

The power of Scripture is not to be found in the number of words contained in a particular passage, but the power of the promise is often contained in a few words in a single verse.

Such a promise is found in Psalm 127:2 and it offers a word of security to us!

Psa 127:2

<It is> vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: <for> so he giveth his beloved sleep.

God's love gift to His beloved is **RESTFULNESS** ...  
to rest in Him all the ambitions, duties, and joys of life.

Even in these last days she/he was cheerful  
and seemed to understand what this verse of scripture was all about.

We have come here to remember and to honor the memory  
of one called home by the Father.

I stand here to remind you that in the words of the psalmist,  
our friend is simply sleeping.

In stating these words, we are not denying the reality of death.

We are not ignoring the fact that one has been called home.

Death has invaded our ranks.  
Death is not something we can ignore.

Therefore, the psalmist is not playing a deceptive game with us  
and tempting us to avoid the reality of the moment.

Through the beautiful imagery of peaceful sleep,  
the psalmist is pointing toward the source of true rest.

By use of the word "SLEEP",  
more is implied than simply the kind of rest we take at the end of each day.

We have all been tired and know the peace of a gentle sleep.  
There have also been times for us when the exhaustion was so great  
that sleep would not come immediately.

When sleep finally came, it really took on the nature of a gift.

Let us consider this sleep for a moment  
as we gather to honor the memory of this dear one.

WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT GOD IS THE SOURCE OF THAT GIFT OF SLEEP.

Certainly the sleep that we receive at night can be counted as a gift.  
If sleep in the evening is a precious gift, so is the sleep referred to by the psalmist.

Once it descends upon us,  
there is no more suffering, hardship, or struggle in life as we know it now.

Death, with all of its mystery and unknown, is many times very merciful.

It's encouraging that God not only sends sleep, but He brings it to us personally.

He gently touches the eyes of His tired servants and offers the gift of sleep.

Death takes on the appearance of a lonely experience ... This is not the case.  
The chambers of the dying are crowded with friends.  
Angels stand ready to take charge.

And in the midst of all this is a gentle hand, and a soft voice  
which calls one from sleep.

When Lazarus awoke, the first person he beheld was Jesus.

These words are spoken to family & friends to remind you  
that what we have come here to do is not to pay homage to death ...  
We have come to celebrate God's gift of "SLEEP"!

Death is not some evil force that overcomes us from behind,  
but is a way for God to grant us the promise  
He has made to this loved one and to each one of us.