

The Dawn is Coming

To: Urban Mission.

The Dawn is Coming
Paul Hiebert and John Nyquist

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. the night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing!
(Romans 13:11-12 The Message. Eugene H. Peterson).

Paul is writing to city people and draws on their everyday experiences to make his point. He talks of night life. This makes little sense in tribal and rural communities. In the Indian village where I lived there was no electricity, so when the sun went down we finished our dinners, gossiped with friends awhile and went to bed. Villagers often got up before five to be ready when the dawn appeared. Nights were silent except for a stray dog or ox.

Night life in the city is another thing (source). For many the city comes to life after dark. On Hollywood Boulevard the dance parties begin after dark. In Los Vegas the fun runs all night. Days are times to rest for the coming night.

What does this analogy have to say to us as Christians?

Night Life

The World at Night

1. Night is a party: ecstasy, self indulgence, freedom from restraints, ego gratification.

- drink and be merry: get drunk, block out the problems of the day.
- thrill: Vegas, Casinos -- gamble to get excited, and hope to win. Hope here is eternal. No one around to discourage you. Everyone having a 'good time'

2. Night is a time for sex:

- burlesque and strip teases and pornography.
- prostitution. No one is interested in these in the day. Sex is worshipped.

5. Night is a time for crime: theft, murder, death, deceit, and fear rule the city night.

4. Night is a time for battle:

- gangs come out and battle it out. Law enforcers retreat behind their baracades.,

The Church at Night

There is other night life which are analogies of the church. We too live in the night of human history, and we too are to be awake and careful. Guard against the forces of darkness around us.

1. The Church as a Hospital

- help the wounded who need to be bound, the drunk who come to be detoxified, the sick who need healing: Intoxified with power, wealth, leasure, success.

2. Church as Rescue Mission

- in cities the only place the church is awake at night is in the Rescue Missions. Here we house and shelter street people from the freezing cold of winter, for hunger and from danger.

3. The Church as Family Gathered around the Harth

- ordinary people spend evenings gathered around the fire in fellowship and security.
- the church gathering is such a place to build the young, strengthen the weak, reconcile

those who have wandered, and to be a place where we talk about the coming dawn.

The Dawn

1. The darkness cannot overcome. Light drives out darkness because darkness is not something in itself, it is the absence of light, it is the absence of something. righteousness, love, peace,
2. Light of truth will reveal all things
3. Light of peace and healing

WRITING A GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPER

Paul G. Hiebert

Writing a graduate research paper is more than putting onto paper a stream of ideas. It should have a certain basic structure.

1. The audience is the academic community.

- remember, you are writing for people who know the subject well and do not need to be taught the basic information on the subject. Do not try to 'teach' your reader the basic elements of the subject.
- focus on advancing the understanding of the subject beyond what is already found in the literature. Remember, you are arguing for your own particular point of view, not simply to summarize what already exists in the literature.

2. A central question or theme around which the paper is built.

- this theme should be stated early in the paper.
- all key terms should be defined.
- the scope of the paper should be made explicit.

3. A theoretical framework that is used to explain the data.

A research paper is more than a description or presentation of data. It must seek to explain the data by means of some theory. You may choose to use the theory of some author, or you may create your own.

- give a brief review of the literature on the subject.
- discuss the key issues under debate and present both sides before giving your own answer. Avoid simplistic answers.
- cite the names of the authors of the theories you use.

4. Data to support your case.

A research paper should present basic data to make its point. This may be drawn from books and articles, personal experience, or field research.

- present data relevant to the argument. Do not flood the paper with irrelevant data.
- analyse the data using the theoretical framework outlined at the beginning.
- assume that the reader already knows the field well. Your audience is not beginners but experts. So do not begin with basic introductory information. If your readers do not know this they can look it up for themselves. Argue your case, do not introduce the subject.
- document your sources with citations and bibliographical references. Remember, on a graduate level we must give recognition to authors for their ideas.

5. Conclusions that make your case and point to further research.

The conclusion is not a summary of what has gone on before. It is a final argument stating your conclusions. It may also suggest areas of further research. All research, in a sense, is built on previous research and points to further research.

- be specific in your conclusions. Avoid broad sweeping generalizations that mean nothing

in particular.

- try to foresee possible counter-arguments and give your answers to them before they are raised.

- apply your conclusions to the church's work. Either focus on what all this has to say about our evangelistic task, or on what this all means for developing a theological foundation for the church for the long run, or both.

6. Turn in two copies of your paper and keep a backup copy.

One copy will be graded and returned. the other will be available to students at SWME for future researchs. Do not use plastic covers.

Make sure you have on the first page: **1) your name, 2) the name and number of the course, and 3) the year and quarter you took the course.**