

## IS IT A SLUMBER PARTY

### Romans 11:8-9-10

And David says, "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever."

### Thoughts for Today:

How does a table become a snare and a trap? Look around your own community and church you will find the answer. People seem to be more intent on acquiring material possessions, or at least caught up in that than they are on serving God. We are filling our table with abundance rather than with any concern about eternity. And where does it all lead? To contentment? How about peace of mind? Sadly it does not. Rather, the result is a back bent forever under the burden of financial and societal pressure. Our vision can become so clouded we cannot see. I don't know about you, but that's certainly not the life for me. So I am waking up to this revelation.

On the other hand, some look at the way the Jewish people worship -- lighting candles, wearing shawls, ceremonial cleansing, and say, "Wow, look at how spiritual they are." Maybe -- but it all can become a snare and a trap when traditions and ceremonies keep us from coming to Jesus in the only way possible -- by faith. 2 Corinthians 3:14: "But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away."

In my view, the table is representative of two potential snares or traps: the first is one in which the desire for material and or sensual gratification outweigh our desire to seek God; and the second, when our rituals or ceremonies become a substitute for a deep, personal, and abiding relationship with our Lord. All are "stumbling blocks" with the consequence (for those who stay on one of these paths too long): "...their eyes are darkened so they cannot see, and their backs are bent forever."

### Questions to Ponder:

Have your decisions become a little more difficult recently? Not sure what is right or wrong? Where is Jesus in your life? Is He at the center, or on the perimeter? Have you continued to seek God through prayer and study of His Word? Don't let the pressure to make financial ends meet replace your relationship with Jesus. Make time for the Lord today.



"ready" in His service,

Gilbert E. Kerby

Ky.RR District Director

1-888-776-8324

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