

WATCHMAN, THE WORK OF A

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ezekiel 3:17-21**. From Roy H. Enoch (01-02-1994).
- B. There has always been a need for watchman.
 - 1. They are responsible for watching out for danger and giving warning.
 - a. They are appreciated by those being protected.
 - b. They are often resented by those who prey on others.
 - 2. Many neighborhoods have signs concerning Neighborhood Watches.
 - a. Neighbors are to be looking out for each other.
 - b. Seeing a danger and not warning those endangered makes the person who sees as responsible as the one causing the danger.
 - c. We are responsible for accepting risk for each other.
- D. The Lord has always required leaders to be responsible for those they are leading.
 - 1. The prophets were to warn those in danger even at the risk of their own lives.
 - a. Jesus refers to the dangers of prophets warning the people (Mt. 23:29-34).
 - b. He told the apostles that they would be persecuted and that those who put them to death would think that they were doing God service (Mt. 24:9; Jn. 16:2).
- E. We want to look at the need for watchman today.
 - 1. There is a need for watchmen.
 - 2. We need to recognize the work of watchmen.
 - 3. There are many dangers watchmen should warn about today.

I. THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR WATCHMEN IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

- A. The devil continues to seek to devour (1Pet. 5:8,9; 2Cor. 2:11).
- B. False teachers will continue to abound.
 - 1. Some of them claim to be apostles (2Cor. 11:13-15).
 - 2. Some of them are Elders (Ac. 20:29,30).
 - 3. Some claim to be from the Spirit of God (1Jn. 4:1).

II. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE WORK OF WATCHMEN.

- A. Many resent being told that they are wrong or in danger.
 - 1. When Jesus accurately described the dangers of the Scribes and Pharisees, they planned how they could kill Him.
 - 2. When Paul preached Jesus of Nazareth as the X, the Gentiles were glad, but the Jews were jealous and persecuted him.
 - 3. Today, when a teacher teaches God's word and condemns false doctrine or worldliness, it is still unpopular and the teacher may be condemned.
- B. Although it is dangerous, the watchman must still look for dangers and be willing to warn people about them.
 - 1. Much of the teaching of Jesus and other inspired men focused on warning of dangers (Mt. 16:12).
 - a. Most of 1Corinthians was in warning about worldliness and doctrines that needed to be corrected.
 - b. The letter to the church at Colossae was a warning of the philosophies of men and secret wisdom that was leading men from the gospel of X.
 - c. Paul warned Titus of false doctrines at Crete (Ti. 1:10,11).
 - 2. The warnings are appreciated by the godly, but resented by the guilty.
 - 3. Watchmen were to "cry aloud, and spare not" (Isa. 58:1).
 - 4. The wicked did not want to be warned (Isa. 30:9-11).

- C. The watchman had to warn the people to deliver his own soul (Ezek. 3:17-20).
 - 1. Elders today are to watch for the souls of the flock (Heb. 13:17).
 - 2. Paul said that he was free from responsibility when he preached the whole counsel of God (Ac. 20:26,27).

III. WATCHMEN TODAY SHOULD SEE PRESENT DANGERS & WARN THE PEOPLE.

- A. The NT describes the kind of things to avoid.
 - 1. Jesus said that the traditions and teachings of men were worthless (Mt. 15:9).
 - 2. Paul said that going back to the law of Moses for doctrine would cause a Xian to lose the blessings in X and to fall away from grace (Gal. 5:1-5).
 - 3. Paul said that if he (an apostle) an angel from heaven, or any person teaches anything that they did not teach would cause them to be eternally cut off from God's blessings (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - 4. Paul said that if he pleased men, he would not please God (Gal. 1:10).
 - 5. John said that if one leaves the doctrine of X, he leaves God.
 - 6. Paul warned about wearing the names of men (1Cor. 1:10-12).
- B. These dangers are present today.
 - 1. In denominationalism which teaches the doctrines of men, wears the names of men, and claim that the churches men organized are as good as the one that X purchased with His blood.
 - 2. Some are entangled with secret orders, and "secret wisdom" while they claim to be following X.
 - 3. Some are lukewarm and indifferent, as shown by their attitude, attendance and complaints.
 - 4. Some want to be pleased rather than please God.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We should appreciate these leaders and teachers who watch for our souls and give an account.
- B. Let us submit to God's will and His shepherds in humility and love.
- C. Let us follow their leadership and support them in the work that God commands us to share in that they may give account for us with joy.