollock, *The Apostle: A Life of Paul*

My summary: Eutychus ("Lucky") grew drowsy and fell asleep as Paul preached, and died! He was "fortunate" that Paul was nearby to embrace him back to life. God gave us this story to alert us to two truths--(a) Paul was truly great, and (b) millions of drowsy believers are in grave spiritual danger.

▼ The church needs _____ ager-Leaders like Paul. 1,2,12

These rare people . . .

- ✿ Are committed to the ministry of encouragement: building people.
- ✿ Care not just about the herd, but individual sheep.
- ✿ Don't give up on the fallen when others despair. 10
- ✿ Embrace the fallen to bring him back to life.

▲ The fallen child can be re _____ !

This young believer . . .

- ✿ Has an enviable place of opportunity in the light.
- ✿ Gets spiritually drowsy, goes to sleep, falls into place of dark & death.
- ✿ Without extraordinary help, there's no hope.
- ✿ Fortunate (*eutychus*) is the one who, when (s)he falls, has a Christlike Encourager to embrace him back to life.