Asleep in Jesus
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Resting from their labors
   1. Esther 9:22 - “…rest from their enemies”
   2. Psalm 94:13 - “…rest from the days of adversity”
   3. Isa. 14:3 - “…rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve”
   4. Rev. 14:13 - “…they rest from their labors, and their works follow them”
   5. Have you noticed that the Lord promised rest in this world from war, sorrow, fear, and even bad days, but He never promised rest from our labors, in this world?
   6. Any rest we legitimately have here is very temporary and in special places and circumstances - Ecc. 3:1, 7:14
B. We relax in the security of the local assembly because we are comfortable in a place where temptation is kept out for the most part
   1. We relax in the assembly of the saints because that is where we are comforted by the presence of God away from the pressure of the world.
   2. In a very similar way, the righteous dead do not have to be vigilant or resist temptation any longer.
   3. They have no more work to do, because there is no work to be done in Paradise - Ecc. 9:10
   4. They no longer have any temptations to resist, because temptation does not exist there - Ecc. 9:6

I. WHAT IS WRITTEN?
A. The scriptures often speak of death as a sleep
B. What this is not
   1. Not the doctrine of soul sleeping -- souls are unconscious between death and the resurrection
   2. Not the doctrine of the Witnesses -- there is no consciousness until the resurrection, because the dead cease to exist
   3. Nowhere do the Scriptures say that the soul of the departed fell asleep
      a. Sleep is a metaphor for death
      b. Sleep is appropriate because it implies rest
      c. Sleep implies an end of participation in the waking world
      d. Sleep is a prelude to an awakening; the resurrection
      e. The term sleep became a euphemism for death because of the sleep-like appearance of the body
C. The dead are not unconscious, but they are fully aware - Luke 16:22-24
   1. God will bring them with Jesus, implies they are with Jesus now
      a. 1Thes. 4:14, 5:10; 2Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23
D. We do not have an earthly form; we are waiting for our eternal form
   1. 2Cor. 5:1-4; 1Cor. 15:51-54; Acts 2:27; 1John 3:2-3