



A Message Worth Falling For
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Are we spiritually awake?

Context:

- Formation of early church communities.
- Paul's third missionary journey.
- A slight detour in Troas.

On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer.

Acts 20:7–9a (NRSV)

- Even through our most concerted efforts, we can _____ the gospel and allow it to fall on deaf ears.
- Can our limited human words preserve the Word's effectiveness or are we more often doing it a disservice?
- Many can share about the gospel, but that doesn't mean the one teaching is necessarily _____ by it.

Preaching as wrestling

- An invitation into a _____ wrestling with God.

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:2–5 (NIV)

- As ministers of the gospel, WE are called to teach in such a way that reflects the _____ Scripture has on our lives.
- Whenever we are leaning on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to proclaim God’s Word given to us, we are bound to _____.
- God’s Word will move in spite of our limited human words.

A silly story with profound implications

Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

Acts 20:9b–12 (NRSV)

- A story not simply to justify the feelings of a bored churchgoer.
- _____ in community is vital.
- One’s spiritual sleep is an opportunity for us to remind each other that life is not found in human words.

- We can always adapt our means of sharing the Word, but we cannot taint its _____.
- The good news is newsworthy because it is meant to be shared in such a way that is accessible and meaningful to all.
- As stewards of God’s Word, we are called to ensure that God’s relentless pursuit of us can thrive with minimal obstacles.

A reflection from Dr. King

“Too often do educated ministers leave people lost in the fog of theological abstraction, rather than presenting that theology in light of the people’s experiences.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.